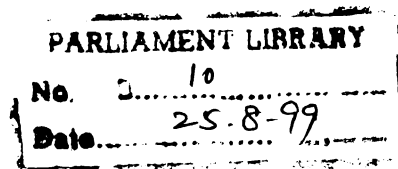


# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

130

**Second Session**  
**(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. V contains Nos. 31 to 38)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*Price : Rs. 50.00*

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Shri S. Gopalan**  
**Secretary General**  
**Lok Sabha**

**Dr. A.K. Pandey**  
**Additional Secretary**  
**Lok Sabha Secretariat**

**Shri P.C. Bhatt**  
**Chief Editor**  
**Lok Sabha Secretariat**

**Shrimati Kiran Sahni**  
**Senior Editor**

**Shri P.K. Bamrara**  
**Editor**

# CONTENTS

[Twelfth Series, Vol. V, Second Session, 1998/1920 (Saka)]

No. 32, Wednesday, July 29, 1998/ Shrawana 7, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 602-605 ... ..	2-23
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 606-621 ... ..	23-84
Unstarred Questions Nos. 6093-6229 ... ..	33-200
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE ... ..	200-204
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA ... ..	204
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS	
Fourth and Fifth Reports ... ..	205
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE	
Third, Seventh and Eighth Reports (Tenth Lok Sabha) and Second and Fourth Reports (Eleventh Lok Sabha) ... ..	205-206
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Reports ... ..	206
RE: KILLING OF VILLAGERS BY MILITANTS IN DODA DISTRICT, JAMMU AND KASHMIR ... ..	206-227
CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of Non-Payment of Salaries and other Statutory Dues to employees of some Public Sector Undertakings	
Shri Nandendra Bhaskara Rao ... ..	227
Shri Sikander Bakht ... ..	227
Shri M. Rajaiah ... ..	229
Shri Basu Deb Acharia ... ..	230
Shri Bikash Chowdhury ... ..	233
Shri Sikander Bakht ... ..	233
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia ... ..	236
Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ... ..	237
Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy ... ..	236

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

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i)	Need to declare Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh as Industrially Backward.	
	Shri Ramshakal ... ..	242
(ii)	Need to ensure implementation of Central schemes in Chatra, Bihar	
	Shri Dharendra Agarwal ... ..	243
(iii)	Need to take steps for early completion of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat	
	Shrimati Bhavna Devrajibhai Chikhalia ... ..	243
(iv)	Need to treat at par the SC/OBC Certificates issued by other States with competent authority of Delhi for Appointment of Teachers by Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB)	
	Shri V.M. Sudheeran ... ..	243-244
(v)	Need to provide Gaothan sites for Tribal Villagers in the Districts of Nasik and Dhule in Maharashtra	
	Shri D.S. Ahire ... ..	244-245
(vi)	Need to provide environmental forest clearance to road construction projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	
	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta ... ..	245
(vii)	Need to provide sufficient funds for the developmental work on NH-17 in Kerala	
	Shri T. Govindan ... ..	245-246
(viii)	Need to direct the Ponni Sugar Mill in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu to treat its effluents according to the norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board	
	Shri K. Palaniswami ... ..	246
(ix)	Need to provide telephone facilities in Panvel Tehsil of Raigarh District of Maharashtra	
	Shri Ramsheth Thakur ... ..	247
(x)	Need to consider the Anglo-Indian Community as a special category for reservation in Central Government Jobs	
	Dr. Beatrix D'souza ... ..	247
(xi)	Need for proper maintenance of National Highways in Bihar, Particularly in Ranchi	
	Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary ... ..	247-248
(xii)	Need to introduce National Health Scheme for School Children in the country	
	Shri T.R. Baalu ... ..	248

INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENTS TO SMALL SCALE AND  
ANCILLARY INDUSTRIAL UNDER-TAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL

## Motion to consider

Shri M. Mallikarjuniah ... ..	248-250
-------------------------------	---------



SUBJECT

COLUMNS

Shri Pramothas Mukherjee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250-252
Shri K. Palaniswami			...	...				...	252-254
Shri K.S. Rao	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	254-257
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam			...	...					257-258
Shri Sunil Khan	...		...				...	...	258-259
Shri Ramdas Athawale	...		...			...	...		260
Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria	...	...							260-262
Shri Bikram Deo Keshari			...	...		...	...		262-263
Shri Sikander Bakht	...					...	...		263-267
Clauseś 2 to 6 & 1	...		...			...	...		268
Motion to pass	...					...	...		268

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation in North-Eastern Region Due to Insurgency

Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita	...	...							269-272
Shri Samar Choudhury	...	...	...						272-276
Shri Tapan Sikdar	...					...			276-278

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Safe Drinking Water

Shri Gauri Shankar Chaturbuj Bisen	...	...	...	...	...	...			278-281
Shri Sudhir Giri	...						...		281-282
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey							...		282-283
Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy							...		283-284
Shri Shailendra Kumar	...	...	...	...	...	...			284-287
Shri Babagouda Patil	...	...	...						287-296

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 29, 1998/Shravana 7, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up question No. 602.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker Sir, 16 Hindus have been killed in Kashmir yesterday (Interruptions) massacre took place there and sixteen Hindus were killed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this issue during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please give the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister speak. Do not interrupt. This is not Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. C. Chacko, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only Hindus are being picked and killed there (Interruptions) Since those killed were Hindus, I have to say so.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Rajgarh) : You please withdraw support from such government which cannot protect Hindus...

[English]

Why are you supporting this government, when it cannot protect Hindus.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : It was started during your regime.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? It will not do.

11.02 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Nuclear Non-Proliferation

\*602. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the agreement reached between the US and China, during US-President Bill Clinton's visit to Beijing to work closely together to promote nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia and for resolution of Indo Pakistan differences;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction to this declaration of their intent by the two big powers, China and America to promote Nuclear Non-Proliferation in the back drop of continuous and repeated violation of this principle by China in transferring nuclear arms, technology and missiles; and

(c) whether the Government considers that this agreement smacks of imperialism and hegemonistic mentality of the bygone era, if so, the Government's response thereto?

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

(b) Government categorically rejects the notion of these two countries arrogating to themselves joint or individual responsibility for maintenance of peace, stability, and security in South Asia. It is most ironical that two countries which have directly and indirectly contributed to the unabated proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in our neighbourhood, are now presuming to prescribe norms for non-proliferation.

(c) Yes, Sir. This approach reflects the hegemonistic mentality of a by-gone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present day world.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whom should I compliment, should I compliment the Agriculture Minister or the Prime Minister or Shri Jaswant Singh? For the first time...

MR. SPEAKER : Right now please compliment the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, the hon'ble Minister deserves to be congratulated and the government also for giving a very categorical reply to the question.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : This is the role of constructive opposition.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Now please listen to what I am going to say. Mr. Bill Clinton after his China visit, has reiterated several times.

[English]

China is playing and will continue to play the role of a strategically significant nation in South Asia.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker sir, China and America both are at the extreme ends of a line. One is the supporter of democracy while the other is supporter of dictatorship. But what Mr. Bill Clinton has said about South Asia is that one boss is extending support to other boss. India is the largest democracy in South Asia. Has India abjectly surrendered to pressure tactics and is thinking of signing CTBT or would it stay firm on its position and would stick to its stand as has just been stated in reply to my question or in view of the economic sanctions, as well as the statements of strategic significance being made in South Asia under pressure of two big bosses, Government is considering to sign the CTBT? Hon'ble Minister may please tell us about the policy of the Government.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the point of Hon'ble Member regarding compliments is concerned, it is the consensus of which we all are a party that should be applauded. Just for arriving at this consensus Hon'ble Prime Minister had gone to Colombo and Hon'ble Jaswant Singh had gone to Manila to participate in a Conference of Asean Regional Forum just to continue with this policy. As regards the question of nexus between America and China, the hon. member is right in saying that there was a time when America always condemned China on the issues of proliferation of atomic weapons, nuclear tests and human rights, but after 1992 and particularly after the incidence of Tiananmen Square, China decided to play a new role in the world politics and made efforts to get its new role recognised by America and other countries. Unfortunately America supported her in this regard, accorded recognition in a way and since then there is a coordination between the two. On the one hand they are asking us to sign the CTBT, and are expressing their concern over nuclear tests, on the other hand despite sufficient evidence to the development of Missiles and nuclear programme going on in Pakistan illegally and clandestinely with the help of China and Korea, U.S.A. have been evading the issue.

As far as the question of signing the treaty is concerned, ours is a well thought out policy. We are all one on this issue.

There is no scope for any change. Unless it takes ample care of India's security concerns India will not sign any discriminatory non-proliferation treaty or test ban treaty.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that Shri Jaswant Singh has started paying visits to countries all over the world to propagate our policy. He just told about the conference held in Manila and all have agreed to the Indian policy in Manila Conference and his diplomacy on behalf of India succeeded there. When India went for nuclear tests on 11th and 13th May, 1998, opposition benches were asking for its justification was it the most appropriate time to speak against China and Pakistan? There is an example of your diplomacy that Pakistan adopted a policy to target India by "Gauri" Missile. They know to accord utmost importance to the intelligence collection and they do so, particularly when seminars are held on international issues. Whole world was aware about our capability when we were denying to put signature on CTBT. When Gauri Missile was test fired...(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) : Please ask the question

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am asking the question, but if you are not interested in foreign policy, I am ready to sit down. I want to ask when "Ghauri" missile was test fired, why did India not react on any international forum till 11th and 13th May that India's security is under threat? We should not have revealed that we were going to do something on 11th and 13th May. But why a strategic policy was not formulated in this regard? Is it a failure on the part of your foreign policy or is it a failure of your government?

SHRI SOMPAL : Whenever such type of incident takes place in our neighbourhood such as test firing of "Ghauri" Missile or other such tests, India has always raised the issue at diplomatic levels and on all the other forums through other media. This issue was raised with China, although China never responded satisfactorily. This issue was raised with America also and at all the other forums also. Just now the issue was raised with America, also and at all the other forums also. Just now the issue was raised in Manila and Pakistan was denied participation in the Conference. This is the latest proof of the success of our diplomatic initiatives. Similarly at the "Saarc" Conference which is being held at Colombo at present. Pakistan's attempts to include these issues on the agenda, failed. Therefore, this allegation is not true. We are continuously trying to safeguard our interests.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I had asked as to why did not you raise the issue before 11th May. I asked a very pointed question to which no answer was given...

[English]

I asked a very pointed question. Was it a failure of this Government or a failure of the foreign policy of India?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bir Singh Mahto.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, we are going to discuss this issue. Let him tell about it.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, it cannot be termed as a failure. Some reaction time is needed to respond to such a question.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been revealed in a newspaper that the Government is considering to sign the CTBT. I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering it or not.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have made it very explicit in my answer to the first question. I would like to repeat that we would not sign the CTBT or any other treaty unless it takes ample care of our security concerns, and till it is discriminatory.

SHRI KHARABELA SHAIN : Sir, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to India has, in an interview, mentioned that though the post-Pokhran atmosphere brought a rift between India and China relationship, yet it is actually a temporary phase and it will pass over. but on the other hand, it is a well-known fact that China is the real supplier of nuclear knowhow and technology to Pakistan. How can our country reconcile with this juxtaposition of China?

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already touched this issue in my reply to the question posed hon. Shri Shinde that we are not reconciled to the situation. And we have been raising this matter at all levels and even up to the highest level with the Chinese authorities. It is unfortunate that the response has never been satisfactory.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East) : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister presents a very serious situation. In fact, the answers (a), (b) and (c) taken together appear to be a confrontation between us and our neighbours, China and Pakistan.

Sir, it is the question of peace in South Asian region. Pakistan and China are also very much interested in it as we are. Under the circumstances, the answer of rejection is completely unacceptable. This must be explained.

Sir, therefore, my question is this. What are the diplomatic steps taken by the present Government to make the neighbour's and other friendly nations understand the Indian position and about the steps taken by the Indian Government since the nuclear explosions?

Sir, secondly I would like to know whether the Government has been able to get hold of the details about the visit of

Mr. Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America, to China and the consequent agreement that followed between the two countries. The only answer that has been given is, 'Yes, Sir'. The details of the agreement are known to the Government. If it is so, the House must be told about the details of the Agreement so that the gravity of the situation could be understood.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I think, the hon. Member is referring to the visit of Mr. Bill Clinton to China and the Joint Statement issued by the two countries on June 27, 1998. We are well aware of the contents of the Statement. If you permit me, I can give the details thereof. They are :

(1) USA and China would continue to work closely together with the P-5 and the Security Council and with others to prevent an accelerating nuclear and missile arms race in South Asia.

(2) They have also said that the recent tests by India and Pakistan and the resulting increase in tension between them are a source of deep and lasting concern for the two countries.

(3) They also have called on India and Pakistan to stop all further nuclear tests and adhere immediately and unconditionally to CTBT to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons.

(4) They also have stated their firm commitment to strong and effective international cooperation on nuclear non-proliferation with the Treaty on non-proliferation and nuclear weapons as its corner stone.

(5) They also have identified this as a goal that they would like adherence of all countries including India and Pakistan to NPT and they have stated that their position is that notwithstanding their recent nuclear tests, India and Pakistan do not have the status of nuclear weapons. They have also affirmed that they are determined to fulfil their commitment relating to nuclear disarmament and the likes.

So, we know all the details and we are very alive to the situation. We are meeting at all the fora, at all the levels in the international arena. We are taking it up everywhere.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, the previous three Prime Ministers had very clearly and categorically stated that the CTBT would not be signed. The Minister today gave an impression that there has been some dilution in that stand. In particular, he said that the CTBT would not be signed unless our security concerns, and the non-discriminatory nature of the Treaty is corrected for.

Now, unless the Government has clearly formulated as to what is the security concern, what is the non-discriminatory nature of the Treaty, what are the incorporations that they would like in the CTBT on which they would be ready to sign, there

would be suspicion in the country that they have buckled under the pressure of the United States and the P-5 powers.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, there is no question of succumbing to any pressure. This has been stated by the Prime Minister time and again.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Please spell out the stand.

SHRI SOMPAL : It is very well spelt out. The Prime Minister has already stated that India will not be coerced to signing these two Treaties. We cannot accept the demand that CTBT be signed unconditionally and immediately. So, we have declared that India would be willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of the CTBT. However, these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum but will depend on reciprocal responses and under this CTBT...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is a dilution of the earlier stand...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, it is very clear. There is no dilution.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The main reply states : "This approach reflects the hegemonistic mentality of a by-gone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present world". Thus, it is condemning. What is the use of condemning it in this House, inside India? I would like to know from the Minister whether he has lodged a complaint with the US and whether he has conveyed the position to China. If do, what is the position?

SHRI SOMPAL : It is a repeat of the same question and phrases which have been used by the hon. Members earlier while asking supplementary on this question. I would like to re-state the position that we have taken it up with all the friendly countries.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Has the Minister lodged a protest with the US Government? Has the Minister conveyed it to China?

SHRI SOMPAL : At all diplomatic levels, we have taken it up with both the countries.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY : I would like to know from the Minister whether he will take the Parliament into consideration before taking any decision on CTBT.

SHRI SOMPAL : On this issue there is a convergence of opinion and complete unanimity. There is no question of by-passing the Parliament...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I have a very important question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER : No, we have already taken 20 minutes on one question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have passed on to the next question.

### Co-operative Credit Institutions

\*603. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to compensate the losses of Co-operative credit institutions to make them more viable and expand their credit operations in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the States where this scheme is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A scheme proposing a Rehabilitation package for revamping of the Co-operative Credit Structure is under consideration of the Government of India.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : The loss of Co-operative Credit Institutions amount to Rs. 6604 crore at present. In the year 1995-96 the recovery rate at the level of regional rural banks was 54.44 per cent which declined to 33.17 per cent in 1996-97. The hon. Minister has said that the rehabilitation package for revamping of the cooperative structure is under consideration. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government propose to write off this amount during the Ninth Plan period to enable these banks to become viable and expand the credit operations in the rural areas.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the package is precisely aimed at achieving this objective.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : It appears that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have already implemented the Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Act. I would like to know whether the Government propose to implement the Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Act at the grassroot level in all the States so that the cooperative sector could have healthy growth for serving the wider sections of the agricultural sector more efficiently.

SHRI SOMPAL : Yes, this is a mutually-aided package and this is aimed at revamping the credit structure at the grassroot level and taking it to the primary agricultural credit societies as well as the district cooperative credit banks. It will be a mutually agreed upon thing between the States and the Centre as well as the District Cooperative Banks and the State Cooperative Banks. This is likely to be revamped and this will be implemented during the Ninth Plan.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know whether all the State Governments will implement this revamping package?

SHRI SOMPAL : Yes, all the States will implement it but this assistance will not be across the board. This would

be given on the basis of an MoU to be signed with the cooperative institutions and only those institutions which can be revamped, which can be made viable, would be assisted. The package has already been formulated. This was considered by a Committee of Secretaries earlier in April this year. This has been referred to the Finance Ministry and is awaiting clearance of the Cabinet. Very soon, we will take the note to the Cabinet and take a decision. It will not take more than two to three months.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, the hon. Minister has just now promised that he is going to write off the outstanding credit.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already said that this amount of Rs. 6,600 and some crore is proposed to be allocated and used for the purpose of writing off the losses only.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Government aware that most of the cooperative credit banks or institutions are corrupt, and still it is beyond the reach of small farmers to get credit easily? What are the measures taken by the Government to check corruption so that the small farmers can get loans easily?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a well-known fact that the cooperative credit system and structure play a great role in providing loans and credit to the farmers, particularly the marginal and small farmers, and tribals. So far as corruption is concerned, the package contains a list of condition and practices which the cooperative institutions would be required to observe and only subject to those, assistance would be provided. It will be passed on an MoU with every credit institution at the State level.

[Translation]

SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers are not getting any loan for cultivation. Most of the farmers have to take loan from money lenders and hence they are unable to do farming properly. Even the loan they get is not received timely. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the concrete steps that have been taken to provide loan to the farmers in time?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, comment of the hon. Member that the farmers do not get adequate and timely loan is correct. So far as the Cooperative Institutions and especially Cooperative Financial Institutions are concerned, they play a vital role in this regard. All these activities were to provide adequate and timely financial support to the maximum number of farmers in the form of loan. We have brought a new package to revamp and improve the cooperative credit structure and to look into the losses incurred by all the cooperative credit societies.

Secondly, capital base of NABARD has also been increased. An additional amount of Rs. 500 crore has been

given to them in this Budget. I.R.D.F. for rural infrastructure has been increased to Rs. 3000 crore. Besides, directions are issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time to all the Commercial Banks to provide a fixed percentage amount as loan to farmers. In Eighth Five Year Plan it was 18%... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.D. GAMIT : These directions are not implemented ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : I have admitted that this drawback has been there. After sometime we will bring it on the rail.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of Cooperative Institutions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India? Has the Govt. any plan to compensate Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Credit Institutions further? If there is no such plan, whether the Govt. is going to formulate such plan? I would like a reply from the hon. Minister for expeditious formulation of the plan.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, data with regard to the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Credit Institution is not available right now. But if hon'ble Member ask I can give the data regarding number of total Cooperative Institutions. It is correct that some targets have been fixed to provide loan especially to the weaker sections. And these are equally applicable to the Commercial Banks, Cooperative Institutions and other institutes like NABARD etc. The package to revamp the cooperative institutions includes a provision to provide adequate and timely loan to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes especially the weaker sections.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that farmers are being plundered by the financial institutions and Banks in the name of third party payment. Is the Govt. ready to stop the third party payment system?

Secondly, I would like to know the time by which Kisan Credit Card Scheme will be introduced? I would like to know these two things from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not clear about 'the third party payment' concept of the hon. Member... (Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Hon'ble Minister knows it but he does not want to disclose it. The hon. Minister himself is a farmer. Payment of loan is not made directly to the farmers by the Cooperative sector rather it is made through a media for. The farmers are being plundered. Sales Tax is being realised from the farmers... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not do it.

SHRI SOMPAL : It seems that hon. Member is of the opinion that farmers should not be given loan directly rather companies should be given the amount of the loan for sprinkler set and drip irrigation. Perhaps the hon. Member is talking in that context. I have not understood the concept of third party payment...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Loan is not given in cash to the farmer. If the farmer has to purchase a trolley, or an equipment...(Interruptions) fake bills are prepared therefor...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Chandumajra, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The cooperative credit societies are playing a vital role in the development of rural sector. Many cooperative societies are getting financial assistance from the NCDC. I would categorically like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the criteria and norms for getting financial assistance by the cooperative credit societies from the NCDC. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, is there any proposal pending before the Ministry in regard to the waiver of Section 11 of the Act.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, the NCDC provides assistance to the cooperative financial institutions and cooperative enterprises in various States.

The basic requirement is that the project should be viable. Secondly, it should be a cooperative project. Thirdly, the State must recommend the project. Fourthly, there are certain norms. The return ratio and other things are taken note of. There is a uniform code which is applied in all these cases.

I think, the hon. Member is talking about Section 11 of the Banking Regulation Act. I would like to say that this Section puts some stress and which impinges on the eligibility of the cooperative credit societies. We are trying to include this in the package that this should not be strictly enforced in the case of cooperatives...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, atleast one woman should get the opportunity...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Just a minute. I am asking about you only.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, this Government is committed for enhancing the credit to the rural sector as well as the agricultural sector. But the Scheduled Banks are not taking it kindly in giving credit, especially, to the agricultural sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to approve a proposal for setting up a National Cooperative Bank at the apex level with sufficient credit facilities to be distributed among the agriculturists as well as for the rural sector in various States.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a need has always been felt to establish an apex bank at the Central level which can take a lead role in rural credit. So far, there is no concrete proposal. But I accept that the need is there.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, there is a proposal pending clearance from the Central Government.

SHRI SOMPAL : If there is a proposal pending, then I undertake to look into the same.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask a very specific question from the hon. Minister. Ninety percent population of the country is engaged in agriculture. The issue of agriculture has been raised in the House many times. Hon. Minister himself is a farmer. Therefore, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister whether he would bring the Agriculture sector in the priority list for which the nationalized banks find themselves helpless to give loan to farmer? Would you try to bring Agriculture sector in the priority list? If not, what are the reasons therefor.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to inform the hon. Member that Agriculture is already included in the priority sector. Though...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : I am asking about industrial sector...(Interruptions) For which we face problems in getting loan and we find ourselves helpless in the nationalized banks...(Interruptions). The farmer of the country is unable to get loan. Would you try to bring agriculture in priority list?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that agriculture is already there in the priority sector. Though the party to which hon. Member belongs, could not achieve the target of giving 18 percent of loan in spite of keeping it in the priority list. We will definitely endeavour to achieve the target.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : It was not expected from you that you will neglect us like this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a Zero hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Whenever we talk about the farmers you try to evade it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

### Compensation to Farmers

\*604. SHRI MUKAL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh alongwith several other courted arrest in Delhi on July 3, 1998 to demand payment of Rs. 5000/- per acre compensation to farmers whose crop had failed or damaged;

(b) whether a delegation had also met the Prime Minister in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had sent any team to assess the extent of damage to crops in Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(d) if so, the details of its recommendations and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the decision of the Government in respect of paying Rs. 5000/- per acre compensation to farmers whose crops had failed or had been damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Statement

(a) to (f) On 3.7.1998, there was a demonstration of farmers of Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, in New Delhi District to demand payment of Rupees Five thousand per acre compensation to farmers, whose crop had failed or damaged. The demonstrators, including Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, were detained under Section 65 of Delhi Police Act at 1145 hours and released at 1415 hours. A delegation headed by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh subsequently met the Prime Minister the same day in connection with various memoranda submitted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the wake of natural calamities which have affected the State in the recent Past.

2. On receipt of memorandum from the States seeking additional financial assistance from National Fund for Calamity

Relief (NFCR), a Central Team is normally deputed only in a case in which the situation is prima-facie considered as one of rare severity. Twenty-three Central Teams have been deputed to thirteen States so far, since 1st April, 1997, to assess the extent of damage under various Sectors including crops and requirements of relief and rehabilitation measures. In case of Madhya Pradesh, four Central Teams have been deputed during the above period. An amount of Rs. 67.76 crore has been released from the NFCR to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Their request for relief measures due to heavy rains in the winter of 1997 will be considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee shortly.

3. Based on the report of the Expert Group constituted as a follow up of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, the Government of India adopted the norms of input subsidy to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 500 per ha. The State Level Committees can enhance it by 25%. The Government of India has set up a Committee to review the items and norms of assistance for relief in the wake of natural calamities, this Committee is expected to submit its report in about three months' time.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a reply was not expected from a learned minister. I am very sorry to say that my question regarding compensation to the farmers has not been replied to properly. In part 'f' of my question I have asked what decision have been taken by the Government to pay compensation at the rate of rupees 5000 per acre to the farmers whose crop had failed or had been damaged? In this connection, the hon'ble Minister has only stated that a committee has been constituted. I want to know from the hon'ble minister whether he is aware that the workers and leaders of the Bharatiya Janta Party during the previous Lok Sabha elections had demanded compensation at the rate of rupees five thousand per acre to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh whose crops had failed or had been damaged. In view of that demand, the present Prime Minister and the then candidate for the Lok Sabha elections, had publicly said that if the Bharatiya Janta Party formed the Government at the Centre, we would give compensation to the farmers at the rate of rupees five thousand per acre. If he is aware of this fact then why a reply has not been given in this regard? I also want to know whether it is also a fact that the hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had led an agitation in Delhi and held a meeting with the hon'ble Prime Minister and demanded that the Union Government must provide Rs. 2960.32 crores to the State Government for providing compensation to the farmers. Despite this demand the Union Government have provided Rs. 67.76 crores to the State Government. The hon'ble Minister should give a reply in this regard.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Digvijay Singh had



led an agitation of farmers in Delhi on 3rd July and courted arrest and 65 people were arrested. After that a delegation had also met the Prime Minister. At that time hon'ble Chief Minister had said that the request for compensation of loss caused due to heavy rains and hailstorm during winter season of 1997 was rejected earlier, and hence the request should be reconsidered.

As far as payment of compensation at the rate of Rs. 5000 per acre is concerned, as per my knowledge, the Government had never made any such promise...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Hon'ble Atalji had said this publicly during Lok Sabha elections—you can deny it...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER Madam, what is this running commentary?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the minister is saying.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Member please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such assistance is given out of two funds. Hon'ble Member Shri Wasnik had asked whether any committee had been constituted for this purpose. I want to tell him that no committee has been constituted but a committee namely NCRC is already there for this purpose which functions as a sub committee of the National Development Council. All reports and assessments for such compensations are received by this committee and whenever a memorandum is received from any State, a Central team from the concerned Ministry is sent there. Decisions are taken by the committee on the basis of assessment of the said team. Their case is also under consideration. The meeting in this regard was scheduled for 23rd but due to certain reasons that meeting has been postponed but whenever the next meeting is held in August, it will be considered. There are certain norms and guidelines under which assistance is provided. The Union Government works within the constitution and the Government cannot take any arbitrary decision. We are bound by the constitutional requirement and as per the above provision, we shall consider to provide maximum assistance.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, I have information about the National Calamity Relief Fund and the Committee thereunder. I have referred to the same committee which has been mentioned by the hon'ble Minister in his reply. In his reply the hon'ble Minister had said that the Government of India

have set up a committee to review the items and criteria of assistance in case of natural calamities the report of which is expected within the three months. I have made a mention of this committee in my question while talking about compensation at the rate of Rs. 5,000.

Sir, my second question is about the huge losses suffered by the farmers of Maharashtra due to hailstorm and excess rain. It is an unprecedented loss. Due to this loss, 86 farmers committed suicide in Maharashtra and the State Government have provided assistance only to 23 families. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Union Government have sent any central team to take stock of the situation in Maharashtra and to assess the loss suffered there? What was the amount of assistance sought by the Government of Maharashtra out of the National Calamity Relief Fund and what was the amount actually provided to it out of the said fund?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of payment of compensation in such natural calamities is concerned, a committee has been constituted for revision and review of criteria prescribed therefor. The hon'ble member himself has said that the report of the said committee will be received within two three months and only after that I will be in a position to say something. In that committee it is being considered that the assistance being given at present is certainly inadequate and there is need for improvement and revision therein. That is why the said committee was constituted. Report of the said committee is expected to be received soon and that report can be discussed in this House also.

As far as Maharashtra is concerned, Rs. 75.64 crores was to be allocated to Maharashtra during the current year out of Calamity Relief Fund. Out of it Rs. 56.73 crores was the contribution of the Union Government and the rest Rs. 18.91 crores was to be borne by the State Government itself. Out of this amount Rs. 28.37 crores has already been released in two quarterly instalments. So far as seeking assistance out of National Calamity Relief Fund is concerned, the Union Government have not received any letter from the Government of Maharashtra till date...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is particularly related to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to bring to the notice of the House whatever has been said by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh just before elections. The issue regarding enhancing the amount of compensation to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh under section 6/4 of R.B.C. cannot be raised without making an amendment in this section. Will the hon. Minister direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to amend section 6/4 of the R.B.C.; if so, the time by which the State Government is expected to make this amendment?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, probably this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government and it

depends on the State Government whether it wants to make an amendment in it or not. It is a duly elected and accountable Government and hence, perhaps it will not be appropriate for us to interfere in this matter.

**SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has demanded payment of compensation to farmers of the State and the hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had secured votes of farmers in the Lok Sabha elections and now the hon. Minister says that a certain amount will be paid, it is not proper. Farmers are being trapped in this matter also. I demand from the hon. Minister that promise made to the farmers in the State should be fulfilled. I want to know whether you are contemplating to provide compensation to farmers at the rate of Rs. 5000 per acre?

**SHRI SOMPAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has merely repeated the questions and I have already replied to these questions.

**SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the Minister has said that there was an agitation led by the Chief Minister in which 65 people including the Chief Minister were arrested. I would like to know whether the Union Government are going to take action against the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for violation the provisions of the constitution and violation of norms of protocol as he courted arrested as a Chief Minister. My second question is that rupees sixty seven crores have been allocated to Madhya Pradesh and Chief Minister of the State has committed bunglings in disbursement of the said amount. I want to know whether the hon. Minister will conduct an enquiry into it?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SOMPAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of violation of constitutional provisions or any legislation is concerned, I have already informed the House that a total of 65 persons including the Chief Minister of the State were arrested and I feel that this action was enough for violation of law or breach of peace. As regards the question of corruption, I would like to tell that action in all such cases depends upon the sense of responsibility of the administrations of the centre as well as State Governments. Thus the question of inquiry does not arise.

**SHRI MOTILAL VORA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1997-98 the rabi and kharif crops grown on 2 crore 22 lakh acres of land were damaged. At that time the State Government demanded Rs. 2100 crore. The State Government stated that 90 lakh persons could be provided employment if this amount of compensation was given between March and June of that year. But the then Government did not pay anything out of this amount of Rs. 2100 crore. When under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji this BJP Government came to power... *(Interruptions)* Why are you worried about it I am coming to

the question. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh met Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji in April and hon. Prime Minister assured him that assistance would be provided. As you have told that Rs. 67 crore 76 lakh have been given to Madhya Pradesh from the National Calamity Fund, in this context I would like to know whether this total amount has been given to Madhya Pradesh Government or only Rs. 10 crore have been given so far. Sir, on the basis of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission and report given by the Expert Group constituted for taking follow up action on it, Atalji promised to provide compensation at a rate of Rs. 500 per acre in case his party formed the Government...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :** Sir, he is making a wrong statement all along...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOTILAL VORA :** Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the said amount of Rs. 67 crore 76 lakh has been given to Madhya Pradesh Government?

You are recommending to pay Rs. 500 but you had given assurance to provide Rs. 5000 as compensation...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Vora, what is this? This is Question Hour, not Zero Hour.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOTILAL VORA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important question and the hon'ble Minister should reply to it.

**SHRI SOMPAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Motilalji is one of the senior most Members of this House and he had been the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. So far as his question regarding the assurance given to the Chief Minister by the hon. Prime Minister is concerned, I would like to tell that assurance was given to the Chief Minister that the memorandum of the State Government was under consideration and as per the prescribed norms and guidelines, maximum amount of assistance would be provided.

The second point raised by him is that whether this amount has been released or not? In this context, I would like to tell that Rs. 45.26 crore were given on 26th June 1997 and 22.50 crore were given on 14th January 1998 and thus the entire amount had been given to Madhya Pradesh Government.

His third question was about politicization of the issue and I have already replied to it.

#### **Bio-Agriculture**

+

\*605. **SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :**  
**SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :**

**Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :**

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to promote low cost agricultural practices keeping in view the high cost of chemical fertilizers and their effects on environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make investment on the research and development in the field to promote bio-agriculture in the country; and

(d) the funds allocated during the current financial year?

[English]

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

(b) The details are given in Annexure-I.

(c) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Annexure-I.

(d) A programme and scheme-wise statement of financial allocations for the current financial year (1998-99) are given in Annexure-II.

#### Annexure-I

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has been giving due emphasis on Bio-Agriculture and promoting low cost agricultural and eco friendly management practices to reduce/eliminate the use of chemicals. The major programmes on these aspects are as follows :

- Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers.
- National Project on Development of Use of Bio-fertilizers.
- Improving fertilizer use efficiency in low consumption areas with special reference to Eastern States.
- Integrated Pest Management (Plant Protection Measures).

(c) Yes, Sir. For developing suitable low cost technologies for efficient plant nutrient and environment management, the Council is implementing All India Coordinated Research Projects namely : Cropping System Research, Weed Control, Long Term Fertilizer Experiments, Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Micronutrients, Soil Test Crop Response, Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Organic Wastes, Water Management.

To evolve Integrated Pest Management practices, a National Centre is also functioning at IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi.

The low cost technologies for achieving enhanced fertilizer use efficiency and maintaining sound environment include balanced use of plant nutrients, conjunctive use of chemical

fertilizers and organics, green manuring, inclusion of leguminous crops in a cropping system, use of bio-fertilizers and Integrated Plant Nutrient System.

The other low cost technologies which are being advocated are selection of appropriate crop varieties, application of fertilizers at proper time and adopting appropriate methods, timely sowing, maintaining proper plant population, timely inter-culturing and weeding.

(d) For ICAR Projects, which are specifically pursuing research on fertilizer management and low cost technologies, a sum of Rs. 3500.00 lakhs has been allocated for the current financial year 1998-99. The budget allocation for National Centre for Integrated Pest Management is Rs. 94.50 lakhs for 1998-99. The Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has proposed an allocation of Rs. 1600.00 lakhs for the current year 1998-99 for Fertilizer Division.

The details of funds released by Department of Agriculture (Govt. of India) during 1998-99 for various programmes are as under :

(i) Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers	Rs. 559.00 lakhs
(ii) National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilizer	Rs. 586.00 lakhs
(iii) Improving Fertilizer Use Efficiency in low consumption areas with special reference to Eastern States	Rs. 300.00 lakhs
(iv) Integrated Pest Management Centres	Rs. 948.00 lakhs

#### Annexure-II

*Budget allocation (1998-99) for All India coordinated projects and institutes conducting plant nutrient and low cost development technology studies*

(Budget 1998-99)  
(Rs. in lakhs)

1. AICRP on Cropping System Research	Rs. 354.00
2. AICRP on Weed Control	Rs. 90.00
3. AICRP on Agrometeorology	Rs. 100.00
4. AICRP on Water Management	Rs. 210.00
5. AICRP on Diaraland Improvement	Rs. 25.00
6. AICRP on Dryland Agriculture	Rs. 290.00
7. AICRP on Salt Affected Soils	Rs. 65.00
8. AICRP on Utilization of Groundwater	Rs. 45.00

	(Rs. in lakhs)	[Translation]
9. AICRP on Tillage Requirement	Rs. 50.00	
10. AICRP on BNF	Rs. 45.00	
11. AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer	Rs. 33.00	
12. AICRP on STCR	Rs. 85.00	
13. AICRP on Microbiological Decomposition	Rs. 38.00	
14. AICRP on Micronutrients	Rs. 88.00	
15. AICRP on Agroforestry	Rs. 115.00	
<b>Institutes</b>		
1. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	Rs. 120.00	
2. Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad	Rs. 120.00	
3. Central Agricultural Research Institute for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair	Rs. 85.00	
4. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal	Rs. 80.00	
5. Central Soil & Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun	Rs. 120.00	
6. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani (Meghalaya)	Rs. 220.00	
7. Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	Rs. 280.00	
8. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur	Rs. 130.00	
9. National Research Centre for Agroforestry, Jhansi	Rs. 120.00	
10. National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur	Rs. 100.00	
11. Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar	Rs. 187.00	
12. Dte. of Water Management Research, Patna (Bihar)	Rs. 155.00	
13. Project Dte. of Cropping System Research Modipuram, Meerut	Rs. 150.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Rs. 3500.00</b>	
National Centre on Integrated Pest Management	Rs. 94.50 lakhs	
AICRP on Biological Control	Rs. 50.00 lakhs	
<b>Total Allocation (Ministry of Agriculture Fertiliser Unit and ICAR)</b>	<b>Rs. 5244.50 lakhs</b>	

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to reckless use of chemical fertilizers fertility of our agricultural land has declined to a great extent and at several places lakhs of hectares of cultivable land has become fallow land. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Department of Agriculture to check this decline in fertility of agricultural land?

Secondly, due to excess use of chemical fertilizers, and pesticides our agricultural products have become slow poison. Hon'ble Minister is very well aware of the fact that our public is suffering from serious diseases due to it. Sir, through you, I would like to ask as to whether any measures are being taken by the Agriculture Department to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers without having an impact on the yield so that public could be saved from ill effects of such products?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our learned Member Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has raised some important points. It is really a matter of grave concern. Chemicals used as insecticides, pesticides weedicides, fungicides and chemicals used as parasite killers have not only affected the soil and agricultural products but this has adversely affected the environment and has caused air and water pollution as many hints have been received to this effect. The strategy of the Government has been to curtail the use of chemical fertilizers and promote the use of bio-fertilizers like compost and other fertilizers which will boost agricultural production and will be in the interest of sustainable agriculture. This would remove the existing imbalance and farmers would be able to get the same yield at a low cost. Several schemes are being launched for this purpose. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Cooperatives have also started programmes in this regard. Besides, assistance is being given to several other institutions and State Governments for this purpose and a detailed information has been furnished in this regard. I will read it out if you permit me to do so or the related information will be sent to the hon'ble Member.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information given by the hon'ble Minister about the measures taken in this regard are not known to common man. Such schemes are going on on papers only. Though this Government was formed four months back only, previous Governments are to be blamed for this. I would like to know as to what steps will be taken to disseminate this information to common man.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concerned department of our Research centres and institutions engaged in publicity and extension work are active in providing such information to common man. We are also imparting education and training in this field and several other schemes of publicity and extension are also being implemented in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour over.

[Translation]

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, Sompal hour is over now.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Production of Sugarcane

\*606. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total land in Madhya Pradesh and other States covered under the cultivation of sugarcane during the last three years, Year-wise;

(b) the total amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to the various states during the above period for research and development work on sugarcane; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to provide adequate remunerative price to the sugarcane growers in the States particularly in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The State-wise area under sugarcane during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given as statement-I.

(b) The details of State-wise financial assistance for research and development work on sugarcane, given to the States under the All-India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sugarcane; and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS) for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are enclosed at statements-II and III.

In addition, a substantial amount is provided for sugarcane research under the Sugarcane Development Fund (SDF); Front Line Demonstration and Breeder Seed Production Programme (FLD); as well as training under SUBACS; and research carried out under Agricultural Produce Cess Fund Schemes (APCFS) in these three years as per details below :

Programme/Scheme	Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
(i) SDF	28.91	225.00	253.60
(ii) FLD	21.61	22.08	40.42
(iii) APCFS	10.35	24.61	37.80

(c) As per the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane below which no sugar factory can pay the price for sugarcane. However, in practice, the farmers are being paid State Advised Prices (SAP) of Sugarcane which are substantially higher than the SMP.

### Statement-I

*Estimates of area under Sugarcane, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98*

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	213.8	199.0	192.0
Assam	35.9	32.5	33.0
Bihar	125.1	140.0	170.0
Gujarat	161.6	165.8	155.0
Haryana	144.0	163.0	140.0
Karnataka	313.2	254.5	241.0
Kerala	6.1	5.8	8.0
Madhya Pradesh	47.9	58.1	53.0
Maharashtra	580.0	516.2	460.0
Orissa	27.3	22.0	30.0
Punjab	132.0	173.0	132.0
Rajasthan	28.0	26.7	20.0
Tamilnadu	326.2	271.2	293.0
Uttar Pradesh	1974.4	2100.6	1956.0
West Bengal	17.2	24.9	20.0
Others	14.7	14.5	14.0
All India	4147.4	4167.8	3917.0

### Statement-II

*Financial assistance by ICAR to various States of Sugarcane during last three years*

*(All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane)*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/Ag. Univ.	(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	APAU, Hyderabad (AP)	5.44	4.61	4.61

1	2	3	4	5
2. AAU, Jorhat (Assam)	4.26	3.22	4.00	
3. RAU, Pusa (Bihar)	7.18	4.88	4.88	
4. UAS, Bangalore (Karnataka)	4.52	3.01	1.79	
5. UAS, Dharwad (Karnataka)	2.54	1.94	1.94	
6. CCHAU, Hissar (Haryana)	8.67	5.09	5.09	
7. KAU, Trichur (Kerala)	2.97	2.84	2.83	
8. JNKVV, Jabalpur (MP)	5.79	4.83	4.83	
9. MPKV, Rahuri (MS)	9.28	7.16	7.15	
10. OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)	3.34	3.16	3.16	
11. PAU, Ludhiana (Punjab)	1.02	4.77	5.53	
12. RAU, Bikaner (Rajasthan)	—	1.94	1.94	
13. TNAU, Coimbatore (TN)	4.96	2.82	2.10	
14. GBPUAT, Pantnagar (UP)	3.75	3.10	1.90	
Total 1 to 14	63.72	53.37	51.75	

**Statement-III**

*Releases made under the scheme Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Area (SUBACS) during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	210.92	77.25	—
Assam	43.66	—	—
Bihar	159.13	—	70.67
Gujarat	166.64	17.00	18.00
Haryana	112.82	25.00	75.00
Karnataka	247.92	50.00	100.00
Kerala	25.56	22.31	20.00
Madhya Pradesh	87.08	18.00	27.00
Maharashtra	507.12	299.70	348.50
Orissa	54.73	18.00	40.00
Punjab	124.40	13.50	—
Rajasthan	56.60	10.00	12.00
Tamilnadu	222.66	64.00	63.00

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	810.29	576.82	256.00
West Bengal	36.19	—	6.00
Others	89.94	34.41	44.00
All India	2955.66	1225.99	1082.17

**Military Training to Pakistani Officers**

\*607. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that U.S. President has taken a decision for resumption of military training of Pakistani Officers under the IMET programme and has asked the Congress to allocate \$ 350,000 in the fiscal year 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) International Military and Education Training (IMET) Programme for Pakistan, which was suspended under the Pressler Amendment in 1990, remains suspended.

(b) Reports have appeared about efforts in the US Congress to restore training facilities to Pakistan under the IMET Programme. There is, however, no formal proposal or Amendment to existing US legislation to enable resumption of IMET for Pakistan for 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

**Impact of Sanctions**

\*608. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a Committee on Energy highlighted severe deficiencies in the programmes implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during 1997-98;

(b) if so, whether the sanctions imposed by the industrialised countries and the World Bank will hit hard the Non-conventional Energy Programmes;

(c) whether the Ministry has not analysed the impact of the sanctions due to recent nuclear tests so far;

(d) whether the Committee has made any recommendations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps being taken by the Government to ensure that

the Non-conventional Energy Programmes are not affected by these sanctions?

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 Standing Committee on energy on examination of the Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, has made recommendations for improvement in programmes implemented by the Ministry.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has analysed the impact of sanctions imposed by some countries due to recent nuclear tests. These sanctions do not have any immediate impact on the ongoing programmes of the Ministry. The projects, which are already sanctioned or committed by the bilateral/multilateral donor agencies, will not be affected by the sanctions.

(d) and (e) The Standing Committee, in its report, has recommended that a separate cell may be set up in the Ministry to tackle the sanctions and prioritise the projects of immediate national interest and that the cell may also examine the possibility of private sector participation in various schemes of the Ministry.

(f) A cell has been set up in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to assess the impact of sanctions on the programmes of the Ministry and suggest alternative methods of raising resources for the programmes including through private sector participation.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry, is exploring alternative methods of raising resources from domestic market viz., commercial banks, financial institutions and by way of tax-free bonds. The Ministry has requested the Planning Commission to increase the allocation of tax-free bonds to IREDA from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores.

#### **Kashmir Issue**

\*609. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported statement of the Pakistan Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan on Kashmir;

(b) whether he has threatened to go for fourth war against India if the Kashmir issue is not settled; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Government have seen the reported statement of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Government deeply regret such irresponsible statements.

Government consider that such statements are against the understanding that both countries will refrain from hostile and provocative propaganda. Government are also aware that Pakistani leaders make such motivated statements in order to invite international attention to India-Pakistan relations. As in the past, Government will continue to take all necessary steps to expose the falsehood contained in such statements and make the correct position publicly known.

#### **Foreign Investment in Alcoholic Sector**

\*610. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Union Government in allowing foreign investment in the potable alcoholic sector;

(b) the details of the Joint ventures which have been allowed in the country during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the cases where the domestic partner does not hold a valid Government licence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The policy envisages only Joint Ventures with existing licence holding Indian companies.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) None.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Foreign Collaborator	Name of the Indian Partner	Date of Foreign Collaboration Approval
1.	Whyte and Mackay Group, USA	M/s. Radico Khaitan Ltd., New Delhi	13.11.95
2.	Brown Forman Corporation, USA	Jagatjit Industries Limited, Punjab	22.12.95
3.	Pernod Ricard, France	United Agencies Ltd.	26.12.95
4.	Highland Distilleries Company Plc., U.K. and Remi Contreau, France	Pelican Beverages India Ltd., New Delhi	27.12.95
5.	Marie Brizard & Roger International, U.K.	Mohan Meakins Breweries Ltd., U.P.	8.8.96
6.	Bacardi International Ltd., Bermuda	Gemini Distilleries Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	2.1.97

### World Trade Organisation

\*611. SHRI T.R. BAALU :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the divisions dealing with WTO and multilateral trade agencies presently functioning under M/o Finance and M/o Commerce have been brought under the control of M/o External Affairs;

(b) if so, the purpose for which it has been done;

(c) whether the Government feels that there is a greater need for purposive coordination at various levels of the Government to deal with matters relating to World Trade;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a permanent cell in the P.M.O. to effectively coordinate all activities relating to World Trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is close and continuous co-ordination between various Departments and Ministries of the Government on matters relating to World Trade. This is facilitated by regular high-level meetings, an established system of periodic exchange of briefs, deputation and exchange of officials between the various Ministries and composition of joint delegations to various meetings and conferences. Depending on the issue, Secretary-level meetings are also scheduled and joint decisions are taken for subsequent implementation.

(d) No. As of now, there is no proposal to set up a permanent cell in the P.M.O. to coordinate the activities relating to World Trade.

(e) Does not arise.

### Announcement of Packages

\*612. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain special packages had been announced by the Prime Minister for various States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether all packages announced by the Prime Minister have been fulfilled; and

(d) if not, the 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 (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (d) Announcements were made by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Parliament on 23 July, 1996 and 2 August, 1996 regarding various programmes/schemes/projects for the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. The details of the announcements are at Statement-I and Statement-II attached. The then Prime Minister also made a statement at Jammu on 14 February, 1997, details of which are as Statement-III. The then Prime Minister had also made a Statement at Guwahati on 27 October, 1996 announcing New Initiatives for the North Eastern (NE) Region. The details are attached as Statement-IV. Some additional features to the package for the North Eastern Region were announced by the then Prime Minister in May, 1997. A copy of this announcement is attached as Statement-V.

The programmes/projects/schemes envisaged in the statements/announcements, which are to be implemented by various Departments/Ministries of the Government of India, North Eastern Council (NEC) as well as the concerned State Governments are at different stages of implementation. The details of progress of implementation of : New Initiatives for NE Region announced on 27 October, 1996, the various announcements made by the Prime Minister for NE Region in May, 1997 and those pertaining to the package pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir are given as Statements-VI, VII and VIII respectively.

The Prime Minister during his recent visit to Himachal Pradesh announced a project-related grant of Rs. 100 crore on 18 June, 1998 and an additional allocation of Rs. 100 crore for Basic Minimum Services (BMS) on 22 June, 1998. The State Government has been requested to forward the list of specific development schemes/projects which can be taken up under Basic Minimum Services, Accelerated Integrated Benefit Programme and Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for Additional Central Assistance.

### Statement-I

#### *PM's Statement in Parliament on Jammu and Kashmir*

As Hon'ble Members are aware, the massive unemployment of youth in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been a contributory factor in the growth of militancy. Similarly, the State is deficient in power which is an essential infrastructure for development of industry and even for tourism. Government, therefore, proposes to take up some important projects and also to complete the on-going projects on a top priority.

Government would be taking up the construction of 290 km. railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla as a national



project to be financed by Government of India outside the Railway's Plan. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 2500 crore and would be a great factor in integrating Kashmir with the rest of the country. In addition to providing employment in the State itself, on completion, the rail communications would help in the mobility of people from the State to the rest of the country for employment, education and trade. The survey work from Udhampur to Banihal has already been completed and survey work upto Baramulla will be over by March, 1997. The line would pass via Katra-Riasi-Banihal-Qazigund-Srinagar. The Railways would take up the work of construction of Udhampur-Katra Section immediately, to be completed in 4 years time. Government would provide Rs. 200 crore for this phase of the work. With adequate funding, the entire line upto Baramulla could be completed in 8-10 years time.

### **Mughal Road Project**

The Jammu-Kashmir National Highway, the only surface link between the Kashmir Valley and Jammu, is at present beset with problems of frequent blockades as a result of landslides and snow avalanches. To provide a dependable alternative link between the two regions of the State, the Government would take up the Mughal Road Project under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Roads of Economic Importance". The project spread over a length of 85 km. is estimated to cost Rs. 77.40 crore (at 1994-95 costs). The project cost would be shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 50 : 50. The road joining Jammu to Srinagar via Rajouri-Shopian and Pulwama and scheduled to be completed in 6 year's time will generate considerable employment potential along the entire stretch passing through backward areas of the State. When completed, the road apart from generation of economic activities, will help in mitigating the sense of isolation of the people of Kashmir. For speedy execution, it would be entrusted to the Border Roads Organization.

### **Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project**

Hon'ble Members are aware that work on the Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (3x130 MW) came to a halt in 1992 with the withdrawal of the French Civil Contractors. An amendment to the overall agreement with the French consortium has been finalised in July 1995. As a result of this, while the machinery is being supplied by the French consortium, the remaining civil works could be taken up by other contractors. Tenders for the balance civil work have been obtained and processed and a decision is expected to be taken shortly by the National Hydro Power Corporation to award the contract. Government would ensure that the civil works are commenced at the earliest and would also see that the funds for the balance civil works would be mobilized through various sources including Governmental assistance and market borrowings.

### **Uri Hydro Electric Project**

Hon'ble Members are aware that another major hydro electric project, namely the Uri Hydro Electric Project (4x120 MW) is under construction in the State. The work on this is going on according to schedule and the first Unit is likely to be commissioned during this year itself in December, 1996. This would provide the much needed relief to the power starved State.

### **Statement-II**

#### *Statement by Prime Minister on Jammu & Kashmir*

#### **1. Debt relief to small businesses affected by militancy :**

Hon'ble Members would kindly recall that on 23rd of July, 1996 I made a Statement in the House relating to certain long term infrastructural projects in the sectors of communication and power in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Hon'ble Members would agree with me that tourism, horticulture and handicrafts form the backbone of the economy of the J & K State. Other activities like small scale trade and industry, transport and hotels subserve the tourism sector. This sector was the worst affected because of militancy during the last 6-7 years. Tourist arrivals in the Valley declined from a peak figure of 7 lakhs in 1986-97 to almost a trickle during the last few years. This has affected the livelihood of thousands of families deriving sustenance from tourism and related activities. The affected units and individuals who had taken commercial loans from banks have not been able to repay the loan since there was no cash flow and have fallen into a debt trap. The State Government have identified that 31,000 borrowers from the sectors of small scale trade and industry, transport, hotel and houseboat businesses took loans to the extent of Rs. 181.87 crores. During the last six years there has been hardly any repayment and the interest on these loans itself amounts for another Rs. 212.79 crores. Hon'ble Members would agree with me that while militancy hindered tourism, loss of tourism led to a great degree of unemployment, and growing unemployment helped the growth of militancy, setting up a vicious circle. Now that the democratic process is being re-established and all efforts being made to restore normalcy, it is necessary to provide some relief to those hapless victims, especially the smaller borrowers. Government, therefore, proposes to write-off the outstanding loan and interest of all borrowers whose original borrowing is less than or up to Rs. 50,000/-. This would enable these small borrowers to get fresh loans from the banking sector to restart their businesses. As regards the borrowers above Rs. 50,000/-, an Inter-Ministerial Committee is being constituted to look into the questions of a moratorium and rescheduling of repayments of their loans, reduction in interest rates, and any other reliefs that could be given.

## **2. Special Central Plan Assistance to J & K State for 1996-97 :**

In view of the precarious resource position of the J & K State, resulting from militancy, the Central Government has been helping the J & K State by providing special Central assistance not only to meet a reasonable Annual Plan step up but also to bridge gaps on the non-plan side. As a result of this effort, the State Government's tottering budget has been stabilised during the last three years. Last year, i.e. 1995-96, the Parliament passed a balanced budget for the State with built-in Central assistance to meet the non-Plan gap so that the approved plan outlay of Rs. 1050 crores could be preserved. In view of the fact that the State for the first time utilised almost entire plan outlay last year, the outlay for the current year has been fixed again at Rs. 1050 crores. However, even with Central assistance at the level of last year, the State budget during the current year has deficit of Rs. 352 crores on current account, resulting from additional commitments of the State Government on different accounts. Unless this resources gap is bridged by a special Central assistance of an equal amount, the State will have no option but to reduce its plan size to Rs. 698.00 crores. Any reduction in Plan outlay at this crucial juncture when the State is on the path to total normalcy, needs to be avoided. Therefore, the Centre has decided to provide a special Central plan assistance of Rs. 352 crores to balance the State budget during the current year so that the entire plan outlay of Rs. 1050 crores can be utilised for development schemes without having to divert any part of it to meet the non-Plan gap.

## **3. Improvement of facilities at migrant camps in Jammu :**

Hon'ble Members are aware that 27,000 families of migrants from the Valley are living in Jammu either on their own arrangements or in camps. The facilities provided at 13 camps in Jammu need to be improved. These relate to provision of sanitation facilities like latrines and bathrooms, construction of more one-room tenements, buildings for schools being run in the camps, improvement of drainage facilities in the camps, etc. Government would be providing an additional sum of Rs. 6.6 crores to provide the aforementioned additional facilities in the camps to be completed during the current year.

## **4. Infrastructure development for tourism in Leh District :**

While Kashmir Valley is a traditional tourist destination, new tourist areas have come up in the Districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Leh and Kargil. Leh, in particular, has become an important tourist centre and State Government already has a plan for refurbishment of the monuments in the District. To give a further fillip to tourism in the area, I propose to allocate an amount of Rs. 2.40 crores for setting up of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh.

## **5. Development of Airport at Kargil :**

Hon'ble Members are aware that Kargil remains cut off from the rest of the State for seven months in a year as a result of the closure of the Srinagar-Kargil Highway in Winter due to heavy snow at Zojila. Government have, therefore, given high priority to the development of an Airport at Kargil at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crores. The work has already been assigned to the Border Roads Organisation, which would be completing the work of development of the air-strip in two years' time so that Kargil is ready to take regular commercial services. In the meanwhile, Government proposes to have a weekly helicopter service to Kargil in the Winter months instead of the present arrangement of a fortnightly service. Necessary subsidy would be borne by the Government.

## **6. Upgradation of Status for Jammu City :**

There has been a long-standing demand that Jammu City should be given B-2 status. The threshold population for grant of B-2 status is 4 lakhs. However, Hon'ble Members are aware that population census could not be held in the State in 1991. The Registrar General of India, however, has estimated the population of Jammu City to be 4.30 lakhs. Therefore, we have decided to upgrade the status of Jammu City to a B-2 City.

7. I hope these measures would go a long way in reviving economic activity in the State. As mentioned by me earlier, travel and tourism trade is of vital importance to the State. Government of India would, in consultation with the State Government, take all necessary measures to provide the requisite infrastructural facilities as well as assistance to individuals and units involved in this trade to ensure that Kashmir gets back its status as a tourists' paradise at the earliest.

8. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Government's commitment to give maximum autonomy to the State. Once an elected Government is in place, we would hold consultations with them to arrive at a consensus. While doing this, we would also ensure that the aspirations of all regions in the State, namely, Ladakh, Kashmir Valley and Jammu are taken into account.

9. I thank the Hon'ble Members for their support in this regard.

### **Statement-III**

*Statement of the Prime Minister at Jammu  
on 14 February, 1997*

Friends,

A popularly elected government has been installed in Jammu and Kashmir after nearly a decade. I do not have to go through the details of the travails and tribulations, the

State and the people have passed through in these years because of the proxy war launched by the neighbour and their agents. There was a massive participation of the people in the polls which were conducted in a very peaceful and orderly manner. The international community has acknowledged the genuineness of the elections. The massive mandate given by the people to this government imposes a tremendous responsibility on them in meeting the expectations of the people and in reviving the economy of the state. I would like to state very categorically and with conviction that the Government of India and the entire Nation is behind the State and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this massive endeavour.

2. I have visited Jammu and Kashmir twice before and this is my third visit. I have looked at some of the very important proposals and projects which are vital for the development of the State, but which were not making adequate progress for want of funds. The massive 290 kms. Udhampur-Baramulla railway line, estimated to cost Rs. 2,500 crores and which can provide large scale employment could not be taken up by the Railways for want of funds. We have decided after reviewing the whole matter, to take this up as a "Project of National Importance" and to provide necessary funds outside the Railway Plan. Work on this project will be simultaneously started from both sides. The Uri Hydro Electric Project which was dedicated to the Nation yesterday, was completed in record time inspite of disturbed conditions in the Valley. We have decided to provide full funds of another Rs. 300 crores to complete the remaining work of the Uri Project. The entire power available from Uri Unit-I will be made available to the State. Another important hydro electric project—the Dul Hasti Project, where work was suspended since 1992 is being revived. We have taken a decision to ensure full funding of the remaining Rs. 3000 crores required for the completion of this major project.

3. In the meanwhile, allocation of power to J & K is being increased to 876 MW to fully meet the power shortage in the State. The State should strengthen the transmission and distribution to utilize this power. We will extend support to the state to exploit its hydel potential through Investment Promotion.

4. The State Government have recently presented a Memorandum indicating certain projects and proposals which need to be taken up on a high priority, to put the State economy back on the rails. I and some of my Ministerial colleagues had detailed discussions on these proposals yesterday with the State Cabinet. In principle, I am in full agreement with these priorities and we need to devise ways and means to implement these in a spirit of joint endeavour between the State and the Centre. As you are aware, Government is about to finalise the Ninth Plan of the State and we need to incorporate some of these developmental projects in the Ninth Plan of the State and the Centre.

5. We shall devise special funding mechanism including external assistance for implementation of projects such as (a) Protection and Development of Dal and other important lakes, (b) masterplan for control of floods in the valley and (c) action plan for improving the navigation and environmental aspects of Jhelum on the lines of Ganga Action Plan.

6. The States Annual Plan has reached a record high of Rs. 1250 crores this year. The State Government will be enabled to have a reasonable 9th Five Year Plan, starting with a good annual plan of 1997-98. Necessary Central support will be provided for this purpose so as to ensure that the plan outlay fixed for each year is protected and funds are also made available for meeting the non-plan gap in resources.

7. The demand of the State Government for waiver of Central debt amounting to Rs. 1275 crores would be looked into sympathetically and a decision taken soon. A Central team will be deputed for discussions in this regard with the State Government in the near future. The State will also be assisted in phasing out the chronic overdraft problem.

8. The Central outlay on rural development and basic minimum needs in the State has been enhanced considerably. Nearly Rs. 1500 crores will be provided to the State in the Ninth Plan. The Central Government would provide the requisite additional assistance to restore militantly damaged infrastructure.

9. National Highway I-A will be upgraded and strengthened. An outlay of Rs. 140 crores will be made available to Border Roads Organisation to undertake this task.

10. Mughal Road will be taken up and implemented on a priority basis at a cost of Rs. 150 crores, which will be shared equally between the Central Government and State Government.

11. As a special dispensation more towns in J & K will be brought under the Prime Minister's Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme.

12. Orders declaring Jammu as a B-2 Category City will be issued shortly.

13. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already sent a high level technical team and in consultation with the State Government a decision will be taken to start the Agricultural University at Jammu from the next year.

14. Some other proposals of the Memorandum given by the State Government need to be examined in detail in consultation with the respective departments of Government of India and need to be defined. However, I would like to once again state that availability of funds is not the main constraint or the critical issue. What is required is devising carefully worked out programmes and projects and their effective

implementation so that the benefits of these programmes and projects reach the people. I would also lay stress on close monitoring of implementation so that the funds allocated are utilised purposefully.

15. There are certain other proposals relating to the facilities to be provided for return of migrants, etc. I am hopeful that the popular Government would be able to initiate proper measures to instill confidence in the migrants as well as take assistance of the local population so that migrants would be able to return to their homes in the Valley at the earliest. I would like to assure that financial constraints would not be allowed to come in the way of implementatin of this.

16. The Central Government shares the concern of the State Government regarding provision of employment opportunities for the youth of the State. Special recruitment drives will continue to be made to ensure that youth of this state will be absorbed to the maximum extent possible in central establishments and even in private sector. However, more thrust has to be given to implement available programmes by encouraging people to take to self-employment. It would also be necessary to devise new programmes for enhancement and upgradation of traditional skills, undertaking of new technologies, etc. The youth of the State are well known for their marketing and skills in salesmanship. Government would explore possibilities of earmarking some land for the setting up of specialised industrial estates and shopping complexes inside and outside the State to provide self-employment opportunities.

17. However, progress on these fronts would pick up speed as normalcy on the law and order front improves. Some of the discredited elements, are disrupting the economic progress of the State by resorting to bandhs and hartals. Government cannot allow these activities to go unchecked. Economic progress and peoples well-being cannot be secured unless these activities are squarely faced. In dealing with these elements, it is necessary not only to approach it from the law and order point of view, but also deal with them politically.

18. I want to assure the people of the State that the Centre and State Government are one and will together deal with these special problems of Jammu & Kashmir. I would like to reiterate that this is a national responsibility to bring about resolution as well as reconstruction of the torn economy of the State. This national endeavour should be approached in a non-partisan manner. The entire country is behind you.

#### **Statement-IV**

##### *New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region*

#### **Statement by the Prime Minister**

**Shri H.D. Deve Gowda**  
**at Guwahati**

*On October 27, 1996*

#### **Statement by the Prime Minister on October 27, 1996 at Guwahati Announcing New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region**

My first visit to the seven States of the North East has come to an end. To me, this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people, their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extended throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

2. I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

3. I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section, of people, like leaders or political parties, chiefs of Autonomous District Councils, representatives or Non-Governmental organisations, students unions, women's associations church leaders, and the press; in addition to Ministers, State Government officials and officials of Security forces, to get a first hand account of the conditions in these States.

4. The north-eastern region is endowed with abundant natural resources. In fact, Assam was in the forefront of the economic development of the country 100-150 years ago. It was a pioneering State and enterprising entrepreneurs invested in the development of tea plantations, oil, coal mining, forestry, Railways, and inland waterways. However, in the recent years investors have shunned these areas, because some of these States turned inward-looking, while others have been afflicted by militancy and terrorism. This has set in a vicious circle of terrorism, discouraging investments and economic development, leading to growing unemployment, which in turn provided recruits to militancy. Today, there are no major industries or other economic activities, which can absorb the educated unemployed. The only avenue for employment in almost all these States is Government service. However, Government service cannot absorb too many people. Also, too many people in Government service only breed inefficiency. The only way out of unemployment or militancy is massive all round economic development, leading to prosperity.

5. One of the important factors impinging on the identity of the people of the north eastern States is the question of foreigners. I have reviewed this issue in some details during my discussions with All Assam Student's Union and also several others. It was represented that the laws existing for

the detection of foreigners such as IMDT (Act), 1983 as amended have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws, and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with the States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened.

6. The other important factors which led to militancy, and is leading to unrest in some of the States, is the feeling of loss of identity by various ethnic groups, and the feeling that the centre has been giving step-motherly treatment to this region. These feelings may or may not be entirely justified. But the feeling is certainly there. It would be our endeavour to remove this feeling and to see that the basic infrastructure in this region is developed to reach the standards in the rest of the country, in a specific time-frame. I believe that India as a whole cannot progress unless every State, including the seven States of the N.E. Region keep in step with the rest of the country.

7. For too long senseless violence has prevailed in some of the States of North-East. For too long certain misguided elements have been killing their brothers and fellow citizens, and resorting to extortion, kidnapping etc. Violence cannot achieve any political objective. I would like to appeal to all those who have taken to the gun, to see the path of reason. I believe that all problems can be solved by mutual discussions. I am giving an open invitation to any group of individuals, including militants and without any pre-condition to meet me to discuss their legitimate grievances. I genuinely wish to understand their point of view and what exactly is troubling them. At the same time, I would like to clearly state that violence would not be tolerated, and would be put down with a firm hand. We also want friendly relations with all our neighbours, and we would expect them not to encourage or allow cross-border terrorism, or support militant groups from India.

8. Tackling unemployment would require productive investments in the area. With this view, as a first step, my government would take the following measures.

**(a) Commission to Determine Gaps in Infrastructure and Backlog in Basic Minimum Services**

A High-Level Commission will be appointed within 30 days to critically examine the gaps in important sectors, specially in power, communication, railways, roads, education, agriculture etc. The commission will also critically examine the backlog in the Basic Minimum services in the seven NE states. The commission, after assessing these requirements, will suggest policies, programmes and fund requirements to bridge the gaps in the infrastructural sectors and the backlog in Basic Minimum Services in the seven NE States. The Commission will submit its report within three months, and the Planning Commission will take the recommendations of the Commission into consideration and formulate specific programmes and funding

arrangements for the development of the NE States in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Additional adequate funds will be provided on an annual basis over and above the annual Plan allocations in the Ninth Five Year Plan to achieve these objectives.

**(b) Priority for Creation of Employment Opportunities to the Educated Unemployed**

A High-Level Expert Committee will be appointed within one month, to examine all aspects of the problem pertaining to the educated unemployed in the NE region and urgently suggest specific steps to promote employment among the educated unemployed in the NE States. Relevant infrastructure, extensive training and schemes for productive employment generation, specific for each of the NE States, will be established in each NE State. The High-Level Committee will submit its report within three months and recommend a blueprint for time-bound implementation. The recommendation will be implemented by the State Government and the relevant National Level Institutions/Central Ministries straight away. We will also give high priority for employment generation in the NE in the Ninth Plan.

Experts from the North Eastern Region would be associated with both these Committees on infrastructure and employment.

**(c) North-East Sub-plan in all Central Ministries/Departments**

All Central Ministries/Departments will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the NE States. They will also ensure that the programmes are speedily implemented.

**(d) Visits and Intensive Monitoring by Central Ministers/Secretaries**

Ministers and Secretaries in charge of the Central Ministries/Departments, specially those in charge of the Social Sectors, Petroleum Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Water Resources etc. would tour all NE States, at least once in a quarter and pursue the implementation of their plans and programmes.

**(e) Full Funding of the Ongoing Projects**

A number of important projects in the NE region concerning highways, railways, power, etc. are not progressing satisfactorily for want of adequate funds. Full funding will be assured for all on-going Central Projects, including Numaligarh refinery. The Home Ministry, the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Secretariat will regularly monitor these projects on a quarterly basis to ensure that these are completed as per schedule.

**(f) Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures**

Control of floods and water management are extremely important to the economy of this region. I have recently

appointed a High-Level Commission for suggesting urgent measures for comprehensive water management in our country. This Commission would examine and make recommendations on flood control and comprehensive water management aspects in North-East also. The Brahmaputra Board will be immediately activated to prepare a list of projects relevant for flood control, power generation and water management. Dredging operations will be launched to make inland waterways more efficient in the discharge of water and for transport. All Brahmaputra flood control project works henceforth will receive 100% grant from the Centre.

**(g) Full Coverage through Employment Assurance Scheme**

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) will be extended to all Blocks in the NE States by 31.3.1997.

**(h) Extension of Border Roads/BADP Programme**

The Border Area Development Programme as well as Border Roads Programme will be extended to some more areas in the Indo-Myanmar border also, as represented by some States.

**(i) Full Coverage of North East through Telecommunication and Electronic Media**

Telecommunication/TV/AIR coverage will be accelerated so as to cover 100% of the population from Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh by the end of Ninth Plan. At least Rs. 50 crores will be separately earmarked for this purpose.

**(j) Improved Credit Flow to the North East**

A special cell will be set up in the Reserve Bank of India under a Deputy Governor to ensure that more credit is made available to industry, agriculture and for self employment schemes.

**(k) New Industrial Policy**

A new Industrial Policy, specific to the North Eastern Region and its requirements will be considered and announced by 31.3.1997 to promote private investment, both domestic and foreign.

**(l) Decentralisation**

In this region, there is a need for greater decentralisation at the District and Sub-district levels so that people are involved in the decision making process. The Government of India will actively promote such decentralisation.

**(m) Development of Tourism**

An Integrated Tourism Development Plan for the entire North East as a whole is under formulation. This will develop some tourist circuits covering several states.

**(n) Strengthening of Central Agencies**

The presence in the NE region of certain central agencies concerned with the promotion of agriculture, trade and industry—like NABARD, various commodity Boards etc. will be strengthened.

**(o) Export Policy**

Commerce Ministry will work out an export policy including border trade for NE region aimed at promoting trade with South East Asia.

**(p) Measures for Control of Narcotics and AIDS**

Centre would take immediate measures to strengthen the institutional arrangements and programmes in some of the North Eastern States for control of AIDS, Narco-trafficking, and drug addiction and provide adequate funding for all these purposes.

**(q) Improvement in Railway Services**

The performance, punctuality and service by Railways in the region will be improved. On-going Railway projects, such as new lines, gauge conversion etc. will be completed soon with adequate funding. The new Railway lines proposed by the States without rail-head or very limited access would be included on priority.

9. I intend to visit North Eastern region at least two times in a year to satisfy myself that the plans and programmes for development in these states are implemented properly.

10. Finally as already stated by me, the Prime Minister's Office will ensure that all these commitments and the Package of programmes and schemes being launched forthwith are implemented according to the time schedules announced and regular monitoring is done of progress in implementation.

11. There are, of course, several other items raised during my visit. On returning to Delhi, I shall hold consultations with the Planning Commission and other Central Ministers and take decisions on these issues also within the next one month. The Chief Ministers will be further consulted on these issues, before final decisions are taken.

12. In the above endeavour, I solicit the whole-hearted cooperation of all the Chief Ministers, political parties, students, unions, media and the people at large in these states. We should all work together to launch a drive for peace and harmony, in the troubled states. It is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere of confidence and optimism for this. Abiding peace must replace the current conflict, harmony must replace hatred, mutual trust must replace suspicion. We are all sons and daughters of the same country. We are all one family. Our future and prosperity are common to all of us. We must share our concerns and prosperity. I would also request the State Governments to improve the performance of their bureaucracy, take steps to eliminate corruption and

to fine tune the Government machinery for better delivery of services. I am sure I will have the full cooperation of all people of the North East, judging from the tremendous enthusiasm and response the people gave me during my visit.

13. The State Governments, proposed during discussions with me, various projects which will need to be taken up for implementation. We have examined all the proposals. A list of important projects, state-wise which Government have decided to take up is attached.

#### **Mizoram**

1. Sanction for Tuirial Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 425 crores will be accorded this year.
2. Sanction for one State Referral Hospital with selected specialities and 200 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores. Land to be provided free-of-cost State Government. The State Government and Central Government will jointly prepare the project report by 31st December, 1996 for sanction before 31.3.1997.
3. Sanction for Phase-II of the Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme including sewage at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crores. Centre will provide 75% of the funds and the balance 25% by the State Government. The work to be completed within three years.
4. Border Roads/BADP with outlay of Rs. 30 crores will be sanctioned for implementation for 1997-98 onwards.
5. One Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores will be sanctioned this year.

#### **Tripura**

1. Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 525 crores. Adequate funds will be provided in each year of 9th Five Year Plan to complete the same within 5 years.
2. Two India Reserve Battalions will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).
3. Rs. 34 crores will be provided for upgradation of facilities at Agratala Airport.
4. One LPG Bottling Plant will be established (Rs. 15 crores).
5. One Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.
6. Upgradation of State Highway from Agartala to Sabroom at an cost of Rs. 60 crores in the 9th Five Year Plan.

#### **Manipur**

1. Upgradation/widening of NH-53 by Border Roads Organisation at estimated cost of Rs. 130 crores will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997 and work commenced in 1997-98.
2. Rs. 17.10 crores will be sanctioned for the infrastructural facilities for National Games 1997 in Imphal.
3. An Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores will be sanctioned this year.
4. An LPG Bottling Plant for Manipur will be sanctioned (Rs. 15 crores).
5. Phase-II of Project for upgradation of RIMS, Imphal at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crores will be sanctioned by 31.3.1997.
6. Loktak Down Stream HEP will be sanctioned this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 426 crores.
7. Construction of border road linking Maram (NH-39) to Phaibung (59 Kms.) at estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores will be sanctioned this year.

#### **Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Sanction for water supply schemes for Itanagar and Naharlagun (estimated cost of Rs. 36 crores) would be sanctioned, as soon as the project report is received from the State Government.
2. An Institute for Bio-diversity studies will be set up in Arunachal Pradesh (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).
3. Construction of new airport at Itanagar to be taken up during 9th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores. Land to be provided free of cost by the State Government.
4. The GOI will actively promote investment in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in the fields of Hydel power generation, tourism and agro-processing.
5. Improvements to Leelabari Airport including extension of runway etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.50 crores will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997.
6. The proposal for extending NH-52A from Itanagar to Gohpur would be considered and sanctioned in the 9th Five Year Plan.
7. Two India Reserve Battalions would be sanctioned to Arunachal Pradesh by 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).
8. The Central Government will provide 75% grant for construction of new Assembly Hall at Itanagar for which Foundation Stone was laid 10 years back by Late Rajiv Gandhi.

**Nagaland**

1. Additional funds required for the completion of Doyang HEP (Rs. 127.80 crores over two years) will be provided.
2. Helicopter services would be provided between Guwahati to Dimapur and Kohima with 75% Central Subsidy (Rs. 15 crores/annum).
3. Four laning of 17 km of NH 39 will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 38 crores.
4. Development of Dimapur Airport (extension of runway and installation of ILS) (Rs. 15 crores).
5. Rs. 10 crores for additional infrastructure for University of Nagaland.
6. Upgradation of District Hospital for referral facilities at Kohima (Rs. 25 crores).
7. Setting up Industrial Growth Centre with Central Subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.
8. Gauge conversion works of Dibrugarh to Dimapur section would be sanctioned.
9. Additional allotment of Rs. 10 crores for housing to Village Development Boards under IAY.
10. Rajdhani Express to Delhi from Dimapur via Guwahati will be introduced.
11. Indian Airlines will operate from Dimapur to Delhi via Guwahati thrice a week.

**Assam**

1. Additional funds of Rs. 55 crores would be provided in 1996-97 to complete Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Jorgighopa. Rs. 120 crores for 1997-98 to fully complete the project.
2. Proposal for Road-cum Rail Bridge at Bogibheel. Rs. 1000 crores will be sanctioned this year and the work commenced next year and completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.
3. Upgrading Guwahati airport as hub centre for the NE and develop it as an international airport (Rs.128 crores).
4. Three Industrial Growth Centres will be set up with Central Subsidy of Rs. 10 crores each (Total 30 crores).
5. Centre would take up flood control works on Brahmaputra as Central Sector Project and provide Rs. 500 crores in 9th Five Year Plan as Central Grant.
6. An LPG Bottling Plant will be set up at a cost of Rs. 24 crore.

7. GOI would finalise the 'on account' royalty rates for the three year period 1996-1999 by the end of November '96 and payments at these rates would be made to Government of Assam by 31.12.96, including the arrears from 1.4.96.
8. Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College will be considered.

**Meghalaya**

1. Indira Gandhi Health Institute for which foundation was laid in 1986 would be taken up for full completion in a time-bound manner.
2. Shillong Bypass Road would be provided Rs. 50 crores and the implementation expedited in 9th Plan.
3. Railhead within Meghalaya at Bumihat from Guwahati would be provided and work on this would commence as soon as the required land is made available by the State Government.
4. The Umroi Airport would be extended and upgraded during the 9th Plan period and work would commence as soon as land is made available.
5. New Satellite Township near Shillong would be established during the Ninth Plan Period by obtaining funds from external financial sources.
6. A Regional Biological Products Unit will be established in Meghalaya as recommended by State Government at a total cost of about Rs. 3.5 crores.
7. Sanction for widening of NH-51 near Tura will be accorded.
8. An Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores would be sanctioned.
9. An Institute of Hotel Management at Shillong would be set up.
10. Construction of Dowki Bridge connecting Meghalaya and Bangladesh would be taken up urgently with assistance from Government of India.

**Statement-V**

*Announcements made by the then Prime Minister during his visit to the North Eastern Region in May, 1997*

1. Schemes/programmes covered in the "New Initiatives for North Eastern Region" announced by the former Prime Minister during his visit to North Eastern region in October, 1996 would be fully implemented.
2. Security related expenditure incurred by the Assam Government in containing insurgency would be borne



by the Government of India. Government of Assam is to send a detailed proposal to Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. Central Govt. would provide necessary funds for Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) and further release of fund should be made to the State Govt. The State Govt. would, in turn release the funds immediately to BAC.
4. Ministry of Home Affairs should check up the latest position of vacant posts in scientific bodies etc. in the North East region and review the position.
5. For restructuring of NEC, Prime Minister desired to have a meeting with Home Minister and Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and seven Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States.
6. Prime Minister desired that Government of India would consider the proposal for security related expenditure of Government of Manipur on the same lines as that of Assam and Tripura.
7. As regards the patrolling of National Highways, Prime Minister informed that a special scheme was being prepared separately to patrol the highways in the North East region. The proposal of Government of Manipur would be accommodated in that.
8. The number of flights between Agartala and Calcutta have been reduced. Prime Minister desired that a meeting on this issue should be taken with Civil Aviation Minister. Subsequently, the State Government of Manipur and the representatives of Assam Chamber of Commerce also raised similar issues. Ministry of Home Affairs is to organise a meeting with Ministry of Civil Aviation to restore the flights.
9. For proper exploitation of gas, a meeting is to be organised between Govt. of Tripura and Ministry of

petroleum and Natural Gas by Ministry of Home Affairs.

10. At present, Tripura is second to Kerala in producing rubber. As the rubber is not included in the forest species, rubber plantation in degraded forests is not allowed. Action is to be initiated so that rubber is included as a forest species.
11. Representations were given to the Prime Minister for increasing age limit for PMRY (at present it is 35 years). Prime Minister desired that this issue should be examined immediately.
12. Referring to the request of Chief Minister, Manipur for adequate allocation of rice, Prime Minister informed him that Union Food Minister had been requested to take a meeting with Chief Ministers of North Eastern region, Ministry of Food has been asked not to reduce the allocation of rice/wheat. The allocation for below poverty level would be as per the figures given by the Ministry of Food, the balance quantity of foodgrains would be given to State for people about the poverty level at normal price.
13. Prime Minister declared that 130 kms. stretch of road connecting the NH namely DAMRA-SIJUTHU-BAGHMARA would be declared as National Highway and Ministry of Surface Transport should take action.
14. The Vice-Chancellor, NEHU informed that in 1996-97 the grant of NEHU by UGC was reduced due to general budget cut. Prime Minister desired that Ministry of Human Resource Development should issue instructions to UGC on this so that the general cut should not apply to North East region.
15. The need for establishment of an Institute of Mass Communication under NEHU similar to Jamia Milia to be considered.

#### Statement-VI

##### *Status of Projects Covered in "New Initiatives for NE Region"*

(April 1998)

Name	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Present Status
1	2	3

#### Assam

- |                                     |                         |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Fund needed to complete Jogigopa | 167 (for balance works) | The Rail-cum-Road Bridge had been completed and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th April 1998. |
| 2. Rail-cum-Road Bridge Bogibheel   | 1000                    | Final location survey and updated estimates awaited.  |

CCEA has approved on 10.9.97. Planning Commission to provide funds for this.

1	2	3
		Highway from its junction on NH 52 near Kuljan and terminating at its junction with NH 37 along the Bogibeel bridge declared as NH-52 A vide Gazette Notification dated 9.2.98.
3. Guwahati Airport	130 (balance work)	In order to make Guwahati a regional hub. The AAI has already commenced work for the modernisation of terminal and expansion of runway at Guwahati airport to make it of international standards.
	17.15	(a) Expansion/modification of terminal building. Phase I work (Arrival Lunge) completed and commissioned. Phase II work in progress.
	2.51	(b) Extension of apron. Work completed on November, 1997.
	29.90	(c) Installation of Radars. Completed and commissioned on 31.3.97.
	12.50	(d) Construction of international terminal building. Work will be taken up during the Ninth Plan.
	15.00	(e) Construction of international cargo complex. Work will be taken up during the Ninth Plan.
	3.00	(f) Upgradation of ground lighting facilities. Work may be taken up alongwith runway extension work.
4. Three Inds. Growth Centres	75	Chariduar Growth Centre  Scheme has been approved and Rs. 50 lakhs released to the State Government. (2) Matia Growth Centre : The project report has been considered by the Project Appraisal Committee on 11.6.97 and approved by the Apex Committee on 22.9.1997. Rs. 50 lakhs released. (3) Sonapur Growth Centre Project. Revised proposal awaited from State Government.
5. Flood Control works/ Brahmaputra	500	Pagladia Multi-purpose project (Rs. 480 crores).  Ministry of Water Resources processing for PIB/CCEA clearance. This is getting delayed. Harnag Drainage Scheme (Rs. 12 crores). Scheme approved in January 1998. This is getting delayed. The Union Government have approved the Master Plan Part I, Main stream of the river Brahmaputra and also Part II, Barak river and its tributaries.

1	2	3
		In the light of recommendations made by the Shukla Commission, the Task Force and Assam's claim to arrive at a distribution for priority projects in North East the following break up has been suggested :
(i) Short term flood control measures to be implemented by the Govt. of Assam		Rs. 150 cr.
(ii) Majuli Island Protection works to be taken up by Brahmaputra Board as part of a comprehensive scheme for protection of the island presently under preparation by Brahmaputra Board (Short term works)		Rs. 30 cr.
(iii) Projects to be executed by the Brahmaputra Board :		Rs. 225 cr.
(a) Rs. 214 cr. for Pagladiya project and		
(b) Rs. 11 cr. for harrang Drainage Scheme (Long term works)		
(iv) Pre-construction activities of lipaimukh (Manipur-Mizoram States) and investigation of Dihang and Subansiri Projects (Arunachal Pradesh)		Rs. 50 cr.
(v) Specific flood control schemes in Manipur State (11 nos.) as recommended by Shukla Commission.		Rs. 45 cr.
This has been sent to Planning Commission.		
6. LPG Bottling Plant	27.29	Sanctioned. Work in Progress. Will be completed by 31.10.1998.
7. Numaligarh Refinery	1650 (balance work)	It is now reported that total cost of work is Rs. 2497.40 crores. The Project has achieved a physical progress of 81.7% as on 15.2.98. Full funding assured.

#### **Issues raised during the Prime Minister's visit to NE states from May 19-23, 1997**

Declaration of Damra-Baghmara Road as NH in Assam and Meghalaya States.

- (i) Highway from Damra to Baghmara declared as NH 62 vide Gazette Notification dated 9.2.98.
- (ii) Govts. of Assam and Meghalaya requested to give No objection to handover Highway land to Central Govt.

#### **Nagaland**

1. Doyang HEP (3x25 MW) 127.8
  - Additional Rs. 30 crores released in March 1997 by NEC for Doyang HEP.
  - The present anticipated completion cost of the project has increased from Rs. 384.75 crores to Rs. 557.87 crores. REC has been submitted to NEC by NEEPCO. NEC have sent the same to CEA and it has and it has been approved by CEA. It is now to be processed for PIB/CCEA approval.
  - The total funds received for the project upto January 1998 is Rs. 389.89 crores.
  - Additional funds provided.
  - Revised commissioning schedule is :
  - Unit I 7/98
  - Unit II 9/98
  - Unit III 11/98

1	2	3
2. Helicopter Services	20	Proposal approved. Helicopter services to commence from 1.3.98 or as soon as State Govt. executes agreement with Pawan Hans.
3. Airport at Dimapur	10.73	Construction of new terminal complex costing Rs. 9.65 crores has been completed and commissioned in July 97.
4. Hospital for Referral facilities at Kohima	25 (balance work)	Work to be commence in 1998-99.
5. Industrial Growth Centre	25	Dimapur (Ganesh Nagar) Growth Centre : Proposals approved and Rs. 50 lakhs released.
6. Infrastructure for Nagaland University	10	Releases yet to be made by Dept. of Education/UGC.
7. Four Laning of NH-39 (Dimapur Chumuk-Dema)	16	Survey completed. Estimate for Rs. 10.98 crores under sanction by DGBR.
8. Additional allocation for IAY	10	Rs. 5 crores released.

#### Meghalaya

1. Indira Gandhi Health Institute	74	<p>Dr. A.S. Barooah has been appointed as Director of the Institute.</p> <p>A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Dave, Director, AIIMS to work out a detailed Project Report.</p> <p>The Committee in its Report submitted in June 97 recommended the development of the Institute in a phased manner, viz. :</p> <p>1. Short term :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Development of a Medical College.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Functioning of Super Speciality Department of Cardiology and Gastro enterology.</p> <p>2. Long term :</p> <p>Development of full fledged Medical College with Specialists and Super-specialities.</p> <p>Development Activities are going on as per schedule.</p>
2. Shillong by-pass Road	16	<p>Firm proposal regarding alignment of by-pass is awaited from State Govt.</p> <p>Widening of 2 land of NH-51 near Tura—Detailed estimate for Rs. 13.08 crore approved and sanction issued on 19.3.98.</p>
3. Railhead at Bumihat	5	Fresh survey taken up. Govt. of Meghalaya have suggested to the Ministry of Railways to change the alignment to Jhalukbari-Bumihat-Shillong.
4. Umroi Airport		State Govt. have requested for fresh study. This has been carried out. Revised cost is Rs. 30.00 crores excluding the cost of additional land required.

1	2	3
		Ministry of Civil Aviation to process EFC approval for this project.
		This is getting delayed.
5. Satellite Township near Shillong		State Government of Meghalaya sent the proposal on 13.7.97 which was technically examined and recommended to Dept. of Economic Affairs for seeking OECF assistance. Dept. of Economic Affairs has recommended the project to OECF Japan under the 1998-99 loan package.
6. Regional Biological Products Unit	3.50 Approx.	Regional Biological Products Unit : This unit is proposed to be taken up initially under the Central Sector with a view to producing vaccines to control the disease commonly found in Piggery/Poultry etc. Swine fever, foot and mouth diseases etc. The requirement for the infrastructure at Upper Shillong is Rs. 1.20 crores for office buildings and Rs. 0.90 crores for residential buildings. The project is expected to become self-sustaining after 5 years by which time it will be transferred to the State.
7. Industrial Growth Centre	25	Mendipathar Growth Centre  Approved in March 1997 and first instalment of Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs released.
8. Institute for Hotel Management		The Commissioner and Secretary, Tourism, Govt. of Meghalaya mentioned that this is Central Sector Project and to begin with, the premises of the Orchid Hotel, Shillong will be utilised so that the Institute of Hotel Management may start functioning from April-May, 1998. Regarding permanent location, land is being identified at the periphery of Shillong town.  Ministry of Tourism to take further action to implement the project.
9. Dowki Bridge connecting Bangladesh	20 including approach road	Estimate for consultancy services for preparation of DPR for new bridge sanctioned for 0.35 cr. on 19.3.97.  The alignment and span arrangement have been approved by the Ministry on 24.11.97. Detailed designs and estimate awaited from the consultants M/s. RITES. State PWD reminded on 9.2.98 to expedite the estimates.  Construction of Dowki bridge proposed in Annual Plan 1998-99 with a provision of Rs. 6 crores.
<b>Additional item announced by the Prime Minister during May 19-23, 1997</b>		
Declaration of Damra-Baghmara Road as NH in Assam and Meghalaya States		Highway from Damra to Baghmara declared as NH No. 62 vide Gazette Notification dated 9.2.1998.  Govts. of Assam and Meghalaya requested to give No Objection to hand over Highway land to Central Government.
<b>Mizoram</b>		
1. Tuirial HEP	448.19	Govt. of Mizoram has agreed to hand over the project to NEEPCO execution as Central Sector project. The estimated

1	2	3
		<p>cost of project is Rs. 448.19 crores. The project has been tied up for financial assistance from OECF. Relevant agreements have been signed between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Japan in January 1997 for OECF loan assistance of 11,695 million yen for Tuirial HE Power Station project.</p> <p>Environment and forest clearance for the project has already been transferred by MOEF to NEEPCO. Provisional TEC has been issued by CEA for the project and the PIB meeting was held on 27.1.98.</p> <p>PIB meeting held on 27.1.98 and it was decided to recommend the proposal to CCEA. The Cabinet Note has been submitted for approval. Pending investment approval, action for selection of consultants has already been initiated and global tenders floated on 30.8.98. Pre PIB meeting for selection of consultants was held on 4.12.97.</p>
2. State Referral Hospital	40	<p>Expert Team from Ministry of Health &amp; FW have held discussions at Aizawl with State Government officials.</p> <p>Rs. 8.50 crores provided in Ninth Plan of State Government. Work to be commenced by State Government.</p>
3. Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply (Phase II)	130	<p>The Scheme has been technically cleared on 17.3.97 at a revised cost of Rs. 177.90 crores. Subsequently the estimate was modified to Rs. 176.55 crores. Work tendered.</p>
4. Border Area Development Prog/Road Prog.	30	<p>Planning Commission have made a provision of allocation of Rs. 16 crores in the Annual Plan 1997-98.</p> <p>A tentative provision of Rs. 4 crore has been made to the State and Rs. 2 crore has been released as first instalment. In addition Rs. 1.37 crore has also been released for Bangladesh border.</p>
5. Industrial Growth Centre	15.25	<p>Luangmual Growth Centre :</p> <p>Approved in March, 1997. First Instalment of Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs released.</p>
6. Widening of NH 54 (Silchar-Aizawl) DGBR	91.78	<p>Reconnaissance survey from km. 2.90 to 151.90 completed. Sanction for km. 44.30 to 70 accorded for Rs. 344.66 lakhs in Sept. 97. Regular sanction for Rs. 15.42 crore from km. 0.24 to 31.11 under process by DGBR. Work started.</p>
<b>Tripura</b>		
1. Kumarghat Agartala Rly. Line	525	<p>Project inaugurated by PM on 23.10.1996. A Dy. CE posted at Agartala and project office set up. CCEA have approved this project.</p>
2. India Reserve Battalions (Two)	10	<p>Sanction accorded on 24.11.96 and 31.1.97 for 2 IR Bns. by MHA.</p>
3. Upgradation of Agartala Airport	30 (balance work)	<p>Total project cost Rs. 46.76 crores of which Rs. 3.76 crores received from NEC.</p> <p>Rs. 9.58 crores provided in Annual Plan 1997-98 of AAI.</p>

1	2	3
		<p>There is a proposal to extend/modify the existing terminal building at the cost of Rs. 18.45 crores including a new fire station. Tenders have been called. As regards expansion of runway from 6000' to 7000' the requisition has been submitted with State Govt. for acquiring about 40 acres of land for the purpose. Strengthening of existing apron and widening of link taxi way work is in progress and likely to be completed by Dec. 1998.</p> <p>(a) Expansion/modification of terminal building including construction of new fire stations.</p> <p>(b) Acquisition of land for extn. of runway from 6000' to 7500' Tendering stage. Work awarded in July 1997. Execution period two years from the date of commencement of work. The State Govt. has been requested in Nov. 96 to acquire land and hand over to AAI free of cost for the purpose. This has been done.</p>
4. LPG Bottling Plant	6.79	<p>Filling commenced.</p> <p>Work completed.</p>
5. Industrial Growth Centre	15	<p>Uttar Champamura :</p> <p>The project report has been considered by the Project Appraisal Committee on 11 June, 1997 and was approved by Apex Committee on 22nd Sept., 1997. Project cost Rs. 15 crores. Rs. 50 lakhs released to State Govt.</p>
6. Upgradation of Agartala-Sabroom Highway	60	<p>Govt. of Tripura have entrusted road under Article 258A of Constitution of India to Border Roads Development Board for five years for upgradation to NH Standards and maintenance vide letter dated 6th May 1997. Sanction accorded by DG, Border Roads.</p> <p>Estimate for Rs. 7.33 crores from km. 2.69 to 15.00 and km. 90 to km. 105 sanctioned in October, 97. Work started.</p> <p>Estimate for Rs. 8.56 crore from km. 66 to km. 90 is under process of approval with CDA (BR).</p> <p>Highway from Agartala to Sabroom declared as NH-44 vide Notification dated 9.2.98.</p>
<b>Manipur</b>		
1. Widening NH-53 Imphal-Jiribam	136.72	<p>(i) Work from km. 3.22 to 96 and km. 101 to 122.20 sanctioned for Rs. 31.33 crore in December, 1997. Work started.</p> <p>Provision to be made in Ninth Plan for this. Rs. 700 lakhs has been provided in BE 1997-98 for this work. The work in the remaining stretches is to be sanctioned during 1997-98.</p> <p>(ii) Sanction accorded for Rs. 11.36 for reach from km. 186.48 to 221.14 on 24.2.98.</p> <p>State Govt. to assist MOST for speedy acquisition of land.</p> <p>(iii) Sanction accorded for Rs. 14.51 crore for surfacing works from km. 186.48 to 221.14 on 19.3.98.</p>

1	2	3
		(iv) Estimate for km. 96 to 101 for Rs. 1.81 crore under examination by DGBR. CDA (Border Roads).
2. Sports Infrastructure	17.1	Rs. 17.10 crores released by Planning Commission to State Government.  Action completed. In fact, an additional Rs. 15 crores released to the State Government as Special Central Assistance in 1997-98 for completion of the Sports/Infrastructure. National Games scheduled from 4-10 October, 1998 at Imphal.
3. Industrial Growth Centre	25	Lamlai-Nampet  Imphal East District  Approved in December 1997. Rs. 50 lakhs released.
4. LPG Bottling Plant	27.62	(i) Payment for land made in full to the State Government.  On failure of State Govt. in handing over the land selected earlier at Malon, the Site Selection Committee inspected a new plot of land at Sekmai Imphal on 6/7 Jan. 1998 and has recommended for acquisition of land.  (ii) Contract for the boundary wall finalised in March, 1997.  State Govt. has been requested to acquire the plot at the earliest.  State Govt. has delayed.
5. Upgradation of RIMS	90	JS (NE) visited Imphal on 27 Jan. 1997 and held discussion. Expert team from Min. of Health and FW had visited RIMS on 18th Feb. 97.  Report of the Inter Ministerial team circulated. Meeting held on 20 March 1998 to consider the report. Proposal approved by Inter Ministerial Committee. EFC meeting to be held on 6.5.98.  This is getting delayed.
6. Loktak Down Stream HEP	426	Forest clearance for project has been received. Approval in principal for diversion of 195 ha. of forest land (excluding 55 ha. earmarked for office and colony) for Loktak Down Stream Hydro Electric Project in Manipur accorded subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. After receipt of the conditions stipulated final approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued.  The revised cost of the project at 1996-97 prices is estimated at Rs. 647 crores and it is expected to be completed in 7 years.  After protracted correspondence, Govt. of Manipur has agreed that this project be executed by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd. State Govt. however desired that 50% of the benefits of the projects be made available to them. This has been agreed to in principle. While 12% of power would be provided free of cost and the remaining 38% is proposed to



1	2	3
		be made available to Manipur at the rate at par with other beneficiary States. Pre-PIB Memo is under submission.
7. Maram-Phaibung Road (Border Road Programme)	15	Provision made in State Ninth Five Year Plan for this work. State Govt. to expedite work on this road.
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>		
1. Itanagar-Naharlagun Water Supply Scheme	36	The modified scheme for Itanagar town (Ph-1) project cost Rs. 20.776 crores has been technically approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.50 crores on 17.3.97 and the modified scheme for Naharlagun town (Phase-I) project cost Rs. 15.90 crores has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.17 crores on 17.3.97.
		Tender for Itanagar Water Supply Scheme has been floated.
2. Biodiversity Studies Institute	10	Ministry of Environment and Forests have intimated the following :  The Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh has prepared revised project report for setting up National Inst. of Bio Diversity in Arunachal Pradesh. The Dept. is to forward a copy of the Project Report to Govt. of India after obtaining approval.  This is getting delayed.
3. Airport at Itanagar	50	State Govt. yet to communicate willingness for land free of cost. Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh has promised to communicate State Govt.'s willingness. Concurrence of State Govt. yet to be received.  Recently Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has requested to depute a team to survey the site near Jote village for construction of a new airport. A team from regional Headquarters, Guwahati has already left on 22nd October, 1997 to carry out study of all the airports in the Arunachal Pradesh for upgradation of infrastructure facilities. The report from team received and communicated to the State Govt. for giving their concurrence.
		This is awaited.
4. Lilabari Airport	21 (balance work)	Work for existing runway being strengthened and work expected to be completed by July, 1998. Work relating to construction of new terminal building also awarded recently and expected to be completed by July, 1999. Rs. 8.45 crores provided in Annual Plan 1997-98 of AAI.  Total cost of development is estimated at Rs. 28.40 crores.  Construction of new terminal building and strengthening and extension of existing runway works are in progress and expected to be completed by July 1999 and December, 1998 respectively.  (a) Construction of new terminal building complex including apron and runway.  Work in progress.

1	2	3
		(b) Strengthening and extension of runway including runway lighting work. Work in progress. (c) Provision of DVOR/DHE Budget provision made. Work may be taken up during 1998-99.
5. Extension of NH-52A from Itanagar-Gohpur		(i) Itanagar-Gohpur road declared as NH-52A vide Gazette Notification dated 9.2.1998. (ii) The Govts. of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam requested to give 'No Objection' to hand over Highway land to Central Government. Rough cost of improvement is about Rs. 60 crores. (ii) Survey, investigation and project preparation included in the Annual Plan 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 0.50 crores. Sanction of detailed estimate after receipt from State PWD.
6. Two India Reserve Battalians	10	Sanction accorded for raising 2 IR Bns at a total cost of Rs. 18 crores by MHA. Funds released.
7. Assembly Hall at Itanagar		Estimate to be prepared by State Government. This has been delayed by the State Government.

#### Statement-VII

*Statement showing present status of various announcements made by the Prime Minister during his visit to the North Eastern Region in May, 1997*

Announcement Made	Present Status
1	2
1. Schemes/programmes covered in the "New Initiatives for North Eastern Region" announced by the former Prime Minister during his visit to North Eastern region in October, 1996 would be fully implemented.	Necessary action have been taken to implement the schemes/programmes covered under "New Initiatives for North Eastern Region" announced by the former Prime Minister in October, 1996 and the progress is monitored regularly by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.
2. Security related expenditure incurred by the Assam Government in containing insurgency would be borne by the Government of India. Government of Assam is to send a detailed proposal to Ministry of Home Affairs.	Government of India have sanctioned and released Rs. 131.91 crores as reimbursement of excess Security Related Expenditure for the period 1990-95 in full and final settlement.
3. Central Govt. would provide necessary funds for Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) and further release of fund should be made to the State Govt. The State Govt. would, in turn release the funds immediately to BAC.	State Government has submitted "Utilisation Certificate" of Rs. 5 crores in the month of March, 1998. The proposal for releasing balance Rs. 9.29 crores has been sent to Planning Commission.
4. Ministry of Home Affairs should check up the latest position of vacant posts in scientific bodies etc. in the North East region and review the position.	The latest position of vacant posts in scientific bodies in North East region has been reviewed.
5. For restructuring of NEC, Prime Minister desired to have a meeting with Home Minister and Dy. Chairman,	Meeting was held by the Prime Minister.

1

2

Planning Commission and seven Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States.

6. Prime Minister desired that Government of India would consider the proposal for security related expenditure of Government of Manipur on the same lines as that of Assam and Tripura.
7. As regards the patrolling of National Highway, Prime Minister informed that a special scheme was being prepared separately to patrol the highways in the North East region. The proposal of Government of Manipur would be accommodated in that.
8. The number of flights between Agartala and Calcutta have been reduced. Prime Minister desired that a meeting on this issue should be taken with Civil Aviation Minister. Subsequently, the State Government of Manipur and the representatives of Assam Chamber of Commerce also raised similar issues. Ministry of Home Affairs is to organise a meeting with Ministry of Civil Aviation to restore the flights.
9. For proper exploitation of gas, a meeting is to be organised between Govt. of Tripura and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas by Ministry of Home Affairs.
10. At present, Tripura is second to Kerala in producing rubber. As the rubber is not included in the forest species, rubber plantation in degraded forests is not allowed. Action is to be initiated so that rubber is included as a forest species.
11. Representations were given to the Prime Minister for increasing age limit for PMRY (at present it is 35 years). Prime Minister desired that this issue should be examined immediately.
12. Referring to the request of Chief Minister, Manipur for adequate allocation of rice, Prime Minister informed him that Union Food Minister had been requested to take a meeting with Chief Ministers of North Eastern region. Ministry of Food has been asked not to reduce the allocation of rice/wheat. The allocation for below poverty level would be as per the figures given by the Ministry of Food, the balance quantity of foodgrains would be given to State for people about the poverty level at normal price.
13. Prime Minister declared that 130 kms. stretch of road connecting the NH namely DAMRA-SIJUTHU-BAGHMARA would be declared as National Highway and Ministry of Surface Transport should take action.
14. The Vice-Chancellor, NEHU informed that in 1996-97 the grant of NEHU by UGC was reduced due to general

This has been considered and accepted principle.

This is included in the Ninth Five Year Plan Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to information furnished by Ministry of Civil Aviation, number of flight between Agartala and Calcutta have not been reduced.

A meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office regarding the operations of feeder flights to the North East.

The meeting was held between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Government of Tripura.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. They have agreed to consider plantation of rubber in degrade forests subject to certain conditions. IG (Forests) would visit Tripura shortly and thereafter, a final decision would be take the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

This has been approved and incorporated in New Industrial Policy.

A meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office and the issue of quota for allocation of rice/wheat has been satisfactorily resolved.

DAMRA-SIJUTHU-BAGHMARA stretch of road has declared as National Highway No. 62 with effect from 9.2.1998.

This was taken up with Department of Education. They have intimated that University Grants Commission (UGC) has been

1

2

budget cut. Prime Minister desired that Ministry of Human Resource Development should issue instructions to UGC on this so that the general cut should not apply to North East region.

15. The need for establishment of an Institute of Mass Communication under NEHU similar to Jamia Milia to be considered.

advised to take off that the general budgetary cut does not extended to Central Universities located in the North East region.

This was taken up with department of Education. They have intimated that NEHU have to take steps in accordance with the provisions of North Eastern Hill University Act, consultation with University Grants Commission NEHU has been intimated accordingly.

#### Statement-VIII

*Status of progress of implementation of Package for Accelerated Economic Development of Jammu and Kashmir*

*(as on June, 1998)*

The Prime Minister announced two packages for J & K for accelerated development of the State in both Houses of Parliament on 23rd July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996. In addition, during his visit to J & K on 13-14th February, 1997, he announced certain measures with a view to accelerate the process of development and normalisation in the State. These are as follows :

- I. PM'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON 23RD JULY, 1996

#### 1. RAILWAYS

Construction of 290 kms. railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla as a national project costing about Rs. 2500 crores wholly financed by the Government of India's outside the Railway's Plan.

#### STATUS

- 1.1 A joint high-powered group of officers from Railway Board and the State Government has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, J & K on 13.2.98.
- 1.2 A Provision of Rs. 75 crores was made in the Railway Budget of 1997-98 for this project. During 1998-99 a provision of Rs. 75.00 crores has been made by the Railways.
- 1.3 Rs. 37 crores have been deposited by the Ministry of Railways towards cost of land between Udhampur-Katra segment and entire land between Km. 0 to 9 Km. (except 92 kanals occupied by the Army) has been handed over to the Railways. In km. 9 to 25 Kms., out of 4013 Kanals, 1000 Kanals has been handed over to Railways for construction work.
- 1.4 It was also decided that the State PWD would complete the approach road to Railway station at Udhampur at

the earliest to enable Railways to start work on the construction of Railway Station.

- 1.5 The Additional Commissioner, Kashmir is coordinating the acquisition of the land. Out of 14 stations on this segment, the Railways have completed survey in respect of 4 stations i.e. Nowgam, Pampore, Kakapora and Budgam.
- 1.6 Proceedings for acquisition of land have been started in Nowgam.
- 1.7 Ministry of Railways have deposited Rs. 20 crores as a part of cost of land for Srinagar and has been permitted to start the construction activity of Srinagar Railway Station.
- 1.8 Another Rs. 16.73 crores have been deposited towards cost of land in the Valley.

#### 2. MUGHAL ROAD

Government would take up the Mughal Road project, costing about Rs. 77.40 crores, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Roads of Economic Importance' which would mean equally sharing of project cost between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 50:50.

#### STATUS

- 2.1 The State Government has communicated its acceptance of sharing of the project cost. The State Government has also estimated that the revised cost of the project would go upto Rs.150 crores. The work is envisaged to be completed in 9th Plan. Ministry of Surface Transport has sent its no objection to the proposal of the State Government to get the road constructed by one of its own specialised agencies associating the BRO which has considerable experience in this field. State Govt. is required to submit its detailed proposal, before seeking clearance of C.C.E.A.
- 2.2 MoST made a provision of Rs. 8 crores for this project during the financial year 1997-98.
- 2.3 The State Government has not yet submitted the detailed project plan and estimates.

MoST have requested Planning Commission to place additional funds of Rs. 75 crores during the 9th Plan year at their disposal.

## POWER

3. The Government would ensure that civil works on the Dulhasti Hydel Project (130 x 3 MW) are commenced at the earliest.

## STATUS

Ministry of Power has informed that the contract for construction of balance civil work was awarded on 3.3.1997 to M/s. J.P.S.A.J.V. and work started on 11.04.97. Some of the civil works had earlier been taken up by NHPC. Rs. 450 crore was provided for this project for 1997-98. The Project is likely to be completed by March 2001.

4. The work on the Uri Hydel Project (120 x 4 MW) will proceed according to schedule and the first Unit would be commissioned during 1996-97.

## STATUS

All the four units are available for generation since May 1997.

## II. PM'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON 2ND AUGUST, 1996.

## DEBT RELIEF

5. Government of India has provided to write-off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers whose original borrowing is less than or upto Rs. 50,000/- in small scale industries, transport, tourism and trade sectors. This would enable these small borrowers to get fresh loans from the Banking sector to their business.

## STATUS

Banking Division, Ministry of Finance has finalised its scheme for debt relief on 26.5.97 and circulated to the banks for implementation. This Department has already released Rs 86 crores in order to implement this scheme.

6. For borrowers having loans of more than Rs. 50,000/- an Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (JKA) to look into the question of a moratorium and rescheduling of repayment of their loans, reduction of interest rates, and other relief.

## STATUS

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted under Chairmanship of Special Secretary (JKA). The Inter-Ministerial Committee is in the process of finalising its recommendations.

## 7. Special central assistance of Rs. 352 crores

The amount of Rs. 352 Crores was released to the Govt. of J&K as special Central assistance to meet its non-plan gap in 1996-97.

## 8. Additional assistance for improvement in Migrant Camps

The then Prime Minister had announced that an additional sum of Rs. 6.60 crores would be released to the State Government for effecting improvement in migrant camps in Jammu. This amount was released in September, 1996 against which Rs. 6.51 crores has been spent upto March, 1998.

## 9. Setting up of Convention/Conference Centre at Leh

The then Prime Minister had announced that an amount of Rs. 2.40 crores would be provided for setting up of convention/conference centre at Leh to give a further fillip to the tourism in this area. Department of Tourism had commissioned M/s RITES to undertake a feasible study. Planning Commission has yet to provide this amount to the Department of Tourism.

## 10. Development of Kargil Airport

The then Prime Minister had announced that a high priority would be given for the development of Kargil Airport and in the meanwhile a weekly Helicopter service to Kargil would be introduced. Rs.16.00 crores have been released by the Airport Authority of India to Border Roads Organisation for construction of run way and Rs.1.6 crores to State PWD for construction of Terminal Building and Control Tower. The work is scheduled to be completed by 1999.

As regards providing Helicopter service to Kargil, Ministry of Defence have informed that air-support to the Government of I&K is being authorised every year for a period of six months during winter when the roads are closed due to snow fall.

## 11. B-2 status to Jammu City

As per the announcement of the then PM in Parliament the Ministry of Finance has issued necessary notification granting B-2 status to Jammu City on 05.02.1998.

## III. VARIOUS MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS VISIT TO J&K ON 13TH - 14TH FEBRUARY, 1997.

## STATE PLAN

12. Provision of adequate funds including additional Central assistance to J&K to have a good Annual Plan and reasonable 9th Five Year Plan.

## STATUS

- 12.1 The major revival efforts coupled with the improvement in working environment during the last five years has.

however, resulted in considerable improvement in the Plan performance as would be seen in the following outlay, actual expenditure figures as well as Central Plan assistance provided to the State during the 8th Five Year Plan and 1997-98:-

(Rs in crores)

I.	Year	Originally approved Plan Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Percentage utilisation
	1992-93	820	623.05	75.4
	1993-94	880	684.05	74.3
	1994-95	950	954.00	100.4
	1995-96	1050	1052.25	100.2
	1996-97	1250	1254.00	100.3
	1997-98	1550	1629.81	105.1

(Rs in crores)

II.	Year	Central Plan Assistance
	1992-93	— 785.70
	1993-94	— 1003.30
	1994-95	— 1707.48
	1995-96	— 1423.05
	1996-97	— 1895.19
	1997-98	— 2338.87

- 12.2 The size of the Ninth Five Year Plan for J&K State has been projected at Rs. 9500 crores by the Planning Commission as against Rs.4000 crores provided during the 8th Five Year Plan.

### 13. Increased in allocation of Power

- 13.1 Following the visit of the Prime Minister to the State of Jammu & Kashmir on 13-14th February 1997, the share of Jammu & Kashmir in the Hydel Project has been increased from 91 MW to 163 MW, which includes 12% free power. The allocation of power to the State has also been increased from 600 MW to 876 MW. This will fully meet the peak demand of the State.
- 13.2 Availability of Hydel power which is now at 440 MW gets reduced in winter allocation has been increased to 876 MW from the unallocated power of Central Sector Stations in the Northern Region from and making special allocation of 28 MW from Unchahar TPS-1 (NTPC) w.e.f. 1st November, 97.

### 14. Plan for Protection & Development of Dal Lake

A special funding mechanism to be devised including external assistance for implementation of projects such as (a) Protection and Development of Dal and other important lakes. (b) Masterplan for control of floods in the valley and (c) Action Plan for improving the navigation and environment aspects of Jhelum on the lines of Ganga Action Plan.

### STATUS

The Planning Commission has taken a decision in principle to fund the National Lake Conservation Plan with 100% resources from the Centre. Under this project the protection and development of Dal and other lakes could be covered. The State Government would be making detailed project report in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for getting further clearances. An amount of Rs. 25 crore was released in 1997-98 by the Central Govt. The State Government has informed that a plan for control of floods was prepared about two decades back which is being up-dated and if necessary a Consultant will also be engaged for preparing detailed drawing and estimates for alternatives and retention basins. After the project report is finalised, it would be posed for external funding.

The Ministry of Water Resources has informed that Flood Control Projects are being implemented by the State Governments, and that they have ascertained the Status of Master Plan from Government of Jammu & Kashmir, so that possibility of a suitable funding mechanism could be explored. Besides this, the Ministry of Water Resources has also sought advice of Planning Commission and Central Water Commission on this.

The State Government stated that the pollution studies of river Jhelum near various urban settlements are being conducted and thereafter a feasibility report shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for their consideration.

### 15. Additional towns under PMIUPEP

In accordance with the announcement of the then Prime Minister during his visit to J&K on 13th and 14th February, 1997, 7 additional towns with the population of 10,000 and above and which are other than the district headquarters have been brought under the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

### 16. Transport Subsidy on Fertilisers

In accordance with the announcement of the then Prime Minister for fully subsidising the transportation of fertilisers, orders have been issued for providing subsidy on transportation of Phosphatic and Potassium fertilisers by the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation. Orders providing for additional

subsidy for transportation of Urea have been issued by the Deptt. of Fertilisers.

- 17. State Government, during the visit of the Prime Minister to J&K in July 1997 has requested for additional grant of Rs. 25 crores for construction of bridges damaged due to militancy.**

#### **STATUS**

Planning Commission has approved additional Central Assistance of Rs. 50 crores over and above 1997-98 plan allocation.

#### **Maritime States**

\*613. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated Rs.12 crores to save Maritime States coast in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the length of the coast and the amount actually required for the purpose and whether this amount is sufficient; and

(c) if not, in what manner the entire coast can be saved?

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

(a) Scheme wise allocation for Central Sector Schemes for Ninth Plan have not been finalised. An amount of Rs.12 crore has been tentatively allocated for providing assistance to maritime States for undertaking anti sea erosion works of critical nature during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The total coastline of the country is 5708 Km. The amount of Rs.12 crore tentatively proposed in the ninth five year plan is not sufficient for giving protection to all the vulnerable reaches of the coastline for which, all maritime States have been requested to send proposals for formulating a consolidated National Coastal Protection Project.

[Translation]

#### **Self-employment**

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

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide employment or self-employment to at least one member of each of the six crore families living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the number of years likely to be taken to provide employment or self-employment under this scheme to at least one member of each of the families living below poverty line along with the amount likely to be spent on it;

(c) the details of the said scheme and;

(d) if there is no such scheme of the Government, the reasons for not introducing such 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was introduced in 1993 with the primary objective of providing assured employment of upto 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor, who are in need of employment and seeking it. Initially, the scheme was confined to identified rural blocks but it has since been universalised to cover all rural blocks in the country. In addition, there are a number of other Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented both in urban and rural areas for poverty alleviation and employment generation. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is also a wage employment programme being implemented throughout the country. Under this scheme, funds are allocated to village panchayats, intermediate panchayats and DRDA/Zilla Parishad in the ratio of 70:15:15. The IRDP aims at providing self-employment to the rural poor through acquisition of productive assets and/or skills, which generate additional income on a sustained basis to enable the poor to cross the poverty line. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) provides both self-employment and wage employment to families living below the poverty line in urban areas. Further, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being implemented in both rural and urban areas to provide self-employment to the educated unemployed. The rural employment generation scheme of the Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) scheme which was launched in 1994-95 aims at covering two million beneficiaries by 1999-2000. All these programmes are aimed at creating additional incomes in the hands of the poor via supplementary employment, in the short-run.

To tackle the problem of open unemployment estimated at 9 million as on 1st January, 1994 sustainable productive employment has to be generated in growth process itself. The strategy for this has been stated in the National Agenda for Governance as under:

"Recognising the right of work of every citizen, the main thrust of the new Government will be : 'Berozgari Hatao' (Eradicate Unemployment). As against the present trend of jobless growth, our government will measure growth by generation of gainful employment. Our new investment and institutional thrust to agriculture, the self-employed, the unincorporated sector, infrastructure development and housing will act as the vehicles for massive employment creation at all levels."

[English]

#### **Dairy Development Corporation**

\*615. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra have requested the Union Government to provide financial assistance to the State Dairy Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (c) The Government of Gujarat requested for sanction of a dairy project and the Government of Maharashtra requested for sanction of two similar projects during the last five years.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned all the three projects for which the two states requested. The details are as follows:-

Year of Approval	Approved outlay (Rs. Lakhs)	Number of districts covered
<b>Gujarat</b>		
1993-94	679.95	4
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
1995-96	1985.24	5
1997-98	1941.55	5

#### Citizenship to NRI

\*616. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Indian citizenship to NRIs who invest a huge amount in India with a view to meet the demand of foreign currency after the restrictions imposed by various countries against India due to Nuclear Tests;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The acquisition of Indian citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955. There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present for grant of dual citizenship as this is not permitted both by the Constitution of India and by the Citizenship Act.

#### Limit of Radiation

\*617. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the permissible limit of radiation discharged from the Atomic Power Plants in the country, plant-wise; and

(b) the extent to which the limit differs and the impacts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The authorised discharge limits of radioactivity from the Atomic Power Plants are site specific in nature and are derived taking into consideration parameters, such as, the number and type of nuclear facilities at the site, dispersion and dilution characteristics of the environment and also the dietary habits of the local population. The primary limit for a member of the public is 1 milli Sievert per year (mSv/y), as recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and adopted by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board—a regulatory authority constituted by the Government of India. A Statement showing the details of the plant-wise apportioned dose is enclosed. Since the apportioned limits are a fraction of the primary limit of 1 mSv/y, the difference in values do not have any adverse impact on the environment, flora and fauna and the population in the area.

#### Statement

##### *The Apportioned Dose for Various Atomic Power Plant Sites*

Atomic Power Plant	Air (mSv/y)	Water (mSv/y)	Total (mSv/y)
TAPS 1 & 2	0.30	0.05	0.35
RAPS 1 & 2	0.26	0.02	0.28
MAPS 1 & 2	0.25	0.02	0.27
NAPS 1 & 2	0.08	0.35	0.43
KAPS 1 & 2	0.08	0.14	0.22

PRIMARY LIMIT FOR A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC—1 mSv/Year – mSv/y = milli Sievert/year

TAPS : Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

RAPS : Rajasthan Atomic Power Station.

MAPS : Madras Atomic Power Station.

NAPS : Narora Atomic Power Station.

KAPS : Kakrapar Atomic Power Station.

[Translation]

#### Re-opening of Indian High Commission in Fiji

\*618. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to re-open its High Commission in Fiji;

(b) if so, whether any concrete decisions in this regard were taken after having the meeting with the Fiji authorities;



(c) the extent to which India has been able to restore trade ties with Fiji;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard was signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fijian Prime Minister had written a letter to our PM in September 1997 inviting India to re-open its mission in Fiji and our agreement in principle to do so was communicated to the Fijian Government. Our Cabinet on June 9th has accorded approval to re-opening of our High Commission in Suva, Fiji. Govt. of India's decision to re-open the resident High Commission in SUVA was conveyed to the Govt. of Fiji and their approval/formal clearance was received on June 25th, 1998.

(c) India-Fiji trade and economic cooperation was suspended from October 1987. Following positive internal developments in Fiji and requests from Fiji-Indians to lift the trade and commercial restrictions, it was decided in Jan, 98 to lift the trade embargo on Fiji.

(d) and (e) Accordingly our Ministry of commerce issued a Public Notice No. 73(PN)/97-02 dated 24.2.98, as also a Press Note announcing lifting of the trade embargo on Fiji.

[English]

#### Sea Wall

\*619. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala and another State have sought any special fund from the Union Government to construct/renovate sea wall to prevent sea erosion; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Special Central assistance for emergent conservation of sea coast was sought only by the State of Kerala from the Union Government. In response to a request received in February 1995 an amount of Rs. 3 crore was released by Planning Commission to Government of Kerala in Feb '96 as a one time measure for emergent conservation of sea coast in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Trissur. Again, a request received in Planning Commission from the State of Kerala during August, 1996 for special central assistance of Rs. 22.55 crore was found to be essentially for maintenance works and therefore the State was advised to meet this requirement from non-plan funds of the State.

#### Indo-Pak Relations

\*620. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the serious implications of the deliberations of the UN Security Council on India-Pakistan relations with special emphasis on J&K;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent J&K being internationalised to India's detriment and in derogation of India's established and successful policy for several decades;

(c) whether the Government have made efforts to ensure the efficacy of the Shimla Agreement is not undermined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Government's views on the UN Security Council Resolution, wherein a reference has been made to Kashmir, have been made known on a number of occasions. In response to the reference to J&K in that Resolution, the Prime Minister informed this august House on 8 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".

Government remain firmly committed to the Simla Agreement, under which India and Pakistan are to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations. There is no place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in the process of direct bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. This policy of the Government has been reiterated through official statements as also in interaction with all concerned at the political and diplomatic levels.

#### Reservoirs

\*621. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the loss of rain and flood water flowing waste into sea due to lack of reservoir facility in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct reservoirs in various parts of the country using latest technology for storing rain and flood water for multipurpose use;

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

(e) the time by which the scheme for construction of reservoirs is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, the country

receives annual precipitation of 4000 billion cubic metres including snow-fall. Of this, the seasonal rainfall (June to September) is of the order of 3000 billion cubic metres. Out of this, the average annual flow available in rivers is around 1869 billion cubic metres. Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilisable water resources is assessed at 1122 billion cubic metres, consisting of 690 billion cubic metres of surface water and 432 billion cubic metres from the annual replenishable ground water resources. Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetation losses and for allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. The present (1997) utilisation of water (Surface & Ground) is about 605 billion cubic metres comprising 70% of surface water and 30% of ground water.

(c) and (d) In the successive Five Year Plans emphasis was laid on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the rain water for irrigation and other purposes. As a result

of which more than 3000 dams have been constructed and many are under construction and investigation. The storage capacity in various completed reservoirs is about 177 billion cubic metres. Besides dams to create an additional live storage of about 75.42 billion cubic metres are now under various stages of construction. In addition about 132.3 billion cubic metres of live storage capacity is likely to be added through major and medium schemes under consideration. Statement showing the State-wise storage created in the country is enclosed as statement. The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies of the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which inter-alia envisages transferring water from surplus to water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs on potential sites. It is estimated that additional 240 billion cubic metres of water will be available under National Perspective Plan for use through inter-basin transfers.

(e) Completion of on-going projects depends on priority given by the States and availability of funds.

### Statement

#### Statewise Storages

(In million cubic metres)

Sl. No.	State	Completed Projects	Projects under Construction	Total	Projects under Consideration
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24851.42	7123.27	319.69	1726.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	--	—	—	45500.00
3.	Assam	—	1054.32	1054.32	1023.90
4.	Bihar	4660.93	4352.73	9013.66	3583.13
5.	Goa	44.30	674.45	718.75	—
6.	Gujarat	14919.07	7248.38	22167.45	258.00
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	356.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13806.44	109.55	13915.99	14.95
9.	Jammu Kashmir	—	—	—	96.69
10.	Karnataka	21556.07	3013.31	24589.38	1948.57
11.	Kerala	4617.81	1615.69	6233.50	8091.28
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18580.13	21833.14	40213.27	5177.83
13.	Maharashtra	22095.71	12918.88	35014.59	16315.00
14.	Manipur	396.50	124.58	521.08	508.94
15.	Meghalaya	697.96	—	697.96	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	1220.00	1220.00	21864.08
18.	Orissa	14286.7	3304.63	17591.40	—
19.	Punjab	24.75	2344.00	2388.75	1800.63
20.	Rajasthan	8323.15	1591.48	9914.63	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	6719.51	36.55	6750.06	—
23.	Tripura	312.00	—	312.00	20160.16
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16347.36	7057.56	23404.92	171.44
25.	West Bengal	1475.15	—	1475.15	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshdeep	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	13.79	—	13.79	—
Total : In million cubic metres		173728.82	75422.51	249151.33	132323.89
In billion cubic metres		173.13	75.42	249.15	132.3

**Note :** Projects having a live storage capacity of 10 million cubic metres and above only are included. An additional live storage capacity of 3 billion cubic metres (Approx.) is estimated to be created through medium projects each having a capacity of less than 10 million cubic metres thus making a total live storage capacity of 177 billion cubic metres in completed projects.

[Translation]

#### Allocation of Seeds

6093. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of improved seeds allocated and released by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 against their demand;

(b) the quantum of improved seeds made available out of the said allocation by the laboratories of Indian Agriculture Research Institute;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any financial assistance to Agriculture Universities for production of improved seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the programme for the production of seeds in Government farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Breeder Seed Production of different crops is the mandate of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The allocation of breeder seed is being done by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on the basis of indents received from different states vis-a-vis seed produced. The quantity of breeder seed of different crops allocated to Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:

Year	Quality allocated (quintals)
1996-97	3353.50
1997-98	4396.67

(b) Two regional stations of Indian Agricultural Research Institute located at Karnal and Indore have supplied a total of 306.61 quintals of breeder seed to Madhya Pradesh against the allocation of 250.35 quintals.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already released Rs. 402.50 lakhs as revolving fund to different ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities in the country for producing breeder seed of different crops. These revolving funds are continuing presently. Besides, financial assistance is being provided for seed production under the projects namely National Seed Project (Crops), Promotion of Research and Development Efforts in Hybrids of Selected Crops and Scheme for Production of Breeder Seed on Annual Oilseed Crops. These projects/schemes are expected to continue in future also.

(d) The details are given below:-

#### 1. Research and Development Schemes.

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98
(i) Promotion of Research & Development Hybrids in Selected Crops.	270.98	230.08
(ii) National Seed Project (Crops)	341.26	290.00
(iii) Production of Breeder Seed on Annual Oilseed Crops.	79.15	79.76

#### 2. Revolving Fund Schemes (one time)

(i) Promotion of Research and Development Efforts on Hybrid in Selected Crops.	Rs. 175.00
(ii) Special Food Production Programme	Rs. 50.00
(iii) Oilseed Project	Rs. 75.00
(iv) National Seed Project (Crops)	Rs. 102.50

Total : Rs. 432.50

(e) Financial assistance has been provided to various Institutes and Agricultural Universities located in Madhya Pradesh by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research/ Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. The schemewise details are given below:-

#### 1. Research and Development Schemes

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98
(i) Promotion of Research & Development Hybrids in Selected Crops.	2.49	2.12

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1996-97	1997-98
(ii) National Seed Project (Crops)	18.62	15.65
(iii) Production of Breeder Seed on Annual Oilseed Crops	6.15	6.15

#### 2. Revolving Fund Schemes

(i) National Research Centre for Soybean, Indore	Rs. 4.00
(ii) Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	Rs. 16.00
(iii) Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur	Rs. 8.50
Total :	Rs. 28.50

[English]

#### Guidelines under MPLADS

6094. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised guidelines of MPLADS have been sent to the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the instructions issued by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government have instructed the respective departments of the State not to collect the service charge of preparatory work, administrative charge, supervision charge etc. by the implementing agencies for execution of the MPLADS; State-wise; and

(d) the monitoring of the MPLADS performed at Ministry level, State level and district level as per the guidelines 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) Yes, Sir

(b) All the State Government/UTs have been requested to issue instructions to all concerned agencies on the need for prompt action and execution of works under MPLADS in accordance with the revised guidelines and also to ensure monitoring, supervision and coordination as outlined in these guidelines.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have already instructed the respective departments of the State not to collect centage charges levied on MPLADS works. Maharashtra and Haryana have reduced the centage charges.

(d) *The Department of Programme Implementation has the nodal responsibility for the Scheme at the Centre including its monitoring. For effective implementation of the works under MPLADS each State Government/UT Administration has to designate one nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and for coordination with the Department of programme Implementation, Government of India. The Heads of Districts are required to visit and inspect atleast 10% of these works every year. Likewise, Officers at the Sub-divisional & Block level and of implementing agencies are also required to monitor implementation of these works through visits to work-sites.*

### **Nuclear Strike**

6095. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while India is yet to formally establish a nuclear command and control apparatus a former Pak Army Chief has revealed that for the last several years they have already had in place a formal nuclear command with the Prime Minister controlling the nuclear button and the Chief of Army Staff delegated full authority to carry out a nuclear strike;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government has brought it into the notice of US in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of US Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) We have seen reports of the statement. Government is currently in the process of reviewing all aspects of India's nuclear policy including the establishment of command and control system for a credible nuclear deterrent. Government remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard the country's security and national interests on the basis of its own assessment and national security requirements.

(b) and (c) The on going strategic dialogue with the United States covers a range of issues of mutual concern with a view to deepening understanding of each other's position on all issues, including on India's nuclear policy.

### **Development of Dairy and Animal Husbandry**

6096. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a plan for establishing a Veterinary University for Veterinary Animal Science in each State independent of Agriculture Universities in order to develop the research and educational facilities in this sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Holistic and integrated development of agricultural education is essential for sustained agricultural & animal sector growth.

(b) Not applicable.

### **Separate Department for Keralites**

6097. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Kerala Government has a non resident Keralites Affairs Department to look into the matters related to Keralites working abroad; and

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are considering to set-up such a Division/Section separately to look into various matters relating to accident/death/legal problems of Indians?

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

(b) These matters are already being dealt with by the Overseas Indians Cell in the Consular, Passports and Visas Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in close coordination with the Indian diplomatic mission/posts abroad.

### **Utilisation of River Water**

6098. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of utilizable flow of water in the Narmada river and its present utilisation;

(b) the details of utilizable flow of water in the rivers flowing in the North-East of the country and their present utilization;

(c) whether the government have any plan for full utilization of the available water of these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT), the quantum of utilisable flow in river Narmada at Sardar Sarovar Dam site is assessed as 34537.44 million cubic metres on the basis of 75% dependability. Out of which, the present utilisation for various purposes has been assessed as about 4082 cubic metres.

(b) The quantum of utilisable flow in the rivers flowing in the North-East of the country has been assessed as 31950 million cubic metres. Out of which, the present utilisation for various purposes has been assessed as 3500 million cubic metres.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the successive Five Year Plans emphasis was laid on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the available water for irrigation and other purposes. The respective State Governments have planned for major, medium and minor irrigation projects to utilise the waters of these rivers. The Brahmaputra Board has also undertaken investigations for preparation of detailed project reports for the identified multi-purpose projects in the rivers flowing in the North-Eastern States.

#### Indian Council of World Affairs

6099. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several complaint were received against the present management of Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the guilty official; and

(d) the steps taken to revitalise this organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) From time to time, Government have received complaints about the unsatisfactory functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs which included non-payment of Dearness Allowance, Additional Dearness Allowance to its employees, deterioration of the Sapru House Library etc. Government has been urging the President of the ICWA to take steps for constituting a high-powered supervisory/advisory committee with a view to reviewing the whole gamut of the functioning of the Council and to suggest improvements to be brought about. The President of the Council, however, has not taken any concrete steps in this regard.

2. In 1990, Government promulgated the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance. On the basis of the Ordinance, the ICWA was declared as an institution of national importance. The Ordinance also provided for its incorporation and matters connected therewith. In terms of constitutional provisions for replacement of this Ordinance, the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 1990 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 1990 and passed by that House on 5th September, 1990. The Lok Sabha, however, could not take up for consideration and passing the same bill before it adjourned sine die on 7th September, 1990. On 10th September, 1990 a Single Judge order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court had declared the provisions of the ICWA Ordinance 1990 ultra vires the Constitution of India, beyond the legislative competence of Parliament as well as violative of Article 14, Right of Equality, and Article 19(i)(a) and 19(i)(c), Right to Freedom of Association. As a result of this Single Judge order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Council was restored to its earlier management.

3. The Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous body registered with the Registrar of Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. As such, Government have no direct or indirect administrative control over the functioning of the Council. The Ministry of External Affairs has not given any financial assistance to the Council since 1985. Given the importance of the ICWA and the historical role played by this institution, however, Government is committed to assisting in the revitalisation of this institution.

#### Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

6100. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects under the National Water Management are under implementation in the State of Maharashtra at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of implementation, cost of the projects and the area of land likely to be irrigated after the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. A Maharashtra Induction Training Programme was, however, taken up under National Water Management Project (NWMP) to impart an adequate irrigation engineering background to all the class I & II graduate civil engineering officers of Maharashtra Irrigation Department during their probation period, NWMP has closed on 31.3.95.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

6101. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects which are being implemented in Karnataka under the National Water Management;

(b) since when these projects are being implemented;

(c) the estimated cost of each project and progress made by the State in this regard; and

(d) the total land in hectares likely to be irrigated after the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The World Bank assisted National Water Management Project (NWMP) had closed on March 31, 1995. Thirty projects of Karnataka State were taken up for implementation under NWMP. Sixteen projects were completed at closure. The details are given in the attached statement.

**Statement***Details of Projects of Karnataka State under National Water Management Project*

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Date of clearance	Culturable Command Area (CCA) (in hectares)	Estimated cost	Expenditure incurred upto project closure (3/95)	Rs. in Lakhs Area in Hectares
						Status at project closure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Maidal Tank	3/90	472	11.73	23.80	Completed
2.	Naregal Tank	5/90	650	14.70	23.20	Completed
3.	Areshankar Tank	3/90	1234	26.38	36.10	Completed
4.	Ramanahally	3/90	1944	42.86	60.50	Completed
5.	Bhadra	12/87	92360	1463.00	3835.00	Completed
6.	Vani Vilas Sagar	12/87	12250	300.00	500.00	Completed
7.	Shanthi Sagar	6/92	2819	70.89	109.80	Completed
8.	Hagaribommanahally	3/90	3465	69.49	201.20	Completed
9.	Kanakanala	3/90	2149	53.73	102.88	Completed
10.	Distry. No. 54 of TBLBC	3/90	39761	485.00	993.00	Completed
11.	Bagewady Distry. of TBRBHLC	3/90	16285	158.70	283.62	Completed
12.	Distry. No. 7 of TBRBHLC	3/90	17683	244.20	442.44	Completed
13.	Chandrapally-JPZ	3/89	5223	106.00	276.00	Completed
14.	Dharma	12/89	7692	140.00	288.00	Completed
15.	Kanva	2/90	2576	48.06	116.05	Completed
16.	Marconahally	3/89	5942	76.50	222.08	Completed
17.	Tunga Anicut	6/92	9319	297.00	249.8	Uncompleted
18.	Anjanapura	6/92	6736	124.00	196.05	Uncompleted
19.	Ambligola	6/92	3203	62.50	115.00	Uncompleted
20.	Distry. No. 12 of TBRBHLC	9/93	3600	83.80	70.00	Uncompleted
21.	Distry. No. 13 of TBRBHLC	9/93	10269	237.46	75.00	Uncompleted
22.	Distry. No. 14 of TBRBHLC	9/93	14157	327.32	75.00	Uncompleted
23.	Distry. No. 15 of TBRBHLC	9/93	6915	159.35	75.00	Uncompleted
24.	Distry. No. 31 of TBLBC	9/93	17728	403.70	125.00	Uncompleted
25.	Distry. No. 55 of TBLBC	9/93	7128	164.00	253.06	Uncompleted
26.	Distry. No. 76 of TBLBC	9/93	28930	668.43	200.00	Uncompleted
27.	Distry. No. 85 of TBLBC	9/93	11349	261.84	100.00	Uncompleted
28.	Distry. No. 89 of TBLBC	9/93	15342	355.17	100.00	Uncompleted
29.	Distry. No. 98 of TBLBC	9/93	13521	299.28	100.00	Uncompleted
30.	Gondi Anicut	9/93	4600	144.00	100.00	Uncompleted
Total			365302	6899.09	9347.58	

**Delhi Milk Scheme**

6102. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that DMS makes 'home delivery' of milk;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to attract more customers to take milk on home delivery basis to generate some employment;

(c) whether it is a fact that the milk is delivered quite late in the evening resulting in milk being turned sour and a total loss to the customers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to deliver the milk immediately after receipt of the milk by the vendors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The DMS makes 'home delivery' of milk through home delivery agents. As there is a wide gap between the selling price of DMS milk and that of other dairies, complaints of malpractices by home delivery agents were being received and hence no new home delivery card is being issued for sometime now.

(c) and (d) Delivery schedule/time is being strictly maintained, except under such circumstances as power failure etc. No complaint of milk curdling has been received by DMS. However, instructions have been issued to the DMS to see that depot agents strictly observe the booth opening timings.

[Translation]

**Soil Erosion**

6103. SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether soil erosion is gradually increasing due to the rivers in the various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any step to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Soil Erosion in the banks and beds of the rivers is a natural phenomena, the intensity of which varies with location from year to year. Data on soil erosion on various rivers in the country is not maintained by the Central Government. However, State Governments, over the years, have been undertaking various measures to prevent soil erosion as part of their flood management activity. Also, Master Plans prepared by the Central Government for flood management in the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins which have been sent to the basin states for adoption have suggested taking up measures to prevent soil erosion in specific areas.

**Multi-State Co-operative Act**

6104. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Multi-State Co-operative Act is likely to be amended as per the Model Co-operative Act proposed by Chaudhary Brahm Prakash Committee; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Act is likely to be amended; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As announced in the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance, Government will bring forward a Legislative proposal to replace the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The proposed Legislation will be introduced in the Parliament after completing the procedural formalities.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Implementation of Reservation**

6105. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply give to Unstarred Question No. 3169 dated July 7, 1998 and state :

(a) whether the O.M. No. 27/2/71-Estt.(SCT) has been implemented in all the Ministries/Departments including Department of Telecom;

(b) whether the National Commission for SCs/STs has given its observations in this regard to Department of Telecom;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the specific remedial measures already taken to set-right the injustice done to the affected officers?

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) Office Memorandum No. 27/2/71-Estt.(SCT) of the Department of Personnel was issued on November 27, 1972 to all Ministries and Departments. This relates to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions. Information relating to the promotions made from time to time since 1972 in pursuance of this Office Memorandum is not centrally maintained. The implementation of the instructions relating to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in posts filled by promotion on the basis of seniority subject to fitness as laid down in the said Office Memorandum is done by the Ministries/Departments. According to the information furnished by the



Department of Telecommunications, the instructions on the subject are being followed by that Department.

(b) to (d) In the absence of reference to any specific case, it is not possible to furnish details.

#### **Cold Storage Godowns**

6106. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cold storage godowns opened in the country during the last three years for handling and marketing of fruits and vegetables, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing capacity of cold storage godowns are meeting the demands of the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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.

#### **Pilferage in Transit**

6107. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that private transporters engaged by the Mother Dairy's (fruit and vegetable) Project, Delhi are stealing and also exchanging the rotten fruits and vegetables with the fresh one in transit;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the pilferage of fruits and vegetables; and

(c) corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The NDDB has informed that it has not received any written complaint of stealing of fruit and vegetable items and exchange of fresh produce with rotten ones.

(b) and (c) Acknowledgement of quantity and quality is taken from the driver of the transporters while handing over fruit and vegetables for delivery at booths. The concessionaires at the booths give payment as per the quantity received by them. In case of any short delivery etc. by the transporter sale value of shortage is recovered from the transporter and also penalty is levied.

#### **Entry by Indian Airspace**

6108. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has challenged the alleged "excessive claim" of India and 20 other countries about entry into the seas and airspace;

(b) if so, the precise claim about entry into the seas and airspace made by India; and

(c) the response of the US and other world powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Annual Report of the US Department of Defence for the year 1997, submitted to the US President and Congress, refers to "excessive coastal state claims over the world's oceans and airspace" and in this context mentions India and 20 other countries. The Report states that for 18 years such "excessive maritime claims" going beyond the limits permitted under the UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS), have been repeatedly challenged by the United States by diplomatic protests and "operational assertions". In the financial year 1997, the US targeted 21 countries, including India, where it carried out such "operational assertions". In the case of India, the alleged excessive claim relates to the requirement of "prior permission for warship to enter the territorial sea".

(b) and (c) Under Section 4 of the Indian Maritime Zones Act, 1976, the entry/passage of foreign warships and submarines through the territorial waters of India may take place after giving prior notice to the Government of India. The requirement of prior notice in case of warships is fully in consonance with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS relating to the definition of innocent passage as also the right of coastal States to enact laws and regulations with regard to the entry of warships. The requirement of prior notice neither denies nor impairs the right of innocent passage of warships through the territorial waters of India.

#### **Coca Cola**

6109. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the bottlers of Coca Cola have represented to Government that they are being pressurised by the Company to sell their plants either to Coca Cola or to their subsidiaries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to protect the small Indian entrepreneurs from such undue pressure to sell their units?

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

(b) The bottling units are operating as per terms and conditions of the agreement signed between the bottlers and the Coca Cola Company. However, Government will go into the matter and place its findings before the House.

#### **Indian Scientist in Nuclear Research**

6110. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Scientist of Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant was not allowed to visit an Atomic Station in Germany during his trip to Vienna International Nuclear Conference though he had valid permission;

(b) whether an another scientist of Kalpakkam Atomic Plant who is engaged in Nuclear Research in U.S. has been denied the laboratory facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the details of the Indian Scientists engaged in Nuclear Research in foreign countries?

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

(c) Visits of Shri S.B. Bhoje and Dr. Baldev Raj of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), previously agreed to by the German authorities, to institutions in Germany, during their deputation to Vienna-Germany and Denmark-Finland-Germany respectively had to be abandoned as the invitations were withdrawn following the May 1998 Nuclear Tests by India.

Dr. M.D. Mathew of IGCAR who is on extra-ordinary-leave (EOL) to pursue a post doctoral fellowship at North Carolina State University, USA was informed that he will not be allowed to participate in a review meeting of his project (funded by the Department of Energy of US Government) which was to take place at Idaho Falls National Laboratory. He was informed that participation of all Indian nationals in such review meetings and use of the computer systems for the projects were under review by the US Government following the May 1998 Nuclear Tests.

Government have taken note of developments in this regard.

(d) About 50 Scientists from the Institutions under the Department of Atomic Energy are engaged in Nuclear Research in foreign countries at present.

#### On Farm Development of Water

6111. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is organising special schemes for the Eastern Region of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'on farm development of water' scheme is going to be implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) In addition to

ongoing Central/Centrally sponsored schemes, the following schemes are proposed to be implemented in Eastern India:-

- i) Enhancing Fertiliser use in low consumption Areas with Special Reference to Eastern India.
- ii) On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.

Under On Farm Water Management Scheme it is proposed to assist the States in the construction of shallow tubewells and lift irrigation systems.

[Translation]

#### Shrinking of Gangotri Glacier

6112. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bahana band kar sakti hai Ganga" appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated June 17, 1998;

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

(c) whether Gangotri Glacier has been shrinking at a pace of 20 meter per year;

(d) if so, whether it has also been confirmed by Geologists; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India has conducted studies on recession of Gangotri glacier during 1935, 1956, 1962, 1971, 1973 to 1977, 1990 and 1996. During 1935 to 1956 the rate of ice cave retreat was found to be 10.16 metre along the large cave. Between 1956 and 1977 this rate has increased to 27.33 metres. It indicated a further increased to 30.84 metres between 1971 and 1977. Thereafter, it indicated a marginal decline to 28.08 metres upto 1990 and 28.33 metres between 1990 and 1996. The above data indicate that the Gagotri glacier is receding gradually.

(e) The recession/advancement of glaciers is a natural phenomenon which is influenced by the phenomenon of global warming and as such it is difficult to arrest the recession of a particular glacier through artificial means. However, the programmes undertaken by the Government for reduction in deforestation and preservation of ecology of high altitude regions help in reducing the effect of global warming on Himalayan glaciers and thereby reducing the rate of recession.

[English]

#### Sale of American Farm Goods to India

6113. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Administration has decided to pull the plug on the GSM 102 programme for sales of American farm goods to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the USDA has made a plea to the US that India's export credit programme continue after the country's concluded nuclear weapons testing; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the decision to suspend the GSM 102 programme for India is likely to be taken ?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Border Area Development Programme**

6114. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount provided under the Border Area Development Programme in Jammu & Kashmir; the details thereof, scheme-wise;

(b) whether Union Government propose any scheme to ensure that central grants provided to various scheme are utilised properly; and

(c) 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) An amount of Rs. 93.54 crore has been allocated under Border Area Development Programme to Jammu & Kashmir from 1993-94 when the programme was revamped, to 1997-98. The amount is given for the State as a whole, further spatial and sectoral distribution is decided by the Screening Committee at the State Level. The sectorwise provisions as furnished by the State Government, are given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) The progress under Border Area Development Programme is assessed during the annual plan discussions with the State Government. In addition, the State Government is also required to furnish financial and physical progress reports on quarterly basis.

#### **Statement**

*Sectorwise provisions from 1993-94 to 1997-98, under Border Area Development Programme are as under*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Sector	Provision
1	2	3
1.	Education	23.00

1	2	3
2.	Health	14.43
3.	Agriculture/Rural Dev./ Sheep Husbandry	14.44
4.	PWD/PHE	17.91
5.	Science & Technology	16.99
6.	Food & Supply	0.62
7.	Police Department	2.00
8.	Civic Action Programme	0.43
9.	Others	3.72
Total		93.54

#### **Restriction of Entry**

6115. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any country has restricted entry for Indians; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The grant of an entry visa is the sovereign right of each country. Government is not aware of any country having a policy specifically to restrict the entry of Indian nationals. In some countries, the entry of Indian nationals is governed by bilateral visa arrangements.

#### **Production of Maize**

6116. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of training programmes conducted during last year for increasing the maize production;

(b) the location of each training centre, State-wise;

(c) whether the Agriculture University is likely to be made one of the centre; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) 5 training programmes for National/State level officers have been conducted through Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), IARI during 1997-98. Besides, 1381 two-day farmers' training programmes on maize production technology, through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), ICAR Institute, State Research Centres, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Farmers Training Centres (FTCs) etc., have been conducted under 'Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)' during 1997-98.

(b) to (d) No specific training centre for maize production technology is located in any state. However, State Agriculture Universities, ICAR Institute/other research centres, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), farmers' training centres, in the field of Agriculture have been involved for training on maize production technology. A list of Agriculture Universities/Institutes which have been requested to organise training programme on maize production technology for National/State Level Officers during both the Kharif and Rabi seasons in 1998-99 is given in the attached statement.

#### Statement

*List of Agriculture Universities/Institutes, which have been requested to organise training programme on maize production technology for National/State Level Officers during both the Kharif & Rabi Seasons in 1998-99.*

1. Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.
2. C.S. Azad University of Agriculture & Tech., Kanpur, (UP).
3. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Tech., Pantnagar, (UP).
4. N.D. University of Agri. & Tech., Faizabad, (UP).
5. CCS, HAU, Hissar, (Haryana).
6. PAU, Ludhiana, (Punjab).
7. R.A.U., Udaipur, (Rajasthan).
8. RAU, Samastipur, (Bihar).
9. RAU, Kanke, Ranchi, (Bihar).
10. O.U.A.T., Regional Sub Station, Jashipur, (Orissa).
11. A.N.S.R.U., Hyderabad, (A.P.).
12. UAS, Dharwad, (Karnataka).
13. UAS, Bangalore, (Agric. Res. Station, Nagenanahalli), (Karnataka).
14. Maize Research Station, GAU, Godhra, (Gujarat).
15. T.N. Agricultural University, Coimbatore, (Tamil Nadu).
16. I.G.A.U., Raipur, (Madhya Pradesh).
17. J.N.K.V.V., Jabalpur, (Madhya Pradesh).
18. H.P.K.V.V. Regional Research Station, Bajaura (Himachal Pradesh).
19. A.A.U., Jorhat (Assam).
20. M.A.U. Prabhani (Maharashtra).
21. N.E.H. Region, ICAR Research Complex (Meghalaya).

#### Implementation of Projects

6117. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects being implemented in SAARC countries with the assistance from India:

(b) the cost of those projects and the extent of assistance extended by the Government for implementing those projects; and

(c) the steps taken to improve multilateral relations with SAARC countries?

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.

#### Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant

6118. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of derating of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) units;

(b) whether the Government propose to allocate additional power to Rajasthan in lieu of derating of RAPP Units;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government favours allocation of entire power from Unit-III and Unit-IV of RAPP to Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the schedule of commissioning of Unit-IV of RAPP at Kota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The present derated capacity of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Unit-2 is 200 MWe and that of Unit-1 is 100 MWe.

(b) and (c) Additional allocation to the extent of about 534 MW of power has been made to the State of Rajasthan from the unallocated quota of Central Stations and from the diverted share of some of the constituents in the Central Sector Stations from time to time.

(d) and (e) The power from these units when commissioned will be allocated to the different State Electricity Boards in the Region as per the existing formula followed by the Ministry of Power.

(f) The scheduled date of commissioning of Unit-4 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant is December 1999.

[Translation]

### **Purchase of Aircraft**

6119. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has expressed concern over the imbalance of its traditional weapons as compared to India and has decided to take fresh initiatives for the purchase of fighter aircraft of high technology from Russia, France and Sweden; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of Pakistan's efforts to acquire aircraft from various countries, including Russia, France and Sweden. Government believe that the acquisition of weapons by Pakistan, far beyond its legitimate requirement, is not conducive to peace and security in the region. Government have, on various occasions, conveyed their views to the concerned countries. Government constantly monitor developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

[English]

### **Explosion of Atom Bomb by Pak**

6120. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Pakistan exploded Atom Bomb as a result the preparedness of our country will undergo a change to meet the future challenges, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Pakistan nuclear tests on 28 and 30 May, 1998 have confirmed what has been known all along—that Pakistan had been in possession of nuclear weapons. These tests vindicate our policy on the nuclear issue. Government has been closely monitoring and assessing Pakistan's clandestine pursuit of its nuclear programme. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

### **Cultivation of Vanilla**

6121. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the development of vanilla cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers are given any assistance or incentive for production, processing and marketing of vanilla;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total production of vanilla produced in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) For encouraging development of Vanilla cultivation in the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce implement various programmes viz; area expansion; production of vanilla rooted cuttings; popularisation of production and improved curing techniques; setting up of vanilla processing units; and Awarding best vanilla grower.

(c) and (d) The assistance/incentives provided for production, processing, etc. of vanilla is given below:-

Programme	Incentive/assistance provided
1) Area expansion	Rs.10,000/- per ha. (two annual instalments of Rs.6500/- and Rs.3500/-) towards 25% of the cost of planting & maintenance.
2) Production of Vanilla rooted cuttings	Rs.1250/- per nursery for production target of 1000 rooted cuttings towards 25% of the cost of production of planting material.
3) Assistance to Growers Associations/Societies for setting up Vanilla processing units	Rs. 5000/- per unit towards 50% of the cost of processing aids.
4) Awarding best Vanilla growers	One First prize of Rs.10,000/- and 2 Second prizes of Rs. 5,000/- each in addition to citation and certificates.

(e) As per rough estimates, the annual production of vanilla is five tonnes of cured beans.

### **Soil Erosion**

6122. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing soil erosion caused by the Rupnarayan river in district Howrah, West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to send a team of experts to examine the situation;

(c) whether the Government are likely to take necessary steps to strengthen the embankments of the said river to check the soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the funds likely to be provided by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The river Rupnarayan like other alluvial rivers erodes its bank which is a natural phenomenon.

(b) Government of West Bengal has not reported to the Centre of any serious bank erosion problem caused by the river Rupnarayan, warranting examination of the problem by a team of experts.

(c) and (d) Remedial measures in the form of river training works, raising and strengthening of existing embankments on Rupnarayan are being carried out by the Government of West Bengal from the funds allocated under State Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

#### **Bhagirath Magazine**

6123. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main objectives of publishing the magazine 'Bhagirath' have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures are being taken to bring about improvement in this regard?

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

(b) The main objective of Bhagirath (Hindi) and Bhagirath (English) journals is to disseminate information about the plans, progress and achievements in the development of water resources in the country. This is being achieved by publication and distribution of these journals.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Meetings of the Editorial Board are held regularly to consider (i) improvements in the contents of the journals and (ii) feed back received from the readers from time to time.

#### **Salaries of Agriculture University Employees**

6124. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Agricultural University in Bihar have not received their salaries for several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to pay them their salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The employees of both Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa Samastipur as well as Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi in Bihar have received their salaries upto the month of March, 1998. However, they have not received their salary from April 98 onwards.

(b) and (c) The salary of employees from April, 1998 onwards could not be paid for want of non-plan/plan Grants from the State Government. Sanction has now been received as per the information received from these universities.

#### **Agricultural Loans**

6125. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken to strengthen the agricultural loan system with a view to increase the agricultural production in the country;

(b) the details of the loans provided under the various agricultural loan schemes, State-wise, alongwith the rate of interest charged thereon;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to restructure the present agricultural loan system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Research Centre for Black Mustard Seed**

6126. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up a research centre for black mustard seed during 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in approving it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. As per available records, no proposal to set up a research centre for black mustard seed has been received from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh during 1989 in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Not applicable.

#### **Quality of Wheat**

6127. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for local wheat is comparatively less in Madhya Pradesh due to its being of poor quality as a result of which wheat is bought from the markets of other States because it is available at a reasonable price and is of good quality; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government contemplate to solve the problem of the purchase of local wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government has not come across any information about wheat from other States being brought to Madhya Pradesh. In fact, wheat is being sent to neighbouring States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, etc. from Madhya Pradesh since it is surplus in the production of wheat. A total quantity of 5.36 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured in Madhya Pradesh upto 20th July, 1998 as compared to 1.07 lakh tonnes procured during marketing season 1997-98.

[English]

#### NERAMAC

6128. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the failure of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) to market the pineapples and oranges produced in Tripura led to distress sale and heavy loss to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rejuvenate and strengthen the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation in the sphere of marketing of agriculture and horticulture produces in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC) was incorporated in March, 1982 as a Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries with the main objective of fostering agro-horticulture development in the North Eastern Region. The Corporation has set up a Pineapple Juice Concentrate (PJC) Plant at Nalkata in Tripura in June, 1988. the NERAMAC has been essentially procuring pineapples from the farmers in and around Nalkata for processing in its PJC plant. The Corporation has turned sick and is presently registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. The Corporation has prepared a revival package which is under consideration of the Government. However, the NERAMAC is continuing with its pineapple processing operation at Nalkata as usual so that the interest of the farmers of the area are taken care of.

[Translation]

#### Inter-State Irrigation Projects

6129. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Inter-State irrigation and power projects under construction in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the estimate cost of each project, separately;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of concerned States to review the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures being taken by the Union Government for their expeditious completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Inter-State Irrigation and Multipurpose projects which are under construction and their latest estimated cost is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal for convening a meeting of Chief Ministers of concerned States.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The completion period of any project depends upon various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearance from various appraising agencies, geological conditions etc. equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	States involved	Latest Estimated cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Tungabhadra High Level Canal Stage-II	Andhra Pradesh Karnataka	467.26 62.93
2.	Gurgaon Canal	Haryana Rajasthan	— 35.40
3.	New Tajewala Barrage (Hathni Kund Barrage)	Haryana Uttar Pradesh	219.19 —
4.	Bansagar	Bihar Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	140.00 1281.00 529.92
5.	Rajghat	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	656.91 312.32

1	2	3	4
6. Tillari	Goa Maharashtra	525.59 371.65	
7. Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan	22176.95 — —	
8. Mahi Bajaj Sagar	Gujarat Rajasthan	— 1086.98	
9. Bawan Thadi	Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra	148.03 124.17	
10. Dudhganga	Karnataka Maharashtra	110.00 566.69	
11. Telugu Ganga	Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu	2149.00 —	
12. Subemarekha	Bihar Orissa West Bengal	2376.00 1238.45 595.00	
13. Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal	Haryana Punjab	601.00 753.54	
14. Shahnahar	Himachal Pradesh Punjab	150.78 —	
15. Daman Ganga	Gujarat Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	235.05 — — —	
16. Lendi	Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra	— 204.50	
17. Ravi Tawi Irrigation	J&K Punjab	151.18 —	

#### Import of Wind Mills

6130 SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import Wind Mills and other related articles in future;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes in this regard; and

(c) the subsidies likely to be provided to the buyers/users?

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. However, wind turbines or their components are allowed to be imported by manufacturers or users with exemption/concessional custom duty on specified critical components.

(c) No Central subsidy is provided to the buyers or users of wind turbines or their components.

[Translation]

#### NRIS

6131. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the persons of Indian origin living in different foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) whether they want to impart cultural education to their children, which is not easy for them in view of the fact that they are far apart from Motherland;

(c) if so, whether the cultural department of our Embassies would be assigned that task of assisting them in this regard; and

(d) the details of the work being done by Indian Council for Cultural Relations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There is no mechanism or mandatory requirement for foreign nationals of Indian origin to register with the Indian Missions and hence no authentic and precise information about the number of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) abroad could be furnished. However, as regards Indian nationals abroad an estimated country-wise break up as on May, 1998 is enclosed as statement. It may, however, be noted that the Indian Nationals, even though advised to register with our Missions, very often do not report their arrival and departure to and from the foreign countries.

(b) Generally, yes.

(c) Yes; as a part of our Embassies' overall responsibilities in respect of persons of Indian origin abroad.

(d) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has 14 Cultural Centres abroad, most of them in countries with significant populations of people of Indian origin. These Cultural Centres organise Indian Cultural and Academic activities of interest to peoples of Indian origin residing there, as also to the local population. Most of the Centres have classes relating to Indian music and dance. Some of them also impart lessons in Hindi and Yoga.

#### Statement

##### Approximate Estimated Number of Indian Nationals in Different Countries

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	Nationals
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	0
2.	Algeria	80



1	2	3
3.	Angola	70
4.	Anguilla	4
5.	Antigua & Barbuda	40
6.	Argentina	800
7.	Armenia	150
8.	Aruba	50
9.	Albania	5
10.	Australia	28564
11.	Austria	11000
12.	Azerbaijan	120
13.	Bahamas	0
14.	Bahrain	100000
15.	Bangladesh	555
16.	Belarus	94
17.	Barbados	69
18.	Belgium	5000
19.	Belize	340
20.	Republic of Benin (cotonow)	400
21.	Bhutan	20000
22.	Bolivia	50
23.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	1
24.	Botswana	3000
25.	Brazil	1500
26.	Brunei	9208
27.	Bulgaria	35
28.	Burkina Faso	15
29.	Burundi	700
30.	Cambodia	183
31.	Cameroun	250
32.	Canada	0
33.	Cape Verde	0
34.	Cayman Island	50
35.	Central African Republic	10
36.	Chad	0
37.	Chile	500
38.	China	400
39.	Colombia	59

1	2	3
40.	Comores	250
41.	Congo	15
42.	Costa Rica	7
43.	Croatia	4
44.	Cuba	15
45.	Cyprus	350
46.	Czech Republic	56
47.	Denmark	500
48.	Dominica	18
49.	Djibouti	350
50.	Ecuador	6
51.	Egypt	1350
52.	Eritres	10
53.	El. Salvador	6
54.	Estonia	12
55.	Equitorial Guinea	6
56.	Ethiopia	12
57.	Finland	600
58.	France	10000
59.	Gabon	5
60.	Gambia	80
61.	Guatemala	8
62.	Germany	34020
63.	Georgia	60
64.	Ghana	1500
65.	Greece	10340
66.	Grenada	56
67.	Guinea	60
68.	Guinea Bissau	5
69.	Guyana	240
70.	Honduras	5
71.	Hong Kong	20990
72.	Hungary	180
73.	Iceland	18
74.	Indonesia	5400
75.	Iran	1400
76.	Iraq	80

1	2	3
77.	Ireland	1500
78.	Israel	500
79.	Italy	15052
80.	Ivory Coast	125
81.	Jamaica	1200
82.	Japan	5508
83.	Jordan	900
84.	Kazakhstan	745
85.	Kenya	8000
86.	Korea (Rep. of)	400
87.	Korea (DPR. of)	1
88.	Kuwait	195000
89.	Kyrgyzstan	175
90.	Latvia	75
91.	Laos PDR	183
92.	Lebanon	11000
93.	Lesotho	250
94.	Liberia	300
95.	Libya	12000
96.	Luxembourg	179
97.	Madagascar	3000
98.	Malawi	300
99.	Malaysia	30000
100.	Maldives	1746
101.	Malta	150
102.	Mali	13
103.	Mauntius	360
104.	Mauritania	0
105.	Mexico	250
106.	Moldova	0
107.	Mongolia	40
108.	Montserrat	15
109.	Morocco	340
110.	Macedonia	0
111.	Mozambique	500
112.	Myanmar	2175
113.	Namibia	52

1	2	3
114.	Nauru	100
115.	Nepal	1000000
116.	Netherlands	5000
117.	Netherlands Antilles curacao & St. Nearten	2000
118.	New Zealand	750
119.	Nicaragua	4
120.	Niger	13
121.	Nigeria	22000
122.	Norway	2100
123.	Oman	410825
124.	Pakistan	0
125.	Panama	3828
126.	Paraguay	30
127.	Papua New Guinea	0
128.	Peru	200
129.	Philippines	13000
130.	Poland	800
131.	Portugal	2000
132.	Qatar	80000
133.	Reunion Island	173
134.	Romania	220
135.	Saudi Arabia	1300000
136.	Senegal	40
137.	Seychelles	500
138.	Sierra Loone	430
139.	Singapore	28000
140.	Somalia	0
141.	South Africa	3000
142.	Spain	14000
143.	Sri Lanka	131220
144.	St. Kitts & Nevis	16
145.	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	20
146.	St. Lucia	75
147.	Sudan	1150
148.	Surinam	150

1	2	3
149.	Swaziland	200
150.	Sweden	1535
151.	Switzerland	4169
152.	Syrian Arab Republic	500
153.	Slovenia	10
154.	Slovak Republic	50
155.	Tadjikistan	143
156.	Tanzania	3500
157.	Thailand	15000
158.	Togo	300
159.	Tonga	50
160.	Trinidad & Tabago	300
161.	Tunisia	45
162.	Turkey	110
163.	Turks & Caicos Island	20
164.	Turkmenistan	270
165.	Uganda	2000
166.	Ukraine	2100
167.	U.A.E.	800000
168.	U.K.	130000
169.	U.S.A.	28000
170.	Russia	12000
171.	Uruguay	10
172.	Uzbekistan	360
173.	Vanuatu	0
174.	Venezuela	400
175.	Vietnam	350
176.	Western Samon	10
177.	Yemen, Rep. of	3500
178.	Yugoslavia	16
179.	Zaire	650
180.	Zambia	60000
181.	Zimbabwe	15500
TOTAL :		4666192

*[English]***CTBT and NPT**

6132. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to secure some concessions before signing CTBT;

(b) if so, the details of concessions Government propose to secure;

(c) whether signing CTBT and NPT may affect adversely on the security front of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Government is prepared to move forward on discussing the CTBT. This exercise is underway in our bilateral discussions with key countries and reciprocal responses that would facilitate progress are being explored.

(c) and (d) India's earlier stand on CTBT was based on the assessment that the Treaty did not address our security concerns. The test conducted by India in May, 1998 have given us the basic capability for assured security. This is also the rational for the voluntary moratorium which fulfills basic objective of the Treaty. As regards NPT, India has consistently maintained that it is a discriminatory and flawed treaty, dividing the world into nuclear 'haves' and 'have nots'. The indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT has perpetuated the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the five countries. As such there is no change in our stand on the NPT. Government remains fully committed to take all necessary measures on the basis of its own assessment and national security requirements.

*[Translation]***Irrigation Facilities**

6133. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any programme to expand the irrigation facilities by the year 2000 AD in various States;

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

(c) the details of sources from where additional resources are to be mobilised to meet the requirement of the State, particularly which are lacking in these facilities; and

(d) the details of the States from which proposals have been received to give priority to the drought-prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission. It is, therefore, not possible to give State-wise details of programmes for expansion of irrigation facilities by 2000 A.D.

(c) and (d) Since Irrigation is a State subject, irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments from resources under State Plans. However, in addition to Plan allocation to the States under State Plans for Irrigation development, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is also provided to the States by the Union Government on matching basis under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" (AIBP) launched since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation and Multi-purpose projects. Under the programme CLA of Rs.500 cores and Rs.952.19 crores has been released to the State Governments during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. Also Rs.1500 crores has been proposed for the year 1998-99 under AIBP. As per National Water Policy adopted by the Government of India in 1987, all the States are required to give priority to the needs of drought-prone areas while planning water resources development projects.

[English]

#### Irrigation Facilities

6134. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States which are lagging behind to achieve the national average in irrigation facility;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to remove the disparity during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the additional irrigation facilities likely to be made available in Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

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 all India percentage of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) with respect to Net Sown Area (NSA) is 37.11%. The list of the States which are lagging behind the said national percentage along with their NSA, NIA and percentage of NIA with respect to NSA are given in statement.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

#### Statement

##### *Details of the States Having Less Irrigation Facility than the National Average*

(in thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	State	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrigated Area (NIA)	% of NIA NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	150	36	24.00
2.	Assam	2777	572	20.60
3.	Goa	138	23	16.67
4.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
5.	Himachal Pradesh	572	100	17.48
6.	Karnataka	10419	2325	22.32
7.	Kerala	2239	358	15.99
8.	Madhya Pradesh	19662	5822	29.61
9.	Maharashtra	17897	2567	14.34
10.	Manipur	226	65	28.76
11.	Meghalaya	201	45	22.39
12.	Mizoram	65	8	12.31
13.	Nagaland	206	62	30.10
14.	Orissa	6303	2090	33.16
15.	Rajasthan	17021	4858	28.54
16.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84
17.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
18.	West Bengal	5464	1911	34.97

[Translation]

#### Water Crisis in Delhi

6135. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the acute drinking water crisis in Delhi and its adjoining areas;

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to meet water crisis in Delhi;

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for sharing of Yamuna water among Delhi and other adjoining States to solve the water crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) the Government is aware that there is shortage of drinking water supply in Delhi and its adjoining areas as compared to demand, but there is no acute water crisis.

(b) Following measures have been taken to augment drinking water supply in Delhi:

- (i) Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi is constructing two additional Water Treatment Plants of 40 million gallons per day (MGD) and 20 MGD capacity each to enhance its capability to produce more potable water. It is planned to construct additional Water Treatment Plants of 100 MGD capacity at Dwarka, 140 MGD at Sonia Vihar and 40 MGD at Okhla.
- (ii) The construction of Ranney Wells at Alipur is scheduled to be completed by June, 1999.
- (iii) 200 additional tubewells and 268 deep bore hand pumps have been installed in deficit areas and 250 new tubewells and 200 additional deep bore hand pumps are proposed to be installed during 1998-99.
- (iv) In order to receive more raw water at Delhi, a scheme for construction of a parallel lined channel from Munak to Delhi have been finalised by Government of NCT of Delhi for execution through Government of Haryana which shall prevent enroute loss of raw water.
- (v) Augmentation of water supply for Delhi is planned from Tehri Dam, Renuka Dam and Kisau Dam Projects.

(c) and (d) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 12th May, 1994 between Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi provides for following allocation of the utilisable water resources of river Yamuna assessed on mean year availability:

1. Haryana	5.730 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM)
2. Uttar Pradesh	4.032 BCM
3. Rajasthan	1.119 BCM
4. Himachal Pradesh	0.378 BCM
5. Delhi	0.724 BCM

Pending construction of the storages in the upper reaches of the river, an interim seasonal allocation of the annual utilisable flow of Yamuna has been provided in the MoU. Upper Yamuna River Board, is regulating the allocation of available flows of river Yamuna upto Okhla, amongst the beneficiary States in accordance with the MoU. In a year when the availability is less than the assessed quantity, first the drinking

water allocation of Delhi is met and the balance is distributed amongst Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh in proportion to their allocations.

### **Development of Processed Food Sector**

6136. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the action plan drawn up for the development of the processed food sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : The Ministry operates its own Plan Schemes for the growth and development of the processed food industry. Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grant-in-aid is made available to Industry, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The thrust areas of the Plan assistance are:

- i) Establishment of post harvest infrastructure particularly cold chain facilities.
- ii) Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
- iii) Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.
- iv) Research and Development on food processing, including development of traditional food products, packaging and utilisation of by products.
- v) Strengthening backward linkages of the processed food industry with primary agricultural, horticultural, milk, meat, poultry and other similar production systems.
- vi) Human Resource Development.
- vii) Promotion of food processing industry through participation in national and international exhibitions, and assistance for studies/surveys/seminars.
- viii) Networking with State Governments through designated nodal agencies, and strengthening them through assistance.

Besides, the Government have been taking various policy measures for promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investment and providing fiscal reliefs in Excise and Customs etc. for the processed food sector.

### **Famine Trust**

6137. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the Financial Corpus of the Indian People's Natural Calamity Trust;

(b) the number of times the Trust has extended assistance in the State of Orissa; and

(c) the total amount spent by the Trust as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Rs.104.02 lakhs as on 1.4.1998.

(b) On one occasion during last ten years i.e. during 1990-91.

(c) Rs.1,75,000/-.

[Translation]

#### Wastage due to Shortage of Storage

6138. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of fruits and vegetables being wasted every year due to lack of adequate food processing facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Although no comprehensive survey has been conducted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the wastage of fruits and vegetables in the country, according to a report on perishable agricultural commodities prepared in May, 1981 under Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the then Member of Planning Commission, it was estimated that upto 40 per cent of certain fruits and vegetables go waste due to their perishable nature and non-availability of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure to prevent wastage.

A study has also been done under the Indo-US Project for estimation of post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables over the period 1986-90. [Source: Agro Food Processing : Technology Vision 2020 published by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, June, 1996].

According to the study, post-harvest loss in various fruits and vegetables during that period 1986-90 were as follows:

Name of the Fruit/ Vegetable	Post harvest losses as a percentage of production during 1986-90
1	2
Banana	12-14
Mango	17-37

1	2
Citrus (Orange)	8-31
Guava	3-15
Apple	10-25
Pineapple	5-20
Grapes	23-30
Beans & Peas	7-12
Brinjal	10-13
Cabbage	7-15
Cauliflower	10-15
Garlic	1-3
Onion	15-30
Potato	15-20
Tomato	10-20

The State-wise details of fruit and vegetable decay are not available.

#### Price of Milk

6139. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of 'full cream milk' and 'toned milk' of Mother Dairy have been increased in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of times the prices of milk of Mother Dairy have been increased during the last two years and the extent to which these were increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Mother Dairy has not recently revised the consumer price of toned milk (bulk vending) which constitutes 70% of total milk supplied by Mother dairy. But Mother Dairy has revised the consumer price of 'full cream milk' and 'toned milk' in polypacks with effect from 1.7.1998.

(b) the price has been revised due to rise in procurement price of milk and conserved milk commodities like butter and milk powder as well as increase in the rates of power, fuel and transportation.

(c) There has been no increase in the consumer price of Mother Dairy milk during the last two years other than the increase referred to in (a) above.

*[English]***Ground Water in Pokhran Area**

6140. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct survey to study the impact of nuclear test on ground water in Pokhran; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While we do not anticipate any radioactive contamination of ground water near the test sites, measurements on the ground water sources upto a distance of about 30 km. from the test sites have been started.

*[Translation]***Prices of Vegetables**

6141. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sarkar Ke Liye Aalu Pyaj Ki Kimtein Rokna Kathin" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 2, 1998;

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

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to check the rising prices and provide fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices?

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

(b) and (c) The prices of certain essential commodities including fruits and vegetables have shown an upward trend in recent weeks. The main reasons for this sudden increase are reported to be lower production, lean supply season for fresh vegetables, high temperature during entire April-May, 1998 in almost all regions affecting vegetable crops and also due to damage of fruit crops during winter. The prices of important vegetables like potatoes and onions are being monitored regularly. In order to minimise the hardships of the consumers at Delhi, arrangements have been made to supply onions at a subsidised rate of Rs.10.00 per kg. through the Public Distribution Agencies. Further, the National Dairy Development Board is selling fruits and vegetables through 242 retail outlets in Delhi and NOIDA.

*[English]***Indian Embassies/Missions**

6142. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Indian Missions housed in properties owned by the Government of India;

(b) the details of the Indian Missions housed in rented properties and rent paid during the last three year for each Mission, year and Mission-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to acquire properties for its all Missions and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) At present 72 Missions are housed in Government of India owned properties. Details are given in Statement-I.

(b) At present 85 Missions are housed in rented properties. Details are given in Statement-II.

The information relating to rents paid during the last three years is being collected and would be laid on the table of the house.

(c) In view of the rising rentals all over the world it has been Government's policy to acquire properties for its Missions where-ever cost effective. This is done either through purchase of built-up properties or by undertaking construction after acquiring plots.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement-I***Indian Missions/Posts which have Government-owned Chancery Building*

Sl.No.	Mission
1	2
1.	High Commission of India, Accra
2.	Embassy of India, Amman
3.	Embassy of India, Ankara
4.	Embassy of India, Antananarivo
5.	Embassy of India, Athens
6.	Embassy of India, Bangkok
7.	Embassy of India, Beijing
8.	Consulate General of India, Birmingham
9.	Embassy of India, Bonn

1	2
10. Embassy of India, Brussels	
11. Embassy of India, Budapest	
12. Embassy of India, Buenos Aires	
13. Embassy of India, Cairo	
14. High Commission of India, Canberra	
15. Embassy of India, Caracas	
16. High Commission of India, Colombo	
17. Embassy of India, Copenhagen	
18. Embassy of India, Damascus	
19. Consulate General of India, Dubai	
20. Embassy of India, Dublin	
21. Consulate General of India, Frankfurt	
22. Permanent Mission of India, Geneva	
23. High Commission of India, Harare	
24. Embassy of India, Helsinki	
25. Consulate General of India, Hong Kong	
26. High Commission of India, Islamabad	
27. Embassy of India, Jakarta	
28. Consulate General of India, Johannesburg	
29. High Commission of India, Kampala	
30. Asstt. High Commission of India, Kandy	
31. Consulate General of India, Karachi (Closed)	
32. Embassy of India, Kathmandu	
33. Embassy of India, Khartoum	
34. Embassy of India, Kyiv	
35. High Commission of India, Kinshasa	
36. High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur	
37. Embassy of India, Kuwait	
38. High Commission of India, Lagos (Abuja)	
39. Embassy of India, Lima	
40. Embassy of India, Lisbon	
41. High Commission of India, London	
42. High Commission of India, Lusaka	
43. Embassy of India, Madrid	
44. High Commission of India, Mahe	
45. Embassy of India, Manila	
46. Embassy of India, Mexico City	
47. Consulate General of India, Medan	

1	2
48. Embassy of India, Moscow	
49. Consulate General of India, New York	
50. Permanent Mission of India, New York	
51. High Commission of India, Nicosia	
52. Embassy of India, Oslo	
53. High Commission of India, Ottawa	
54. Embassy of India, Panama	
55. Embassy of India, Paris	
56. High Commission of India, Port of Spain	
57. High Commission of India, Pretoria	
58. Embassy of India, Rabat	
59. Embassy of India, Riyadh	
60. Consulate General of India, San Francisco	
61. Embassy of India, Santiago	
62. Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo	
63. Embassy of India, Seoul	
64. High Commission of India, Singapore	
65. Embassy of India, Tehran	
66. Embassy of India, The Hague	
67. Embassy of India, Thimpu	
68. Embassy of India, Tokyo	
69. Embassy of India, Tunis	
70. Embassy of India, Vienna	
71. Embassy of India, Washington	
72. High Commission of India, Windhoek	

**Statement-II**

*Indian Missions/Posts which have Rented Chancery Building*

Sl.No.	Mission
1	2
1. Embassy of India, Abidjan	
2. Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi	
3. Embassy of India, Addis Ababa	
4. Embassy of India, Algiers	
5. Embassy of India, Almaty	
6. Embassy of India, Ashgabat	
7. Embassy of India, Baghdad	
8. Embassy of India, Bagota	
9. Embassy of India, Bahrain	



1	2
10.	Embassy of India, Bandar Seri Begawan
11.	Embassy of India, Beirut
12.	Embassy of India, Belgrade
13.	Berlin office of Embassy of India, Berlin
14.	Embassy of India, Berne
15.	Embassy of India, Bishkek
16.	Embassy of India, Brasilia
17.	Embassy of India, Bratislava
18.	Embassy of India, Bucharest
19.	Office of High Commission of India, Cape Town
20.	Consulate General of India, Chicago
21.	Consulate of India, Chiangmai
22.	Asstt. High Commission of India, Chitagong
23.	Embassy of India, Dakar
24.	High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam
25.	High Commission of India, Dhaka
26.	Embassy of India, Doha
27.	Embassy of India, Durban
28.	Embassy of India, Dushanbey
29.	High Commission of India, Gaborone
30.	Palastine Representative Office of India, Gaza
31.	Consulate General of India, Geneva
32.	High Commission of India, Georgetown
33.	Embassy of India, Glasgow
34.	Embassy of India, Hanoi
35.	Embassy of India, Havana
36.	Consulate General of India, Hamburg
37.	Consulate General of India, Ho-Chi-Min City
38.	Consulate General of India, Houston
39.	Consulate General of India, Istanbul
40.	Consulate General of India, Jeddah
41.	Embassy of India, Kabul (Temp. Closed)
42.	High Commission of India, Kingston
43.	High Commission of India, Luanda
44.	High Commission of India, Male
45.	Embassy of India, Maputo
46.	Consulate General of India, Milan
47.	Embassy of India, Minsk
48.	Commission of India, Mombassa

1	2
49.	Embassy of India, Muscat
50.	High Commission of India, Nairobi
51.	Consulate General of India, Odessa
52.	Embassy of India, Ouagadougou
53.	Consulate General of India, Osaka
54.	Embassy of India, Paramaribo
55.	Embassy of India, Phnom Penh
56.	High Commission of India, Port Louis
57.	Embassy of India, Port Moresby
58.	Consulate General of India, Port Said
59.	Embassy of India, Prague
60.	Embassy of India, Pyongyang
61.	Asstt. High Commission of India, Rajshahi
62.	Embassy of India, Rome
63.	Consulate General of India, Saint Denis
64.	Consulate General of India, Saint Petersburg
65.	Embassy of India, Sana'a
66.	Consulate General of India, Shanghai
67.	Consulate of India, Shiraz
68.	Embassy of India, Sofia
69.	Embassy of India, Stockholm
70.	Consulate General of India, Sydney
71.	Embassy of India, Tashkent
72.	Embassy of India, Tel Aviv
73.	Consulate General of India, Toronto
74.	Embassy of India, Tripoli
75.	Embassy of India, Ulaan Baatar
76.	High Commission of India, Valetta
77.	Consulate General of India, Vancouver
78.	Embassy of India, Vientiane
79.	Consulate General of India, Vladivostok
80.	Embassy of India, Warsaw
81.	High Commission of India, Wellington
82.	Embassy of India, Yangon
83.	Embassy of India, Zagreb
84.	Consulate General of India, Zahidan
85.	Consulate General of India, Zanzibar

**Indian Mission**

6143. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of Indian Missions proposed to be opened this year to extent cordial relations with new foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : The Government has recently announced the opening of new Missions in Azerbaijan and Armenia as well as re-opening of the Mission in Fiji. Their opening reflects the priority we attach to these regions, including the new priority to Central Asia and the adjoining regions. They are expected to add a new dimension to our presence in the region and qualitatively improve our relations with countries of the region.

**Full Pay Leave**

6144. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant full pay leave to the Central Government Employees and the employees of public sector undertakings for treatment of serious illness due to Cancer, Leprosy, T.B., Paralysis, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented; 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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) As regards Central Government Employees, though there is no specific provision under the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, for grant of full pay leave as such treatment of diseases like Cancer, T.B. etc., certain kinds of leave, e.g., Leave Not Due up to 360 days and Extra-Ordinary Leave (without pay and allowances) up to 18 months, is allowed even to those Government Servants suffering from T.B., Leprosy, Cancer or Mental Illness who are temporary and are entitled to lesser quantum of continuous leave under the said Rules. Special Disability Leave (non-debitable and to count as duty for pension) on leave salary equal to that admissible on earned leave, not exceeding 120 days, is allowed to a Government servant, inter alia, on account of illness incurred in the performance of any particular duty which has the effect of increasing his liability to illness beyond the ordinary risk attaching to the civil post which he holds. In addition, Hospital Leave is allowed to Group D and Group C Governments servants whose duties involve handling of

dangerous machinery, explosive materials etc. while under medical treatment in a hospital or otherwise for illness or injury if such illness or injury is directly due to risks incurred in the course of their official duties. Seamen's Sick Leave up to six weeks/three months on leave salary equal to full pay is allowed, subject to the prescribed conditions, to a Seaman/Officer on a Government vessel while undergoing medical treatment for sickness or injury.

The Fourth Central Pay Commission had observed that "The existing Leave Rules are quite comprehensive and do not require any major modifications." The Fifth Central Pay Commission has also not made any recommendation for grant of any other kind of leave for treatment of serious illnesses like Cancer, T.B. etc. There is, therefore, no proposal for grant of any further leave benefit to the Central Government Employees.

The Managements of Public Sector Undertakings frame the Leave Rules for their employees and the Department of Public Enterprises has neither issued any guidelines nor is there any proposal under consideration for grant of full pay leave to the employees of the undertakings for treatment of serious illness due to Cancer, T.B., Leprosy, Paralysis etc.

[Translation]

**Drought Conditions**

6145. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance to the Government of Bihar to cope with the drought conditions persisting in both the district of Palamu division in Bihar since the year, 1991;

(b) whether the then Prime Minister had announced any package of assistance in this regard during his visit to Palamu in 1993;

(c) if so, the details of the assistance provided to the said district by the Union Government after the above-mentioned visit of the then Prime Minister;

(d) whether the Union Government have any scheme to protect Palamu division from drought, as this district is more drought prone than Kalahandi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

*[English]***Almati Irrigation Project**

6146. SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that several thousands of acres of land in Andhra Pradesh are likely to get dried up due to raising the level of Almati irrigation project across Krishna river in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any request to the Union Government to intervene in the matter; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have apprehensions that utilisation of Krishna Waters by Government of Karnataka may be far in excess of allocations made by Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal if the proposal of Government of Karnataka to increase the Full Reservoir Level of Almatti dam upto Elevation of 524.256 meters is allowed as this will adversely affect the Irrigation needs in the down streams area of Andhra Pradesh. The matter is however at present subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on account of suits filed by both the States.

**Pepsi Co. Inc.**

6147. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in some countries subsidiaries of Pepsi Co. Inc. are classifying concentrates for its beverages under CSH 3302.10/CSH 2108.10;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the CSH classification adopted by Pepsi Foods Limited when they first commenced manufacture of concentrates in India and the rate of excise duty then payable under such classification?

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.

**Supply of Power Tiller**

6148. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide Power Tillers to various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the number of Power Tillers distributed to each State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Under Centrally Sponsored 'Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas' (ICDP-Rice) incentives are being provided to the farmers on 'power tillers'.

(b) For 'power tillers' incentive @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs.30,000 per unit is admissible to the farmers under the scheme.

(c) A statement showing State-wise targets fixed, as of now, for the distribution of 'power tillers' during 1998-99 is attached. However, it is too early to know the progress made by the States.

**Statement**

*Statement showing targets of number of 'power tillers' to be distributed under ICDP-Rice during 1998-99*

Sl.No.	State	1998-99 (Targets)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60
3.	Assam	200
4.	Bihar	300
5.	Goa	100
6.	Kerala	250
7.	Madhya Pradesh	300
8.	Manipur	80
9.	Maghalaya	80
10.	Mizoram	35
11.	Nagaland	150
12.	Orissa	1000
13.	Tamil Nadu	350
14.	Tripura	150
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil
16.	West Bengal	300
17.	Pondicherry	80
<b>Total</b>		<b>3935</b>

**Departmental Exams.**

6149. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for holding Departmental Examination for Group-D employees of the Union Government;

(b) whether the final result is declared on the basis of existing vacancies in various Central Government offices;

(c) if so, the number of Departmental Examinations held during the year 1996-97;

(d) whether the Staff Selection Commission is following the prescribed norms to recruit LDCs by Departmental Examination for Group-D employees;

(e) if so, the number of persons appointed as LDCs on the basis of Departmental Examinations held in 1996 and 1997, year-wise; and

(f) whether any panel is also formed on the basis of examination?

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 Departmental Examination for Group D employees is only a qualifying examination for appointment to Clerks Grade and is not related to the vacancies in various Central Government offices. Appointments are, however, made by the cadre authorities against available vacancies in accordance with the rules/regulations framed by them in this regard.

(c) The examination is held annually. During the year 1996-97, the examination was conducted on August 18, 1996.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Appointments are made by the concerned cadre authorities. However, the number of persons recommended by the Staff Selection Commission for appointment as LDCs on the basis of Departmental examinations held in 1996 and 1997 is as follows:-

1996	—	07
1997	—	13

(f) No reserve panel is maintained.

#### **Jalgaon Milk Union**

6150. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds released to Jalgaon Milk Union, Jalgaon (Maharashtra) by NDDB and Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether about 80-85% funds have not been utilised and are deposited in Bank as fixed deposit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the arrears of employees towards DA and salary have not been disbursed by Administrator, Jalgaon Milk Union even after the receipt of appropriate funds;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to give directive to NDDB/Government of Maharashtra for immediate disbursement of arrears to employees; and

(f) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has released Rs.1975.80 lakhs and the Government of Maharashtra has released Rs. 625 lakhs to the Jalgaon Milk Union.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The entire arrears on account of salary including the major share of additional DA instalments have been released to the employees. However, a part of the additional DA instalment is yet to be released for want of decision pending before The Industrial Tribunal, Nasik.

(e) and (f) In view of answer to (d) above, the question does not arise.

#### **Pay Scales for All India Services**

6151. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the scales of pay for the various All India Services and those of Central Services Group-A for which recruitment is done through Civil Services Examination held by UPSC;

(b) the length of total service required for promotion to various pay scales in the services mentioned in para (a) above;

(c) whether any disparity exists in length of service prescribed for different Services for promotion to posts carrying the same pay scales;

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

(e) whether the minimum length of service has not been prescribed for promotion of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service for promotion;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there is any move to prescribe minimum length of service in IPS alone for promotion; and

(h) if so, the reasons for discrimination between these services?

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 pay scales for the various All India Services and those of the Central Services Group-A, for which recruitment is done through the Civil Services Examination held by UPSC, are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) The length of service required for promotion to various grades in the All India Services is also indicated in the Annexure. In respect of the Central Services, the information is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) There are generally no disparities in regard to the length of service prescribed for promotion in various grades of the All India Services, though the position can differ depending upon the requirements of each Service as perceived by the concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities and the number

of posts available in each grade. The solitary instance where the length of service differs is that of the grade of IGP in the IPS in the pay scale of Rs.18400-500-22400, where a longer period has been prescribed vis-a-vis the other two All India Services.

(e) and (f) The minimum length of service has been prescribed for IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers for promotion in all the grades except for the newly created levels of Additional DGP in the IPS and Additional PCCF in the IFS. The minimum length of service has also not been formally prescribed for the grade of PCCF in the IFS but it is generally allowed after completion of 30 years' service.

(g) No, Sir.

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

### Statement

#### *Pay Scales and Length of Service Prescribed for All India Services and Central Services*

Sl.No.	Scales	I.A.S.	I.P.S.	I.F.S.	Central Services
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Junior Scale	Rs. 8000-275-13500 (Entry)	Rs. 8000-275-13500 (Entry)	Rs. 8000-275-13500 (Entry)	Rs. 8000-275-13500 (Entry)
2.	Senior Scale				
	(a) Time scale	Rs. 10650-325-15850 (4 years)	Rs. 10000-325-15200 (4 years)	Rs. 10000-325-15200 (4 years)	Rs. 10000-325-15200
	(b) Jr. Admn. Grade	Rs. 12750-375-16500 (9 years)	Rs. 12000-375-16500 (9 years)	Rs. 12000-375-16500 (9 years)	Rs. 12000-375-16500
	(c) Selection Grade	Rs. 15100-400-18300 (13 years)	Rs. 14300-400-18300 (13 years)	Rs. 14300-400-18300 (13 years)	Rs. 14300-400-18300
3.	Supertime Scale	Rs. 18400-500-22400 (16 years)	(a) D.I.G. : Rs. 16400-450-20000 (14 years)	(a) C.F. : Rs. 16400-450-20000 (14 years)	Rs. 18400-500-22400
			(b) I.G. : Rs. 18400-500-22400 (17 years)	(b) Addl. CCF/CCF : Rs. 18400-500-22400 (17 years)	
4.	Above Supertime Scale	(i) Rs. 22400-525-24500 (25 years)	(i) ADGP : Rs. 22400-525-24500	(i) Addl. PCCF : Rs. 22400-525-24500	(a) Rs. 22400-525-24500
		(ii) Rs. 26000/- (fixed) (30 years)	(ii) DGP : Rs. 24050-650-26000 (30 years)	(ii) PCCF : Rs. 24050-650-26000	(b) Rs. 26000/- (fixed)
		(iii) Rs. 30000/- (fixed)			

N.B.—The years mentioned within brackets are indicative of the length of service required for promotion in the said grades.

**KBK Development Scheme**

6152. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion was held between Government of Orissa and Union Ministries/Departments including Planning Commission on the basis of Project Report submitted by the Government of Orissa for Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Development Schemes of Orissa;

(b) if so, the main features of the schemes and programmes discussed and funds provided by the Union Government for these projects so far; and

(c) the monitoring agency and coordination of implementation infrastructure created by the Government of Orissa at field level for KBK 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The discussion was held between officials of the State Government and Central Ministries in the Planning Commission on 15th June, 1998 on the basis of Revised Action Plan for implementation of Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts (1998-99 to 2006-07) submitted by the Government of Orissa for Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Development Schemes of Orissa.

(b) The Revised Action Plan focuses on high priority Schemes which have relevance to the basic problems of these areas which inter alia include watershed development and afforestation programmes, irrigation projects, employment generation schemes under the EAS and JRY, social welfare schemes and in particular target coverage under old age pension scheme and continuation of emergency feeding programme and health programmes to deal with problems of high incidence of tuberculosis, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

The programmes discussed specifically related to watershed development, afforestation, major, medium and minor irrigation schemes and the areas related to agriculture, horticulture and health.

The amount released to the State Government of Orissa on the Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts (KBK) by the Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Non conventional energy Sources taken together for 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 stood at Rs.164.03 crores, Rs.181.82 crores and Rs.193.28 crores respectively.

(c) State Government has already been advised to have effective monitoring and coordinating arrangements both at the

field level and also at the State level associating therewith also suitably the representative of the people.

**Generation of Power through Wind and Tidal Energy**

6153. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any new projects to generate power through the wind and tidal energy;

(b) if so, the states where the projects are proposed to be started; and

(c) the total installed capacity of each project ?

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) A detailed Project Report is being prepared for 3 MW tidal power project in Durgaduani Creek in Sunderbans, West Bengal. Wind farm demonstration projects of 2 MW capacity each are planned for Maharashtra and West Bengal States.

**Animal Diseases**

6154. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any Central Scheme to collect information on the various traditional medical practices being followed in the rural areas for combating various animal diseases;

(b) whether the Government have made any budgetary provisions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

**Irrigation Capacity in Kerala**

6155. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total irrigation capacity created in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new irrigation projects in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Irrigation potential created in the State of Kerala during the last three years is about 124800 hectares (provisional).

(b) As irrigation is a State subject and Irrigation projects are conceived, planned, implemented and funded by the State Governments, the Government of India do not propose to introduce any new scheme in the State.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **National Co-operative Development Corporation**

6156. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) is providing funds to the State Governments for the implementation of various schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes for which funds are being provided by NCDC;

(c) the amount of funds provided to the State of Maharashtra by NCDC during 1996-97 and 1997-98 scheme-wise; and

(d) the amount likely to be given during 1998-99 under the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) provides funds to the concerned Cooperative Societies through the State Governments for implementation of various schemes as detailed in the given Statement-I attached.

(c) The NCDC had provided funds to the State of Maharashtra to the tune of Rs. 48.95 crores and Rs.105.13 crores under different schemes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. The scheme-wise, year-wise details of disbursements are given in the Statement-II.

(d) The NCDC does not allocate funds State-wise. The requests are considered as and when received, duly recommended by the State Government concerned. Therefore no figures can be furnished at this stage.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Details of Scheme Implemented by NCDC*

#### **A. Central Sector Schemes**

1. Assistance to NAFED.
2. EEC Rural Growth Centres Project in Bihar.
3. EEC Coconut Development Project in Kerala.

4. Integrated Cooperative Development Project in selected districts (Subsidy).

#### **B. Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1. Cooperative Marketing, Processing, Storage etc. programme in under developed/least developed States/UTs.
2. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Sugar Factories.
3. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Spinning Mills (Growers).

#### **C. Sugar Development Fund**

#### **D. NCDC 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 Storage/Cold Storage.
5. Assistance for distribution of consumer articles 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 Programmes.

**Statement-II**

*Statement of Scheme-wise Funds Disbursed to State of Maharashtra during 1996-97 and 1997-98*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	1996-97	1997-98
<b>1.</b>	<b>Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Scheme</b>		
a)	SC Participation to Coop. Sugar Factories.	8.73	32.40
b)	Fruit & Vegetables (M/O Food Processing).	0.31	0.56
	Total of 1 :	9.04	32.96
<b>2.</b>	<b>Corporation Sponsored Scheme</b>		
a)	Strengthening of SC base of Mktg. Societies	0.85	0.75
b)	Fruit & Vegetables	3.63	0.82
c)	Other Processing Units	6.70	28.66
d)	Assistance for Powerloom	7.98	11.55
e)	Storage	2.08	—
f)	Weaker Section (Fisheries)	9.48	10.76
g)	Integ. Fisheries Dev. Project	0.57	1.42
h)	Dairy & Livestock	0.03	—
i)	Poultry	3.76	4.22
j)	Handloom	0.70	1.51
k)	T&P Cell	0.07	—
l)	Assistance for Computers	0.43	—
	Total of 2 :	36.28	59.69
<b>3.</b>	<b>Sugar Development Fund</b>	3.63	12.48
	Grand Total (1+2+3)	48.95	105.13

**Water Disputes**

6157. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up an independent body to settle the Inter-State river water disputes and proper allocation of their water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said body is likely to be set-up?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Visit of Australian Parliamentary Delegation**

6158. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Australian Parliamentary delegation visited India on the 15th June and had discussions with the Prime Minister and various other Ministers;

(b) if so, whether the Australian delegation has urged that both the countries should improve trade relations;

(c) if so, whether the report titled Australia's trade relationship with India also urged trade Minister to open a trade mission in New Delhi to form commercial ties with India;

(d) whether the trade relations will have no impact about the slapping sanctions against India in the wake of Pokhran nuclear test; and

(e) the extent to which the trade relations between the two countries likely to improve further?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No trade specific sanctions have been imposed.

[Translation]

**Tons Lift Scheme**

6159. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has completed the work of Tons Lift Scheme illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to solve the matter;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the illegal construction of the project is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A reference regarding construction of a weir across Tons river by Uttar



Pradesh Government has been received recently from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government has been requested to set up a Tribunal under the Inter-State-Water Dispute Act 1956 for adjudicating the water dispute regarding use, control and distribution of water of Tons and Belan rivers between the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

### **Rushikulya Irrigation Project**

6160. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of the Rushikulya Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government to the Government of Orissa for the purpose so far;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to seek external assistance for the project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Rushikulya System was completed on 1891. Modernisation of Rushikulya System has also been completed during VII Plan at a cost of Rs. 2.58 crores. Modernisation of Rushikulya System (Phase-II) at an estimated cost of Rs. 34.72 crores (under revision) has been taken up by the Government of Orissa during VIII Plan. Some components of this system have already been included under Water Resources Consolidation Project (Orissa) which is getting World Bank Assistance since January, 1996. The Union Government has not provided any fund for this system.

[Translation]

### **Atomic Power Programme**

6161. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the resources of State Governments and Private Sector for its prospective Atomic Power Plants; and

(b) the details of other steps being taken for the speedy expansion of Atomic Power Programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or Foreign, and State Governments in the nuclear power sector. Such offers, when received have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness, regulatory requirements of our country and conditions attached to the offers.

(b) a number of steps have been taken to complete the ongoing projects in Rajasthan (Rawatbhatta) and Karnataka (Kaiga) as quickly as possible through better management techniques and incentives. The IXth Plan proposals for the nuclear power sector envisage a much higher outlay through budgetary support than it was during the VIIIth Plan and also through internal and extra-budgetary resources like borrowings from the market, internal resource generation, etc.

[English]

### **Nuclear Weapons Possession by Neighbouring Countries**

6162. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is in possession of the facts regarding quality of nuclear and other arsenal possessed by the neighbouring foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the quantity and quality of technology developed in our country match to that of the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if not, the steps Government proposed to bring our technology relating to our security at par with other foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have been closely monitoring and continuously assessing the nuclear programmes and nuclear capabilities of neighbouring countries. The Pokhran nuclear tests have established that India has a proven capability for a weaponised nuclear programme. Government remains fully committed to effectively safeguarding the country's security in keeping with its assessment of the national security requirements.

### **Social Organisations**

6163. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of social organisations and their volunteers came forward to help the unfortunate victims of recent cyclone in Gujarat, Rajasthan, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to encourage such type of organisations for doing this type of laudable work in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per information received from Government of Gujarat, the voluntary organisations supplemented the efforts of the State Government by distributing food packets. Similar information from Government of Rajasthan is awaited.

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities.

However, sometime back, while issuing guidelines to the States in connection with preparation of relief manuals, the State Governments were stressed upon the need to involve voluntary organisations in relief and rehabilitation measures.

#### **Cyclone Disaster Mitigation Committee**

6164. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether disaster management in Gujarat was poor at the coastal line of Port Signal which has resulted in a large number of deaths of Salt Pan workers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Cyclone Disaster Mitigation Committee in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government so far for the cyclone affected victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per information received from Government of Gujarat, the Disaster Management was not poor at the coastal line of port signal, as the concerned authorities had taken timely action, including hoisting the great danger signal at ports as per the messages of meteorological department. Because of timely action, people from coastal area were shifted to safer places and the death cases in salt pan areas were minimised.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(c) The State Government had reportedly taken immediate rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures and assistance such as cash doles, for household kits, for damaged houses/huts were paid to the people affected by the cyclone. All essential services were taken up on war-footing. The Government of India released the second quarterly instalment of Centre's share of calamity Relief Fund to the State for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 29.03 crore, in advance, immediately after the occurrence of the calamity for relief and rehabilitation works.

In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Gujarat seeking additional financial assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), a Central Team has already visited the affected areas in the State and has submitted its report. Release of additional assistance, if any, from the NFCR will be considered as per the established procedure.

#### **Macro Management**

6165. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised an Agriculture Policy to confine the function of the Central Government to "macro management" and leaving the rest to the States concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in pursuance thereof?

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 seek to introduce a new and innovative approach to the management of agriculture by the Central and State Governments and promote use of the latest information technology for accelerating the growth process.

#### **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

6166. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes implemented by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of families/persons benefitted during last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the above schemes more effectively?

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) Government of Jammu and Kashmir is implementing 215 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors including Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Industries, Tourism, Social Welfare, Education and Health.

(b) identifiable number of families/persons under specified Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Rural Development Sector during last three years are as under:-

Year	IRDP '000 families	JRY lakh mandays	EAS lakh mandays
1995-96	13.18	48.23	129.96
1996-97	11.47	18.36	91.64
1997-98	13.64	24.05	132.17

(c) The programmes are monitored at various fora. The concerned departments periodically review the implementation of the programmes. Moreover, the progress of the schemes is also reviewed in the District Development Board meetings. The District Development Boards have also been revamped and strengthened for more effective implementation of various developmental programmes including the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

[Translation]

### Officers on Extension

6167. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above whose services were extended alongwith the terms and conditions of their extension of service;

(b) the number of times their services were extended;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace the officers working on extension; 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) During the period since 1.1.1998, extension in service beyond the date of superannuation to officers working in the Government of India at the level of Joint Secretary and above, was granted to:

(i) Shri Mata Prasad, the then Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, with effect from 1.2.98 to 31.1.99;

(ii) Shri R.L. Sudhir, Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Culture, with effect from 1.3.98 to 31.12.98. Of the two officers referred to above, Shri Mata Prasad continued on extended service only till 24.4.98.

(b) Extension in service to the above mentioned officers was granted only once.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

### Subsidy for Irrigation Schemes

6168. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are providing subsidy to the State Governments for irrigation under various schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes alongwith the funds provided to each State as subsidy during the last three years under each scheme;

(c) the achievements made by the State Governments in the field of irrigation during the period; and

(d) the funds proposed to be provided as subsidy to each State, particularly in case of Maharashtra for the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Central assistance as subsidy is given on matching basis to the States under

Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme (CADP) as per the pattern of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). This subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers under CADP for Land Levelling, Ground Water Development Structures and Sprinkler and Drip Irrigation.

Details of subsidy provided on these items during the last three years alongwith irrigation potential created in the country are as under :

Sl.No.	Years	Amount of Subsidy (Rs. in Lakhs)	Irrigation Potential Created (In thousand hectares)
1.	1995-96	317.78	1889.36
2.	1996-97	402.47	1609.87
3.	1997-98	220.80	1831.35 (target)

The Central assistance for the eligible items under the programme for the State of Maharashtra during the year 1998-99 will depend on the demand received from the State in this regard.

[English]

### Financial Assistance to Coconut Production

6169. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government provide financial assistance to the States for coconut cultivation;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided in favour of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kamataka during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the hectares of land under coconut cultivation and production of coconut during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

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

(b) The year-wise assistance provided to the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for coconut cultivation during the last three years is as under:

State	Financial assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Tamil Nadu	152.03	126.38	138.14
2. Andhra Pradesh	98.61	4124.12	1295.79
3. Kamataka	185.93	193.54	206.63

(c) The State-wise area and production of coconut for the last three years is given below:-

State	Area (000 ha.)			Production (million Nuts)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	86.6	90.0	91.0	1181.4	1231.3	885.9
Assam	17.8	18.2	19.6	117.6	140.3	118.4
Goa	24.5	24.7	24.7	118.0	119.0	119.0
Karnataka	263.8	278.8	286.8	1364.1	1450.9	1492.5
Kerala	911.0	982.1	1005.5	5335.1	5908.0	5759.0
Maharashtra	8.2	8.2	15.1	178.6	169.2	264.5
Orissa	42.9	47.3	53.0	234.5	246.8	271.5
Tamil Nadu	298.6	322.5	328.0	4345.7	3257.6	3811.6
Tripura	9.4	8.8	8.9	4.7	5.9	6.0
West Bengal	21.6	23.2	23.7	274.4	279.4	313.1
A&N Islands	24.4	24.4	24.7	85.4	83.4	86.6
Lakshadweep	2.8	2.8	2.8	26.0	26.5	27.5
Pondicherry	2.1	2.1	2.1	34.1	32.0	32.6
All India	1713.8	1833.1	1885.9	13299.6	12952.3	12988.2

#### Production of Mustard

6170. DR. SAROJA V : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Mustard during each of the last three years till date in the Country, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of oil produced and the annual consumption thereof in the country during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for the increase of oil prices in the domestic market;

(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) State-wise total production of Mustard in the country during the last three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The total quantity of oil produced in the country during the last three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98 is as under:-

(Qty. in lakh m. tonnes)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Total oil	64.12	72.64	67.30

The figures of consumption of edible oil in the country are not maintained. The availability of edible oil in the country

is worked out taking into consideration the production of edible oil from all oilseeds.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The increase in oil prices in the domestic market is on account of the following significant factors:-

(i) A moderate drop in domestic oilseed production in the current oil year.

(ii) Marked hardening of international oil prices, mainly on account of financial instability and civil unrest in Indonesia, a major supplier of international edible oil.

(iii) Hardening of the Dollar value against the rupee.

(e) In view of reply at (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

#### Statement

State-wise total production of Mustard during the last three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98

('000 tonnes)

State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Estimated)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	0.6	0.6	1.0
Arunachal Pradesh	20.0	17.8	-

1	2	3	4
Assam	143.5	140.6	155.0
Bihar	82.6	82.6	78.0
Gujarat	422.8	470.6	475.0
Haryana	729.0	893.0	713.0
Himachal Pradesh	5.7	5.7	6.0
Jammu & Kashmir	41.1	41.1	40.0
Karnataka	1.5	1.2	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	585.0	743.4	700.0
Maharashtra	4.3	5.1	2.0
Manipur	0.8	0.9	—
Meghalaya	4.9	4.9	—
Mizoram	1.6	1.6	—
Nagaland	6.0	6.4	—
Orissa	3.9	3.3	3.0
Punjab	130.0	109.0	86.0
Rajasthan	2417.8	2653.2	2097.0
Sikkim	4.4	4.2	—
Tamilnadu	0.2	0.2	1.0
Tripura	6.1	4.9	—
Uttar Pradesh	1157.3	1466.4	1350.0
West Bengal	229.2	284.8	450.0
Delhi	1.1	0.8	—
Others	—	—	50.0
ALL INDIA	5999.5	6942.3	6209.0

#### Sino-Indian Relations

6171. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of China has spoken twice in critical terms about the Pokhran explosions and India's policy;

(b) if so, is this a direct retaliation to our Prime Minister's letter to President Clinton; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repair Sino-Indian relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) According to

the information available with us, China's President Jiang Zemin spoke about India's nuclear tests on the following occasions:

- In an interview given to the President of the AFP news agency on June 3, 1998 President Jiang Zemin said, inter alia, "India has aspired to be the regional power of South Asia for a long time. By these tests, India targeted China and Pakistan." He said, "tensions in South Asia must be firmly blamed on India."
- In an interview to the Newsweek magazine on June 17, President Jiang said, inter alia, "the recent tests have triggered a nuclear arms race in South Asia." He added, "we must not fail to note that it was India who started the South Asia crisis." He called upon India to give up the nuclear weapons programme and "unconditionally sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."
- The Joint Statement of South Asia issued on June 27 during US President Clinton's visit to China stated, "recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and the resulting increase in tension between them, are a source of deep and lasting concern." The Joint Statement called upon India to "adhere immediately and unconditionally to the CTBT, to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and from the testing or deployment of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons."
- In a speech on July 3 at the 5-nation summit held in Alma Ata President Jiang said, "China is deeply concerned about the tense situation in South Asia."

President Jiang has not made any direct references to PM's communications to leaders of other countries.

(c) The sixth meeting of the Expert Group, a sub-group under the Joint Working Group was held on June 8-9, 1998 in Beijing. There are continuing contacts between the two foreign offices. Exchanges in diverse fields are taking place. Bilateral trade continues to show impressive growth with an increase of 18% in the first half of the current year over the corresponding period last year.

We seek a friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel. We see our relationship with China as one in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

#### Pests and Insects Menace

6172. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are providing assistance to State Government for controlling the pests and insects which are harmful to the crops;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to each State during 1998-99; and

(c) the progress made so far in effectively controlling the menace of pests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Union Government is providing financial Assistance to State Governments for plant protection measures in the form of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration, subsidy on plant protection equipment etc.

(b) State-wise allocation of funds in respect of plant protection component of crop development schemes during 1998-99 is given in the attached statement.

(c) Use of IPM practices has enabled the incidence of Pests in the country to be brought down.

#### Statement

*State-wise allocations made under plant protection components for various crop development schemes for 1998-99*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount allocated (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	284.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.8
3.	Assam	62.85
4.	Bihar	140.00
5.	Goa	7.40
6.	Gujarat	154.93
7.	Haryana	131.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19.80
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	23.83
10.	Karnataka	181.14
11.	Kerala	47.05
12.	Madhya Pradesh	203.00
13.	Maharashtra	338.39
14.	Manipur	17.20
15.	Meghalaya	5.90
16.	Mizoram	11.60

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	19.40
18.	Orissa	129.45
19.	Punjab	235.47
20.	Rajasthan	143.32
21.	Sikkim	14.96
22.	Tamil Nadu	262.60
23.	Tripura	11.25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	291.64
25.	West Bengal	80.55
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
27.	Chandigarh	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—
30.	Delhi	—
31.	Lakshwadeep	—
32.	Pondicherry	13.40

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Zinc

6173. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of Zinc has been felt in around fifty percent area of Uttar Pradesh, where wheat and rice are cultivated;

(b) whether the Union Government were requested to provide grant for zinc sulphate for the areas under cultivation of wheat, maize etc. as was provided in the year 1994-95;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to accord sanction;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be sanctioned; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per analysis of 28477 randomly collected soil samples by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Micro and Secondary Nutrients of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research from different districts in Uttar Pradesh, it is observed that about 40% of them are deficient in Zinc. Zinc is an essential nutrient for all crops.

(b) and (c) No formal proposal from Government of UP has been received. However, the State Government through

its Resident Commissioner and Principal Secretary located at New Delhi had requested in August 1997 to provide subsidy on micronutrients like zinc, iron, calcium and sulphur. No sanction could be given since the scheme of giving assistance for use of zinc sulphate which was operate before 1994 has been discontinued as the farmers have adopted the practice of using zinc in crop production in general.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Production of Kharif Crop**

6174. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the production of Kharif Crop during the financial year in the country;

(b) the total estimated production in view of the favourable weather;

(c) the sector for which Government provide grants-in-aid alongwith the amount of grants-in-aid provided during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the grants reach the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The production targets for crops are fixed by the Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture. For Kharif season 1998-99, Ministry of Agriculture has proposed the following targets:

Crop	Target
(Million Tonnes/Million bales)	
Rice	73.20
Jowar	7.00
Bajra	7.00
Ragi	2.50
Smaller millets	0.80
Maize	10.50
Pulses	6.10
Jute & Mesta	9.75
Cotton	14.80
Sugarcane	300.00

The production is estimated to be in line with the targets indicated above.

(c) The amount of grants-in-aid provided to the States under various programmes operated by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is given in the attached statement.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to implement the plan programmes and ensure that the benefits reach the farmers. The Central Government has a regular system of monitoring plan programmes through periodical progress reports, field visits and discussions during Kharif/Rabi Conferences and Zonal/State meetings.

#### **Statement**

*Details of amount of grants-in-aid provided to States by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under major Programmes during last three years*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Grants-in-aid provided to State Governments		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (provisional)
1. Crops	114.47	102.45	107.29
2. Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses	146.86	147.52	142.85
3. Rainfed Farming System	117.83	111.40	116.00
4. Fertilizer	7.47	8.87	3.41
5. Seeds	2.26	25.79	1.87
6. Plant Protection	3.68	3.63	0.80
7. Machinery	5.98	16.70	16.63
8. Extension	1.32	0.98	1.21
9. Soil & Water Conservation	63.94	66.87	73.41
10. Horticulture	107.20	145.63	143.31
11. Credit	4.24	6.26	3.52
12. Cooperation	0.98	0.60	0.56
13. Economics & Statistics	10.09	10.85	11.61
14. Census	1.40	4.53	1.83
Total	587.72	652.08	624.30

[English]

#### **Mortal Remains**

6175. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is being experienced to get mortal remains of non-resident Indians who die in Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the mortal remains without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per the practice prevalent in the Gulf countries, the bodies of deceased Indian nationals are transported to India at the expense of the foreign employers/sponsors as per the obligations stipulated in their employment contracts.

The delay in transporting the dead bodies to India is attributed to the requirement to comply with stringent local procedures. In cases of natural death, the repatriation of the body of the deceased person could take upto six weeks. In cases of accidents, suicides, murders etc., the delay could be much longer, since police investigation by the local authorities is a prerequisite and, until this is completed, other formalities such as the local District Governor's clearance, attestation of relevant documents etc., cannot be undertaken. On receipt of information regarding the death of an Indian national, the Indian diplomatic Mission/Post liaises with the family members and employer/sponsor to facilitate expeditious procedural clearances and repatriation to India on the mortal remains of the deceased.

#### **Development of Fruits and Vegetables**

6176. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the development of fruits, vegetables in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the last three years;

(c) whether Central assistance is being allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the Central scheme and the funds allocated to the State of Orissa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have been implementing separate schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of fruits as well as vegetables in the country including Orissa. Under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits', assistance is being provided for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and publicity measures. Similarly, under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds', assistance is being provided for production of Foundation Seed in Public

Sector, setting up of Hybrid Seed Production Units in Private Sector and for distribution of Minikits. The details of funds allocated to the Government of Orissa during the last three years is given in the statement attached.

#### **Statement**

*Details of funds allocated under Central Schemes of Development of Fruits and Development of Vegetables to Government of Orissa*

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Year	Total funds allocated to Government of Orissa under the Schemes of:	
		Fruits	Vegetables
1.	1995-96	73.03	9.50
2.	1996-97	83.83	8.90
3.	1997-98	327.70	11.03

#### **Missile Development**

6177. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China is likely to provide nuclear umbrella to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether China has been openly helping and assisting Pakistan in the Missiles development;

(c) whether China is also helping the Myanmar Government;

(d) whether of late China has been encircling India by helping its neighbours;

(e) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out by the Government;

(f) whether the experts have found that India has to match Chinese capability in nuclear technology; and

(g) if so, to what extent the Government is considering to improve its nuclear technology in comparison to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government are aware of the defence cooperation between China and Pakistan. However, we have not seen any official statement, so far, by China that their defence cooperation with Pakistan includes provision of a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan.

(b) Government is also aware of the supply of various types of ballistic missiles and technology by China to Pakistan.

(c) Government is aware of the extensive assistance provided by China to Myanmar in the defence field.



(d) to (g) Government is closely monitoring and assessing all developments having a bearing on India's security environment, including negative activities by outside Powers in our neighbouring countries. In the nuclear field, India has made it clear that while it would not embark on a nuclear arms race, it would ensure that it had a minimum nuclear deterrent. Government remains fully committed to effectively safeguarding the country's security in keeping with its assessment of the national security requirements.

### **Engineering Service**

6178. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to improve the pay and status of Engineers to bring them at par with IAS officers;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

(c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission, an Expert Body which had looked into service conditions of various services under Government of India did not recommend parity of Engineers with IAS Officers.

### **Horticultural Production**

6179. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :  
DR. RAVI MALLU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any special Budget allocation for backward areas and tribal areas for development of horticulture;

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

(c) whether the allocation is sufficient to meet the demands of backward areas and tribal areas;

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to increase the Budget allocation;

(e) whether any pilot project for the development of horticulture in backward areas in the country is under consideration of the Government; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) The ongoing

Central Sector Schemes for horticulture development implemented through State Governments are production oriented and not area specific. However, to give a focused attention for development of Horticulture in Tribal and Backward Areas, during 9th Plan, it is proposed to implement a Pilot Project for Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/ Backward Areas, for which an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores has been earmarked.

### **World Bank Assistance to Orissa**

6180. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of World Bank funded Irrigation Projects executed in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the total funds involved therein and the time schedule fixed for their completion;

(c) whether any evaluation of these projects has been done by the State/Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) "The Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project" is being implemented with the World Bank Assistance of US \$ 270.57 Million since January, 1996. The Project is likely to be completed by September, 2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Central Water Commission, an attached office of Ministry of Water Resources reviews the progress of the Project twice a year. Upto March, 1998, Rs. 385.13 crores has been incurred which works out to about 42% of expenditure against the 33% time elapsed.

### **Regional Passport Offices**

6181. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open more regional passport offices in the State of Maharashtra for early disposal of applications received for issuing of passports;

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

(c) the number of applications received by each of Maharashtra regional passports office for issue of fresh passport and for renewal during each of last three years;

(d) the reasons for delay in issue of passports; and

(e) the steps taken for early disposal of applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Passport Offices and Passport Collection Centres are functional at Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad in the state of Maharashtra. The Passport Office at Pune and the Passport Collection Centre at Aurangabad have been opened in July 1998. There is no proposal yet to open any other Passport Office or Collection Centre in the state of Maharashtra as the need for the same is not felt at present.

(c) The number of applications received for issue of fresh passports and for renewal during the last three years by the Passport Offices in Maharashtra is given below:

Year	Fresh Passport	Renewal
1. Regional Passport Office, Mumbai		
1995	223397	44579
1996	241763	35086
1997	278507	38570
2. Passport Office, Nagpur		
1995	9510	3220
1996	12107	1726
1997	14171	1618
3. Passport Office, Thane (Opened in 1997)		
1997	8491	158

(d) Passports are normally issued within a period of 45 days. Where-ever delays occur, these are due to receipt of negative or incomplete reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants, particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents, etc.

(e) There is comparatively little backlog of applications pending at the Passport Offices in the State of Maharashtra. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are: computerisation of processing procedures, improved coordination between passport issuing and police authorities, enhancing validity of passport to 20 years, provision for despatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

#### **Clearance to Irrigation Projects**

6182. SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the irrigation projects such as Inchampalli, Srisailem Left-Canal, Sriram Sagar and other projects are being shelved by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for want of Central clearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to clear these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments as per their own priorities. Clearance of pending irrigation projects by the Union Government depends upon the compliance of observation of the various Central Appraising Agencies by the State Governments.

#### **Wind Energy Power Projects**

6183. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plan to provide the infrastructure status for wind energy power projects in future:

(b) if so, the time by which it will come into effect; and

(c) if not, the 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) Projects for generation of power from wind energy are already covered under the category of infrastructure facility for which there are provisions under the Income Tax Act.

[Translation]

#### **Indian Fishermen in Pakistani Jails**

6184. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Indian fishermen are put in Pakistani jails for many years;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) According to available information, 254 Indian fishermen/crew members belonging to Gujarat and Daman & Diu are believed to be held in custody in Pakistan.

(c) Government are vigorously pursuing the matter relating to their release/repatriation with the Government of Pakistan. In order to secure the early release/repatriation of fishermen it has been conveyed to Pakistan that, in accordance with the understanding reached during the Foreign Secretary level talks in June 1997, Government are ready to hold immediate discussions to confirm/verify the fishermen held in each other's

custody. Despite repeated reminders, Government of Pakistan is yet to respond. Our efforts in this direction continue.

(English;)

### **Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research**

6185. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research on lines of Indian Council of Medical Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter; and

(d) if not, the other measures being taken to undertake research works in the fields of veterinary and fishery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The proposal for setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research was mooted on the basis of representations received from several quarters. In the meantime, the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended, inter-alia, that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying should be merged with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Therefore, any proposal for setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research can be pursued only after the issue relating to the merger of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is settled.

### **Trawlers Confiscated**

6186. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian registered trawlers confiscated during the last two years alongwith the details of countries which confiscated them;

(b) whether crew members of these confiscated Indian trawlers have been freed but their trawlers have not been released so far; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to get back these trawlers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

### **Amendment to NDDB Act**

6187. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Dairy Development Board has suffered huge losses in its Market Intervention Operation during last five years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken by NDDB in this regard; and

(e) is it true that the Western Region Office at Mumbai of NDDB is not functioning presently and investment made by NDDB for construction of building is not utilised for the objects of NDDB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal before the Government for amending the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987.

(c) The Market Intervention Operation (MIO) which was terminated on 31st March, 1994, incurred losses of Rs. 273.49 crores.

(d) The MIO incurred losses on account of:

- i) Holding of large stocks of inventory and fall in its market prices;
- ii) Higher rate of interest paid by NDDB (19%) rather than 15% which was expected to be charged on the line of credit asked for the purpose;
- iii) Losses due to retail marketing of Dhara;
- iv) Supply of imported oils by STC to NDDB at rates in excess of Rs.15,000 per tone, as had been originally approved.

(e) It is not correct to say that the Western Region Office of the NDDB at Mumbai is not functioning. At present 75 employees of the NDDB and its subsidiary/managed units are working at NDDB Mumbai, of which 51 employees are staying in the campus. The NDDB Mumbai Office is performing the job of co-ordination and monitoring of the progress of dairy and oil projects in Maharashtra and Goa.

### **Job Oriented Scheme**

6188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to announce job oriented schemes for the unemployed and educated youth in the country; and

(b) 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) and (b) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana provides employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) envisages that, "The coverage of programmes such as the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) will be enlarged to create new self-employment opportunities for the educated unemployed."

#### Officers on Suspension

6189. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IPS and IAS and other Central Services Officers suspended during the last three years, state-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the number of SCs/STs officers out of them?

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) During the last three years, the Central Government placed the following IAS/IPS/CSS officers (Grade I and above) under suspension who are/were serving in connection with the affairs of the Central Government:-

Year	No. of officers placed under suspension		
	IAS@	IPS@	CSS*
1995	Nil	Nil	2
1996	3	Nil	2
1997	1	Nil	1

@The concerned State Government is the competent authority to place under suspension IAS/IPS Officers serving in connection with the affairs of that State Government. Information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

\*This Ministry is not the Disciplinary Authority for Central Services other than CSS. The requisite information in respect of other Central Services is not centrally maintained.

(b) This is not a relevant factor in disciplinary matters like suspension, hence this information is not maintained in this Ministry.

[Translation]

#### Central Administrative Tribunal

6190. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal is authorised to write the final decision of a case either in Hindi or in English;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal is authorised to write the final decision of cases in English only;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to provide the option to write final decision either in Hindi or in English as per the practice in Central Administrative Tribunal; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1988 can be examined by the Central Government only on receipt of any such proposal from that Government. A letter received from the honourable Member in the matter has already been referred to the Madhya Pradesh Government.

[English]

#### Software Education

6191. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Microsoft has decided to make an annual investment of Rs.10 crore to promote software education in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Microsoft has agreed to enter into strategic alliances with every State within five years;

(c) if so, whether the main objective is to give a facelift to software education; and

(d) if so, the names of the States where the microsoft education programme has been started?

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 such proposal has been received by the Government of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Central Vigilance Commission

6192. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make Central Vigilance Commission a multi member body;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

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) In its judgment of December 18, 1997 in what is known as the "Hawala Case", the Supreme Court has, inter-alia, directed that the Central Vigilance Commission should be given statutory status. In formulating the necessary legislative proposal, action for which is in hand, the question of making the Commission a multi-member body will receive attention.

#### Cases Initiated by CBI

6193. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases initiated by CBI against Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and IAS and IPS officers relating to corruption during the past five years;

(b) the name of persons, nature of cases and the stage of the cases;

(c) the number of cases in which the CBI has gone in appeal/revision; and

(d) the outcome 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) During the years from 1993 to 1998 (upto 30.6.98) Regular Case/Preliminary Enquiries pertaining to allegations of corruption were registered by the CBI against 42 persons who were or had been Central Ministers, 18 persons who were or had been Chief Ministers, 69 IAS officers and 12 IPS officers, making a total of 141 cases. Out

of these 141 cases, investigation has been finalised in 58 and in 83 cases the investigation is still under way.

(c) and (d) In five cases, the CBI filed appeal/revision against orders of the Trial Court. While in two of these, the matter in revision/appeal was decided in favour of prosecution, in three of them, it was decided against the prosecution.

#### Constitution of Task Forces

6194. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G-8 at their meeting in June held in London to consider the scenario following the May, 1998 N-Blasts by India and Pakistan, produced a condemnatory communique against the two countries and constituted a Task Force to monitor their nuclear behaviour; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction and response thereto?

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

(b) Government has stated that the G-8 statement ignores the positive gestures made by the Government of India including, *inter alia* the institution of a moratorium on nuclear testing; our willingness to explore ways and means for de jure formalisation of this undertaking; readiness to engage in negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; and, maintenance and further development of strict export controls on nuclear related material and technologies. India remains committed to developing a framework of peaceful relations with Pakistan through a broad-based and sustained bilateral dialogue. This provides an effective means of identifying the possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation and resolving outstanding difference through bilateral negotiations. It would also include consideration of CBMs such as our proposal for a no first use agreement. In this process of dialogue there is no place for third party involvement of any kind whatsoever. These gestures reflect both our desire to further the cause of global disarmament and non-proliferation as well as our dedication to promoting peace and stability in the region. It is a matter of regret that the G-8 Foreign Ministers Joint Communique has not taken into account these proposals but has instead repeated unrealistic prescription, couched in the language of pressure.

#### Irrigation Projects in Orissa

6195. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the ongoing extension, renovation and modernisation of major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa;

(b) the estimated cost and funds spent on each project during the last three years;

(c) the estimated funds earmarked for the purpose in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the anticipated expenditure of these projects during 1998-99 financial year; and

(d) the progress of these projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The Government of Orissa have taken up system improvement on its 26 existing irrigation projects as per the statement enclosed, under the World Bank assisted Water Resources Consolidation Project. The project envisages renovation and modernisation of irrigation projects at an estimated cost of Rs.1409.90 crores. The State has made a provision of Rs.1216.68 crores during IXth plan for the purpose. The details of expenditure incurred during the last three years are as under:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. crores)
1995-96	58.39
1996-97	119.31
1997-98	253.50 (anticipated)

The details about the budget provision for the current year 1998-99 have not been received from the State Government.

#### Statement

##### *Names of Improvement Systems of Irrigation Projects*

1. Mahanadi Delta Stage-I  
(Kendrapara canal)
2. Mahanadi Delta Stage-II  
(Sakhigopal & Puri canal)
3. Rushikulya System  
(Main & 10th Distributary)
4. Baitarani System  
(HLC Range-III)
5. Hirakud System
6. Janivilli Anicut  
(50,925 hectares)
7. Dadraghati
8. Pitamahar
9. Aunli
10. Kalo
11. Baldiha
12. Jayamangal
13. Hiradharbati

14. Ghodahada
15. Pilasalki
16. Bhaskel
17. Uttei
18. Budhabudhi
19. Rushikulya System  
(Distributary Nos. 2,11,12,13 & 14)
20. Dhanei
21. Salia
22. Derjang
23. Hirakud System  
(Paramanpur & Resam Branch)
24. Mahanadi Delta Stage-I  
(Karandia & Pundal Branch)
25. Salandi System  
(Charampa Branch)
26. Mahanadi Delta Stage-II  
(Gop & Phulnakhara Branch)

#### Irrigation Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

6196. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement some irrigation projects in Jammu and Kashmir, during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fund has been earmarked and released 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) The Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council. However, irrigation is a State subject and the responsibility for implementation of all irrigation projects primarily rests with the concerned States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Swarnrekha Multipurpose Project

6197. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several villages have submerge due to non-completion of Swarnrekha multipurpose project;

(b) if so, the details of the villages affected since 1994, till date and the value of the loss of property; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government to assist the affected families?

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.

[English]

### **Fruits and Vegetables Processing Industries**

6198. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of processed fruits and vegetables has decreased during 1997-98 as compared to the previous two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fruits and vegetables processing industries functioning at present in the country location-wise and State-wise;

(d) the estimated installed capacity of these industries; and

(e) the steps proposed to increase the production of processed fruits and vegetables in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) While there has been an increase in production of processed fruits and vegetables every year, from 3.60 lakh tonnes in 1991 to 9.60 lakh tonnes in 1996, there has been a decline in their production in the year 1997 to 9.10 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) There were 4932 units licensed under the Fruit Products Order 1955 as on 1.1.1998. The State-wise distribution is given in the attached statement-I. The installed capacity of all these units to process fruits and vegetables as on 1.1.1998, was 20.4 lakhs tonnes.

(e) To encourage the processing of fruits and vegetables, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides policy support and financial assistance and takes other promotional measures, details of which are set out in the attached statement-II.

### **Statement-I**

*State-wise distribution of Fruits and Vegetable Processing Units Licensed under the Fruits Products Order (FPO) amended till 1997 as on 1st January 1998*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Fruits & Vegetables Processing Units.
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.	Andaman & Nicobar	3
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
25.	Chandigarh	54
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7
27.	Delhi	302
28.	Goa Daman & Diu	160
29.	Mizoram	3
30.	Pondicherry	14
Total		4932

### Statement-II

#### *Steps being taken by Ministry of Food Processing Industries to encourage production of processed fruits and vegetables*

In general, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides policy support in creating a favourable environment for the setting up of food processing units. It also provides financial assistance through its plan schemes for establishment of infrastructural facilities and creation of processing capacities, alongwith marketing support, and creation of backward linkages for raw material sourcing to promote fruit and vegetable processing.

The Ministry networks with other Government Agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture (involving National Horticulture Board and the National Cooperative Development Corporation) Ministry of Commerce, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA). Various R&D Institutions such as Central Food Technological Research Institute, Defence Food Research Laboratory, Indian Institute of Packaging and National Research Development Corporation (NRDCO) a premier technology transfer company. Various processed Food-related Industries and Industry Associations, apex chambers of commerce and industry such as CII, FICCI & ASSOCHAM and professional societies in this sector such as Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (AFST), with a view to encourage production of processed fruit and vegetables.

There are several Government bodies, which have continuing schemes and support programmes for development of fruit and vegetable processing.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) operates the following specific Plan Schemes in the fruit and vegetable processing sector:

- i) Establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing and integrated projects of mushrooms, hops, gherkins and baby corn.
- ii) Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates (Food Parks)
- iii) Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units
- iv) Setting up of Food Processing and Training Centres
- v) Strengthening of backward linkages to raw material sources
- vi) Total Quality Management including ISO 9000 and HACCP. Setting up of Analytical and quality control Laboratories

Apart from MFPI. National Horticulture Board under the Ministry of Agriculture operates following schemes for development of this sector:

- i) Integrated project on management of post-harvest infrastructure of horticulture crops.
- ii) Development of marketing of horticulture produce through provision of soft loans.

Similarly, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of the Ministry of Commerce operates inter-alia the following plan schemes :

- i) Scheme for assistance to promote quality and quality control
- ii) Scheme for packaging development
- iii) Schemes for promoting transportation of horticultural exports by air
- iv) Scheme for export promotion and market development
- v) Scheme for development of infrastructure

The National Cooperative Development Corporation of the Ministry of Agriculture also provides financial assistance for establishment of post-harvest management infrastructure by fruit and vegetable cooperatives so as to enable them to market and process agricultural produce.

In addition to the above, the MFPI has recently taken up the following initiatives to further the growth and development of fruit and vegetable processing sector.

#### 1. Low Energy Cool Chambers

To reduce the wastage of fruits and vegetables at the farm level, the Ministry has initiated measures to disseminate the technology of Low Energy Cool chambers developed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. These cool chambers consume very little energy and can be built at low costs. It is proposed to impart training and also provide funding for dissemination and adoption of this technology on a large scale particularly in rural areas.

#### 2. Mobile Processing Units

The concept of Mobile Processing Unit, also called Factory on wheels, is being examined by the Ministry for its technical feasibility and economic viability. Such a unit is functioning in the State of Karnataka on trial basis at present. If found technically feasible and economically viable, this would be promoted by the Ministry for adoption in other States as well.

#### 3. Vapour Heat Treatment for Destroying Fruit Flies

APEDA has undertaken a project in collaboration with Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) at Pusa, New Delhi for the vapour heat treatment of fruits to destroy the flies in fruits. The initial tests on mangoes have been successful and trials are being conducted on other fruits such as pomegranate.



apple, papaya, kinnow and guava. This project is very important for promotion of export of fruits.

#### 4. Promotion of Export of Fresh Mangoes

A project has been undertaken by APEDA in collaboration with Exporters and CFTRI for post-harvest treatment of mangoes and transportation of mangoes in Controlled Atmosphere Containers by ship for export to premium markets like Europe. This experiment has been largely successful in increasing the shelf-life of fresh mangoes.

#### 5. Promotion of Mushrooms, Gherkins and Passion Fruit

The Ministry has supported projects of processing of mushrooms and gherkins on a large scale primarily for exports. Recently, the Ministry has also supported a project for processing of passion fruit into concentrates in Mizoram. Passion fruit juice commands a very high price in international markets.

#### 6. Quality Upgradation

Consequent to the signing of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Measures under WTO regime, international quality standards have become very crucial for exports. The Ministry is playing a pro-active role in establishment of quality control and analytical laboratories, introduction of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and ISO 9000, setting up of a Codex Laboratory in CFTRI, Mysore and active participation in the activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission for setting of standards. These activities will upgrade the quality of our food products/including processed fruits and vegetables, and make them viable and competitive in both domestic and international markets.

#### Cotton Research Centre

6199. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to open a Cotton Research Centre in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds provided by the Government for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of cotton in the country?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase the production of cotton in the country:-

1. High yielding and pest tolerant varieties/hybrids have been developed for different agro-ecological regions of the country.
2. Improved and economically viable production and protection technologies have been developed.
3. Front-line demonstrations are being conducted to bridge the productivity barriers.
4. Cost effective integrated pest management schedules have been developed to different cotton growing states of the country.
5. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in major cotton growing States. Assistance is being given for transfer of technology through field demonstrations, farmers training and supply of critical inputs like seed, plant protection equipments and sprinklers etc. Besides this, a Cotton Technology Mission is also being contemplated by Govt. of India in the 9th plan.

#### CPCRI

6200. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI) at Kasargod in Kerala has made any indepth study on the rootwilt disease in coconut trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereof;

(c) whether any remedy has been found out by the scientists to root out this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of findings are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) The breakthrough to root out this disease has not been found out. However, to control this disease, following measures are suggested:

In the severely infected gardens, eradication of coconut palms is recommended. In the moderately infected gardens, management practices like balanced nutrition and prophylactic sprays of pesticides is advocated. Breeding programmes are also underway to develop tolerant lines for which field resistant parents have been identified from the disease prone hot spot areas.

#### Statement

The root (wilt) disease of coconut is non-lethal, but debilitating, characterized by the abnormal bending or ribbing

of the leaflets. Yellowing of the older leaves and drying of the margins of leaflets are the other symptoms of the disease. This disease is contiguously present in the eight southern districts of Kerala, viz., Trivandrum, Quilon, Pathanamthitta, Alleppey, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Trichur and in isolated tracts of the northern districts.

Research conducted by CPCRI has revealed the consistent presence of phytoplasma earlier reported as mycoplasma-like organism (MLO) in the tissues of diseased palms and their total absence in the disease-free palms. Further support for the phytoplasmal etiology was obtained through the successful transmission of the disease under insect proof condition and through partial remission of symptoms consequent upon the injection of oxytetracycline. Experiments have shown that disease advanced palm respond poorly to any kind of management practices. Removal of all infected juvenile palms and bearing palms in advanced stages of the disease are recommended. Multiple cropping and mixed farming systems in root (wilt) affected coconut gardens have indicated to exert ameliorating effect on the disease affected palms.

The importance of plant nutrition in reducing the incidence and severity of this disease has been recognised, based on studies, the CPCRI recommended a balanced dose of 500 g N, 300 g  $P_2O_5$ , 1000g  $K_2O$  and 500 g  $MgO$  per palm per year for the root (wilt) affected areas to maintain the productivity of the palms.

#### **Additional Assistance for Cyclone Victims in Gujarat**

6201. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :  
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to mitigate the cyclone situation in Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to the Government of Gujarat to tackle the situation;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat as well as the Members of Parliament belonging to that State have requested the Union Government to provide additional assistance to the State for this purpose;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have released the required amount sought by the Government of Gujarat;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have made any provision from the Central funds for providing fodder for cattle and drinking water in the said districts; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by the calamity. However, the second quarterly instalment of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the State for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 29.03 crore was released in advance, immediately after the occurrence of the Calamity, to speed up the relief work in the affected regions including Saurashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Pursuant to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking additional financial assistance of Rs. 610.65 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the affected areas and submitted its report. Release of additional assistance from the NFCR, if any, will be considered after following the established procedure.

(g) and (h) An amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs under the Foot & Mouth Disease Programme and Rs. 24.20 lakhs under the National Ram/Buck Production Programme have been released for the cyclone affected areas of Gujarat. Similarly, Rs. 1389.00 lakhs has been released to the Government of Gujarat so far during the current financial year under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), to supplement the efforts to the State Government for providing drinking water facilities in the rural areas of the State. An allocation of Rs. 315.00 lakhs has also been made to the State during 1998-99 for providing drinking water in the desert areas covered under the Desert Development Programme.

#### **Relief to Fisherman**

6202. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reported loss of both men and material under the influence of South West monsoon alongwith coastal line of Ramaeshwaram in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the fishermen have become victims of the monsoon; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to financial relief provided to the families of fisherman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No information has so far been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard. The State Government has been requested to supply the requisite information, on receipt of which further action will be taken.

*[Translation]***Research Centres**

6203. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has been requested to sanction Rs. 21.92 crores for strengthening five agriculture research centres of Agriculture University, Kanpur, three large scale agriculture research centres of Department of Agriculture and Research Centres of Pant Nagar University;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Union Government have proposed to set up an Agriculture Research Centre in Mulabagilu, Kolar district during the financial year 1998-99; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), which is the nodal Department in the Ministry of Agriculture for Agricultural Research, Education and Extension, has not received any such proposals.

(d) and (e) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) which is the nodal Department of Ministry of Agriculture for Agricultural Research, Education and Extension has not received any such proposals.

*[Translation]***Hindi Salhakar Samiti**

6204. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi Salhakar Samiti is functioning in this department;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which Hindi Salhakar Samiti is likely to be set up in the department?

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 tenure of Hindi Salhakar Samiti in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been completed on 23-03-1998.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has requested nominations from the concerned departments/organisations and Hindi Salhakar Samiti of this Ministry will be constituted after the receipt of these nominations.

*[English]***Dhaka Summit**

6205. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the summit in Dhaka on January 15, 1998 was attended by the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed in the summit;

(c) the action plan prepared to improve the trade relations between the three countries;

(d) whether such a summit is also being considered in future so that some outstanding issues between the three countries could be discussed; and

(e) if so, whether any such agreement was reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit, that was held in Dhaka on 15 January 1998 was attended by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan alongwith and at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Issues discussed at the Summit included cooperation in trade and investment; encouragement of joint ventures in the region; investment promotion and protection; the need to improve related infrastructure and communication facilities and encouragement to the role of the private sector. A copy of the text of the Joint Declaration issued at the conclusion of the Summit is enclosed as statement.

**Statement***Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit**15 January 1998***Joint Declaration**

1. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India His Excellency Inder Kumar Gujral and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif visited Bangladesh for the Bangladesh - India - Pakistan Business Summit. The Excellencies the Prime Ministers met at this Summit in Dhaka on 15th January, 1998.

2. Noting that Bangladesh, India and Pakistan together have a population of more than one billion, the Heads of Government recalled that these countries possessed vast human and natural resources which offered great opportunities for economic and

social development for the benefit of their peoples. The pervasive poverty in these countries warranted urgent action for accelerating the growth process. It was felt that an environment of peace and security within the framework of the objectives, principles and provisions of the SAARC Charter was essential for rapid and sustained progress. The Heads of Government pledged their commitment for consolidating and strengthening the on-going efforts for achieving sustainable development.

3. The Heads of Government welcomed the opportunities presented by the globalisation of the world economy but expressed concern that this posed special difficulties for the developing countries. They emphasized that the continued positive participation of developing countries, particularly the LDCs in the global economy, required a fair and supportive international economic environment.

4. The Heads of Government noted that many developing countries are engaged in liberalising their economies and have contributed significantly to the growth of world output and trade. They need greater access to markets in the developed countries and to capital and technology in this process.

5. Having noted that foreign direct investment has been growing rapidly over the last few years linking national economies and influencing the economic growth and welfare of developing countries, the Heads of Government observed that the flow of FDI has been uneven. They emphasized that the South Asian region was an attractive destination for foreign direct investment, with its abundant availability of natural resources, skilled labour at competitive rates and a combined market of over one billion people. The Heads of Government agreed on the need for harmonisation of relevant laws, rules and regulations of the three countries for promoting foreign investment.

6. The Heads of Government noted that there was considerable scope for promoting investment through mutual co-operation. There were opportunities for setting up joint ventures for serving both domestic and export markets. They underscored the need for arrangements for investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation and a mechanism for settlement of commercial disputes.

7. The Heads of Government noted that inadequate communication facilities were a major hindrance to closer economic cooperation. They stressed the importance of developing infrastructure and adequate communication network for reinforcing and accelerating the process of economic co-operation. In this context, they emphasized the importance of strengthening of infrastructure such as transportation, communication and information for facilitating expansion of trade and investment.

8. Recognising the importance of the private sector, the Heads of Government reaffirmed their determination to

encourage the private sector to contribute increasingly in the areas of trade, investment and finance.

9. The Heads of Government underlined the importance of effective use of human resources and their continued upgradation and enrichment through education, skill formation, improved health, sanitation and nutrition. There was scope for co-operation through utilisation of institutional and training facilities.

10. Reiterating their commitment to liberalization of trade in the region, the Heads of Government reaffirmed the goal of achieving a Free Trade Area in South Asia by 2001. They agreed on the need to progressively reduce tariffs and remove Quantitative restrictions, non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and other structural impediments to trade to achieve this goal. Recognizing the need to foster development of the least developed economies, they agreed to provide special trade concessions for the Least Developed Countries of the region on a non-reciprocal basis for the development of equitable trade relations with these countries.

11. They also emphasised the need for harmonization of customs procedures, improvement of shipping and port facilities and simplification of visa procedures for rapid growth of trade. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to accelerate regional co-operation and underscored that regional co-operation was indispensable in an inter-dependent world.

12. Noting that co-operation in the field of science and technology was imperative in ensuring global competitiveness and acceleration of the process of development in the region and recognizing the progress made in this field, the Heads of Government emphasized the need to continue co-operation in this area, specially in facilitating research and exchange of information in the fields of technology, energy, engineering and low cost housing.

13. The Heads of Government were of the view that greater consultations among the delegations of these countries in international fora on issues of common concern would be in the interest of all. Adoption of a co-ordinated approach on the issue of investment and on labour standards, environment and other technical barriers to trade in the WTO would be particularly important.

14. The Heads of Government felt that the Summit had been very constructive and useful. They expressed their desire to continue this kind of initiative and take follow up action.

15. The Heads of Government of India and Pakistan congratulated the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for taking the initiative to host a Business Summit. They were of the view that this Summit would greatly continue to strengthening mutual co-operation. They expressed their sincere appreciation for the manner in which the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had conducted the meeting and guided the proceedings. They also

expressed their deep gratitude for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of Bangladesh.

### **Women in Agricultural Field**

6206. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have implemented Central Schemes to promote the participation of women in agriculture field during the Eight Five Year Plan period;

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

(c) the performance of these schemes in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture on pilot basis in one district each of seven States of the country viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala and Rajasthan during the Eight Five Year Plan.

(b) The State-wise details of Central Sector Scheme—Women in Agriculture, are given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) The State-wise performance of the scheme is placed in the attached Statement-II.

### **Statement-I**

#### *Details of Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture during Eight Five Year Plan*

a) Name of the Scheme—Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture.

b) Type of the Scheme—Central Sector Scheme with 100% Government of India's funds.

c) Coverage—The scheme has been implemented on pilot basis in one district each of 7 selected states of the country through an implementing agency identified at district level. The details of State/district and implementing agency are as follows:-

State	District	Implementing Agency
1. Punjab	Jalandhar	State Department of Agriculture through Chief Agricultural Officer, Jalandhar.
2. Haryana	Hissar	Director Extension Education, Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.
3. Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar	State Department of Agriculture through Deputy Director Agriculture (Ext.) Bulandshahar Uttar Pradesh.
4. Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	State Department of Agriculture through Deputy Director Agriculture, Shimla, H.P.
5. Maharashtra	Thane	State Department of Agriculture through Principal Agricultural Officer, Thane. Maharashtra.
6. Kerala	Palakkad	State Department of Agriculture through Principal Agricultural Officer, Palakkad, Kerala.
7. Rajasthan	Udaipur	District Women Development Agency Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### **Statement-II**

#### *Statewise performance details under CSS Women in Agriculture during VIII Plan Period*

### **Physical Performance**

	Haryana		Punjab		Uttar Pradesh		Maha.		Kerala		Rajasthan		Himachal Pradesh		Total		% achievement
	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Formation of Farm Women Group (Nos.)	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210	210	100
Village based Training (No. of courses)	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	75	1470	1335	90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Link Workers Training (No. of participants)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	42	41	97.8
Mahila Goshti (No.)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	21	20	95.2
Study tours	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	42	41	97.8
Result Demonstration	360	360	360	356	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	326	360	323	2520	2445	97

T = Target

A = Achievement

**Impact of US Sanctions on Agriculture**

6207. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have confirmed the US Government's decision that the sanctions are not likely to affect international loans to agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount of loan provided by the US Government during the last two years;

(c) whether any other country is likely to provide loans for agricultural projects in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) US Government has not provided any loan for any project in the agricultural sector for the last two years in India.

(c) and (d) There are ongoing bilateral projects in the agricultural sector with Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Japan, Canada and multilateral projects with World Bank, FAO and UNDP assistance. The bilateral project proposals seeking assistance from Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden and E.U. and multilateral agencies—World Bank, UNDP and FAO are in the pipeline.

**Eco-Friendly Packaging**

6208. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme introduced by Government of Eco Mark labelling has failed;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering any new proposal to promote eco-friendly packaging for food processing industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken by Government to make the people aware about these eco-friendly packaging; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India had launched the Eco Mark Scheme so as to reduce the adverse environment impact of consumer products. Under the scheme, Government notifies appropriate criteria for various category of consumer products for the purpose of eco labelling and the label known as eco mark is awarded to consumer goods which meet the specified environmental criteria and the quality requirements of Indian Standards.

So far, the Government had notified criteria for 14 categories for the purpose of eco labelling. The response of the manufacturers has not been encouraging. The main reasons for the inadequate response are : (i) lack of awareness among the consumers of the value and significance of Eco-Labelling (ii) enhancement in the cost of production of environment friendly products (iii) no incentives under the scheme to the manufacturers for production of environment friendly products.

(c) and (d) The Eco Mark Steering Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forest has recommended to take up 16 products which inter alia include food items, packaging materials/packages, and food additives. The product specific ecological requirements in respect of food items such as edible oils, vanaspati, tea, coffee, beverages, have been notified. As regards packaging of processed food products, materials/packages criteria for paper and paper board, plastics, laminates and laminate products have also been notified.

(e) and (f) To promote the consumer awareness for the scheme, the Government is laying stress on the publicity of

Eco Mark labelling, and has also commissioned a study to survey the demand of eco-friendly products in the market.

### CTBT

6209. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during US President's recent visit to Bijing, the US and China called upon India and Pakistan to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons and missiles capable of delivering them and also demanding that both India and Pakistan desist from further nuclear tests and sign CTBT unconditionally;

(b) whether the US and China also offered to assist in the implementation of confidence building measures between India and Pakistan; and

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

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

(c) Government has stated that it was most ironical that two countries who have directly and indirectly contributed to the unabated proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in our neighbourhood should now be presuming to prescribe norms for non-proliferation. Government has also made it clear that India cannot consider suggestions contained in the statement for curtailing our nuclear weapon or missile development programmes and decisions in this regard would be taken on the basis of its own national security requirements. Government have announced that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. We are now prepared to move forward on discussing the CTBT.

### Technical Knowledge

6210. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Germany has offered India technical knowledge in agricultural implements, food processing, dairy products and poultry;

(b) if so, whether a high level German delegation visited India;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of the agreements signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) An agro-industries delegation from Germany led by Dr. Franz - Josef Fieter, 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 German delegation held meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Commission 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 in the field of agriculture, namely mechanisation of small farms and import of equipment from Germany, reduction in post harvest losses through joint ventures and aid programmes etc., fisheries, agricultural engineering, horticulture crops, animal sciences and technical guidance for upgradation of rabbit farming, cooperation in packaging, fruit and vegetable processing, meat and meat products and setting up of cold storage facilities, fish processing etc. It was also proposed to develop a general Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture and to explore the possibilities 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. However, no specific offer for technical assistance was made by the German side.

(d) No agreement were signed or proposed to be signed during this visit.

### Regional Passport Offices

6211. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Regional Passport Office at Jammu, J&K for the issue of fresh passport and for renewals during each of the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A detailed statement is tabulated below:

Passport Office, Jammu					
Year	Fresh Passport		Renewals		Pendency
	Applica- tions Received	Passports Issued	Applica- tions Received	Passports Renewed	
1995	10,551	8,893	1,083	960	1,787
1996	13,781	10,630	834	827	3,158
1997	10,694	10,639	964	916	103

### **Agriculture Research System**

6212. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of changes being brought in the Agriculture Research System;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the poor response of the research work in agriculture; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Agriculture Research System (NARS) in India is the culmination of the process which started in the last century and which resulted in the establishment of Imperial (now Indian) Council of Agricultural Research in 1929. The ICAR has twice undergone reorganisation in 1963 and in 1973. The State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) as significant component of NARS came up during 1960s. Originally, the research in NARS was commodity/discipline oriented. Now it is reoriented to develop multi-disciplinary and system oriented to develop location specific technologies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In general, the investment in agricultural research yielded an internal rate of return of more than 40 percent. Wherever there is poor response, the government has taken the following steps to improve response to research:

- (i) Reorientation of agricultural research by conducting location specific research in multi-disciplinary and production system mode.
- (ii) Strengthening the agricultural education for development of human resource.
- (iii) Strengthening research, extension and farmer linkages through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and active interface of scientists with development departments at all levels.

### **Oilseeds Production**

6213. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country have achieved self-sufficiency in oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Technology Mission on oilseeds launched by the Government has helped in stepping up production and productivity of oilseed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) While setting up the Technology Mission on Oilseeds in the year 1986, the aim was to produce 16.5 million tonnes of Oilseeds in 1989-90, which the Mission has already achieved by increasing the production upto 16.92 million tonnes in 1989-90. However, the increase in the production of Oilseeds has not kept pace with the demand for edible oils caused by rise in population and per capita income growth resulting in demand-supply gap which is met by resorting to imports of edible oils.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The production of Oilseeds has increased significantly from a level of 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 when the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set up to the level of 24.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 which was an all time high record production achieved so far. The productivity of oilseeds which was 570 Kg. per ha. in 1985-86 has also increased to 931 Kg. per ha. in 1996-97.

[Translation]

### **Intensive Scheme for Cotton Growing Areas**

6214. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent an intensive scheme for the expansion of cotton growing areas;

(b) if so, since when the proposal is pending for approval;

(c) the reasons for delay, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal for continuation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme for 1998-99, was received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. After scrutinising the proposal, administrative approval has already been issued on 20th May, 1998.

[English]

### **Attack on Iraq**

6215. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the month of February, 1998 the US and its allies had decided to attack Iraq once again;

(b) if so, whether number of countries opposed the move of the US and its allies;

(c) what was India's role played during these talks;



(d) whether India has remained in close touch with Iraq Government; and

(e) if so, what role India played in reducing the tension in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Following a major military build-up in the Gulf, there had been wide-spread speculation regarding armed action against Iraq.

(b) Several countries had reportedly opposed the possible resort to armed action against Iraq.

(c) and (d) Our then Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral, addressed letters to the leaders of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and to the UN Secretary General in which he voiced deep apprehension about the possibility of military conflict in the region and highlighted India's concern regarding the sufferings of the Iraqi people on account of the sanctions regime. While reaffirming India's position that weapons of mass destruction in Iraq should be eliminated in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, the former Prime Minister had pointed out that the use of military force against Iraq would "complicate the situation and (would) not contribute to the objectives to which the United Nations is committed." He urged a sustained effort to bring about a peaceful solution through diplomatic negotiations.

(d) Yes, Sir, through diplomatic and other channels.

#### **Dialogue with China**

6216. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the US Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Inderfurth from Washington on June 27, 1998 favouring direct talks between India and China, to assuage India's security concerns in the context of continuing Chinese aid to Pakistan both by way of transfer of nuclear weapons and technology and missiles capable to carrying such weapons, in blatant violation of NPT signed by China; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto by way to starting a dialogue with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government have seen reports regarding the comments made by the US Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Inderfurth urging China to engage bilaterally with India to discuss security concerns.

(b) India seeks a relationship with China in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns even as we remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences. Government remains committed to the development of a friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly,

mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour.

[Translation]

#### **MPLADS**

6217. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Members of Parliament who have received the second instalment of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the 1997-98 and the first instalment for the year 1998-99;

(b) the number of such Members who have not yet received the second instalment for the year 1997-98 after their being re-elected to the 12th Lok Sabha;

(c) the justification behind the disbursement of MPLADS fund of rupees one crore in two instalments as this system creates hindrances in the timely completion of schemes; and

(d) whether the Government propose to disburse the full amount in a final instalment?

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) Out of 790 Members of Parliament, second instalment for the year 1997-98 has been released for 336 Lok Sabha MPs and 121 Rajya Sabha MPs and first instalment of 1998-99 has been released for 154 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs.

(c) As per the guidelines of MPLADS, funds are to be released twice a year on the basis of physical and financial progress of the works under implementation and further requirement of funds for the works. The rationale behind this policy is that at any given time, no more money should remain outside the Government treasury than is reasonably expected to be spent within a year.

(d) The issue is under consideration.

#### **Co-operation with Railways**

6218. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been extending all the requisite co-operation to the Railways by treating it as a commercial organisation; and

(b) 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) and (b) While making investment decision, Planning Commission recognise the dual role of Railways as public utility on the one hand and commercial enterprise based on sound business principles, on the other. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan emphasises that the needed investment in Railways will be financed through greater commercial orientation of the Railways' tariff policy and through private sector participation wherever possible. The State shall also provide adequate assistance to enable the Railways to carry the social burdens of a public utility.

[English]

#### MPLADS

6219. COL. SONA RAM CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that **some District Collectors** particularly in Rajasthan are not **executing the works** under MPLADS according to guidelines laid in this regard;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Union Government against District collectors/Projects Collectors of Rajasthan; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government 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 PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints regarding improper implementation of MPLADS works against some District Collectors in Rajasthan have been received.

(c) Whenever a complaint is received, the matter is taken up with the State Administration/District Collector concerned for corrective measures and for taking suitable action against those responsible, whenever necessary.

#### P-5 Meet

6220. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Pakistan's response to the resolution adopted at the P-5 meeting at Geneva held in first week of June 1998, to the effect that this resolution marked the beginning of international involvement in the Indian Sub-continent and that bilateral dialogue on issues like Kashmir needed to be supplemented by a broader multilateral process to promote durable peace in South Asia; and

(b) if so, what was the Government's response to the Pak reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government have seen Pakistan's response to the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the P-5 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Geneva on 4 June, 1998.

(b) There is no place for any international or third party involvement of any kind whatsoever in bilateral issues between India and Pakistan. This view has been reiterated through official statements, as also in interaction with all concerned at the political and diplomatic levels. India remains firmly committed to carrying forward the process of bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues.

[Translation]

#### Court's Judgement against Reservation Policy

6221. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Training had issued five Office memorandum on January 30, 1997, July 2, 1997, July 22, 1997, August 13, 1997 and August 29, 1997 respectively with a view to abolish the quota reserved for SCs/STs by misinterpreting the decisions of the Court by some officials who had even tries that the cases relating to reservations are not pleaded properly in the courts;

(b) whether SC/ST Welfare Associations/Trade Unions have not been recognised so that they may not present their problems before departmental officer and Ministers whereas that Group is even recognised in the Constitution as a special group and the Supreme Court has also recognised SC/ST as a group of castes and not a caste;

(c) whether reservation has not been made as a law even after 50 years of independence and the reservation is on the basis of reservation Memos and Officers and the employees of this class have to take resort to the court frequently due to lack of clear stipulated law and rules; and

(d) whether due to lack of sufficient powers, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not able to protect the interest of SCs/STs and it was confined by Department of Personnel and Training by issuing a memorandum of January 1, 1998 stating that the jurisdiction of the Commission is to make enquiry only?

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 said Office Memoranda were issued in implementation of the various judgments of the Supreme Court after thorough examination of the legal position and are not meant to abolish the reservation quota.

(b) A number of SC/ST Welfare Associations have been recognised for the purpose of notifying reserved vacancies. Liaison Officers are appointed in each Ministry/Department to ensure proper implementation of the reservation policy. Instructions also permit SC/ST employees to write directly to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (NCSCST) on their service matters.

(c) The Supreme Court, in the 'Indira Sawhney case', has held that provision under Article 16(4) need not necessarily be enacted into law. The Court also held that the executive instructions under Article 16(4) are enforceable the moment these are made and issued.

(d) It is for the NCSCST to comment upon whether its powers are sufficient to discharge its obligations under Article 338 of the Constitution. This Department's Memorandum dated January 1, 1998 has only apprised Ministries/Departments that in view of the Supreme Court's judgment in the Indian Overseas Bank case, the Commission has no power to direct withholding operation of any orders issued by the Government.

[English]

#### **Iran and China help to Pakistan**

6222. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Pakistan nuclear scientist, who has defected to the United States has provided the Federal Bureau of Investigation with evidence that Iran and China were involved in Pakistan's effort to develop nuclear arsenal and that Saudi Arabia helped to fund it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government have seen reports regarding the defection of a Pakistan national Iftikar Chaudhry Khan to the United States.

(b) Government have long been aware of the clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme and the repeated attempts made by Pakistan to covertly acquire materials and technologies from various countries. All developments in Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme are being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

#### **Overpayment due to Change in Rotation of Currency**

6223. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his 1997-98 report, has pointed out that the Department of Space paid an amount due to the British firm Hi-Tech Alloy Limited in terms of pound sterling in place of making it in terms of an equal number of dollars, putting the Department of Space to a net loss of around Rs. 35 lac;

(b) whether the Department has since claimed and recovered the excess amount with interest;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department has made a formal claim for the excess payment. Despite best efforts made to recover the amount, M/s Hitech Alloys (UK) Ltd. have refused to refund the excess payment.

(d) The Arbitration clause in the Purchase Order has been invoked and the International Chamber of Commerce Secretariat has been approached to get refund of the excess amount paid. Action is also on hand to proceed against the firm for criminal breach of trust.

#### **Gujral's Diplomacy**

6224. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the initiative taken by the former Prime Minister to start correspondence with the President Clinton of USA and the Prime Minister of UK, Tony Blair in the wake of the nuclear tests conducted by India in May, 1998 and the imposition of economic sanctions against India has the approval of the Government and the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details and the implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The previous Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral has maintained regular contact and consultation with Prime Minister regarding his activities and initiatives on foreign policy issues. This reflects the national consensus that has traditionally existed on the basic tenets of India's foreign policy.

#### **Letter to Bill Clinton**

6225. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our Prime Minister's letter to President Clinton appeared in the U.S. print media; and

(b) if yes, how did such a secret communication get into the press?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The New York Times published on May 12, 1998 what it stated to be the text of a letter from the Indian Prime Minister to President Clinton.

(b) The report is datelined Washington. It would, therefore, appear that the text was made available to the newspaper outside India.

[Translation]

### Reservation Policy

6226. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether after getting promotion, the employees of general category become senior to those SC and ST employees who were promoted prior to these general category employees under reservation policy;

(b) whether recruitment for Group C and D posts was banned but no instructions were issued for filling up backlog vacancies in Group 'A' and 'B';

(c) whether practice of selecting SC/ST candidates for promotions in higher grades has been discontinued on the basis that these candidates have obtained less than minimum qualifying marks;

(d) whether reservation for SC/ST candidates in promotion has been discontinued whereas it is a Constitutional Right under Article 16(4)(a);

(e) whether reserved posts for SCs/STs lying vacant in the current year and backlog vacancies were dereserved;

(f) whether several O.Ms relating to reservation for SCs/STs which were against the interest of SCs/STs were issued in 1997 in the light of courts' decisions; and

(g) if so, action taken by the Government to watch the interest of SCs/STs employees in the light of courts, decisions?

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. It is, however, subject to the condition that the reserved category employee in question was promoted in preference to his senior general candidate because of application of the rule of reservation.

(b) There is no ban on recruitment for Group C and D posts.

(c) There is no separate relaxed standard of evaluation for promotion of SC/ST candidates.

(d) Reservation in promotion has been continued beyond 15.11.97 in pursuance of Article 16(4A) of the Constitution.

(e) There is total ban on dereservation of SC/ST posts in direct recruitment. In promotions, dereservation is allowed only in case of non-availability of SC/ST candidates.

(f) and (g) In pursuance of certain pronouncements<sup>4</sup> of the Supreme Court, some orders having bearing on the reservation policy have been issued so as to ensure uniformity in approach in the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court. While the Government is committed to adopt suitable measures for the welfare of SC/ST employees, action in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court, which become the law of the land in terms of Article 141 of the Constitution, had to be taken.

[English]

### Multi-pronged Strategy for Foodgrain

6227. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Minister has proposed a multi-pronged a multi-pronged strategy to double the country's foodgrain production over the next decade;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been worked out by the Ministry and submitted to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the foodgrains policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) An Action Plan for Doubling of Food Production and Making India Hunger Free in Ten years has been prepared by the Planning Commission under the National Agenda for Governance. This Action Plan envisages the following production targets by the year 2007/8 :-

Sl.No.	Item	Production targets (million tonnes)
1.	Foodgrains	300.0
2.	Oilseeds	45.0
3.	Sugarcane	495.0
4.	Fruits & Vegetables	342.0
5.	Milk	130.0
6.	Egg (Million Nos.)	5300.0
7.	Fish	9.6

The above targets are under finalisation in consultation with State Governments and a final Action Plan is proposed to be evolved in due course.

### Import of Cryogenic Engines

6228. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has imported or propose to import Cryogenic Engines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the country from which it is likely to be imported;

(c) whether we have also imported its technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which we are going to build Cryogenic Engines indigenously?

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

(a) and (b) So far no Cryogenic engine and stage has been imported. The first Cryogenic engine and stage are expected from Russia before the end of 1998.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The first indigenous Cryo stage is expected to be ready for use in Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from 2000-2001 onwards.

### Indian as U.N. Advisor

6229. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations has appointed an Indian Diplomat as an Advisor on Iraq in an effort to coordinate US policies on Iraq better;

(b) if so, whether India has accepted this offer;

(c) if so, to what extent India will be helpful in co-ordinating the UN efforts to implement plans in regard to Iraq;

(d) whether India has openly made its policy known to US about the stand on Iraq-US conflict; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The UN Secretary General has appointed Shri Prakash Shah, a retired member of the Indian Foreign Service, as his Special Envoy in Baghdad to follow closely all developments relevant to the role of the United Nations in Baghdad with regard to Iraq.

(b) The offer of appointment was made to Shri Prakash Shah in his personal capacity.

(c) Co-ordination of the UN activities in Iraq is being done by the UN Secretary General. The Indian Government has

extended cooperation in such activities at the request of the UN Secretary General, such as providing diplomatic observers for the inspection of certain sensitive areas.

(d) and (e) India's approach to the Iraq crisis has been articulated in international fora as well as in bilateral discussions, including with representatives of the US Government. During the crisis in January-February, 1998, India expressed concern regarding possible military action against Iraq. While reiterating India's support for compliance by Iraq with the relevant UN resolutions, our view was that the use of force against Iraq would complicate the situation and would not contribute to the ends to which the United Nations is committed. It would also aggravate the sufferings of Iraqi people. Accordingly, we had urged the US to avoid precipitate action and persevere in their efforts to bring about a peaceful solution through diplomatic negotiations.

12.00 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### Annual Report an review on the working of Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi for the year 1996-97

[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) : On behalf of Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, 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 Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1424/98]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report/Audit Accounts of the Indian Council of Arbitration for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1425/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, 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 Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

*[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1426/98]*

#### **National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 (Hindi and English versions).

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1427/98]*

This fulfils my promise given to this House.

#### **Notification Under Finance Act, 1994 etc.**

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) : On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 317(3) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the levy of service tax the taxable service provided by a goods transport operator, pandal or shamiana contractor and outdoor caterer under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1428/98]*

- (2) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
- (i) G.S.R. 338(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 204/92-Cus., dated the 19th May, 1992.
  - (ii) G.S.R. 341(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
  - (iii) G.S.R. 368(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June 1998 together with an explanatory

memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification mentioned therein.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1429/98]*

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, for the year 1997-98 under sub-section (2) of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1997-98.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1430/98]*

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Forum of Financial Writers and Institute of Economic Journalism for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1431/98]*

#### **Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi for the year 1996-97**

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) : On behalf of Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.
  - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, 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 Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, 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. LT. 1432/98]*

**Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation for the year 1996-97**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation for the year 1996-97.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1433/98]*

**Annual Report and Review on the working of Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore for the year 1996-97**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956—
  - (a)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1996-97.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1434/98]*

- (b)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1996-97.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1435/98]*

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, 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 Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1436/98]*

**Annual Report and Review on the working of Electronic Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1996-97**

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) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956—
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Electronic Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1437/98]*

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

*[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 1998 agreed without any amendment to the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd July, 1998.

12.02¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS

## Fourth and Fifth Reports

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications—

- (1) Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Department of Post-Ministry of Communications.
- (2) Fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.03 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Third, Seventh and Eighth Reports (Tenth  
Lok Sabha) and Second and Fourth  
Reports (Eleventh Lok Sabha)*[English]*

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the following Reports—

- (1) Third Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence for 1994-95.
- (2) Seventh Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence for 1995-96.
- (3) Eighth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on 'Defence Research and Development—Major Projects'.
- (4) Second Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report

of the Committee (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Defence Policy, Planning and Management'.

- (5) Fourth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in First Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence for 1996-97.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Reports

*[English]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development—

- (1) Eighth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) Department of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment);
- (2) Ninth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) Department of Wastelands Developments (Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment); and
- (3) Tenth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment).

12.04 hrs.

RE: KILLING OF VILLAGERS BY  
MILITANTS IN DODA DISTRICT,  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero Hour.  
Shri Sharad Pawar.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sharad Pawar.

*(Interruptions)*



MR. SPEAKER : The Leader of Opposition is on his legs. I will call you after him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, 16 people were killed in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. Day by day the situation there is getting worse. Yesterday extremists attacked two villages in the morning and pulled out people from their houses and shot them dead. Two women and an army jawan Munshi Ram who had come on leave, was among those killed. This is the second major attack.

[English]

In fact, terrorism is creating havoc in the entire valley.

[Translation]

Earlier the Home Minister himself had gone there after the incident and he took up the responsibility. He assured this House and the people of this country that improvement will be brought in the situation but neither the situation has changed nor any improvement has been noticed. The situation is becoming worse there. There were 13 battalions of security forces in the area before this Government came to power but later on this number was reduced to 11. Thus, two battalions were withdrawn from there, while situation is becoming worse there day-by-day. A delegation of my party at Doda had made a demand to deploy security forces for their protection. Residents of the town were ready to live without food but they wanted security in all circumstances. Such demand was made by a delegation of our party to the Prime Minister. I understand that this Government is doing nothing to bring about any change in this situation. The situation prevailing there warrant strict action. All those 16 persons who were killed yesterday were Hindus and those who were killed three days ago were Muslims. The person who was killed belonged to which community or which religion is not so important. Worth noting is the fact that militant attack the town. If steps are not taken to control the situation it may get worse. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Home Minister to make a statement in the House so that people come to know about the situation prevailing there and if required a detailed discussion should also be held in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when such an incident happened last month, the Home Minister promised a pro-active policy. Shri Sharad Pawar is right. We called on the Prime Minister and we told him very clearly that the unified command is not working. Today, the newspaper report says that the defence committees are not working there. The State Government is not functioning and this Government is keeping quiet.

Sir, they have to come out with an Action Plan to the House as to what they are going to do in future. The Home

Minister must make a statement today about the Government's future plan and how they are going to secure the lives of the people, especially in Doda district, because such incidents are increasing day by day. The Government must immediately come out with its Action Plan to the House, because we cannot tolerate this type of incidents everyday in that area. (Interruptions) It had never happened like this earlier, except once.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Doda district, is very serious. Two incidents have taken place there within a week. In one incident more than 10 people have been killed and in another incident 18 people have been killed. The Home Minister has announced on the floor of this House that pro-active action would be taken against such activities of the militants. But he has not spelt out the plan of action of the Central Government to tackle such situations. Our experience is that since this Government has come to power such incidents are increasing day by day. The State Government is not functioning properly and there is no administration in Doda district. The Central Government is quite inefficient and incapable of tackling the situation.

Sir, I demand that the Home Minister should come to this House immediately. Yesterday, while replying to the debate on atrocities on women he referred to that incident.

Mere reference to that incident will not do. We want to know what is the action plan of this Government and how the Government intend to combat militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Doda district. I demand that the Minister of Home Affairs should come immediately and tell the House as to what is the action plan of this Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, the issue has been raised by the Leader of Opposition Hon'ble Sharad Pawar. He informed the House that people, who were killed yesterday by militants were Hindus, and those killed by them, the day before yesterday were Muslims. I understand that the whole House is unified over the issue of combating militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and stringent action should be initiated against the militancy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, militants have a particular-motive and target that persons belonging to a particular community should be killed so that communal disharmony could take place between two communities and some people may leave the place. I hail from Chandigarh in Punjab where we faced this situation for 15 years but whatever you and Basudev Acharyaji or other members may say. I would

like to submit that militancy did not raise its head only, when BJP came to power. It was there earlier too, at the time when Shri V.P. Singh, Gujral Saheb and Shri Narasimha Rao were in power (*Interruptions*). I would like to say that don't politicise the issue and don't play politics on the dead bodies. Militancy is something which can never be approved of. It was wrong when Narasimha Rao was in power and today also it is equally wrong. Sir, when this incident took place, it was for the first time that the Home Minister of India, who belonged to BJP Government, visited Doda to hear the views of the people there. The former Home Minister Mr. Sayeed is sitting here. On such occasions he used to go to London or addressed a press-conference in Bangalore. Today, I have raised the matter because the whole House has consensus that stringent action should be initiated against this militancy. Whether militants are from Pakistan or they belong to our own country, army should be deployed there so that peace is restored.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is my appeal to this august House that we must, first of all, condemn this act of terrorism. The politics can come later. This is a crime against humanity. It is a heinous crime and it must be dealt with very severely. We must condemn terrorism and the sponsors of terrorism. They are trying to foment trouble in Doda district. This is for the third time that they have done this massacre. We condemn this terrorism and the sponsors of terrorism. We must rise against these crimes as one man.

Sir, I want to caution this august House. So many people say so many things about The State Government. This is the primary responsibility of the Government of India to control borders. There was a situation in 1993-94—I single out those two years—when people crossing border were dealt with at the border. What has happened to that situation? How do these people enter into the country? How do they enter Doda district? That is not the responsibility of the State Government. They cannot control the situation with a handful of policemen.

So, I join this august House in expressing anguish against these innocent killings. This is a crime against humanity. Let us condemn this and hold a resolution by cutting across party lines. I would appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he must call Shri Advani here. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs must speak because the Home Secretary has gone there.

So, I request that a Parliamentary Committee representing all the parties must visit Doda to assess the situation there and report back to this august House. In the meantime, the hon. Home Minister should come and make a statement here.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It pains if anybody is killed. Who is killed is a different matter.

This House should be united on the issue of atrocities against human beings. Irrespective of the ruling party or the opposition side. This is the call of conscience....(*Interruptions*). What is happening these days is painful. We used to hear that life and death is in the hands of God but presently this saying seems to be wrong. Terrorists today kill anybody whom they want to kill. A number of N.G.Os have emerged, they talk about the human rights of the killers. But nobody raise voice against the violation of human rights for the persons killed. They have created a peculiar situation. I am of the opinion whether our party comes to power or you form the Government or any other party forms the Government, we should remain united and should suppress terrorism. What is all this going on. This is no way governance. A 'Jehad' is going on. I believe such incidents can be checked if the government is determined. We should act with determination. I wish the Home Minister to make a statement on the floor of the House and should tell us what he intends to do. Such incidents which are taking place in the country hurt us. My heart bleeds over the condition of people living there. What they must be thinking now where will their children find shelter. This is the condition prevailing in our country and we are going to negotiate but with whom shall we negotiate and why should we? We should have the courage. "Lanat hai kamjoranu, Duniya mandi joranu".

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly condemn the killings of innocent people and like to remind that the Government had convened a meeting of Defence Ministry, State Government and Home Ministry and had resolved to eliminate the terrorist elements and the Home Minister of India had announced in a public meeting that the Government, which is not able to protect the lives of the innocent people, have no moral right to govern. I challenge his morality today. Earlier Kashmir affairs was being looked after by the Prime Minister himself, but ever since it has come under the jurisdiction of Home Ministry, the incidence of killings of innocent people have increased sharply. Government will have to tell as to who are responsible for such incidence. When Khuranaji used to be in opposition, he used to be very vocal for Kashmiri pandits whenever such type of incident occurred. Today you are sitting in treasury bench. Such Government should resign and take up the moral responsibility. An atmosphere should be created at National and international level for such incidents after arriving at a consensus in the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

It is most unfortunate that practically everyday these terrorists are playing havoc with the lives of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. We do not know wherefrom these people come and what they do. In order to protect our own people,

[Shri Madhukar Sirpoddar]

what our Government is doing is a very big question. It is a matter of fact that despite providing Border Security Force, Jawans and local police, all these incidents are taking place practically everyday, and we are shouting here. The entire country is very much worried about all these incidents only because innocent persons have been killed in all these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, somebody says that some Muslims have been killed but the Hindus have been spared. My approach is entirely different on this issue. It is not a question of whether a Muslim or a Hindu is killed, whoever is killed within our territory, it should be taken very seriously.

After all, they are Indian Muslims and Indian Hindus and they belong to our country...*(Interruptions)*

About Bangladeshi people, let me tell you very frankly against that the policy of the Maharashtra Government is, if at all they are Bangladeshi people and if they are illegally staying in our country, they should be thrown out of the country. The other day the entire House has raised an uproar and they were shouting about this matter.

I was expecting a similar spirit in the House today when 16 Hindus have been killed yesterday in Kashmir and prior to this, three Muslims were killed. My own contention and anguish is that we should take this matter seriously. Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, who is not here in the House now, was saying that some defence forces have been withdrawn from that entire area and the life of the people is very much under threat. The Government has to come out and say why those defence forces have been withdrawn. Whatever may be the cost, it is the utmost responsibility of the Government, as Shri L.K. Advani said in Jammu at that time, to protect the lives of the citizens of this country. I think that whatever the cost and consequences, eventually this Government should take up this responsibility and see that this should be the last incident and it will not be repeated and those families who have suffered should be helped and protection should be given to those families.

Thank you very much.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kashmir is a Heaven on earth and it is the heart of our country. We are proud of Kashmir. But what is happening in Kashmir today? Everybody is concerned about the matter. I think that we should not indulge in any politics regarding Kashmir. The situation on Kashmir and Punjab borders is very serious. Terrorism is nothing new today. We have lost our great leaders like Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi because of terrorists and terrorism in this country. Now, when our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, went to SAARC, at this time this type of situation

has arisen because of the violence spreading from outside. It is also sad that they want to create some problems and to show to other countries that India is facing a serious problem and that India can be disturbed. But we should realise that Kashmir is the heart of India and the State Government and the Central Government have to deal in a strong way whatever is happening in Kashmir.

I must appreciate this Government that after coming back to power, of course, the Home Minister went to Kashmir along with other Ministers also. I have seen that the Railway Minister, the Defence Minister and the Chief Minister also attended the meeting held in connection with Kashmir and they are planning to do something, but in this matter we should not be divided. I think it is better that the Government should give more support to Kashmir and specially in Doda. So, it appears that some plan is going on to divide Hindus and Muslims. My appeal to all sections is, do not divide us in the name of Hindus and Muslims and do not divide this country by preaching communalism and secularism. Let us give more support to the *Jawans* who are fighting on the borders of this country and who are giving their blood for the country. We have to give more and more support to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government and the State Government should sit together and they should take action.

I am surprised when one hon. Member has said that the State Government there is sleeping. It cannot be said like this because Dr. Farooq Abdullah is a very important man and he is trying his best. *(Interruptions)* He is a patriotic man also. You may differ from me. You do not want to discuss the matters of your State, if they are raised. You want to discuss the matters of other State, if they are raised!

Kashmir and Punjab are the two States where we should condemn terrorism. You should not forget that when the United Front Government was in power, the daughter of the then Home Minister, Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, was kidnapped. This is a serious matter. We should not take the problem of Jammu and Kashmir lightly. The Prime Minister made many statements on Kashmir. The Home Minister should come to this House and make a specific statement. If the hon. Members want, you should send a team to Jammu and Kashmir, along with Opposition Leaders. The Government should accept whatever the team suggests because sometimes we have to arrive at a consensus to do something in the interests of the country.

So, I appeal to the House that we should not divide ourselves especially on the terrorist issue. We have to give moral support to our jawans who are fighting the terrorists. Everyday, they are shedding their blood for the security of the country. But we are criticising here. We have to see to their interests also. We have to see to the interests of the people also.

Regarding rehabilitation measures for the affected people, especially the victims of terrorism, the people who are shedding

their blood for the country, I appeal to the Government that each family should be given at least rupees five lakh as compensation and each family should get one employment from the Central Government. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider this request.....(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, this is the fourth major incident in Doda involving the Kashmiri pandits. We are participating, all over the world, in ethnic cleansing conferences—whether it is in Bosnia or other places. But systematically whether the other communities are being targeted is unimportant for us now. The fact is that the Kashmiri pandits have been suffering for the last ten years. They have been demanding the concept of “Panoon Kashmir” as their only security. I would like the Government to address themselves to this demand of the Kashmiri pandits and also atone for the fact that since they came to power, these incidents are exponentially rising. And for atonement, the Home Minister should resign. That is my demand...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOWDHARY (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not paying attention towards Members of Samata Party...(Interruptions) You are paying attention towards all other parties....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please give opportunity to speak to the leaders of all parties....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Sir, this is a very serious issue. The other political parties also want to express their views. A message should not go that some political party has not supported it. Let all the political parties, which want to express their views on the subject, express their views. After that, the Minister can reply.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister will speak on behalf of the Government.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, any amount of condemnation of this incident will not suffice. I think

this incident should not be linked with caste, religion and Government. It is not that only the present Prime Minister visited the place twice, Devegowdaji went there four times. Gujral Saheb visited five times, and as a Railway Minister I went there on a number of occasions. All these things need not be mentioned here. I support whatever Shri Mohan Singhji has just told and reiterate that the Government which cannot protect the lives and properties of its people have no right to remain in power any more. This Government has failed in protecting the lives and properties of its people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arif Mohammed Khan.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : Sir, thank you very much for calling me to speak. If order is restored, I will speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members not to politicise the issue.

Shri Arif Mohammad Khan to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Arif Mohammed Khan. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is a serious issue. I request the hon. Members not to shout. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, words fail to express the pain and the anguish that have been expressed in this House and have also appeared in today's newspapers about this tragedy. Sir, I believe that killing of an innocent persons is a heinous crime in itself and if more persons are ~~killed~~ is it just a matter of numbers? The intensity of crime does not increase with the count of victims. The crime in the case is heinous because the people who are killed were innocent, they had not committed any offence they were targeted because they belonged to a particular community, a specific label was put on them. The more the incident is condemned, the less it is. But the matter of deep regret is that at such occasions we shirk to take the responsibility. We try to find an escape from our responsibilities whereas some or the other has to take the responsibility for such incident giving the weightage to the seriousness of the matter. If you have drawn a conclusion, that anti social elements are involved, if you have drawn the conclusion that ISI has a hand in it.... (Interruptions) let me complete and if you say I'll sit.... (Interruptions) If anti-social elements are there, you have full

[Shri Arif Mohammad Khan]

control over administration. Use your authority and crush them. If ISI has a hand in it then what kind of Government is this ...*(Interruptions)* I am putting forth the problem which we are facing today. Someone has to come forward and take the responsibility. If ISI is responsible for it, I would like to know whether no security personnel is deputed at the borders? From where do the ISI people come? Are we so incompetent to run the government that if innocent people are harassed and massacred by the agents of the other countries, we could not even bring them to subjection? I cannot help saying so what I want to impress upon is that someone has to come forward and take the responsibility for it. Don't try to find an escape by shooting an arrow in the darkness, who is responsible for the safety of the life, wealth and dignity of the people, this is your duty to look after them. You can take action against such elements, you have the authority and the entire administration and the whole system with you. I don't want to go deep into the matter to know as to who is responsible .....*(Interruptions)* But the tendency of finding an escape from one's responsibility by holding such specific persons responsible, who are impossible to spot and locate remind me of the following few lines which I feel are apt for the prevailing situation.

"Tu idhar udhar ki na baat kar  
yeh bata ki kafila kyon luta  
Mujhe rahjan se garaj nahin  
Teri rehbari ka sawal hai."

Do something, take some action. If you will do nothing, I cannot help paying.

"Main batauon ki kafila kyon luta  
Tera rehjanon se tha wasta  
Mujhe rahjan se gila nahin  
Teri rehbari pe malal hai."

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident on which we are holding a discussion today in the house, is certainly very serious and distressing. With this incident, not only the people of Kashmir but the people from every nook and corner of the country will be in anguish, such incidents are taking place in this country since long. Such incidents are commented upon in the newspapers and are discussed in the House but it is very difficult to say as to how much of the problem is solved. Yesterday, the Home Minister too was expressing his deep concern over this incident. What I believe is that someone's mistake on some or the other situation encourages the terrorists. I was not in this House, I have read in the newspapers that the daughter of the Home Minister of this country was kidnapped by the terrorists and a compromise was made with the terrorism

to get the daughter of the Minister released and they were freed. That incident must have boosted their guts and would have encouraged them...*(Interruptions)* As a poet has said, "Aye rahi Dilli jaana to kehna apni sarkar se, kharcha chalta hath se aur shashan chalta talwar se." I also want to say that only speeches cannot run the Government and so far as the question of resignation by the Home Minister is concerned, Hon'ble Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has asked, as everybody else has asked, for that incidents took place in Punjab in the past. At that time Congress was the then ruling party and Ram Vilas Paswan ji too had been in power, how many times had the people given resignations on such incidents. Therefore the question of resignation does not arise what I want to say is that the Government is earnest and concerned over the matter. A Cabinet team, under the leadership of hon'ble Home Minister had gone there. Government is alert, but I just want to say to the government that intelligence agency of the government has failed, there is no guarantee of safety on the borders, that's why the incidents of brutal killings are occurring there. The Government should think upon it seriously and take some strict action against those terrorists so that such type of incidents may not occur again in the future....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : I also want to speak on this subject....*(Interruptions)* I want to speak after Venugopalachari ji.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virender Singh, please take your seat. I have called Dr. S. Venugopalachary.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. You please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I also want to speak on the same subject.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUDAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : One should also be given a chance. We never get a chance to speak.

*[English]*

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (Adilabad) : Mr. Speaker, it is a very sad incident. It is a very sensitive issue not only in Jammu and Kashmir but throughout the country. In one State or the other such terrorist activity is prevailing. But at this critical juncture, we should not criticise and blame each other. Parliament is the highest body in the country. Most of the veteran leaders have also spoken about this issue. Similar

incidents have happened in the Congress regime also. Then what was the stand of the Congress? When the daughter of Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, the then Home Minister was kidnapped, then you did not blame the ruling party!

So, this is not the situation or juncture to criticise each other. On this occasion, as hon. Shri Jakharji has said, we should stand united. Whenever we face such problems from neighbouring countries or the ISI agents, we should take stern action against anti-social elements.

So, I would request the Government, as rightly said by Kumari Mamata Banerjee, that they should provide the emergency kith and kin of the people who have been massacred, some employment opportunities, and strong steps should be taken to control terrorism. This terrorism activity is prevailing not only in Jammu and Kashmir but throughout the country. In our State, Andhra Pradesh also, the PWG activities are going on.

I once again request that stern action should be taken by the Home Ministry to curb terrorism and the hon. Home Minister may come and apprise the House about the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: The matter raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and many hon. Members is of a very serious nature. The whole House is serious over this issue. Killing of the innocent people should be totally condemned by one and all. Now, I request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : First of all, I would like to say something to Shri Khuranaji....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Please don't speak like this....*(Interruptions)* Now, please sit down....*(Interruptions)* Now he has allowed me to speak...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to let me explain what has been said here.

Three or four items regarding law and order situation on which Home Minister has to reply are on agenda in Rajya Sabha. Please listen....*(Interruptions)* He will give his statements in the house tomorrow. If he would finish his statement today itself he will come in this House today otherwise tomorrow....*(Interruptions)* He is deeply concerned over whatever has happened in Doda but what is troubling me is what Mr. Soz has said. Mr. Soz had condemned the terrorists but our leader of opposition and leader of CPM, Mr. Basudev Acharia had not uttered a single word of condemnation against terrorists....*(Interruptions)* he had not uttered a single

word condemning the terrorism. You read it yourself ...*(Interruptions)*. He has condemned the Government but....*(Interruptions)* listen please.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please let him complete.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You please read it....*(Interruptions)* I am saying because I have been carefully listening.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : It is totally condemnable. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is not the duty of the Government only to suppress terrorism, we should also resolve to work together to suppress terrorism....*(Interruptions)* I have not interrupted you....*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

*[English]*

I am not yielding....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have been hearing the views of all the Members. They blamed the Government. I keep on hearing. I want to say that the problem of Jammu & Kashmir is not that of law and order only. It is insurgency which has not emerged today but it is continuing since long. Union Home Minister and the Defence Minister have visited the site in Doda district. Target of the terrorists is very clear. As a result such incidence in Kashmir valley the Hindus left their homes and settled in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country. Now it seems that their target is Doda and Rajouri Poonch. The terrorists have started their activities by targeting minorities there. Union Home Minister went there and discussed in detail with the Governor, Chief Minister, Army, Para-Military forces and Police. An Action Plan has been prepared to develop cooperation among the said Armed Forces. After the incident the Union Government....*(Interruptions)*

12.43 hrs.

*[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA in the Chair]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is not proper....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is not proper. Now when we are expressing our views you are disturbing us...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : He is reading the statement of the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He may be permitted to complete. Let him complete his statement...(Interruptions) Let him complete first. Allow him to complete.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : After the incident, Union Government and the State Government are taking steps together. My submission is that after the discussion the message should be given that the entire House is worried about the incident. The Government should take steps to suppress terrorism, if there is any problem they should tell us. But message should be given to suppress terrorism. If message is given that you should resign then...(Interruptions) I do not want to go into the incident which took place during your regime...(Interruptions) Mohan Singhji has said that when I was in opposition, I used to speak about Pandits. I would like to say that it was BJP only which looked after one lakh Pandits who migrated from Kashmir valley to Delhi, I want to say that...(Interruptions) We do not express our concern merely with the help of words. We take action also...(Interruptions) As I have said earlier Home Minister will make a statement tomorrow or if there is time then he will make a statement today...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, we challenge the hon. Minister...(Interruptions) Yesterday Advaniji said twice that we are discussing with DG and Para Military forces. It is not good. You are not implementing our policy of unified command and Coordination about Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, you are failing.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have already said that the Home Minister will come and will give the reply of that point...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You are not coming forward with Action Plan...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He will bring it, but will you tell here what you have done...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement tomorrow. Now, I call Prof. A.K. Premajan,  
(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : He should come to this House and make a statement today...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Why is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs making a statement here? We want a statement from the Minister of Home Affairs only.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL

KHURANA) : If the Home Minister becomes free today he will make a statement today evening otherwise tomorrow because he has to attend the other House.

[English]

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram) : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting in the other House, Rajya Sabha. (Interruptions) The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should contact the Minister of Home Affairs and fix the time for him to come before this House today itself and make a statement...(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be permitted to speak. (Interruptions) They are disturbing me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala had given an assurance on the floor of the House that a CBI inquiry will be ordered into the issue relating to wheat import. Nothing has happened till now. It is very important. We want to know what action has been taken so far....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : You have given an assurance and you have not abided by that...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL  
KHURANA) : Sir, the hon. Minister had definitely said in the House that we would hand over the matter to CBI. When I talked with the Prime Minister, he also said that the matter will be handed over to CBI. I would like to tell that the House would be informed about the matter after the Prime Minister comes back in the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : My name has been called but many other hon. Members are speaking now. I may be permitted to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members have given their notices and I am going by the list.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not allowed you. I have called only Prof. A.K. Premajam.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these interruptions take place whenever we are speaking. This is repeatedly done only when women are speaking. This happens every time a woman stands up to speak in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. A.K. Premajam, you may please continue to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : You called my name. He is disturbing. How can I speak now?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not allowed you to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have not allowed you to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : The district of Wynad which is largely inhabited by tribal people is presently connected to other parts of Kerala mainly by the Thmaraseri Churam Road. This road was constructed during the days of the British raj to meet the requirements of those days. Now, this road is not able to cater to the increased requirements of the people. Moreover, every year, during the monsoon season when there is a heavy rainfall in Kerala, due to landslide which has becomes annual feature, this road is blocked for several days together.

Hence, the Government of Kerala proposed an alternate road called Paruvannamuzhi-Padinjarethara-Poozhithode road which goes through my constituency, Badagara, this being the only feasible alternative. This proposal which involves 23.50 hectares of forest land has been rejected by the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

Now, the Changaroth panchayat has resolved to handover 21 hectares of its land to the Forest Department in lieu of the 23.50 hectares of forest land. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India, especially the hon. Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the Zero Hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shailendra Kumarji, you please sit down. His name is in the list.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the Motilal Nehru Engineering College, Allahabad, U.P. On the basis of Joint Entrance Test in the year 1997, 115 candidates of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes could not get the admission. The main reason for this was that Entrance Fee of the All India Technical Education Council was increased from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 35000 and therefore the students belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes found it difficult to get the admission. Even reservation quota could not be filled up. Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Minister of Human Resource Development whether the Entrance fee would be retained at Rs. 3500 as it was earlier or whether he would put a constraint over the provision of All India Technical Education Council to increase the Entrance fee to Rs. 35000, because it will not only devoid many students from getting admission in the Engineering College but the reserved quota too will not be filled up. Therefore, through you, I would ask the Government to give a statement on this subject. Sir, it is a question of the future of 115 students.

I would like the Government to give a ruling over the issue...*(Interruptions)* this is a question of the future of 115 students. Quota is not being filled up...*(Interruptions)* in the Engineering Colleges of Technical Education Council...*(Interruptions)* I would like the Government to give a statement on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a serious matter. Government should give a statement on this matter.

SHRI AJIT JOIGI (Raigarh) : Delhi Administration has issued an order, according to which the girl students of Delhi are not allowed to wear a particular kind of dress, there are not allowed to wear skirts. This is quite a serious matter...*(Interruptions)* As Taliban give orders in Afghanistan, as the terrorists issue 'Fatwas'...*(Interruptions)* Similarly your Government has issued a 'Fatwa' that the students of Delhi would wear a particular kind of dress. This has been bitterly criticised in the world of education. Teachers and students too have condemned it. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here, this type of practice should be stopped...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question that Mr. Ajit Jogiji has raised...*(Interruptions)* What is apparent from it is that some people from the rural areas...*(Interruptions)*



SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I did not get the answer to my question. My question was related to the Ministry of Human Resource Development...*(Interruptions)* Let them answer my question first, yours will be answered after that. It's a matter of Engineering College...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Your question is related to the state, this is the Union Territory.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : My name has been called...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you, you please sit down for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Sir, this is the question of the future of 115 students, I would like the Government to make a statement on this matter. I want a reply to my question, this is quiet a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What will you do if reply is not given to your question...*(Interruptions)*

**12.59 hrs.**

*(Shri Shailendra Kumar then left the House)*

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your kind permission, I want to raise a matter of public importance. By giving a status of state to Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh, on public demand, Government has done a laudable job. But this act has caused to raise the demand for divisions of the states. I would like to place three four points. The people of the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh have planned to stage a protest on the 9th August at the statue of Gandhiji, against the disparagement of their demand for Poorvanchal. People of Bundelkhand  
**13.00 hrs.** are holding a protest for Bundelkhand state. I am distressed that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has put Shankar Mehrotra, an agitator of Bundelkhand alongwith five others behind the bar under the National Security Act. Sir, through you I would like to ask the Government of India to constitute a State reconstitution commission so that these problems may be solved. Justice should be done to the people of these places. Uttaranchal, Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand may be declared states...*(Interruptions)* I demand that the Government should constitute State Reconstitution Commission to protect the interests of the masses of the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begu Sarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of power in the Capital has turned horrible during this summer. This has resulted in allegations and counter allegations. Nobody really cared to peep into the rootcause of the problem. The Central Government did not even care to review its own responsibilities. This is more surprising that no one had casted any aspersion at the Central Government. Less production and wrong policies of the Central Government

had been the main cause of the problem of Electricity. The responsibility of purchasing machinery related to the distinction of electricity, too rests with the Central Government. How can this problem be ever solved if the electricity is not produced to the required extent, if there is lack of necessary machineries for the distribution of available electricity? The issue requires an open discussion. How far has the Government fulfilled its own responsibilities, should also be evaluated. Government should make its policies clear and should come forward with a concrete policy to solve this problem.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maharashtra Employment Exchange was asked to send the names for the recruitment of Mining Officer in W.C.L. Students of Bihar also applied. Many of these students passed the written examination and appeared in the viva voice. 120 persons were to be recruited. 20 of them were from Maharashtra and 100 from Bihar. The recruitment in the WCL should be done on the basis of merit. Government should intervene in the matter and take necessary action...*(Interruptions)* If some particular region is given more weightage, it would give a wrong message to the country. As the appointments were not made as per the advertisement, it lead to the shortage in production and ultimately loss to the Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajgang) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to say some important thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether it is national or international point.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : This is more important than the international matter...*(Interruptions)*. It is being reported in the newspapers that the salary and allowances of Members of Parliament are being enhanced.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is neither an important matter nor a matter of national and international importance.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter pertains to Salary of the Members of Parliament. The Government is taking no action in this regard. The Government should look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I will sit down and will also obey your order but would like to say that it has not been approved by the cabinet after being passed by the sub-committee. This should be implemented at the earliest.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in regard to the questions raised by Shri Jogiji, I would like to say that I was informed that an order was issued by the Delhi Administration in regard to skirt and tie for school going children of Delhi and it was also published in newspapers

today and shown on some television channel. I have gathered full information in this regard. Some people belonging to the rural areas have protested. The matter is under consideration. I have also talked to the hon'ble Home Minister. We will ask the Delhi Govt. to withdraw this order, if any.

SHIR AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonipat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is acute shortage of electricity in Haryana.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.05 P.M.

13.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twelve minutes past fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Sir, I have been giving notices for the last three days to raise a very important issue regarding Orissa during the 'zero hour' but I have not been given an opportunity so far....(Interruptions) There is a famine like situation in Orissa and people are dying there...(Interruptions) The Government is not aware of it ...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should give a fresh notice. It will be taken up tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up the Calling Attention.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, notices left over today should be taken up tomorrow...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give fresh notices and they will be taken up tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Sir, we are not being allowed to speak. Only senior Members are constantly being called by the Chair...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, we want a categorical assurance from the Chair that these matters will be taken up tomorrow...(Interruptions)

14.14 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Tathagata Satpathy came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satpathy, you give a fresh notice today. We will take it up tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak from your seat. Go to your seat first.

14.15 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Tathagata Satpathy went back to his seat.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muthiah, I already told you.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to conduct the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.R. Baalu, you are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, I am informing the hon. Members to give fresh notices again for raising the matter during 'Zero Hour' tomorrow. The House would take up all the notices tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : We are always ignored. I would request you that this is a matter of national importance...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Bhaskar Rao.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give a fresh notice. We will take it up tomorrow. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, why are you unnecessarily raising a point of order? Please sit down. Your name is already here.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My point of order is, when such a discussion on non-payment of salaries and wages to the workers and employees of public sector undertakings is being taken up, the Minister of Labour should also be present in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. He will come later.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Minister of Communications is here. But the Minister of Labour should also be present in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The concerned Minister is present in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about the Minister of Labour?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will come later.

14.18 hrs.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

##### **Situation arising out of Non-Payment of Salaries and other Statutory Dues to employees of some Public Sector Undertakings**

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of non-payment of salaries and other statutory dues to employees of some Public Sector Undertakings particularly Hindustan Cables Limited, Hyderabad and non-transfer of its administrative control to the Ministry of Communications and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : Sir, Government is concerned about the undesirable situation of non-payment of salaries and other statutory dues to employees of sick Public Sector Undertakings whenever such a contingency arise.

The endeavour of the Government has been to ensure that the wages of workers are paid in time. However, at times, despite the best efforts and commitment of the PSE the payment of wages as well as other statutory dues to workers of sick PSEs are delayed. I am painfully conscious of and share the concern of the hon. Members in regard to hardship the workers must be going through as a result of these delays.

It is primarily the responsibility of the management of the enterprise to pay wages and salaries to its employees. Still the Government has been providing non-plan loans to the sick

PSEs to meet their critical requirements, including for payment of salaries and wages to the employees and thereby to mitigate their hardships, when it has no other source.

Hindustan Cables Limited was set up in 1952, to manufacture cables to cater to the needs of telecom sector. HCL has been a supplier of telecom cables to the Department of Telecommunications. Since 1988, the DOT discontinued special procurement arrangement with HCL and starting procuring cables through open tenders. In recent times, the performance of HCL has been suffering for want of adequate working capital and timely orders.

The salaries and wages remain unpaid mainly in the Rupnarainpur unit of HCL. Arrears of statutory dues as on 31.3.98 are nearly Rs. 23 crore. Government is making every effort to resolve the issue.

Meetings have taken place between the officials of Department of Telecommunications, Department of Heavy Industry and HCL for working out modalities for DOT placing orders with HCL and for provision of advance payment. I have taken up the matter with the Minister of Communications.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister of Industries. There is nothing new in it to be noted. This matter relates to the Hindustan Cables Ltd., Hyderabad which is located at Hyderabad. It comes under the public sector under heavy industries. Its business is to manufacture and supply telecom cables. It has been started in the year 1952 and the turnover is about Rs. 600 crore every year. It is such a big industry.

For the past four decades, it has been supplying all these cables to the Telecom Department. Its customer is the Telecom Department and the HCL has been meeting this demand for the past forty-five years. About 5,300 skilled and trained manpower is there in all these three units. Perhaps, the unit at Hyderabad is the main unit.

As a matter of fact, some of us visited the site. The machinery, that is located there in that area is very huge and nobody is using it now. Following the liberalisation policy, the Government is depending on ITA and HTL. They are not giving any order to HCL. So, the company suffered and it defaulted in payment of salaries. Not only the salaries, there are certain statutory duties, for example, PF, gratuity, LIC premia, etc. upon the company which they defaulted. It has defaulted because of the non-placement of orders.

As a matter of fact, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Shri Dattatreya Bandaru, who is from Hyderabad, has written letters to the State Government and the Central Government. He has visited these factories. This has to be taken up by the Ministry of Communications because the main customer of this industry

is Communication, the Telecom industry. So, this may be shifted from the Ministry of Industry to the Telecom Department. I do not know, what objection the Central Government has in this. Once it is taken, the orders will be placed for all these three companies, they will equally share it and see that the company need not be closed.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh represented by the Chief Minister has also written to the Prime Minister requesting that this may be shifted from Industry Department to the Telecom Department. But it has not been done. For the past one month, I have been waiting for this Calling Attention Motion which has been given.

No salaries have been given to the employees. So, I would request the hon. Minister that at least, the Hyderabad unit may be separated from the other two factories. The units at Rupnarainpur and Allahabad are not at all functioning. That may be separated in the sense that it can be made as a separate entity instead of attaching it to these two industries.

Now, what all that we are requesting for is that since the company has failed and defaulted and not paid even the statutory dues, this may be transferred from the Department of Heavy Industry to the Telecom Department.

They will distribute all these things. The facilities extended to ITI may be extended to HCL also. This is a simple request that we are making. They have got 5300 employees. They are on the streets. They did not get their salaries. They got nothing. At least, on humanitarian ground, this request may be considered.

The hon. Minister of Communication is here. Definitely, you can discuss with her and you may come to the conclusion for shifting this company to that Department. Since that is the main customer, we will deal with them. They will pay their salaries and they will be all right. That is the main contention in this Calling Attention. I hope that the Minister will not have any objection to the transfer of this industry to the Ministry of Communications. It has contributed about Rs. 2000 crore to the Central Government by way of taxes so far in all these 40 years. Definitely, the Government has to consider this request. It may be shifted from the Department of Heavy Industry to the Telecommunications Department. The Telecommunications Department may kindly clear of all the dues. That is my request.

SHRI M. RAJIAH (Siddipet) : Sir, the Hyderabad unit is located in my constituency. As our hon. Member, Shri Nadendra Bhaskara Rao has explained, this unit is a very big unit. It is manufacturing cable mainly for the utilisation of Telecommunications Department. About 5300 employees are there. They are not getting their salaries. I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister of Industry. In the statement, it is stated that meetings have taken place between the officials of Heavy Industry and the Telecommunications

Department and they are trying to place some orders and for that they wanted to give some advances. We agree with that. But, without this, it is very difficult for them.

It is already stated in the same statement that it discontinued orders in 1988 and open tenders have been called for. If open tenders have been called for, there may not be any work order for this particular industry. I request both the hon. Minister of Industry and the Minister of Communications to better hand over this unit to the Telecommunications Department. The cable or whichever is manufactured in this company can be utilised only for the Telecommunications Department. If it were handed over to the Telecommunications Department, it will be very good for the employees.

Actually, when we visited that company, we saw machineries worth crores of rupees lying there. They are lying idle. We are not able to utilise the manpower as well as the machinery. We are actually wasting the national property. That is why. I request the Ministers concerned to provide the necessary facilities to run the company. The wages must be paid to the employees immediately. This is my request. I thank you for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Public Sector Undertakings of our country played a very important role to make our country self-reliant. Pandit Nehru used to say that the Public Sector Undertakings are the modern temples of India. Now the Government is out to destroy these modern temples of India by way of disinvestment, by way of privatisation, by way of closure and by way of natural death. There are a number of Public Sector Undertakings, not only in the Ministry of Heavy Industry but also in the Ministries of Textiles and Commerce where the workers have not been paid their salaries and wages for months together.

They have not been paid not for one or two months but even for 14, 16 or 17 months. What has the Minister stated? He said that the endeavour of the Government has been to ensure that the wages of the workers are paid in time. I would like to know from the concerned hon. Ministers who are present here—because this Calling Attention is not only pertaining to one particular unit, but to all the public sector undertakings where the wages have not been paid for months together—what efforts have been made by this Government to pay the wages of the workers and employees of the public sector undertakings.

In the Budget Speech in paragraph 82 of the Finance Minister it has been stated that a provision of Rs. 1,482 crore has been made for non-Plan loans to public sector enterprises for payment of salaries and wages to the employees of sick and convalescent public sector undertakings. A provision has been made. The total amount due to the workers of public sector undertakings comes to about Rs. 900 crore. So, what prevents this Government from taking steps to clear the salaries

[Shri Basudeb Acharya]

and wages of the employees of public sector undertakings? What has the Minister stated? He is only passing the buck to the management of the public sector undertakings.

Who is the owner of these public sector undertakings? The owner is the Government of India; the owner is the President of India. All the shares are in the name of the President of India. So, when the owner is the Government of India what prevents them from paying?

There is a Payment of Wages Act, The Minister of Labour has come here, I am happy. There is also a provision to take steps if there is a violation of that Act. If the Government of India has enacted this Payment of Wages Act, if that Act is blatantly violated by the Government of India, what action should be taken against this Government? This Government is the owner. They have enacted a law, the Payment of Wages Act. Under that Act one day's delay should not be there. The Minister of Labour knows it very well. It should not be delayed for one day even. The Government is bound to pay the wages.

I can give a list of a number of public sector undertakings like the Bharat Process Mechanical Engineering Limited where the workers have not been paid their salaries and wages for more than one year. JESSOPS has not paid them for four months. HCL, Hindustan Cables Ltd in Roop Narainpur also have not paid. I do not agree with the proposal that the Hyderabad unit of HCL because it is a modern unit should be bifurcated from other units. Our proposal is that as the HCL is manufacturing optical fiber and jelly-filled cables and because of liberalisation the policy which has been adopted in 1991 is not correct. We apprehended that we have opened our country to outsiders, the cables are being imported, our Swadeshi industry is being destroyed and ruined by foreign countries because of import of cables and because of uneven competition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not to make any speech. You have to seek clarifications. You know the rules of Calling Attention.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I know the rules. But you may relax the rules or they may be waived for a moment because of the gravity of the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can it be?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, you also know about it. It is in your hands. I am not talking irrelevant points: (Interruptions) The hon. Minister of Industry knows about the problems of the MAMC. The hon. Minister has written a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal suggesting the closure of that unit. For the last five or six months, the workers have not been getting their wages.

I would like to mention something about the Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI). It is a public sector undertaking

under the Ministry of Commerce. I have seen a news report which had appeared in *The Statesman* that four workers had died because of starvation. In spite of the Calcutta High Court's order, the employees have not been paid their salaries and wages for the last fourteen months.

Then, I would like to mention about Bharat Process and Engineering Limited and Refractory Unit of Burn Standard. The workers have not been paid their salaries for several months. We have mentioned this to the hon. Minister. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Then, I come to National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC). The workers have not been paid their salaries from six to seventeen months in different units. The hon. Minister of Labour knows about it. I met him and submitted a memorandum in this regard. The total dues come to Rs. 900 crore. The hon. Minister has expressed his concern, but it has not been implemented. His concern remains as concern only. It has to be implemented by clearing the wages of the employees working in different public sector undertakings. The hon. Minister has stated that the statutory dues of the employees, who have retired from HCL, come to about Rs. 20 crore. The total statutory dues come to more than Rs. 500 crore. The workers who have retired two or three years back are yet to get their gratuity and provident fund money.

The hon. Minister has amended the Gratuity and Provident Fund Acts. Even after one year of retirement, thousands of workers are yet to get their statutory dues, Provident Fund and Gratuity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he proposes to take in regard to payment of statutory dues of these workers. As a result of that, the workers are starving and dying.

Now, I come to H.C.L. It was set up in 1952. At that time, it was a single unit. Then, the Hyderabad, Naini and Narendrapur units came up. There were four units. Because of our sustained efforts, the Ministry of Communications have agreed to place orders to the extent of 50 per cent and paid advance also to the extent of 50 per cent. However, the Ministry is sitting on the file for the last two or three months. I met the hon. Minister of Communications. She told me that the transfer of H.C.L. from the Department of Heavy Industry to Ministry of Communications is under active consideration of the Ministry. Unless it is transferred from the Department of Heavy Industry to Ministry of Communications, the undertaking will not get an assured order. There are some undertakings under the Ministry of Communications. Their condition is better than HCL.

There is an assured order for them. They get orders from the Ministry of Communications. So, I would like to know from

both the Ministers, the Minister of Industry, whether he agrees to transfer to the Communications Ministry, and the Minister of Communications, whether he agrees to take back that undertaking. "Mian bibi razi to kya karega kazi". If both the Ministers agree, there should not be any problem. Sir, you will also like to support their cause.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Both the Ministers are here. They will give the reply.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : So, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is actively considering to transfer HCL to the Ministry of Communications and if so, by when.

[Translation]

SHRI BIKAS CHOUDHRY (Asansol) : Sir, today's calling attention is for drawing the attention of the Government towards wages of the employees of public sectors. The factories under Public Sectors are national industries and labourers of these factories are not getting Salary for the last 14 months. It is stated that these industries are sick. I want to tell you that Hindustan Cables Ltd. is not a sick industry nor it has been referred to the BIFR. There's shortage of working capital here for production. Shortage of raw materials is also there. The Chairman of the Company is continuously requesting the Ministry to provide working capital. The Hindustan Cables Ltd has not paid the Salary for the last five months. Hon'ble member Shri Basudeb Acharia has told about it in detail. Burn Standard industry is in my constituency which has two parts—one is refractory and the other one is engineering. Salaries are not being paid in refractory from the last four months and in engineering, from the last one month. It seems as if some economic sanctions have been imposed upon workers of this industry. These labourers have not come from outside the country. They belong to national industries. We have failed to understand this type of sanctions. A plot is being framed to shut down these industries. This step is being taken out of certain motive. The Government should work for the welfare of labourers. No concrete assurance has been given by the Minister as well. I, therefore, request the Government to pay the wages of workers at the earliest keeping in view of their welfare. This calling attention has been brought forward keeping in view of the interest of the workers.

[English]

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : For non-payment of contributions to the statutory authority, the officer of the HCL is about to be arrested. That is the only thing that I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, I have got all the details regarding this matter with me. But I just want to inform the hon. Members who have participated in the Calling Attention Motion that I share their concern. The Government has inherited public sector undertakings in certain situations. We are trying

to create the best out of it. Concern has been shown about the workers. We are doing our best. I should not stray like my friend Shri Acharia strayed from the original subject of Hyderabad Unit of the HCL.

In fact, I do not want to prolong this discussion at all. I would like to convey to the hon. Members, specially the initiator of the Calling Attention Motion, Shri Bhaskara Rao, that we are doing everything to ensure that the Hyderabad Unit continues and does not go down under. It is all right to complain about things because there is no doubt that things are bad, but we are doing everything to see that Hyderabad Unit of the HCL is saved. Everything possible is being done and considered. I have been discussing things with my colleague, the Minister of Communications and we are looking for a solution. We are accepting that things are bad, but we are determined that we will save the Hyderabad unit of the HCL, the Allahabad Unit as well as the Roopnarayan Pur Unit. The Roopnarayan Pur Unit is over-staffed. That is the basic malady. So, we are ensuring that even if the Roopnarayan Pur Unit is over-staffed, we find out some alternate jobs for the workers. Therefore, the House may please remain assured that we are going to do everything to save the HCL from going down under. What else do they want me to say? We have been speaking generally of the PSUs...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, not a single point has been addressed by the Government on the sick public sector undertakings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not entitled to ask.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Therefore, I think that the debate on this subject should be over after my bringing it to the notice of the hon. Members that we are as concerned about HCL as they all are.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about other units?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : For other units, he has to give a fresh notice. I will come and explain....(Interruptions) He had played far and wide.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order....(Interruptions) Sir, the Calling Attention reads "...the situation arising out of non-payment of salaries and other statutory dues to employees of some Public Sector Undertakings...."

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Whatever you say is accepted. We are doing the same thing about all the units. There are a number of undertakings which have been referred to the BIFR. We are ensuring that a revival package is brought out for each one of them. There are some of them which are facing difficulties, but we are still not giving up the options to ensure that they should be revived.

Sir, we are doing everything to revive this unit.

SHRI T.R. BALLU : But please pay the salary arrears to the employees.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about the payment of salary? Revival is a different question.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, it is very easy to talk about salaries. We have reserved Rs. 931 crore for salaries during 1995-96, Rs. 1,218.45 crore during 1996-97 and Rs.1,106 crore during 1997-98. There are some basic physical difficulties. We are fighting with them and also fighting for the cause of workers. It is easy to make long speeches, but it is difficult to solve all the problems. Still we are meeting the demands.

Sir, I can inform that as budgetary support for the HCL under Plan and Non-Plan, Rs. 0.75 lakh and Rs.16.29 crore respectively have been provided for the year 1998-99. So, it is being looked after. I do not have anything further to say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not satisfied with the Minister's reply. *(Interruptions)* He has not said anything about the immediate steps which the Government is contemplating to take in regard to payment of wages and salaries to the employees.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, I have said about it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, an amount of Rs.1,413 crore has been earmarked for salaries and wages of the employees of the sick and convalescing units. What has the Minister done about it? Is the Government going to clear the wages as well as the statutory dues of the workers? Where is the concern of the Minister for the employees? The Minister is not at all concerned about them.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the other Minister, that is, the hon. Minister of Communications is also present here, I specifically requested the hon. Minister to think of transferring this unit from the Department of Heavy Industry to the Ministry of Communications which is the main customer, so that this unit can be placed at par with ITI, HTL, etc.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : That decision cannot be taken on the floor of the House. But I have already stated that the discussions are on with the Ministry of Communications.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Sir, we made a request to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Communications have said that they are considering it and that they would take a decision soon.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, the Labour Minister wants to say something.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have come late. It is already over. The Labour Minister will say something now. Please take your seat.

DR. ASIM BALA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has not said anything about the statutory dues.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot ask all the questions now. Please take your seat.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, what about the payment of salary arrears?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, this is a Calling Attention Motion and not a discussion under Rule 193. You know the procedure. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear the Labour Minister first.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice. I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have come late. That is your fault. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, I will give you chance later for asking clarifications. Please take your seat.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, kindly assure me that you would give me a chance to ask some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, this is a Calling Attention Motion. You can ask clarifications. I will allow you later. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, about 1,300 workers in Hindustan Steel Construction Limited at Bokaro and IDPL have not been paid their salaries. The Minister has not said anything about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, first hear the statement of the Labour Minister.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister of Industry is not very clear. The statement does not say anything about the transfer of the HCL to the Ministry of Communications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, if you do not cooperate with me, I will go to the next subject. Please take your seat. Now, the Labour Minister will speak.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the matter is indeed serious

in view of the concern expressed over this issue. Our Ministry after assessing the situation has prepared a chart in respect of statutory dues. Statutory dues includes their wages, provident fund, pension and gratuity. We are continuously monitoring the dues and taking action in this regard. The Chief Provident Fund Commissioner and Regional Labour Commissioner look after this. They have stated that the dues of the employees should be paid by the Government. We have already initiated action in this regard.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has stated so against the Government.

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA : He has demanded from the Government. The Government can't go against the Government. We have stated that the dues be paid. We have already initiated action in this regard. A committee consisting of the group of Minister was constituted in 1997 in view of the gravity of the situation but their report could not be presented as the House was dissolved. Our Ministry and Secretaries are drafting a note so that the dues of the employee be paid on time. Such proposal is being prepared. We have already started taking note all those things which have come to light in view of keeping a tag on the situation. We are keeping account of the piling up dues. We have instructed the concerned Ministries to find ways to pay their entire dues on time. A provision has also been made in the budget in this regard. We intend to pay the entire dues which are related to our Ministry and our Ministry will not lag behind in taking action.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the notice for this calling attention about non-payment of salaries to employees of some Public sector undertakings particularly the Hindustan Cables Ltd., which comes under my department, I am, therefore, responding to some of the points raised by the hon'ble Members.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is indeed a matter of pleasure for me that you are presiding now because you yourself have been associated with it and you have raised this matter inside as well as outside the Parliament and have personally met me twice and tried to find out the details. I have made all those hon'ble members aware of the prevalent situation who met me in this regard. We are coming forward to help this company. I even felt that you were perhaps with what we said.

A few points have been mentioned. Whatever Bhaskar Raoji said in his preliminary speech is cent per cent true that the Hindustan Cables used to get orders from the telecommunications centre. But the Government made changes in this policy and during the course of liberalisation cable industry turned into a private company. Hindustan cable is no more a captive units. DOT started placing orders to all. Perhaps it is the foremost reason of this company being sick.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Basudeb Acharia extended support to that Government and will continue to do so in future also and this policy was formulated during their regime. Shri Acharia will agree that the Hindustan cable is not the only unfortunate company which has suffered because of the liberalisation policy due to which privatisation was done and imports were made and orders were placed with the private sector. There are other companies also and hundreds of their workers are in a hopeless situation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Kindly change these policies.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We are already doing that. You will agree when you listen to me. But you extend support to those who pursue these policies and still want to support them if their Government comes to power...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please hear the Minister first. Shri Basudeb Acharia, please hear the Minister first.

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We do not support that policy. We wish that changes be brought in that policy.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let there be no cross talk please. There are many issued to be taken up. The Minister is giving the reply. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether Shri Acharia will extend support to the Government if those policies are changed?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. It is a most important issue that we are discussing now.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Members are not satisfied with the reply given by the Minister. Whether Shrimati Sushmaji is going to talk something different or going to scuttle it by politicising it? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are rising everytime? Please sit down. The Minister is giving the reply.



*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Shri Muttemwarji, I am not talking about politics. Mr. Chairman, I am placing the facts before the House. I do not understand why our leftists brothers do not have the patience to hear the truth and there is no doubt about it that truth is always bitter. But now you will have to listen to me. Why is it so that the Hindustan Cable had to face such a situation? If you expect me to correct it then I will do so after explaining its reasons. When a patient visits a doctor, the doctor first explain the symptoms and reason for the sickness and then only he will prescribe medicines. If you ask me to give medicine without I being aware of the reason for falling sick....*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Are you a doctor?

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, let there be no cross talk please.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have made me to function like a doctor. Before prescribing medicines the doctor advises to take the medicines.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a calling attention Notice that we have taken up. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's speech. There are many issues that we have to take up. We have to take up two Bills and also matter under Rule 377.

*(Interruptions)\***[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Acharia is witness to the fact that so long policies were implemented, the Department of Telecommunications kept on placing Orders with Hindustan Cables Ltd. the company was running in a good condition. Not only the Hindustan Cables suffered but ITI too met the same fate. I can tell the names of many other companies which too suffered.

Mr. Chairman, being a member of 'copu' I have examined this and have been drawing attention towards the reasons for which this company became sick.

---

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is giving the reply. Please cooperate.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I as well as you all know the reasons why did the company become sick. Shri Bhaskar Raoji has said one thing that the Department of Telecommunications has not placing the orders to this company which is not correct. I want to place some figures related to this. The DOT did not stop placing order to this company. The DOT placed order to the tune of 44.11, 64.67, 39.18, 19.98 and 32.77 in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. This is to inform you that this was not an order. The DOT has just helped his company. The DOT made departure from the past practice and even waived off certain conditions which were mandatory for the ordinary tenders. Even they did not insist on Hindustan Cables Ltd. to deposit the earnest money, which has to be paid by the private bidder. In the case of Hindustan Cables Ltd., we waived off the performance based guarantee. Deviating from the normal tender procedure we have placed adhoc order for 9.4 lakh conductor kilometre in 1996-97 by giving 50 per cent advance. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the Hindustan Cables Ltd. has become sick because the DOT has stopped placing orders to it. Rather on the contrary Hindustan Cables Ltd. have not supplied the material as per our orders. I would like to cite some figures in this regard, the supply was 41.81 against orders of 44.18 in 1993-94. 61.94 against 64.67 in 1994-95; 25.08 against the 39.18 in 1995-96 and 18.88 against a demand of 32.77 in 1997-98. Approximately 135 orders were still pending with them. Out of which we have withdrawn one order. Even today an order of about twelve point is still pending with them. I feel that I have certain responsibilities alongwith the Ministry of Telecommunications towards the people who demand telephones from it. Questions about non-fulfilment of demands are also raised in this Parliament. In this context if I say that we could not meet our target because of the fact that we did not receive supply from HCL, will it satisfy the members? If I say that in order to save the HCL we have continued to place orders with them in spite of the fact that we have not got the full supplies then will it not invite C.A.G.'s objection against the DOT and then who will come forward to rescue the DOT? Therefore, we have to maintain a balance. In spite of all these difficulties we are trying our best to revive the Hindustan Cables Ltd. and we are moving in that direction. A high level meeting of the Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Telecommunications has been convened. Even the Secretary of DOT and Ministry of Industries Mr. Shanker and Mr. Gokak personally held a meeting in this regard and a working group has been even constituted. A draft MOU has been put up which is under active consideration of the Department. HCL has been requested to send some information which they have sent. They

have accepted in writing that the advance distributed in salaries out of the advance they received they could not pay for the said materials and hence the supply could not be made. Having all sympathies for Hindustan Cables Ltd. and its revival can it be accepted that the salaries are paid out of the advance given for supply orders and raw material is not purchased with that money and supply is hindered on account thereof. The entire position is before you. I would like to tell you that in spite of all these difficulties. We continue to place orders and as has been stated by the Ministry of Industry later on that it is under active consideration of both of us. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry had come to me personally and a meeting was held with the officials. Basudebji kindly do not get the impression that this issue has been given a go by just in one meeting. Since then four-five meetings have been held. There's no delay on our part but let their be some way out. We are trying to find it out and the DOT is ready to extend all help the Ministry of Industry is intending so that HCL do not become sick and the workers do not lose their jobs. But you will also have to take this into consideration that even today an advance of Rs. 38 crores is lying with them against which no supply has been made. They have given in writing that the entire network has been eroded. We are determined to find a way out. In spite of these difficulties I would request the hon. Members to trust us.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I want to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. The Calling Attention has two parts: the first one is about the salaries, and the second one is about the transfer of Hindustan Cables Limited from the control of the Ministry of Industry to that of the Ministry of Communications. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is over. After the Minister's reply, he wants to seek a clarification. It is allowed? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, you should seek a clarification from the Minister. That is all.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Madam, we were listening to you with patience. You should also listen to us when we are seeking clarifications. You have clarified to the House that the Ministry of Communications has been extending a lot of help to the Hindustan Cables Limited. The Hindustan Cables Limited is one of the best public sector undertakings in the country. But what you have to clarify is this. According to reliable information, before the Ministry of Communications was giving order to all the other manufacturers, it was giving full business orders to the Hindustan Cables Limited. They were very perfect in executing orders and were all right. They were very successful and a growing concern. But for the last few

years, because you are having the open tender system, you could not give full business orders to the Hindustan Cables Limited. Perhaps they were depending on you. They could not do it without your help. But here the important matter is that the workers should not suffer because of the stand taken by you, because of the policy change, and the philosophy which you adopt. Now, what they want is salary and other benefits. When the Hindustan Cables Limited is transferred to your Ministry from the Heavy Industries Department, naturally, it becomes your own pet child. But nobody gives milk to the pet child ! Hence, you should look after the company so that the pet child survives. Then, in turn, the workers will also get the benefits and they will be happy.

The most important thing is that even though the public sector undertakings are suffering, the HCL is doing well. There are some good companies like the Hindustan Cables Limited even though they are suffering. Now, you have to help the workers. I would like to know at what stage the discussion is going on between the Minister of Heavy Industries and the Minister of Communications. Is it possible to shift it? Is it possible to again inject a new life and blood into the Hindustan Cables Limited ? This is my question. I want a clarification on this aspect. This is a part of my Calling Attention. Sir, even though I came late, you allowed me. I thank you for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This part of your question was already answered by the hon. Minister. It is on record. It is over.

Now, the House will take up Matters Under Rule 377.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

15.13 hrs.

### (i) Need to declare Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh as Industrially Backward

[Translation]

SHIR RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Mirzapur stone quarrying has been stopped and all industries including Iron industry and the brass utensils industry have also closed down gradually. Similarly, other small industries have also been closed down. Now the AFIR has ordered the closure of Chunar unit of the Cement Corporation. Mirzapur district meets all the requirements of the 'No Industry District'. This matter has become an urgent matter of public importance because 50,000 labourers families engaged in stone industry and 6,000 labourers families engaged in cement units have become unemployed in this district. I, therefore, demand that the Mirzapur district should be declared as 'No Industry District' immediately.

15.14 hrs.

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]**(ii) Need to ensure implementation of Central Schemes in Chatra, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Chatra and other neighbouring areas in Bihar are not getting the benefits of the Central Schemes. The District Administration is also not paying any attention to these schemes as a result of which hundreds of persons belonging to SC and poor sections of society are migrating from there. There is no progress in the economic and social fields in my area. Due to rampant corruption there is no development in the area. Most of the people living below poverty line in the block are being deprived of the benefits of Central Schemes. Central Schemes are not implemented properly by the Block Development office.

Therefore, it is urged that the Government should conduct an enquiry of the Central Schemes in the area.

**(iii) Need to take steps for early completion of Sardar Sarover Project in Gujarat**

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Jeevadoni Sardar Sarovar Project is a multi-purpose project of Gujarat. This dam on the Narmada river is the fifth biggest dam in the country. This project would benefit the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. With the cost of Rs. 6300 crores this project is to be completed by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. To resolve some of the hindrances in completing the project, a meeting of Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi was held on 12th August, 1995. Therefore, I urge the Government that keeping in view the final decision of a tribunal in December, 1979, the Sardar Sarovar Project should be declared as a project of national importance as demanded by the Government of Gujarat a number of times.

**(iv) Need to treat at par the SC/OBC Certificates issued by other States with Competent Authority of Delhi for Appointment of Teachers by Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB)**

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) had advertised around 4000 vacancies of teachers for appointment in various schools under NDMC, MCD and the Directorate of Education, Delhi. A sizeable number of these vacancies are reserved for SC/ST/OBC. But the DSSSB has insisted that candidates belonging to SC and OBC should produce a category certificate issued by the competent authority of Delhi only, failing which their application will be considered incomplete and summarily rejected.

The people who have come from other States and are in possession of the SC/OBC certificates issued by the competent authority in their respective State and presently settled in Delhi are deprived of their legitimate right to claim preference on the basis of certificates issued under the Ministry of Welfare Resolution No.12011/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8.9.93.

In view of the above mentioned facts and also considering the constraints in obtaining a certificate issued by the competent authority in Delhi for those who have settled in Delhi from other States, the candidates who are in possession of category certificates issued from concerned competent authority in their respective States may be exempted from such a condition that it should be from the competent authority of Delhi only.

I would like to request the Prime Minister to urgently intervene in the matter and see that the application form and information brochure may suitably be amended enabling all those who have secured the category certificate from the competent authorities to get appointment under these categories.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri D.S. Ahire to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member is raising a very important question that the Government is not accepting the OBC certificates of the people coming from other states. This is discrimination and not in the national interest. I associate myself with views of the hon. Member....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : That should be considered urgently....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : There is a time limit also. If the Government does not interfere now, it may be delayed further....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know the rules. No questions can be asked when matters under Rule 377 are being raised.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : If they do something tomorrow, there is no use. There is a time limit fixed. What is the use if we cannot help the people? ... (Interruptions)

**(v) Need to provide Goathan Sites for Tribal Villagers in the Districts of Nasik and Dhule in Maharashtra**

SHRI D.S. AHIRE (Dhule) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the tribal habitants of my constituency. In both the districts viz. Nasik and Dhule which come under my constituency, many hamlets have been

converted into separate revenue villages but many of them have not been provided with gaothans or Government land for construction of the new houses. There are about 25 villages in my constituency, that is, 15 villages in Dhule district and 10 villages in Nasik district which had been declared as a separate revenue village before five to ten years back but the inhabitants of these villages are still living in private land. The owners of the private land are compelling them to shift elsewhere and that is why the inhabitants are facing a lot of difficulties. So, my submission is that these villages may be provided gaathan sites or the private land in which the tribals have been residing for long and may be converted into gaathan land. The owner or holder of the land may be given compensation by the Government.

**(vi) Need to provide environmental forest clearance to road construction projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the said plight of the environmental forest clearance schemes connected with the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for public utility services pending for a long time. In the tribal area of Nicobar District (i) the construction of road from Kamorta Jetty to Pili Pillow lying pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests which was sent vide Administration No.12-9(1)37-89/A&R dated 16th June, 1989 and (ii) operation of stone quarry of NATR (0.81 hectare) lying pending since 1989.

It is unfortunate that in district of Nicobar, which is most undeveloped and hundred per cent population is of the tribal origin, the people are completely neglected of basic infrastructure such as roads in that area.

I would, therefore, like to request you to kindly expedite the clearance of the above proposals so that the people living in that Islands, remote and isolated areas, do not feel aggrieved and neglected. Further, all the time for environmental forest clearance, conditions are imposed to provide equal quantum of revenue land for forestry purposes. It is to be noted that Andaman and Nicobar Islands do have only 14 per cent revenue land and 86 per cent land belongs to forests, and as such, it is highly improper and is impracticable to provide equal quantity of forest land in that part of the country.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India and especially the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, who is present here, to provide immediate environmental forest clearance to the above projects.

**(vii) Need to provide sufficient funds for the developmental work on NH-17 in Kerala**

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pathetic

condition of the National Highway in Kerala especially NH-17 which is passing through the Northern region of Kerala.

Almost all essential commodities are brought from neighbouring States through this highway to Kerala. There are 10 railway level crossings in between Calicut and Kasargod which are causing serious difficulties in passenger and goods traffic. Kerala Government have submitted a proposal to reduce the number of these level crossings to three—namely, Chorode, Pallikkara and Padannakkad. The proposals have already been approved for the development and strengthening of NH-17 in the sectors of Teliparamba, Payyanur Vellur, Cherugathur and Pallikkara. But the developmental work is progressing very slowly.

I request the Central Government to approve these proposals and provide sufficient funds to construct three railway over-bridges. I also request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to undertake these National Highway developmental proposals and provide sufficient funds for this purpose.

**(viii) Need to direct the Ponni Sugar Mill in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu to treat its effluents according to the norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board**

SHRI K. PALANISWAMI (Tiruchengode). Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government a grave situation on contamination of drinking water by a sugar mill situated near Pallipalayam in Namakkal district which falls in my constituency, Tiruchengode.

For many years, the Ponni Sugar Mill has not been treating and disposing of its effluents as per the norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board. As a result, the effluents of the sugar mill have seeped in and contaminated the sub-soil water of the area. Pappanpalayam, Kokkarayanpettai, Odapalli and many surrounding villages have been affected. Since the well water is badly contaminated, the poor farmers and other residents of these villages are put to extreme hardship. There is no safe drinking water in these villages.

In the months of February, March, April and May, the water flow in Cauvery is less. At that time, the Ponni Sugar Mill discharges its untreated effluents into Cauvery river. Since this contaminates the Cauvery water, people are unable to use that water also for drinking.

Well water and also the Cauvery water has become unfit for drinking due to contamination. In view of the seriousness of the situation, I appeal to the Central Government to direct the Ponni Sugar Mill in Tamil Nadu to properly treat all its effluents and discharge them according to norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board.

**(ix) Need to provide telephone facilities in Panvel Tehsil of Raigarh District of Maharashtra***[Translation]*

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR (Kulaba) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kolambe, Dervali, Palspe, Shirthon, Sukapur, Nere etc. villages in Panvel Tehsil of Raigarh district of Maharashtra are in the close vicinity of Panvel town. The population of these villages is about 20,000. Industries are being set up around these villages and the whole area is being converted into an urban one. But telephone facilities are not being provided to the people and as a result of which they are facing a lot of difficulties. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct the MTNL to provide telephone facilities in these villages.

**(x) Need to consider the Anglo-Indian Community as a special category for reservation in Central Government Jobs***[English]*

DR. BEATRIX D'Souza (Nominated) : Sir, the Anglo-Indian Community, after independence, had job reservation quotas in the Railways, Customs and Excise, Telegraphs, etc. These reservation quotas were later withdrawn in 1960.

The Anglo-Indian Community is the only Christian Community that is not caste-based. We are, therefore, disadvantaged in that we do not enjoy caste-based job reservation and admission quotas in professional colleges as other Christians and other minorities.

I request the Government to consider the Anglo-Indian Community as a special category and allow us a minimum quota in Central Government jobs and job-oriented seats in professional courses, such as are allowed under the Sports Quota or the Ex-Servicemen Quota.

The Government may sympathetically consider this demand and restore concessions which the Community surely needs in the light of its deteriorating economic status and lack of opportunity for its youth to get professional education and Government jobs.

**(xi) Need for proper maintenance of National Highways in Bihar, Particularly in Ranchi***[Translation]*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the national highways passing through my constituency. The condition of these roads is critical and there are potholes on them. This results in many accidents. Ranchi and Gumla national highway is in very dilapidated condition. There is heavy traffic on this road. National Highway between Gadwa and Bokaro needs immediate repairs. It is also to be seen that the raw material used in the construction of these roads is not of good quality and therefore potholes are developed again and again.

To provide good transportation facility, National Highways crossing through Ranchi should be repaired using good quality raw material.

**(xii) Need to introduce National Health Scheme for School Children in the Country***[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, despite five decades of Independence, millions of children suffer from avoidable diseases. Half a per cent to one per cent of the children have rheumatic heart diseases, a sequel of simple throat infection due to a bacteria called streptococcus. Eighty-five per cent of the children have worms; twenty-five per cent have vitamin deficiency. It is important to realise that several serious ailments start as apparently minor ailments.

Thus, children suffer both due to poverty and preventable diseases which create emotional, physical and economic problems for the child, family and the country.

We can change this scenario if every school in India is converted into a primary and preventive health care centre, blending education with medication.

In essence, one doctor must attend the school once a week. Minor ailments should be treated in the school premises, with inexpensive drugs stocked in the school premises. One or two teachers trained as teacher-doctors can be taught to identify minor ailments and assist the doctor. Post graduate training can be given to nurses who can be appointed as school health nurses, creating job opportunities especially for women. Donations towards school health programmes should be a hundred per cent exempt from income tax.

The World Health Organisation interest in assisting such a programme. A proposal for such a programme has been sent to the Union Minister of Health by me, as suggested by the famous Dr. Saloma Victor.

As the Corporation of Chennai has implemented this programme, I urge upon this Government to implement this scheme as a National Scheme which will take care of Child Health Care which will ultimately avoid the major ailments.

15.30 hrs.

**INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENTS  
TO SMALL SCALE AND ANCILLARY  
INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

*[English]*

SHRI M. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to support the Bill which is before us, that

is The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill, 1998. This is one of the fine piece of legislation where the hon. Minister has given his thought towards the ancillary units and the small scale industries. Now, the question is whether supplying materials to the mother industries is at the hand of the small scale industries. No. It is not so. The small scale industries are functioning independently. But ancillary units are at the mercy of the mother industries. Whatever the materials the mother industries demand, the ancillary units will have to supply them. They cannot force the payment from the mother industries. For example, in Tumkur there is a HMT factory. It is a mother industry. Nearly thirty-five to forty ancillary units are working under it. They have put some conditions and the ancillary units will have to fulfil them. This mother industry is incurring loss because of the inefficient administration, lack of farsightedness, and for not having surveyed the market, with the result, it is incurring loss.

There is one super mother industry to this Tumkur unit which is owing an amount of Rs. 36 lakh to this Tumkur unit. This amount of Rs. 36 lakh is increase at a rate of eighteen per cent, which is Rs. 6.50 lakh, per month. For the fault of the super mother industry situated at Bangalore, the Tumkur unit is suffering. Nearly, thirty to thirty-five industries have virtually closed down. I personally approached the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries. They have entered into a price package.

The mother industry at Bangalore is not allowing this unit to function independently. In fact, all the units like the Srinagar and Nainital units are combined together. Though the Tumkur unit is earning profits, this unit is made to suffer because of the inefficiency in Nainital and the economic loss incurred in Srinagar. So, what I wish to say is that if the hon. Minister is really very honest and sincere in helping these ancillary units and small scale industries, he must allow these industries to function independently.

So far as the small scale industries are concerned, they are under the mercy of other industries. Though law is very clear and specific that delayed payments shall have to carry penalty, it is not so and it cannot be like that. If the small scale industries do not place an order for the materials,, then what can they do? They are absolutely helpless. So, I think this piece of legislation requires further application of mind and the people who are working in these fields, both in the mother industry as well as small scale industries, should sit together and chalk out proper ways and means so that the small scale industries can survive. If the small scale industries shall have to survive, then the mother industry can also try its best to help them. So far as the ancillary units are concerned, I approached the hon. Minister to give blood and oxygen to these auxiliary units. There is a tussle going on between the ancillary units and the mother unit at Tumkur. I am telling this on the basis of my own experience. We are representing

their cases from both the sides. They have entered into a price package but the mother industry is getting back because it is incurring losses and as far as ancillary units are concerned, they say that there was an agreement entered into. Three or four officers had constituted a Committee and have come to a conclusion. As a result, they are saying that they are entitled for it because the cost of production is high. But, unfortunately, the mother industry is handled by big bosses and the ancillary units are helpless and are in a very bad economic position. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister for Heavy Industries to apply his mind and do justice for both. Merely bringing legislations and heaping them up may not serve the purpose. Somebody was telling that about a thousand and odd legislations, as on today, have proved useless and worthless. Therefore, it is of no use having a legislation which is not beneficial to the public, not beneficial to the mother industry and auxiliary units.

I thank the Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Behrampore) (WB) : Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. It is a good gesture on the part of the Government to bring this Bill for legislation. I am very sorry that I cannot appreciate or accept the statement of the hon. Minister on the public sector undertakings. But, I am happy to appreciate that the primary purpose of the Bill is to give adequate relief to the small scale industries. The Object and Reasons of the Bill is to prevent the delay in payment and to make sure of payment to the small scale industries in time and thereby, to make this Act more effective than before.

Sir, the role played by the small scale industries is highly important for the growth and development of the country's economic structure. I have got with me the statistics taken from the *National Herald*. I would like to quote from it. It says that the small scale industries account for 95 per cent to the total industrial units, 48 per cent of the industrial production, 80 per cent of industrial employment, and 40 per cent of the country's export. Here is the significance and relevance of the small scale industries in the life of the national economic structure.

Sir, I would remind the House of the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had realised the importance and significance of the small scale industries in the life of our national economy. That is why, he had introduced this system in the Second Five Year Plan, that is, 1956-61.

The relevance has been proved. At the same time, we see that the small scale industry, which plays the most vital and important role, has become sick and feeble. This is only due the mishandling of the situation by the Government. I do not want to mention which Government has committed such a mistake. But it is due to the mishandling of the situation

[Shri Pramothas Mukherjee]

by the Government and the Government is a continuous process. So, nobody can deny the responsibility for it. But the main thing is that the impetus or importance given to the small scale industry by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during the Second Five-Year Plan has been totally ignored in the successive years. The net result is that the small scale industries are sick today. I have an account of that. I will place it before you for your consideration.

But we are living in a society which is determined by the market economy. In an ocean, we see that the small fishes are eaten by the big fishes. Similarly, in a market economy, the small industrial houses are exploited by the big monopoly houses. Such thing is happening in the case of small scale industries. Nobody can deny it. This is the vice and curse of the market economy system.

You will be surprised to learn about the gravity of the arrears taken by the small scale industries. The sickness in the small scale industries sector has been so common that even many small units with good track record are viewed with suspicion by the lending institutions and banks because about 2,75,000 small and sick units are already blocking the precious funds of over Rs. 3,550 crore borrowed from the lending institutions. This is the situation. Such huge and precious money of the people has been blocked by these institutions for mismanagement of industries. So proper attention and importance has to be given for revitalisation of the small scale industries.

Another thing is that there is absolute lack of infrastructure. Lack of technical knowhow is one of the reasons for sickness of the small scale industries in our country. Against, non-payment or the delayed payment is the most important factor which has contributed to the sickness of the small scale industries. That is why the purpose of this Bill has been appreciated and accepted by us.

There is a policy directive for composition of Industrial Facilitation Council for arbitration and counselling. That is a good idea. But the entire management of the Industrial Facilitation Council has been handed over to the bureaucracy. It is my humble suggestion to the hon. Minister that bureaucracy is a good and well-knit organisation, but it alone should not be handed over the entire responsibility of this Industrial Facilitation Council. So, I propose for consideration of the hon. Minister and the Government, that it should be decided by the State Government. I propose that the Ministers of Finance of all the State Governments or a representative each of all the State Governments should be the permanent invitees for the Industrial Facilitation Council for arbitration and counselling. This is my humble suggestion for consideration of the hon. Minister.

Sir, only the small scale industries depend solely on agriculture. They are playing the most important role in our

agro-economic structure. I have an account of this with me here and I would like to quote from that :

"The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Industrial Restructuring Bank of India (IRBI) provide the refinancing facilities to banks and financial corporations for financing the small industries sector".

Sir, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to take stock of the present situation. All these institutions, the SIDBI, the NABARD and the IRBI, have given sanction for advancing loans to the small sector industries sector. But, what has been the fate? All these small scale industries—particularly one such industry, namely, IFAKS in my district in Murshidabad in West Bengal, about which I would write to the hon. Minister as well—have taken advance and loan from the cooperative federation, that is from the NABARD. They have embarked on a venture. They have supplied all the relevant papers to the respective higher authorities but their payment has not yet been cleared. That is why, they are suffering now.

So, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to look into all these aspects. With my full support to this amendment Bill, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

\*SHRI K. PALANISWAMY (Tiruchengode) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to bestow my heart-felt thanks to our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi living in the hearts of the masses who had provided me with an opportunity to contest the elections and become a people's representative in this House representing the electorate of Tiruchengode constituency.

I support the Bill pertaining to small scale sector and ancillary industrial undertakings. In India there are about two lakhs and eighty six thousand small industrial units that are sick. Many of them are worst hit and have faced closure. Lakhs of workers and their families are facing several hardships due to their being rendered jobless. We may have to take effective steps not only to revive and revitalise these sick industrial units but also to rehabilitate the industrial workers who are hard-hit. Crores of rupees extended by the Government as loans to these small industrial units could not be recovered. The investments have come to a naught as they are beyond recovery. Hence it has become imperative to streamline the process of recovery while taking appropriate steps to revitalise them. I hope Government will pay attention to overcome the difficulties.

The loans that are being extended by the public sector banks must be advanced as and when they are required without

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

any delay. Such loans should be long term loans with lesser rate of interest.

The members of the Committees that analyse the revival measures must be experienced people from similar industrial background. I would like to point out at this juncture the inclusion of people from the judiciary in those Committees that results in avoidable delays. This in turn affects the industrial units that need immediate attention. Thousands of people are hard hit by these delays. Assembly constituencies like Edeppadi, Sangagiri, Tiruchengode Erode in my Tiruchengode Lok Sabha constituency are having several small scale industrial units. Thousands of such small units have taken loan from the various nationalised banks. Those powerloom units are facing serious problems and are sick. Exportable textiles worth crores of rupees are lying dumped. I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to dispose off these stagnated textile items.

The State administration has let loose acute power shortage to the powerloom sector. This has resulted in rendering thousands of workers unemployed. In whole of India, Tiruppur is the only knitting-industry-town that manufacture knitwear worth Rs. 3000 crores annually. Those units must get liberal loans from the nationalised banks. Sick knitting-industry-units must get concessional interest rates. At times penal interests are levied on them. I urge upon the Union Government to withdraw heavy penal interests.

As far as dyeing industry is concerned, Union Government must immediately provide grants to the public processing units and effluent units. This must be attended through the Environment Ministry at the earliest.

Excise Department puts spoke in the handling of exports from these units. They have to overcome several bottlenecks. The public servants must be cordial in their dealings with these units. They need to have humane approach. The export and remission procedures must be simplified and streamlined in the case of drawback exporters.

Namakkal, Tiruchengode, Sangagiri and Erode in Tamil Nadu are having several lorry and truck transport firms. A good number of lorry owners are spread over there. Three years back an ancillary parts manufacturing unit was conceived to be set up in Namakkal. An Auto Nagar to benefit the lorry transporters there, by way of manufacturing lorry spare parts and ancillary parts, has not taken off in full steam as yet. I request the Union Government to impress upon the State Government to make this Auto Nagar in Namakkal a fully functional one.

National Backward Classes Development Corporation is to extend loan assistance to the needy entrepreneurs through the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Development Corporation. Loans provided to individual entrepreneurs have been enhanced

from Rs.1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. But in Tamil Nadu thousands of such loan applications are pending still. In some cases even after three years they could not get loans. They must get loans at least through the nationalised banks. Appropriate steps in this regard should be stepped up.

There are many steel rolling mills in and around Sangagiri in my constituency. Many of those steel rolling mills have become sick. Most of them have been closed. Thousands of workers have been rendered unemployed. Considering this alarming fall in industrial activity necessary steps must be taken to revitalise the those sick steel rolling mills in the interest of thousands of people who face several hardships. Right measures to rehabilitate these hapless workers are required.

Narasimham Committee has recently submitted its Part II Report. It has recommended to stop extending loans to small scale sector. But I urge upon the Union Government to continue giving loan assistance to small scale industries sector. It is only through this sector you can provide jobs to millions creating millions of jobs. Urging upon the Government to take necessary steps, and expressing my support to this Bill, I shall remain.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : I thank the hon. Minister for having thought of the small scale industries and come out with a Bill to amend the Interest on Delayed Payments. In my view, the Bill could have been more comprehensive and elaborate taking into account several of the problems that are being faced by the small scale industries. Statistics reveal that the small scale industries are lagging behind. In the country, the general opinion about the services that are being rendered by the small scale industries and the small scale industrialists is that most of the small scale industries are a failure. The role that is being played by them is minimal. As my predecessor has said, 95 per cent of the total industrial units are in small scale industry and only five per cent account for major and medium industries. About 95 per cent of the small scale industry is given only Rs. 30,000 crore, out of more than Rs. 2,00,000 crore, lending by the banks, which comes to only 15 per cent.

While Rs. 30,000 crore is the total investment made in the small scale sector, the generation of wealth, or the industrial product, by this sector is 40 per cent of the total wealth. The total amount involved in the sick industrial units is only Rs. 3,000 crore. Even in the nationalised banks, the total debts are 15 per cent of the total of Rs. 2,00,000 lakh crore which amounts to Rs. 30,000 crore. Obviously, the Rs. 3,000 crore locked up in 95 per cent of the total small scale industrial units producing 40 per cent of the wealth is marginal. It is very little; it is no money at all.

Naturally, the Government could have given more prominence, impetus, and support to the small scale industries



[Shri K.S. Rao]

everywhere instead of giving too much importance to major industries. With the multinationals coming in, even the heavy industries are worried as to what would happen to them. If this is the apprehension of heavy industries, what would be the fate of the small scale industries? Obviously, they have to be closed once and for all. The importance of the statement made by the late Nehru that sky was the limit for small scale industries was possibly not realised by many of us.

Statistics reveal that 45 per cent of the total exports is from the small scale sector. I would request the hon. Minister to give extensive publicity in the country, irrespective of whatever has been done in the past fifty years, to the services rendered by the small scale industries, and their potential. Eighty per cent of the total employment generated in the country is in the small scale industries with an investment of Rs. 30,000 crore only. Heavy industries, with an investment of Rs. 1,70,000 crore, could not provide more than 20 per cent of the total employment. By this one can realise the importance of the small scale industries. Yet, we are not looking at them with respect and we are not serving them properly. Even the financial institutions look at the small scale industrialists with suspicion when they are approached for loans. The way in which the loan amount is disbursed leads the small scale industry to sickness even by the time the machinery is installed and production started. Delay of disbursal is solely because of a sense of suspicion on the part of the banking institutions in releasing the funds. This also has to be rectified. This depends upon the attitude of the Government. Under the banking regulations, we are only giving 15 per cent of the total lending to the small scale sector. I would request the hon. Minister to have this 15 per cent increased to 30 per cent. This would increase the manufacturing activity and encourage the small scale industries.

One of the reasons why some of the small scale industries fail is the lack of technical and management skills. Only those people who have got technical skills or management skills should be encouraged. If loans were to be given on the grounds of either political or personal favours, the results would naturally be poor. We all know that there is enormous technical manpower in this country. We are not short of technical manpower. Our technical manpower that has gone outside the country proved that India is number one in this field. Why are we not making use of it here then? Is it because we are not in a position to invest crores and crores of rupees? Do we want only people who can invest hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees? Is there any necessity for us to really attract multinational companies by giving a lot of incentives, neglecting the hoards of technical manpower which is available inside the country and which has got the capacity to produce enough wealth for this country? The Government should take right decisions in this regard and give encouragement to right kind of people.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, we all know the advantages. Coming to the Bill, I would like to say that the overheads are less for small scale industries; the cost of production is less; and it is decentralised. Most of them are located in the rural areas. All major industrialists are interested in locating their industries only where there are airports. Obviously, when there is no decentralisation, there will be accumulation of wealth only in certain areas. If we look from any angle, we know that it is our responsibility to encourage the small scale industries. We also know the reasons for the failure of many of the small scale industries.

We all know, untimely distribution of finance and lack of sustenance are the major problems faced by the small scale industries. If they initially lose, their industry would be closed. They cannot take money from anywhere. Nobody would believe them. Institutions would not come forward to help them. Government will not extent support to them. It is all right. But if they get finance with heavy rate of interest from public, and do marketing, then nobody purchase their products. Everybody will be interested only in major industries. Government will not extent its support. These are the drawbacks of inadequate and delayed flow of institutional credit....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion on matter was to begin at 16.00 hrs. on matter under Rule 193. Only two more members have to speak. If the House agrees, we will take up discussion under Rule 193 after concluding discussion on this bill.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO : Because of lack of infrastructure and marketing facilities, many of the small scale industries are failing. In case, if we were to give adequate support in this aspect, that is, marketing and timely finance, no small scale industry can even fail. They have got skill. They work all round the clock. They are providing employment to their own local people. So, in every respect, it would be a success.

In this background, I would say that the proposal in the Bill is all right. But, I am of the opinion that you must put a time-limit for settling arbitration cases. Why did you bring in the Counsel? We know that there is enormous delay in settling these disputes in the court. If there is no time-limit for settling arbitration cases, then they would also prolong for years.

Firstly, I would request the hon. Minister to bring an amendment for fixing a time-limit for settling arbitration cases. It should be settled this way or that way.

Secondly, a provision has also been made for making payment of interest. It is all right. They may pay interest in

time but when it is delayed for one or two years, by that time, the industry is closed, people are not available. Mere payment of interest is also not sufficient. Either bankers or institutions must come forward to provide a bridge loan till such time the amount is paid by the buyer or extra credit may be made available to them to run the industry. In the meantime, they should be assured of payment. I would request the hon. Minister to include these two things in the Bill.

Earlier, the price preference was given to the small scale industries, it is not being strictly given. Please ensure that small scale industries must be given price preference in selling their products.

I do not want to give an elaborate lecture on these matters, but I humbly request the hon. Minister that he must come up with more provisions in the Bill to safeguard the interests of the small scale industrial sector. The potential of the small scale industries is enormous. We do not require multinationals. We do not need to encourage heavy industries with thousands of crores of investments. We should take care, safeguard, encourage, and give facilities to the small scale industries in this country.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Bill introduced by the Government. In India, 27 lakh small scale industries are there. There are about 1.6 crore people working in the small scale industries and out of that 42 per cent are from rural areas. In total, 48 per cent of the goods are exported.

As far as the small scale industries are concerned, the affected people are the first generation people from some other business, and most of them are from rural areas or from agricultural families or those who are unemployed. Those who wish to start a small scale industry face a lot of problems from the banking institutions, particularly the nationalised banks.

As some of our hon. friends mentioned earlier, we have nationalised the banks but the system has not been changed. The small scale industries are at the mercy of these banks for getting the loans. So, we need a separate institution for the small scale industries.

Now, the multinational companies have started their businesses in our country because of the liberalisation policy. Unless we encourage the small scale industries, the sons of the soil would suffer a lot. Basically, those who start small scale industries are not from the industrialised families, they are the first generation people.

We welcome this Bill because in this Bill it is now proposed to include the public sector undertaking viz., the National Small Industrial Corporation and the State Small Industries Development Corporations. Previously, these were not included in the Bill. This is one aspect, which we welcome in this Bill.

I would like to give some suggestions on the recovery of the delayed payments of interest. The matters that are there for arbitration are getting delayed. There are so many Departments having arbitration proceedings. Arbitration takes more than 2-3 years to solve the cases. Now, the time limit is clear. But in the matter of arbitration, we are including three to four types of people.

Sir, now the guidelines are very clear. One-and-a-half times of the prime landing rate is the basic thing that is required. In the Bill, it has been proposed to have a person from the judicial side to finalise the things as early as possible. It is a welcome measure. It is also a welcome measure to decrease the number of days from 248 to 120. But the buyer should be directed to remit the amount which he has admitted, then only you can initiate the proceedings. We welcome and support the Bill.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Thank you, Sir. It was a long standing demand of the small scale sector. But while supporting the Bill, I would also like to say that the small scale and ancillary units cannot prosper or even be saved by merely making a provision for the interest on delayed payments. Sections 3 and 4 should be more simplified. If we see the Budget Proposals, which are quite in consonance with the conditions of the IMF and the World Bank, we will find that they go against the interests of the small scale industries in general.

The Finance Minister has proposed a reduction of excise duty on a number of articles, particularly on luxury goods which are generally used by the affluent sections of the society.

But there is an increase in excise duty in case of raw materials needed for soaps and other essential commodities which are used in the daily life of our society. If the Government is serious to restore the health of the small scale industries in general, and if they want their proper growth, then, they must bring a comprehensive Bill for that purpose. There are problems relating to the working capitals as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. There are problems relating to the raw materials, marketing, infrastructure facilities, etc. In spite of that, the policy of liberalisation and globalisation has been adopted. Doors have been opened for multinationals through new economic policy. The small scale sector and the ancillary industries have been thrown open to an unequal competition.

So far as sickness is concerned, you know that the small scale sector is the main victim. A large number of small scale industries have been either closed or going to be closed. In case of RIC units of Durgapur and Calcutta, they are facing many troubles. They are not giving salaries and wages. Due to lack of working capital, they are not able to produce any product which is very essential for coal handling projects. The ancillary projects like HSCL are also facing the same problem

[Shri Sunil Khan]

because they are not getting the dues from big companies like SAIL.

Even yesterday, 4500 employees were demanding their salaries from the management of the Bokaro Steel Plant. The Managing Director of Bokaro Steel Plant complained to the DC, Dhanbad, as a result, 4500 employees including the representatives of all the unions of HSCL were sent to jail. This is according to the telephonic message that I received. So, my earnest request is that this should be checked by the Department of Industries.

Again, I would like to say one thing about the Abid Hussain Committee report. What happened to the Abid Hussain Committee report? Why it is not implemented? It should be made clear to us.

What about agro-based industries? Seventy to eighty per cent of the people of India are villagers. So, agro-based industries can provide many jobs to the villagers.

16.13 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

I would also like to say one thing regarding the problem of handloom and handicraft industries. You do not provide any incentive to them. Even if you provide incentives to them, the handloom industries will not be able to compete with the powerloom industries. In my view, handloom industries have no chance of survival against powerloom industries. Therefore, I would request the Government that in order to promote handloom industries, it should come forward to buy their products, and thereafter, the Government should make necessary arrangement for production and distribution. Then only, handloom industries have a chance to face the challenge of powerloom industries. Again, I would request you that you should also provide other facilities to small scale industries, so that the heavy industries do not block the money that flows to the small scale industries.

Due to block by the big companies like SAIL and others the working capital is not being used in their industries. So, the Government have framed a rule in respect of small scale units that their payments have to be made promptly and if one fails to pay no decree or appeal can be made.

I would like to say that the Government should also make some sort of an arrangement to stop those illegal acts by those large scale industries with whom the money is blocked. Attention needs to be paid to this aspect and a provision in this regard is required to be made.

Lastly, I urge upon the Minister of Industry to look into this. I want to tell him once again that by merely bringing one provision for the payment of interest the problem will not be solved.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister for the bill he has introduced for the development of Small Scale Industries. Small Scale Industries provides employment to lakhs of people in the country. Small Scale Industries and ancillary units are very significant for these educated persons who after doing their graduation and post graduation, could not get jobs and want to run their own business. So, I think that there should be provisions in this bill to reduce the interest of the sick industries. Government should take responsibility of marketing of the products of those small scale industries which have been established after taking a loan of Rs. 50 lacs or one crore. They face problem in setting their products in the markets and they are forced to wind up their business merely after six months or a year or two. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to widen the scope of the bill a little more. If you want to strengthen the small scale industries then Government should include some provisions regarding production.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain facilities should be provided to unemployed youths of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and persons of economically weaker class.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something about loan also. If somebody approaches to I.D.B.I., NABARD and Nationalised bank for a loan of Rs. 50 lacs then he is asked to mortgage properties worth Rs. one crore or two crore. How an employed youth can fulfill their requirement? Therefore, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister that Government should consider providing loans without such prerequisites. If government wants to help them then it should shoulder this responsibility. This is a good bill and Hon'ble Minister should consider to make it more comprehensive. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you want to strengthen such industries in actual terms.

I hope that Hon'ble Minister will consider the suggestions given by me. This bill is alright but there is also vast scope to improve it. I do not want to politicise this bill. This issue is also not related to politics. This matter is related to Industries. I want to assure the House that we will support a good bill and we will oppose one which is not in the interest of the nation. We will support all the good works of the Government. At the last I reiterate that this bill should be amended to make it more comprehensive.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the interest on delayed payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill, 1998 introduced by Hon'ble Minister. This is a fine bill and its objective is very good and this bill has been brought for the benefit of small scale industries of the country. Hence, I welcome this bill. Most of the Members of the House have supported this bill collectively. Actually this

bill should have been brought long back and passed if we see the purpose of Government behind this bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the condition of small scale industries in the country is not good today. There are several reasons. If the earlier Governments would have been paid proper attention towards small industries, then small scale industries would have developed, a lot but due to the policies adopted by the congress government regarding small scale industries many people from rural areas are shifting to big cities like Delhi and Calcutta. Congress is responsible for the condition of small scale industries today and for the migration of people from rural areas urban areas and all there have happened due to their wrong policies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the governments of our country have promoted big industrialists and capitalists and they never formulated any comprehensive policy for small scale industries as a result cottage and small scale industries of the country lagged behind. Big capitalists and industrialist have been extending support to political parties in contesting election and in return political party have been protecting their interests. It is a matter of concern that 4 lacs small industries are lying either sick or on the verge of closure out of a total of 30 lacs small scale industries of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, government should be congratulated for the bill introduced in the House by Hon. Minister and this step should be welcomed. 20% capital is invested in the Small Scale Industries of the country which provide employment to 80% of people. Today about 5 crore people in our country wandering in urban areas for job. There are 3 lac unemployed youths registered in the employment exchanges. The Government is unable to provide them employment. Had there been a correct policy for promotion and development of small scale industries would have been framed then the number of unemployed persons would not have been so large. Hence I urge that large scale industries should not be allowed to manufacture the items being manufactured by small scale industries. If the items manufactured in small scale industries will have to compete with the goods manufactured by the large scale industries then it would be difficult for small and cottage industry to grow.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to urge the government that small scale industries should be provided electricity, water, raw material and other inputs on cheaper rates and government should make proper arrangement for the marketing of goods manufactured by small scale industries. If the objective of government to bring this bill is achieved. I am sure small and cottage industries would prosper a lot and a number of persons will get employment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the subject of discussion is small and cottage industries I feel it necessary to say something about Ferozabad which is my parliamentary constituency. There

are 500 small scale industrial units in Ferozabad providing employment to 40,000 people. Japan is most successful country in the world in the field of small and cottage industry. Where electronic goods are being manufactured in small scale and cottage industries and being sold all over the world very competitively. There are all types of arrangements and facilities for large scale industries in our country but small scale and cottage industry do not have such advantages I requested the hon. Minister to give more importance and assistance to small scale and cottage industries. All facilities should be provided to such industries. As you had allowed me two minutes time and honouring your that order I once again want to say to the hon. Minister, if he could make some arrangements for these industries then the migration of rural people to Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai will stop. They will get employment and starvation and unemployment prevailing in country will also be checked.

In the last I want to say to hon. Minister that we support the bill introduced by him.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill tabled by the hon. Industry Minister, wholeheartedly. The reason for my doing so is that this is an entrepreneur-friendly Bill. Besides, this is a Bill to further encourage and strengthen the small-scale industries.

The main purpose of this Bill which the hon. Minister has laid, is that there was an existing Act called the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993, but that Act had become practically infructuous; that was not effective. Therefore, to make it more effective and to enable the small scale industries to sustain themselves, this Bill has been brought by making certain amendments in the existing Act. The object of this Bill is to help the small scale industries in order to save them from sickness.

Sir, you will see that corporations and public sector undertakings were not covered within the ambit of the previous Act. But now the hon. Minister has brought this Bill by which the corporations also are covered within its ambit, thereby helping the small scale industries in selling their products and improving themselves.

It has been seen that most of the small scale industries in various States completely depend upon the public sector undertakings, such as, the Electricity Boards, Power Grid Corporations and various other public sector undertakings which are there in various States. So, by introducing this Bill, the Minister has given boost to the small scale sector.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that in States like Orissa and other backward States, most of the small scale industries have become sick today, the reason being delayed payments.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Though they supply the goods, they do not receive the payment within the stipulated period of 240 days or 260 days. This period has now been brought down to 120 days, which shows the sincerity of the Government.

In the last 50 years, so much boost has been given to small scale industries but that was only on paper. In actual practice, the Act was never implemented. But today, whatever has been shown in the National Agenda, that has been clearly tabled in the House, and this will go a long way in strengthening the small scale industries and the *Kutir udyog*.

Besides this, I would like to say that in Clause 6 of the Bill, there is a mention of the establishment of an Industry Facilitation Council in every State. I hope, by this, the industries will get their due.

You will also see, Sir, that thousands of industries are registered under EPM rate contract. There are thousands of industries covered under the Small Scale Industries Corporation, but when they want to get raw material, they do not get it. In the EPM rate contract, it is provided that their articles will be given price preference over other industries, but that is not followed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You are going beyond the scope of this Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : So, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. This Bill will definitely facilitate the small scale industries to a greater extent and strengthen them in various parts of the country.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening to the views of the Members on this Bill since yesterday. I have nothing to say except giving thanks to all for the support they extended to this Bill. The Bill has received universal support. Only one Member has said that this Bill is not comprehensive. I was listening him attentively and was expecting some specific suggestions from him in this regard. While indicating towards some flows Shri Sunil Khan said that efforts could have been made to make section 3 and 4 comprehensive to some extent. It cannot be denied that a lot of importance has been given to small scale industries because it enjoys a special status in the economy of India, hence it should be provided with all possible incentives, assistance and protection. This Bill is mainly on the lines of the Bill introduced in 1993. It has been brought since it was felt that some scale industries are not getting the payment of the goods they supply to big industries on time. Industries do have limited capital. Shri Mallikarjunaiah had said that small industries should be independent. He spoke about ancillary industries also. It is altogether a different issue and not in consonance with the objective with which we have

brought this Bill. The main objective of bringing this Bill in 1993 was that small scale industries may get payment of their products on time but that purpose could not be achieved, hence this amendment Bill has been brought to overcome the drawback. Therefore, this Bill is not independent one and this has been brought in the form of an amendment to the Bill of 1993. This has been brought to amend four sections. It is proposed to amend the definition of supplier in Section 2(F). There is a proposal to amend section 3 to reduce the payment period to 120 days....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : If the payment is not made within 120 days, there is no penal provision for that.

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT : An amendment in this regard is proposed in Section 4.

[English]

The change in interest rate policy was necessitated to determine the penal rate of interest at one and a half times of the prime lending rate of the State Bank.

[Translation]

This is one and half time of the prime lending rate of State Bank of India. There is mention of Facilitation Committee in Section 6. It has been often said this matter of delayed payment can be taken up in the facilitation council. There decision should be time bound. The main purpose of setting of this institution which I have kept before me and which is basic also that the relation of small scale industries with big industries to which they supply their products should be congenial.

What is more painful in this regard is that big industries get supplies from small industries on the one hand and on the other hand they take undue advantage also because if they want to supply their goods to big industries then they have no option but to approach them keeping it in mind that they have to supply goods in future also, we have tried to improve the relations between small scale industries and big industries. Hence we have talked about conciliation at first. It will take time.

But so far as possible it should not reach the point of dispute, instead it should improve the situation. The concept is that problems being faced by them in improving the relation between the two should be removed. Where we have talked about conciliation, if conciliation does not take place the conciliation committee will automatically convert into arbitration committee. Therefore, I would like that Hon'ble Members should keep it in their minds.

There has been a mention about making it time bound or fixing a time limit in this regard. We are trying to maintain

good relations between small scale industries and big industries. So that the business may not suffer between the two. One more thing was also said in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO : What about the time limit for arbitration?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : It is not a matter of time limit for arbitration our first move is concerned to conciliation and our basic approach regarding all problems is that we want to maintain relations between small and big industries, but taking the ground realities into account we have tried to provide facilities so that small scale industries may not face financial crunch.

There was some scope in the earlier 1993 Act that these people could take recourse to the court. Since it but the litigation carries on for years together and small scale industries due to lack of funds not keep on fighting these cases as well as sustain their institutions. We have tried to take care of these things. I have also mentioned about the delays and time bound programme.

Another point mentioned was about Judges and Bureaucrats. I will request that first of all it should be understood.

*[English]*

As per the proposed amendment Bill, the Director of Industries is only one of the member of the facilitation council.

*[Translation]*

Committee is not alone but the representatives of industries and the representatives of financial institutions are also with it. So the purpose is not to bureaucratize it. Representative of Industries is associated because he would be aware of the basic requirements of the Small Scale Industries as well as of the big industries. Therefore, by appreciating the requirements of both he can conciliate at the earliest. Besides, if the Director of Industries will be at the helm of affairs he can exert pressure too if such need arises.

Perhaps, Ram Sahib has mentioned about price preference. Government gives 15 per cent price preference to the goods purchased from S.S.I. units in comparison to large-units. There is a mention about price preference in it.

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : You are talking more on the relation between the supplier and the buyer. But the very same House had passed a Bill to the effect that if the cheque given by a purchaser is dishonoured, he would be

arrested. So, he is making payment because of that fear. This Bill will become ineffective if there is no fear on the part of the buyer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: There is lot of scope for fear in it. I cannot say that this committee is the last word and there is no scope for further improvement. But with our experience of last five years we can think that how can we provide more teeth to the Act of 1993 and make more effective. We hope the outcome would definitely be better.

Yesterday I felt that since all the members have extended their support to the bill. I have to thank them and need not add anything more. We are constantly trying to solve the problems of Small Scale Industries which have been mentioned here, because we believe that Small Scale Industries are the backbone of the economy of India. If Small Scale Industry is not saved then we would not be able to save Indian Economy. Efforts are still being made. The points that have been emphasized by the hon. Members are being taken care of by the Government. So, I therefore request the Members to pass the Bill.

*[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I just want to ask one question. Is there any proposal on the part of the Government to de-reserve any of the industries which are reserved for small scale industries?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, the question has gone out of the scope of the present Bill. But it does not matter. I will reply to you. This is your view of de-reservation and it has been the view of other organisations too. But the small scale industries are not interested in getting any item de-reserved.

DR. SAROJA V. (Rasipuram) : Sir, this Bill does not say anything about the revival action plan for all the sick SSIs. The reason being the lack of coordination between entrepreneurs, District Industry Department, financing institution, buyer and seller. Will the Government come forward to fix the responsibility of the loss borne by the company to be shared equally by the financing company, the District Industry Department and those who are involved in this?

Secondly, to encourage women entrepreneurs, the single window system is not properly implemented. Will the Government take any action regarding this?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman. Sir, the hon. Minister has already expressed his concern for the small scale industries and has taken up a commendable step

[Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria]

therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government would make arrangements to provide raw material, water and electricity and link roads in all the states and cities of India where a number of Small Scale Industries are being run with a meagre capital of Rs. 500 so that Small Scale Industries are able to carry on with their function of production and supply smoothly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This Bill concerns only with penalising the bankers.

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I have understood the question that has been raised by the hon. woman Member. But I have not followed the later part. However, the question of revival is not related to the present Bill. But I would like to assure the hon. Member that 63 of 64 units have been mentioned to the B.I.F.R. Government is making all out efforts and B.I.F.R. is also making effort to prepare a package of their revival. Because we know that a number of employees are rendered jobless if a unit is closed. Therefore, we do not want to leave an option. Efforts will be made to revive a sick industry at any cost.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : My submission is that attention should be paid towards the sick unit of Agra-Firozabad because it is equally important.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : There is a sick unit in Ghaziabad also....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Sir, a large number of sick industries are in West Bengal. I would like to mention that there are 95,000 sick industries in West Bengal. ....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I would like to know from Mr. Chairman that whether I should attend to each Member separately or should reply only after listening to all the Members what am I supposed to do?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause b, clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"The 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 SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, I beg to move:  
That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up the discussion under Rule 193. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : Sir, what about the second Bill? Are we going to sit even after six o'clock?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : We will take it up later. The time for this discussion has been fixed at four o'clock, and there are only two speakers to raise.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : I am not objecting to the discussion under Rule 193. I am just asking the Chair whether we are going to extend the time after six o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we will take up the Bill after six o'clock.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, that we will decide at six o'clock....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : Yesterday also, you did the same thing.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We will decide at six o'clock. Let him continue now.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : Yesterday also, you did the same thing.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : What do you mean by that? We have not decided to sit beyond that time.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : Yesterday also, you have not cooperated with us.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Please understand that you are talking in the House. You have to have some responsibility. This is not the way. What is this? You are allowing the Minister to make such a reference!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : In the List of Business, my Bill has been listed....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Why do you interfere? What right do you have to interfere? It is not your duty to interfere in other's business. If the Minister is mentioning my name, then I have got the right to speak. It is not your business. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should not allow the Minister to make such a reference.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : I have not made any reference about your name.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : What kind of a reference he is making? What is this?

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : Yesterday, we have not extended the time. That is why, today, I am asking the Chair whether we are going to extend the time or not.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, I am going to raise a more important matter than this. Will you pay your attention to that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said that if the House permits, we will sit after six o'clock. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita.

16.49 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Situation in North-Eastern Region Due to Insurgency

*[English]*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, whenever a discussion on the North-East comes up in this House, we have to either shout or bring out heart out. Otherwise, we are derailed somewhere. I hope, Sir, that this discussion will get its due seriousness from both the Benches as well as from the Ministry.

This discussion is warranted because of the present situation prevailing in North-Eastern region of this country and it will be more fruitful and will project the true picture of the situation, if we go by the Government statistics that have been given of the terrorist and extremist attacks in that region.

In one year alone, that is, in the past year, 1997 the number of extremist and terrorist attacks were as follows:-

Assam	427
Manipur	415
Nagaland	380
Tripura	303
Meghalaya	9
Arunachal Pradesh	27

We can see that even in Meghalaya which used to be a very peaceful State, the number of extremist attacks went up to 9.

The number of persons killed during this period, 1997 as was given by the Government itself, are as follows:-

State	Civilians	Security Forces
Assam	758	244
Tripura	554	115
Nagaland	316	111
Mizoram	4	—
Manipur	533	240
Arunachal Pradesh	8	—

This shows the tense situation prevailing in the North-Eastern region.

The whole of North-Eastern region has 4,500 kms of international border with countries like China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, as against that, only 42 kms with the rest of India.

If we see the present situation, a number of insurgent groups are working in Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram, and they have almost entered into every State which used to be very peaceful at some point of time. If we see the history of insurgency, it started in Nagaland as early as 1953 and in Mizoram as early as in 1966.

The subject of how such a serious situation developed in the North-Eastern region is a matter of discussion which had taken place at different forums as well as in this House.

Earlier, the whole of the North-Eastern region formed one single State and that was the undivided Assam. If we analyse the situation and try to find out where we are lagging behind, why this insurgency had taken place, and why these extremist movements are there, we will see that it is because of the feeling of alienation, the feeling of being swarmed by people from outside the area and also due to economic backwardness which is the most important problem.

To consider the economic backwardness, several Committees have been formed. But if we see the progress



[Shri Bhubneswar Kalita]

of the implementation of the recommendations of those Committees, the responses are very very lukewarm. If we consider the field of agriculture, this area is basically an agrarian area. But even after so many years of our planned development, agriculture has not developed the way it should have been developed or as it has been developed in other parts of the country. If we see the picture of industrialisation of the region, we are lagging behind all the other States of the country. The region has about 166 large and medium industries and a few thousand small-scale units, 50 per cent of which are sick. If we see the infrastructure facilities, you can realise the position only if you visit those areas. If we see the power situation, Roads and the railway network, the lack of development of these infrastructure facilities has become the main hindrance for the development of the entire region.

We discussed insurgency many times. If we are to discuss the insurgency problem, we cannot discuss insurgency minus development because economic development is the main issue which is connected with the insurgency movement. Somewhere, we have reached a vicious circle. We say that there is no development and that is why there is insurgency. The other way of saying is because there is insurgency, there is no development. So, we have to come out of this vicious circle and think in a new way as development is the answer to tackle the insurgency problem.

The insurgency groups are mainly youths and students. Why is it so? The youths and the students have taken to this way of life. Why have they gone to take to that path? If you see the unemployment problem in that part of the country, there is rampant unemployment of the young people. The lack of job opportunities and the lack of technical and other educational facilities have contributed to the growing number of unemployed youths every year. It is not only that. From time to time, a number of Committees have been appointed. From time to time, a number of Prime Ministers have visited that area. A number of packages have been announced. We welcome those announcements. Our former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deva Gowda announced an economic package of Rs. 6,100 crore.

17.00 hrs.

Subsequently, our former Prime Minister Shri Gujral had announced a package of Rs.112 crore for infrastructure development. But I am sorry to say that a little has been done to implement those packages. Even the present Prime Minister, Hon. Shri Vajpayee, had also announced a package at the time of Bihu Festival in the month of April. Subsequently, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Shukla, Member, Planning Commission was appointed. The Committee had given its Report. The Report had suggested ten per cent deduction from the Central Budget for the development of the

North-Eastern region. I am sure, the present Government would take immediate steps to implement those recommendations.

I hope, that the Government is aware of the requirements for the infrastructure development of the region to bring it on par with the rest of the country. One single most important point is, how to bring these insurgent groups to the negotiating table. We have seen the newspaper reports about the announcements made from time to time by the Home Minister and by some other Ministers saying that they have established contacts with the insurgent groups to bring them to the negotiating table. Now, we want to know as to what is the progress made in this regard. We firmly believe that a pact or a secret pact cannot solve the insurgent problem in the North-Eastern region. Now is the time for the Government to come out with a definite agenda to negotiate with the insurgent groups. The agenda should not be a secret one, but the agenda should be known to the country and to this House. I want to know what progress has been made in bringing them to the negotiating table.

The Defence Minister had announced on the 5th of April that the Central Government had taken certain measures by which the insurgent groups would shortly come to the negotiating table. For that purpose, a cease-fire has been declared between the Central Government and the underground organisations in Nagaland. Later on, we also saw the newspaper reports about the appointment of an emissary to negotiate with the insurgent groups in Nagaland. I want to know what is the progress in that regard.

Sir, as I have said, the main issue before us today is 'development'. Minus economic development, I do not think that insurgency can end. So, it is my humble submission before the Government. As a right of Member of this august House, I want to know as to what action the Government is taking in dealing with this situation in the North-East.

To my mind, if we go by only one way, I do not think, we will get good results. We have to take two lines together at a time — the 'development' as well as 'negotiations with the insurgent groups.' If we proceed parallelly, I think, we can reach our goal. So, we want a categorical response from the Government in this regard. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation in the North-Eastern region due to insurgency is getting to a serious deterioration. The ethnic conflicts often become violent and it is increasing to help the ethnic division more gravely with the incidents of insurgency attacks and threats.

In the national daily *The Hindu* of 26th July, 1998 it has been reported and I quote:

"Seven Santhals were gunned down and 21 injured when a group of NDFB militants entered the Tilapara Relief Camp

at Chharalikhola village under Kokrajhar P.S. of Assam and started firing indiscriminately on 24th July, 1998. The dead included a Two-and-a-half years girl, three boys aged 7, 10 and 14, and a 55 years old woman."

The report tells that the ethnic cauldron continues to boil in the trouble torn Kokrajhar district. After the incident, the police and CRPF party came under heavy sniper fire, next noon from the NDFB militants and they could escape, fled away inside jungle.

The reports on incidents of insurgency and counter-insurgency are generally not much different from others, as recently occurred in different parts of the region.

Sir, this is the development after 50 years of our Independence that such genocide carried out against a minority ethnic group! It is a recent phenomenon, and now, it has become a regular phenomenon in the North-Eastern region.

It is the information from different sources that after the ethnic clashes in 1996 which had killed over 200 tribals, the Santhals in that locality formed their own armed group. The ethnic relations strained between Bodo and the others. The Santhals were working in the tea garden areas since more than 100 years in search of jobs, new families migrate often to Kokrajhar villages. Besides the Santhals, other minority groups like Nepalis, Koch, Rajbongshi and religious minority Muslims come from different regions for settlement. All the minorities are threatened and have started migrating again to parts of West Bengal.

The tension aggravates the situation. Almost all land and rail connections to the North-East region run through the Bodo dominated areas. As has happened in the past, if the violence in Kokrajhar goes unchecked, they can block the routes. The issue of major security is linked to the communication and development of the entire region.

Excepting only the two States, Assam and Tripura, the rest of the States in the region are dominated by tribal people. Tripura was once a tribal majority State. It was also one of the princely States before Independence. It has turned to a change with an adverse ethnic relation position of thirty per cent tribal minority. The ethnic problem in this State has become the central issue of all political and economic activities and also social services. Militant groups with their separatist policies and their insurgency activities were reportedly mainly concentrated in Tripura, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. But recently, we are getting information and reports from different sources that in Meghalaya the members of the underground outfits like the ULFA, the RYKL, the BLTF, the NSCN and the ANVC have sneaked in from Bangladesh and set up their militant camps in areas lying between the Bangladesh border and South Mongston in Sonapahar, Shillong and Rangeng Road. The Government of Meghalaya is aware of this.

The whole North-Eastern region is now a beehive of some seventy highly motivated insurgent organisations which have pinned down about two lakhs of our military and paramilitary troops engaged in counter-intelligence, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations. The Pakistani Inter Services Intelligence plays a commanding role in launching and supporting the anti-India terrorist groups whose aim is to destabilise and weaken this country.

The preponderating issue in the present day situation in the region is whether insurgent groups like the ULFA, the NSCN, etc. have lost their political ideology. They are still a medley of gun-wielding warlords who have been inspired by the ISI to strike terror. Money is no problem for them. For, they loot the banks or amass it by smuggling drugs cultivated in plenty in the golden triangle of Burma, Thailand and South China. They have easy access to the market of sophisticated modern weaponry. They are encouraged by the power monopolies of the world and the leaders of arms and weaponry.

The imperialist forces that are backing them are not onlookers.

Today, imperialism seeks to evolve a new international order politically, economically and militarily in order to strengthen their hegemony and perpetuate the system of intense exploitation. They have kept their intelligence organisations engaged. Secessionist demands are encouraged. Coordination meetings of different insurgency outfits outside India are reported. Independence Day, the 15th August, 1997 was boycotted unitedly by NSCN, ULFA, NLFT and others. They observed that day as black day with an open call against India. While South Asia has been in the midst of a crisis that threatened the society, development models once pursued have served only to perpetuate poverty and give rise to conflicts and disparities. The danger to India should have to be assessed at the proper time and this is the time when the Central Government should not stop.

Tripura has 839 kilometres long porous international border with Bangladesh. It has not been sealed as yet. The NFLT has set up their militant camps across the borders at Zamtali, Ojanchali, Lalu, Nidenpara, Gilpal of Khagreichari District of Hill Chittagong within Bangladesh. Srimangal on the West of Tripura across the Indo-Bangladesh border is also a permanent hideout with their established camps. From there they are attacking Tripura. Tea gardens of Satchali, Nalua, Rema, Debrabali are being used for permanent training of militants inside Bangladesh across the border set up by the Tiger Force.

A good number of AK-47 and AK-56 rifles are being used by the extremists. It is learnt from different sources that sometimes they are holding more than hundred AK-47 and AK-56 rifles which they use against the common people in order to terrorise them. Those who oppose them, those who fight for national unity, integrity and sovereignty are being

(Shri Samar Ghoshdary)

targeted. The leaders of the democratic movement are being targeted. NSCN, ULFA, PLA and all other outfits are now jointly operating from their camps. Recently, they have increased their attacks against the Ministers, MPs, MLAs and the Government officers. One Minister was killed. It was reported in the Parliament also. He was the Minister of Health. He was elected only recently, a few months back. The son of Bajuban Riyan, MP was kidnapped. It was also reported here. One MBBS doctor from the Sontibazar hospital was kidnapped. All of them are kept in captivity by the extremists. They could not be rescued. The Left Front Government in the State have taken all possible steps by counter-offensive operations against the insurgents.

A political offensive against the insurgents to isolate them from the common people has achieved a momentum. The Central Government was requested to deploy adequate armed force personnel and Assam Rifles to strengthen the counter insurgency for action under a time bound programme. But the Central Government did not take the proposal seriously, rather two battalions of Army had been withdrawn recently and after that the insurgency operations had gained momentum.

Sir, the policies of power-sharing arrangement based on ethnic group rights and the devolution of authority to lower levels of Government, proved to be most successful in containing the ethnic discord and violence. When there is ethnic tension, the Government should firmly stand for the protection of minorities. The Left Front Government had achieved the confidence of the people in dealing with complicated ethnic relations in the State. Democracy in the State is now more strong with participation of weaker sections and backward classes.

Sir, the Tribal Autonomous District Council under the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution has been firmly protected and strengthened with all help and assistance from the State Governments. The tribal groups demand for inner line permits within the area of Autonomous Council which was supported by the State Government had been sent to the Central Government for final decision which is still pending with them.

The Tripura Chief Minister has noted immediate help and assistance from the Central Government, and demanded a modest action and positive consideration from the Prime Minister. The 14-point demand are:

- i) the lack of security forces needs urgent augmentation. There is need for more Army/units of Assam Rifles to tackle insurgency in the State;
- ii) there is need for a senior officer of the rank of Major-General of the Army to be stationed in Tripura to conduct anti-insurgency operation;

- iii) the border with Bangladesh needs to be manned by adequate strength of BSF. Presently available BSF is less than even the inadequate sanctioned strength;
- iv) immediate sanction and construction of border-fencing on Tripura-Bangladesh border by a Central agency;
- v) completion of border road along the Tripura-Bangladesh border;
- vi) effective action for closure of extremist camps in Bangladesh and stoppage of help given to Indian extremists there;
- vii) assistance to the State Government for modernisation of State Police specially with bullet proof vehicles, modern arms and other equipment;
- viii) assistance to the State for VIP security in the light of the recent killing of a Minister by insurgents and bullet proof cars may be provided;
- ix) free use of helicopter by the State Government for movement of forces in emergency as well as for travel by Ministers and officers in insurgency affected areas;
- x) reimbursement by the Central Government of security-related expenditure to the State Government as is done in the case of J&K, Punjab and Assam;
- xi) clearance of other proposals related to security pending with the Government of India;
- xii) Central assistance for resettlement of surrendered extremists;
- xiii) liberal Central assistance for economic development specially in tribal areas both in terms of infrastructure and basic minimum services and implementation of the recommendations of the Shukla Commission; and
- xiv) raising of an additional Assam Rifles Battalion for Tripura Range.

I would request the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister, and all the Members of the Central Cabinet to look into the problems of Tripura and the total North-East region with actual *Swadeshi* view which shall keep our integrity firm and not helping the extremists to increase their activities, keeping in view the economic and social developments of the area on the lines of good Centre-State relations.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dum Dum) : Mr. Speaker Sir, we are witnessing the sad state of North East region since long.

We should see it into two parts. First, the Government have not paid attention towards the people who live in mountains and forests and in one or two states there is a lot of difference between the people living in plains and the people living in mountains filled up in last fifty years, the situation of emergency seen there would not have taken this dangerous turn. Earlier, in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram etc., nothing was done by the Government and the administration, due to which there saviours were the missionaries only. The services rendered by the missionaries made them immensely popular, but taking advantage of their popularity some outside elements penetrated into them. Some countries want to make north east unstable and put pressure on the Government of India. Several times efforts were made to segregate some of the north eastern states from the rest of India and missionaries were blamed for that. For several years, I had been incharge of the north eastern states. In that capacity I observed that the missionaries were service oriented, they were not involved in such activities. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Sir, he is casting aspersions on the missionaries.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dum Dum) : No, no; I think, you are committing a mistake. I am not condemning the missionaries.... (Interruptions) I am not raising my voice against the missionaries.

[Translation]

I said that by means of services of the missionaries some infiltrators sneaked in and they were indulged in activities, which were cause of riots in Tripura. (Interruptions) I would like to give example that at the time of riots in Tripura, when we reached there the then Chief Minister Shri Nripen Chakravarty told us that, a section of the missionaries were involved in these activities. (Interruptions) I was saying that since a long time people who live in mountains and forests are neglected, causing resentment in them. Later political parties took mileage of that resentment. The emergency to day is....

[English]

Insurgency is, the creation of political parties.

[Translation]

I have evidences, I would like to cite an example. In the telegraph dated 2nd Oct. it was written that...

[English]

"It is recognised that everyone in Tripura the Left Front and Congress have used tribal insurgents to distabilise the other. When the Leftists are in power the Congress used to instigate a group once known as the Tripura National Volunteer but since reformed as the...."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sikdar, you can continue on this subject tomorrow.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, from which document is he quoting?

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : This is from 'The Telegraph' ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sikdar, please hear me. We have to take up the 'Half-an-Hour' discussion now. You can continue on this subject tomorrow.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, all right.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

17.31 hrs.

## HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

### Safe Drinking Water

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you that in my question dated 28.5.98. I had asked for half-an-hour discussion, which you have granted. Several points arising out of the discussion that followed the reply of the question, could not be discussed here. Therefore, assuming this issue as an important one, I asked for discussion thereon with regard to the water. I would just say that water is life and the importance of water in the life of a human being is known to every one, the world over. There is no dearth of water on the Earth. But the nature has distributed the water in such a manner that we have 97.4 per cent ocean water, 1.8 per cent ice water and the remaining 0.8 per cent is potable water. Actually nature has always been testing us. According to the data of the 12th month of the year 1997 we will find that there are 14,30,663 colonies which require provision of drinking water out of this 49,374 are such colonies where people get water after walking about 1¼ kms. or 1.6 kms. 3,54,303 villages have been identified where there is an acute shortage of water and as of to-day there is deep crisis of drinking water and drinking water is inadequate. Thus to-day drinking water crisis has taken a great dimension. The crisis is not limited to the rural area only, small townships of more than 20,000 population and the mega cities, even Delhi is facing the acute shortage of drinking water. This is an integral part of our lives. Through the discussion taking place in the house. I would like to ask that this subject should be taken seriously.

I would like to make a few more points and then I will ask from hon'ble Minister, In 1947, 6000, cubic meter water per person per year was available. In 1991 it dropped to 2213

[Shri Gauri Shankar Chaturbhuj Bisen]

cubic meter and in 1996 it further dropped to 2000 cubic meters and in the coming 20 years it is likely to drop upto 1600 cubic meters. Thus while the requirement of water per head is increasing supply of water is constantly decreasing. It is a cause of concern not only for our country but also for the whole world. Recently some agencies have conducted a survey and according to their report the women of rural India have to walk about 1480 kilometers per year for collecting drinking water and fire wood.

It is very unfortunate. The main reason for this are pressure of increasing population, using tubewells in large scale for agricultural purposes and set up of industries in large number.

I do agree that all of these are required, but a balance has to be maintained and if such a balance is not maintained, the day is not far off when the entire country will face the problem of contaminated water. Government has formulated a number of schemes for supply of potable water. National water mission was constituted in 1986 by the Government of India. Later on, after five years of its working it was renamed as "Rajiv Gandhi potable water mission". If we go through the recent report of Comptroller & Auditor General for implementation of these schemes. We will find that Rajiv Gandhi potable water mission has failed miserably. Crores of rupees are being sent to the states through it and "Rajiv Gandhi potable water mission" has completely failed and many shortcomings have been noticed in the working of the mission. No quality has been maintained in performance and implementation and there are lot of anomalies in the selection of places. Whatever sources are generated they collapsed due to inferior quality of operation. Now such a situation has emerged that wherein the schemes being run with the help of Centre and State Government involving investment of crores of rupees are not accruing benefit in comparison to the investment made therein due to lack of immediate proper monitoring. The Government has not ensured the qualitative aspect of water supply. There is a need to do so. There are thousand of villages in the country, where the people of the villages are drinking contaminated water which is causing various diseases. I am of the view that the main cause of the diseases are contaminated and polluted water. It is unfortunate that even after years of independence, we have not been able to provide potable water to the villagers particularly when our country is celebrating the 50th anniversary.

I seek your protection, I will just take a few minutes more, the laboratories for testing drinking water are not being Commissioned by the State Government in a time bound period. Nearly 20811 treatment plants are lying closed in the country, 70% population of our country live in the villages which is yet to be supplied potable water.

A sum of four "Kharab" rupees have been provided for it in the 9th Five Year Plan. Our BJP Government under the able guidance of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given priority to potable water in the national agenda and adequate provision has been made for it in the current budget, but the needle of suspicion goes towards the State Governments and whatever funds are allotted by the Central Government under this head State Governments don't spend the amount on that head, some State Governments use this amounts for the disbursement of salary. Some Minister of state formulate rural water schemes for those villages where the population is only 500 to 1000 whereas the poor tribals living in the remote areas are still fetching water daily from a distance of three to five kilometers.

It has been observed that after coming to power, a Minister of State Government concentrates on the developmental works in his constituency only and never takes care of neighbouring areas. This trend should be checked. Every year Government of India gives Rs. 500 crores to the State Governments and if required more funds are also allotted. The hon'ble Members of Parliament should also be associated with it and they must be consulted. If any MP proposes for sinking of a tube-well then State Government says that it is the State Government's money and a decision in this regard will be taken by Zila Panchayat or by the MLA. MPs do not have any role to play in it. In spite of providing crores of rupees by the centre, we are not supposed to give any suggestion in this regard. I therefore submit to the Minister whether any such policy will be framed so that 5 or 10 per cent of the amount provided to the State Government.....

New Rural schemes should be formulated in consultation with the Member of Parliament. I would like that hon. Minister reply categorically as to what is the Government's view in this regard. The situation of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is same and the situation of Madhya Pradesh is even worse. You can understand the situation of other states. Hon. Members have raised a number of points. According to the report of Tata Energy Research Institute tubewells in large number are being installed in the country. All the members have expressed their concern in this regard. I agree that tube-wells should be installed for farming but there should be some prescribed norms for installation. In some of areas the number of tubewells installed is so high that the level of underground water is falling continuously. There are some areas where underground water has completely depleted. The basic reason is that in 1947 there were 1000 tube-wells in the country but today there are eight lakh tubewells in the country and the tube-wells are being installed in large numbers.

I would like to give the example of Gujarat. The level of underground water in Banat Tada and Mehsana of Gujarat and Koimbetore of Tamilandu has gone down considerably. Water is not available even at the depth of 300-400 feet. It

is a matter of great concern that water level is going down from half meter to one meter every year in Kurukshetra of Haryana and Khandwa and Behind of Madhya Pradesh. 2,00,000 wells are being dug and 25000 tubewells are being installed every year in Madhya Pradesh. If we do not recharge the rain water then a day will come when alongwith other kinds of pollution, water. Pollution will rise to such an extent that no amount of efforts will be able to undo it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bisen, please conclude. There are other members to speak. .

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : I would conclude with some points on Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. This is first time you have allowed my notice of half an hour in the House. I will conclude in two minutes. In Madhya Pradesh 75% wells in December, 10% wells in January, 10% wells in April and 2 to 5% wells dry up in June. The situation is that 2 to 5 per cent water remains in the wells before rainy season. There is a need to develop modern technology for conservation of water. There is a need to further develop the recharging option adopted by Anna Hazare in Maharashtra. But there is also need to keep vigil on the corruption also. Scams amounting to crore rupees are taking place in Madhya Pradesh in the name of Rajiv Gandhi watershed. Therefore, money is not being utilised in proper way and corruptions is taking place. Other states also have the same situation. The State Governments are utilising the amount earmarked for watershed projects for their own purposes. Therefore, I submit that there is a need to have a control on such uses. Keeping in view all these points, the Government of India should take the matter seriously and reconsider the Rajiv Gandhi watershed Programme. I urge upon the Government to constitute a high level enquiry committee and also reconsider the method of work so that it is performed in well planned manner.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bisen, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN : The work of Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission should be performed in a well planned way. I would like to ask whether the Government would conduct any enquiry in this matter and whether the Members of Parliament would be associated with the process of allotment of fund to be given to the states. These are my two questions. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, the Central Government has provided two schemes—one is the Minimum

Needs Programme and the other is the Water Supply Programme. The Minimum Needs Programme is financed by the State Governments and the Water Supply Programme is financed by the Central Government.

According to the data furnished by the Government, it appears that after supplying safe drinking water to all the places, still 40,988 villages have to be provided with safe drinking water. May I know in this perspective from the hon. Minister, the following: Can the same village be covered by both Minimum Needs Programme and Water Supply Programme? Can the NGOs undertake the work of supplying safe drinking water in the villages selected for financial assistance by the Central and State Governments? What are the criteria of selection of the villages or areas for providing financial assistance? How long will the Union Government continue to provide such financial assistance in view of the fact that tube-wells etc. may require repair work and so on? Is there any Governmental machinery to check up whether each fund provided by the Government is properly utilized? And lastly, how long will the Government provide such financial assistance to the States?

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been crisis of potable water at various places of the country. There are about five lac villages which are facing acute crisis of potable water. Shortage of hygienic potable water creates lot of diseases. There is a proverb which is very popular in the constituency which I represent—"Malav dharti gahan gamabheer, pag-pag roti dag-dag neer." The area where there was abundance of water, is now converting into desert. I would like to ask hon. Minister whether he has made any comprehensive arrangement to check the flow of rain water which drains to ocean through rivers and streams? What happened to inter-state river water plans? Government is spending lot of money on such schemes but the results are not up to expectation. Ground water level should be raised through percolation of water by digging ponds and renovating the existing ponds, by construction of small check dams or by other means like watershed schemes. Whether any particular process, policy on provision has been made to raise the ground water level. If so, what are the benefits achieved in this direction.

My next question is that the water input in the fields has been increased and tube-wells are being installed here and there. Water level is going down 300-400-500 feet due to these tube-wells. What measures you have taken to check the decreasing water level?

Besides, a number of chemical factories are being set up in the country. Effluents discharged from these chemical factories are being drained into rivers which pollutes the river to the extent of 5 to 10 kilometers of area. This pollutes the water of the nearby area of the factory available for people

[Shri Laxminarayan Pandey]

and cattle. This water is so polluted that the people cannot drink this water and the cattle dies if drinks that water. People living in that area are compelled to face this crisis. Not only this, crops die due to polluted water. I should like to ask whether the government has formulated any particular policy or procedure in this regard. Besides steps should be taken to stop water crisis in villages and towns. Effective steps should be taken up to check the rain water which drains wastefully. As I have said at the outset, the land of "pag-pag neer wali dharti" is going to convert into desert. What are the measures you are going to take up to save the land from converting into desert, since such areas exist not only in Madhya Pradesh but in many parts of the country.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Vishakhapatnam) : Sir, the most burning problem in the country is of drinking water. We feel very sad that even after fifty years of Independence, in various parts of the country, particularly in the rural areas, the poor man is still suffering for want of water. In fact, when we as the Members of Parliament, keep touring the villages, we cannot face the sad, sorrowful and pitiable conditions of the poor people who are suffering because of want of drinking water.

Now, we are speaking of supplying good water but even bad water is not even available. Even though for a population of 250 one pump is required, yet for 500 people not even one pump is there. We have been promising the people that the dream of the Government is to provide drinking water facilities in the rural areas, but actually we are unable to achieve this goal.

Sir, a million dollar question which I am not able to understand is that in spite of spending a huge amount for drinking water facility, we are not able to provide water. It is a very serious matter.

I would like the Government, particularly, the hon. Minister to inform us as to what is happening in this country. What is the problem? How is the Government not able to provide drinking water? What strategy is being thought of to counter this problem? What is the planning of the Government in this regard? One of the commitments made by this Government in their 'National Agenda for Governance' was provision of drinking water to all the villages in India. Today I would like the hon. Minister to clarify and inform the House as to how many million people, as on today, have been provided with drinking water and how many are suffering for want of water. What steps are being proposed by the Government in this regard? What is the planning of the Government? How much money do they propose to invest for this and what new technology do they intend to bring in to solve this problem?

Sir, in conclusion I would like to submit that drinking water, apart from food, cloth and shelter, is the most important thing for the sustenance of a human life. We cannot afford to miss out on drinking water. So, top priority should be given for providing drinking water. Though only five Members of Parliament have had the opportunity to speak on this subject, all the 542 do feel and would have liked to emphasise the need for providing safe drinking water to the people which would not only be good but safe for drinking purposes and would not cause diseases. So, I would like to have a categorical and clarificatory reply from the hon. Minister about what the Government propose to do for providing safe drinking water to the people.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on 'Half an Hour Discussion' on safe drinking water. This problem is prevalent in the entire country and this has taken a serious problem in the eastern areas of Uttar Pradesh which is the biggest state in the country. The water level is coming down day by day every year. Thus, it has become necessary to conduct a survey in this regard. All the tanks ponds and big pot holes have been dried up.

Sir, the main reason for dropping this water level is that we are unable to store the rain water every year. This is the reason that the level of water is going down. As the hon'ble Members have said right now that the crores of rupees are sent to states by the Government of India for installing hand pumps under India Mark II or under accelerated scheme.

Money is also spent through Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme. Money is also allocated by the centre in the name of Eastern scheme but this money is totally misused and nowhere the problem of potable water is being solved. The misfortune of Duaba, Chail, Allahabad and Fatehpur areas of my constituency is that the people of these areas are suffering due to acute shortage of water inspite of it being situated between Ganga-Yamuna. There is no proper arrangement for potable water. There is hardly any participation of hon'ble members in the 'Accelerated Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi potable water scheme, one million pumping set scheme and in Purvanchal scheme and no opinion and suggestions are taken from them. The officers misuse this amount arbitrarily and the potable water problem remains there. So, I request the hon'ble Minister through you that the Minister should be asked to take this matter seriously and the hon'ble members should be involved actively in the case of money being sent by the Central Government to the State Governments for the development purposes.

Maneri, Asrawakela, Champkawas, Western Shahira, Hatgaon are big towns of my constituency having a population of 20-25 thousands but there's no provision of potable water.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to submit the Minister through you that storage tanks and hand pumps for drinking water be installed there. With these words I do hope that the hon'ble Minister will do his best to solve those problems which I have mentioned.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur) : Sir, please give me two minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that you must go through the rules first.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. This is first half an hour discussion on the subject of drinking water and I have given my name because I want to participate in discussion and want to express my views on the subject....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You must go through the rules. The rule does not permit you. You must give an advance notice and four Members are allowed to ask the clarificatory questions. You must go through the rules. Now the Minister, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You must go through the rules. You cannot go against the rules. You must understand that. There is a rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that the rules does not permit you to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know that. But as per the procedure only, we have to run the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Speaker Sir, in Lok Sabha if any rule comes in the way of discussion in Lok Sabha on the issue of drinking water. Then it is a matter of misfortune for us....(Interruptions) Speaker Sir, I have given notice ... (Interruptions) Speaker Sir, hundreds of people are dying of gastroenteritis due to polluted drinking water in Chattisgarh region, because there is no proper arrangement of drinking water in my area, and I want to raise this issue....(Interruptions)

Rules permit for shouting in this House but rules do not permit to raise the issue of drinking water. Speaker Sir, I want your protection.

SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Sir, we do agree that the rule does not permit but you have the discretion you can amend the rule....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bapiraju, please go through the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot permit you. I cannot go against the rules. Please understand that. I do understand that it is an important issue but the rules do not permit you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : When I wrote to the Minister, he said that there was no money. When I write to the Central Ministers, they say that money is being sent. There is absolutely a lot of difficulty. This is really a very, very important issue. I request that we may be given a few minutes to speak about this.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjuniah, I think you are also aware of the rules. The rule does not permit more than four Members.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : We agree with you hundred per cent. The only question is that it is an Half-an-Hour Discussion. But it is an important matter pertaining to many Members.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that. You can raise it in another form, but not now. Please understand that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Please understand the gravity of the circumstances how the rural people are suffering without drinking water. Actually they have no voice.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand the anxiety of the hon. Members also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the rule does not permit you. Hon. Members, please take your seats. It is not the practice. Now the hon. Minister, please.

18.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister.

(Interruptions)



MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please. Let us not deviate from the rules.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : That does not mean that the rules cannot be changed. According to the circumstances, changes have to be made.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may discuss it in another forum; not in this forum. Now, the Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SHAU : Speaker, Sir, you have powers to relax the rules....*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER : Discussion is not taking place on this issue.

*[English]*

I am appealing to you. Please take your seats. This time it is not possible. Do not waste time. Please understand, Shri Swain. Please understand the rules. You cannot go against the rules. Now, the Minister. After the reply of the Minister the House can be adjourned.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : I share the Members' concern about the drinking water problem. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I am appealing to you. Please take your seats. Now, the Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Speaker, Sir if you are not ready to give me an opportunity to speak then I am leaving the House.

18.02 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu left the House.)*

*[English]*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I share the Members' concern about the condition of drinking water problem in the country. More or less, the problems are the same with all the Members. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can reply satisfying all the Members' questions. Mr. Minister, you are expected to reply to all the Members' questions.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I want to give some figures and facts about this problem. In the entire country according to a survey report, the number of non-covered habitation is 40,988; partially covered inhabited habitation is 3,15,155.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur) : I am on a point of order. What is the arrangement made for conserving rain water for drinking purposes?

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Mr. Jalappa, what is your point of order? This is not a point of order.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Let me speak. I have got every right to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jalappa, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : There are so many villages which have no water supply.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you continue your reply.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I am giving the facts. Then I will come to that point.

Partially covered habitation are 3,15,155. Fully covered habitation are 10,74,520. These figures are given by a survey report. The criterion is 40 litres of safe drinking water per capita per day per human being.

Thirty lpcd additionally for cattle in the Desert Development Programmes (DDP) areas; one handpump or standpost for every 250 persons. *(Interruptions)*. I am giving the statistics. Some hon. Members have asked about the criteria....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please address to the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Taking into account the acute shortage, the Government of India have raised the budgetary allocation this year from Rs.1,302 crore to Rs.1,627 crore. The drinking water subject is a State subject. I am sorry to say that. Since 1995, the Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments. We are only giving the financial assistance. We are not implementing the rural water scheme directly. We have asked the State Governments to take up recharging programmes under EAS. We are making some exercises to club all those programmes between the Department of Forest, our Department, and the Ministry of Agriculture to have a comprehensive recharging programme. We have written to all the State Governments under EAS and JRY schemes for taking up water harvesting structure and surface water management programme on a priority basis. We have advised all the State Governments.

A number of hon. Members have given suggestions that five to ten per cent money allocated for drinking water purposes should be spared with the Union Government and that money

should be spent or distributed amongst the Members on the recommendations of the Members. But it is left with the Planning Commission. I will take up the matter with the Planning Commission. According to the guidelines of the Planning Commission, we are allocating the money. If the hon. Members are suggesting, then I will take up the matter with the Planning Commission....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : In the States, MLAs are given some discretion. I would like to know whether you will consider to give the MPs 200 tubewells. ....(*Interruptions*). These are being given to the MLAs in the States. I would like to know whether you are going to give the same to the MPs also....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. First, let him complete. What is this?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We can make suggestions. (*Interruptions*). No. It is not possible. (*Interruptions*). It is a State subject. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you cannot reply to all these things. You have to answer to those Members who have participated in the discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The rural water supply is a State subject and that the Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under the ARWSP. The State Governments are free to plan and implement the rural water supply programme including the utilisation of funds provided under the ARWSP. Tremendous amount of initiative has to come from the States in terms of controlling over-exploitation of ground water through legislative and other measures, involvement of the stakeholders and ensuring financial sustainability.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, millions of bore-wells are being sunk every year and 50 to 60 per cent are drying up every year. Then further bore-wells are sunk. In my State, the hon. Minister knows, in some places we have gone up to 750 ft. depth and the water contains fluoride. Recharge is not there. He knows that thousands of medium and minor irrigation tanks are silted up to 75 per cent....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make a speech. You have to ask only clarifications.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am talking about conservation of water. If those tanks are not desilted, there will be no water in those tanks, there will be no percolation and we are not

going to get water from these bore-wells. I would like to know what arrangement they have made for that. Day before yesterday, they have given Rs. 2,300 crore more to the Lecturers of the universities. Can they not give Rs. 2,500 crore for the entire country for desilting by mechanical devices? Can they not spare that much money? Otherwise wherefrom are they going to supply water after 8 or 10 years? Will they supply in sachets to the people who are living in cities and towns? What are they doing about contour-bunding? In the matter of afforestation, we cannot trust the forest officials. The plantation is done in the sky. We cannot trust them.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jalappa, do not think this is Question Hour. Please ask your clarification, if any.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I would like to know from the Minister whether he will speak to the Minister of Environment and Forest and see that the increments and promotions of these officials are tagged on the survival of the plantations. Now the mortality rate of these plantations is 90 per cent. At this rate where are we going?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, one of the major problems in this area is that due to contingency exploitation of the ground water, the arsenic contamination of the potable drinking water is going up day by day. It is a very harmful thing which we are going to face in the near future. So, the conservation of water and recharging of the ground water is an urgent necessity of the day. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the huge amount of EAS Fund which is allocated to the States each and every year, remains unutilised. I would like to know whether that portion of the Fund can be utilised through a scheme, like MPLADS. Will the hon. Minister take up this issue with his Cabinet and get such a scheme sanctioned for the Members of Parliament so that a scheme like MPLADS can be formulated for recharging of the ground water and bringing down the level of arsenic in the ground water?

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, the State Governments are facing much difficulty in implementing the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. Especially in States like Kerala, the land component is not included in the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. I would like to know whether the Government of India, in the Ministry of Water Resources, would consider the proposal to include the land component in the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. Otherwise it is very difficult for the State Government to implement this programme.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Sir, the hon. Minister was kind enough to issue a direction to the Karnataka Government that so far as desilting is concerned, 75 per cent of the amount will be given by the Central Government and 25 per cent shall have to be borne by the State Government. Hardly half-a-dozen tanks were taken up for desilting and there too, only one-fourth of the silt was being removed and then they stopped it. I would

[Shri S. Mallikarjuniah]

like to know what happened to that project. Is that project stopped or is he going to improve it and implement it shortly?

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that whole country is facing problem of drinking water and the situation in Gujarat is the worst. Narmada scheme of Gujarat should be declared as a National scheme and whatever financial assistance is being provided by the Government of India under this head should be given by the hon. Minister. Whether Government intend to declare Narmada scheme as national scheme? If it is done the level of ground water which has gone down can come up. There is no rain in the villages of my subdivision. Bhavnagar and in half of the Gujarat. The hon'ble Minister can save crores of rupees through this scheme and drinking water can be made available in entire state of Gujarat through it. Whether Hon'ble Minister would give an assurance in this regard, this is my submission....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please understand that rules do not permit this. As a special case, I am allowing you. You can only ask clarifications.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : In Gujarat, Kutch is a border district facing acute shortage of water. There is an increase in the salinity everywhere. The hon. Member Shri R.L. Jalappa has raised the question of desiltation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he can take up desiltation programme as a special programme, and whether for Kutch District, as a special case, the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission can take up the issue of drinking water. The hon. Minister may please reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I will make just two or three one-line suggestions. Firstly, the used water should be recycled as it is done in the Western countries. Secondly, the State Government should be asked not to provide free water and electricity to the farmers. By this what will happen is that at least the farmers will understand that it is a previous commodity. Thirdly, the lift irrigation points should be banned....(Interruptions) Sir, I am entitled to raise my own view. Only in this way, we can save India. By this, the environment could be protected and India could be protected. The last thing is that all the incomplete water supply projects should be completed at the earliest. These are the four suggestions that I wanted to make....(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : This is a disastrous suggestion....(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important problem relating to drinking water these

days is the contamination of drinking water, particularly the arsenic contamination and the fluoride contamination. Due to contamination of water, lakhs of people are getting affected and sometimes, even getting crippled due to fluoride problem. You know, Sir, that so many public health problems are due to contamination of water by these elements. The problem is that the State Governments are very much constrained to purify drinking water and to ensure safe drinking water to the people. Particularly in my State, West Bengal, arsenic contamination is a great problem. That is why, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the comprehensive programme for strengthening the purification of water to maintain steady supply of safe drinking water, which is free from contamination — particularly, arsenic and fluoride — to the people of the affected areas. In this regard, there should be a comprehensive programme. I would like to know what action plan the Government is contemplating in this direction. The hon. Minister may reply to these points....(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Sir, in my part of Andhra Pradesh, as you are also well aware, fluoride content in drinking water is there to a great extent. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please understand that it is a Half-an-Hour Discussion. After the reply is given by the hon. Minister, the rules do not permit clarification. Due to importance of the matter, I have allowed some hon. Members to raise clarifications. I have allowed this only as a special case.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : The health of the people is very badly affected, even that of teenagers and young children. To free water from these fluoride contents, huge amounts are to be spent. Certain countries like The Netherlands are coming forward to help in providing safe drinking water in the areas affected by fluoride contents in water. My information is that there was one such proposal in respect of Nalgonda District in Andhra Pradesh. The proposal had been submitted to the Government of India so that they could pose it to The Netherlands.

The Government of India has turned it down. The money will come from The Netherlands or from some other external agency. What is the difficulty of the Government of India to pose these issues before the countries who are prepared to assist us?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can note down the questions and send replies to the hon. Members later.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. As the hon. Minister has mentioned, there are 40,998 villages in the country which have been recognised as villages without drinking water supply so far. He did not mention the estimate. He mentioned

only about the villages which have not been supplied with drinking water. We have plenty of water in our country, but we do not have drinking water in all our villages. Water is polluted and the canals have been drained.

Sir, in the President's Address also, it has been mentioned that within five years, drinking water would be provided to all the villages in our country. The hon. Prime Minister has also made a statement on the floor of the House that the Government is committed to complete this programme in five years. But the amount of Rs. 1,600 crore is not sufficient for this programme and so the allocation may be increased. Then, the Minister should be able to state categorically as to how much allocation would be required for five years to fulfil this promise.

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important point. I have been told by the State Government that no money is provided for maintaining tubewells and pipelines which are being installed under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. So, I would request the hon. Minister to provide funds for the maintenance of tubewells. Otherwise, if they are not maintained properly after installation, so many tubewells become defunct and useless.

Secondly, in coastal areas, no tubewell remains functional and most of the tubewells become defunct. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give more thrust to the coastal areas by providing more money for maintaining tubewells.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the Members of Parliament, who are here, have dark blocks in their constituencies. In my constituency also, there are three blocks which are dark. Unfortunately because of the dark blocks, no private tubewells are allowed there. The State Government has no money to provide big tubewells.

So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister two things. Firstly, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would consider giving, at least, five State tubewells to each Member of Parliament. *(Interruptions)* One tubewell costs about Rs. 50 lakh, and so five tubewells would cost Rs. 2.5 crore. It is not a small amount.

Secondly, even hand-pumps are not working in these dark blocks. So, the drinking water problem is also there. Even if the hand-pumps are installed by private people, they go out of order within six months or one year, because the water level drops down. So, I would like to know what is the special scheme the Government is envisaging for these dark blocks and whether this kind of State tubewells or Government tubewells or electrified tubewells could be provided.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to inform Hon'ble Minister that

scientists of the department of ground water survey have said that Rajasthan is gradually heading towards the East. Basin of Ganges, Yamuna will convert into Rajasthan after two hundred years. I want to know whether Government is making efforts to prevent it?

SHRI RAM NARAYAN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the problem of acute shortage of potable water. Five years ago a few tubewells were sunk in Sundaka Balapura, Tehsil Diegod, district Kota, but due to paucity of funds with State Governments this scheme could not be implemented. The people are drinking fluoride contaminated water. They have to bring water from a distance of five kilometers. There are no handpumps in the area and the Hon'ble Minister is aware of this problem. Despite several letters written by MPs to Government officials and Ministers sanction is not being accorded for installation of handpumps there. In such a situation priority will be accorded to letters of MPs who visit fields directly.

I would like to make one more submission, since a scheme for drinking water in Chambal was to be formulated. Rajasthan Government conducted survey twice-thrice by spending lacs of rupees to make water available in Jaipur. The State Government has no money. That is why Jaipur and areas surrounding it are facing acute shortage of water. Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan. As Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that drinking water will be given priority and it will be made available whether the views of the MPs of Rajasthan on such issues will be considered. There are many areas in my constituency where all handpumps are out of order. Whether Government of India will sanction funds for the potable water scheme of Chambal river so that State Government can implement the scheme. No work is going on the proposed Isarda Dam which is meant for making drinking water available, as State Government is short of funds.

I would like to urge upon Central Government through you, that where the problem is acute and where drinking water is not available but schemes exist it should take action to get them implemented.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can note down all these suggestions and send the reply to the hon. Members later.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I have taken note of all the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir) : Sir, I also wanted to speak about Bolangir and Kalahandi.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I will personally visit the KVK Districts and look into the matter....*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Babagouda Patil]

Sir, one hon. Member has shown concern about the quality of water. In this connection, I want to mention that we cannot purify and process that water because it requires a huge amount of money. So, that problem can be solved by recharging programme. The quality of water is affected as the ground water level is going down. All these problems can be solved by surface water management and by taking up rain water harvesting structures. I have written to the States that those works should be taken up on priority basis under EAS and JRY. We have also written letters to all the Chief Secretaries to listen to the suggestions of the hon. Members. Around

Rs.10,000 crore are required for these non-covered villages. I will take up the matter with the Planning Commission. For, they give us the guidelines and according to those guidelines, we allocate the money.

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.29 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Thursday, July 30,  
1998/Shravana 8, 1920 (Saka).*

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES  
(ENGLISH VERSION)

Wednesday, July 29, 1998/Shravana 7, 1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
Cover Page	Friday	Wednesday
1/5 (from below)	SHRI AJIT JOGI (Rajgarh)	SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh)
5/18	SHRI KHARABELA SHAIN	SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN
93/28	SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI	SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI
142/2 (from below)	(a) to (c)	(a) to (e)
191/11	(c) and (d)	(c) and (e)
214/28	SHRI ARIF MOAHHAMAD KHAN	SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN
225/6	SHIR AJIT JOGI	SHRI AJIT JOGI
286/4	SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH	SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH
287/10	SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SHAU	SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU
293/2 (from below)	SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahr)	SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH (Bulandshahar)

---

---

© 1998 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Ninth Edition) and printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033.

---

---