

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 19, 2001/Chaitra 29, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 461.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I have a preliminary objection to the List of Business that has been circulated to us. This objection is in terms of the Bulletin No. 1715 of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it after the Question Hour. No. Every day, we have something or the other. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, the objection is on the List of Business itself. Sir, please listen to me first, then you can give your opinion; I will sit. I am a disciplined Member. Please listen to me for a second. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. I will listen to you immediately after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, it is in violation of the Bulletin itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. I will hear you after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, normally the convention is that the Government first brings the business that is to be transacted, before the Business Advisory Committee and then brings it before the House. The BAC first decides about the business. At least, the Government should have the courtesy of informing the BAC about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. I will hear you after the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Financial Management System

*461. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are not strictly observing Financial Rules in respect of appropriation of the budgetary allocation over a period of time;

(b) whether this matter has been pointed out by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament on a number of occasions;

(c) whether the non-observance of Financial Rules also involves non-utilization of sanctioned money and non-diversion of unutilised money to projects which remain incomplete for lack of funds; and

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

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The Financial Rules in respect of appropriations are being observed by the Railways.

(b) Certain instances of funds remaining unspent, cases of excesses, misclassifications and of reappropriations have figured in the reports of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Whenever such a report is received, follow up action including corrective measures is taken after proper scrutiny.

(c) and (d) Non utilisation of sanctioned money is not on account of non-observance of financial rules. Sometimes mismatch of funds availability and their utilisation occurs for reasons such as progress of work getting delayed due to difficulties in land acquisition,

contractual problems, litigations/court cases etc. Also, in case the actual internal generation of resources is less than that budgeted, the available funds under certain plan heads gets reduced, leading to an apparent under spending. However, all possible efforts are taken to ensure that available funds are utilised optimally.

Reappropriations as permissible under the rules are resorted to taking note of developments during the year, with a view to ensuring better utilisation of funds.

Railways have a good and tested system for budgetary, financial and accounting control. There is also an endeavour to effect improvements.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the reply of the hon'ble Minister. Regarding part (a) to (d) of the question, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the number of such cases that have come before the Government and the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What action has been taken in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such cases are looked into by the Public Accounts Committee and the report is submitted in this regard. Thereafter action is taken in this regard. Generally all such details are scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister earlier too has stated in course of reply to the questions during the Railway Budget that apart from the railway revenue the Railways department have other sources of income like sale of land along the railways tracks, commercial use of that land or offering it for plantations. I would like to know from the Minister as to how much land have been sold and the amount received by it and also where these revenues are going to be utilised?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details of non-conventional sources of income of Railways have been given in the budget and the efforts are being made in this regard by the Railways. As far the utilization of vacant land or railway space is concerned, the Government have taken decision in this regard and the efforts are being made in this direction.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given details about the area of the land and the extent of the action taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Your supplementary question is different from the original question.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by and large I am satisfied with the reply of the hon'ble Minister, however, I would like to seek information regarding the general grievance of the Railways with regard to the general budget as the sufficient provisions are not being made for the railways in the general budget. What efforts are being made by the railways to generate alternative resources for on going construction works and current projects being taken by you in the absence of any provision in the general budget so that the works and projects may not suffer on account of the lack of funds?

MR. SPEAKER: The present question is related to the financial management of the Railways. Would you like to make reply to this question?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There is not much substance in the question.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to the hon'ble Members who have asked for the first time such question about the Public Accounts Committee in the House. There is no tradition of debate on the report of the PAC report in the House. However, four days back, during the conference of the Accountant Generals the Prime Minister said that he was not satisfied with the Action Taken Report of PAC by the departments. Whether keeping in view the present condition of the railways where Rs. 1800 crore saving is shown under one head in a year, training camps will be organised for all the Commissioners of the financial divisions (nine divisions) of railways so that the same mistake is not repeated? Whether the Minister will submit the compendium do decisions before the House and personally ensure that the financial rules in respect of appropriations are being observed in the Department?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Serious attention should be paid to the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the PAC and all the Departments should pay attention to it. Yesterday only the meeting was held in which the observations of the PAC have been discussed. Keeping in view the suggestions of the hon'ble Members further discussions will be held to improve the working of the financial wing of the Railways.

[English]

Power Target

*462. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been revising the achievement of power target during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the last revision has targeted the figure 20,891.57 MW against the original target of 40,245.2 MW;

(d) if so, whether there is any likely down scaling of power target during the future review; and

(e) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A capacity addition target of 40,245.2 MW was initially fixed for the 9th Plan. A mid term review of capacity addition for the 9th Plan carried out in July, 1999, indicated that a capacity addition of 28,097.2 MW would be feasible. The latest review of capacity addition target for the 9th Plan, carried out in January 2001, indicated that a capacity addition of 20,891.16 MW only was likely. The main reasons for shortfall are:

- (i) Delayed financial closure of private sector projects due to non-availability of escrow.
- (ii) Delay in land acquisition.
- (iii) Resettlement and Rehabilitation problems.
- (iv) Law and Order problems.
- (v) Contractual problems.
- (vi) Natural calamity.

(d) and (e) The Government is making all possible efforts to ensure that there are no further slippages in

capacity addition during the 9th Plan. Some of the measures which have been taken to ensure this are as follows:—

- Periodic review by Empowered Committee chaired by Secretary Power.
- Ensure full funding of ongoing hydro projects.
- Setting up of Task Force to monitor ongoing hydro and thermal power projects.
- Constitution of the Crisis Resolution Group chaired by Minister of Power for solving the "last mile" problems of private sector projects.
- Evolving an alternative payment security mechanism in view of the low escrow ability of SEBs to help achieve financial closure.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon'ble Minister tell about the projection of consumption or requirement of power made in the Ninth Five Year plan and after the fifth revision made in the target, how much was added or deducted in the Ninth Five Year plan projection? Tell us about the steps being taken by the Government to complete Tehri and other power projects so as to make up the deficit.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Ninth Five Year Plan, a target of 40245.2 megawatt power generation was fixed. As the hon'ble Member has said, it is correct that the target has been reviewed five times. It was reviewed in July 1999, May 2000, August 2000, January 2001 and recently in March it has been reviewed. The target has been substantially reduced. Our earlier target was 40245.2 megawatt but after the review of the target in January 2001, the target has been reduced to 20891.57 megawatt. That means our target has been reduced by 51.91 per cent. In reply to his question I would like to submit that the target fix by the Government was appropriate however we faced several hurdles in achieving this target and the project got delayed. Due to these reasons we were not able to achieve the target of the Ninth plan. In order to ensure the achievement of the target, we have constituted an empowerment Committee under the Chairmanship of Power Secretary which regularly reviews the progress of the projects. We always allocate funds required by all ongoing projects. Separate task forces are constituted for thermal and hydro electric to review the progress of the projects. Besides this, efforts are made to complete the private projects through the Crisis Resolution Group. We have also made arrangement for alternate power security mechanism. I would also like to tell that Power

Secretary has been entrusted with the responsibility to review the thermal projects. The review of hydroelectricity projects is conducted by, hon'ble Minister of Power himself and the special secretary has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring independent power projects. Additional Secretary has been given the responsibility to monitor the systems. So far as the hon'ble Member's query regarding the arrangements being made for the Tehri and other such projects, is concerned, I would like to inform that necessary measures are being taken by the Government to complete the Tehri and other such big projects within Ninth plan period.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also asked about the projections made regarding the consumption and requirement of the power. We are making remarkable progress in the field of 17 sector and

[English]

power consumption is the main requirement.

[Translation]

in the absence of power for the IT sector,

[English]

How will we be able to achieve it.

[Translation]

You should reply to this? Along with this, I would also like to ask my second supplementary. My submission is that the original targets fixed for the private sectors, the State Sectors and for the Centre were 17,588 megawatt, 10,747 megawatt and 11,909 megawatt respectively and out of that.

[English]

I can understand it so far as private sector is concerned,

[Translation]

The targets of both the Governments i.e. the Central Government and the State Governments could not be achieved. The target of the Central Government was 7,909 but only 4964 could be achieved while the target of the State Governments was 10,700 megawatt but only 9,100 could be achieved. Now keeping in view the above facts

I would like to ask as to what steps will be taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that as per the report of the 16th Electricity Power Survey Committee, we will have to generate additional one lakh megawatt of electricity by the year 2012 for the consumption in the fast expanding IT sector. Keeping in view the above requirements we have fixed the target for the proper implementation of the projects. Thus I would like to tell that under the tenth plan the target is fixed at 43,556.8 megawatt and in 11th plan it is 63,517 megawatt and the projects are being prepared to achieve these targets. The hon'ble Member's submission that there is down scaling of the target in the case of the centre, it is correct. There are several reasons that I would like to clear the position before the House. The major hurdle in the way of Thermal projects is shortage of fuel and it is due to this that targets are not achieved. The cost of Naphtha and LNG has increased and the financial assurances which were to be received were also not received, that adversely affected the project. Land acquisition is also a hurdle. Similarly, there are several hurdles in the way of hydro electricity. Projects and as a result of this we failed to achieve these targets.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is a little bit paradoxical that the Government of India itself is expressing its inability to overcome all the shortfalls that have been listed here. I do not know who is going to come to the rescue of these projects if the Power Ministry itself is expressing its difficulty and helplessness in this regard! If you look at the reasons for the delay, it is the financial closure. Who will do it? It will be done by some financial institution. They have to coordinate it. There is a delay in acquisition of land. Again, some Government agency has to cooperate. The resettlement or rehabilitation is in the hands of a Government agency. All these problems can be solved by the Central Government agencies themselves. Is there any agency to coordinate all these things? There is another main agency, namely, Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is taking as much as 10 years in certain cases to give clearance. What will be the total cost escalation in all these projects?

Sir, even at the plan ring stage, there is a slippage of 50 per cent in the Ninth Plan targets. I do not think they will be able to achieve the target of one lakh megawatt by the year 2012 which is required to short of Committees. There is a Committee which is headed by

the Minister. Is there any time-bound programme to achieve this target? If so, what is the actual problem in giving clearance to all the private projects by the Government of India? I would also like to know since how long they are pending with the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether there is any time bound programme.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: The hon'ble Member has asked whether there is any time bound programme and now the projects are proposed to be completed. I would like to tell that we have to achieve the target of additional generation of one lakh megawatt of power by 2012 and for this the time bound programme has been prepared by the Government. I have already told that the crisis resolution group has been constituted. Through this group, the Minister of Power himself reviews the projects periodically and after the review efforts are made to remove the financial hurdles and road blocks in the way of private independent power projects with the help of Financial institutions, we help them in achieving financial closure, and we are also getting success in the timely completion of the projects. The strategy is prepared before hand for the land acquisition and the rehabilitation for the project. The techno-economic clearance are received from the CEA under the Ministry of Power and the arrangements have been made to redress all types of objections raised by the Department of Forest and Environment. Thus we make efforts for the timely completion of the project. It was on account of the faulty management system which prevailed for last five ten years that we continue to fail in achieving the target for the Ninth five year plan. So, keeping in view the previous experience we are making efficient arrangement and I feel that its outcome will be apparent in next five years.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my suggestion is that during the question hour whether it is a Member who is asking question or the Minister who is making reply, every one should express his views in brief. I have seen the parliamentary proceedings for a long time. From the reply it seems that the full fledged discussions are going on. If my question is at the 10th position it seldom comes for reply because during the question hour hardly two or three questions are taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji you please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all have heard the reply of the hon'ble Minister whether it is written or the oral form. Personally I have full sympathy with the hon'ble Minister. However what ever is happening cannot be ignored by the House, the country and by us. In ninth plan a target of 40,000 megawatt was fixed. It was scaled down to 28,000 megawatt. Then once again it was further scaled down to 20,000 megawatt. Your initial target cannot be ignored by anyone. It means that your initial assessment was wrong. You had no idea about the attainable target, so you had to scale it down. If it is not so, then the proper action was not taken to achieve the target that is why you are forced to scale down the initial target. We find that the cost over run of 200 projects is Rs. 40,000 crore. You scale down a target from 40,000 to 20,000. There is a cost over run of Rs. 40,000 crore on 200 projects and you hold previous Government responsible for this. You also blame that the private people are not doing other works. What should we think in the given circumstances. Whether the power will be made available for the economic progress of the country or not? For the cost over run you escape from the responsibility by way of holding others responsible for this...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has remarked that we could not achieve the target because our assessment or target was wrong. However I donot agree with it as when the target was fixed it was correct. The efforts were made to achieve the target but it was on account of the natural and other kind of hurdles that the target could not be achieved. I would like to tell in reply to the question of the hon'ble Members that in Eighth plan there was a target of only 16422 megawatt...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are not able to achieve...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: We have not crossed the target. However if the hon'ble Member is talking about 200 projects and wants to know about any particular project, he may ask me. I would certainly provide him the necessary information.

[English]

Environmental Cost of Conventional Energy

*463. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to evolve a rational energy pricing framework that takes into account the environmental cost of conventional energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement which has proposed preferential prices for renewable energy on account of environmental costs and other externalities associated with conventional energy.

The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approval. An Action Plan, including the details of the preferential pricing framework, will be prepared after approval of the Policy Statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to ask a specific question from the hon. Minister. I would like to know the number of villages where electricity based on solar energy is being supplied and the rate per unit being charged and the number of villages in Maharashtra which are likely to be supplied power generated by solar energy in current financial year and the rate per unit likely to be charged, and this rate would be how much lower or higher than conventional energy source.

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: The main question is about the policy statement on renewable energy.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your reply?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: As regards power rate, the hon. Member may please put a separate question.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the numbers of villages likely to be given electricity generated by solar energy in current financial year?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How is it related to the main question? Does the Minister have an answer?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it in writing to the hon. Member separately.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your second supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I particularly had asked the number of villages in the country where solar power is being supplied?

Sir, how many districts in the State of Maharashtra have been supplied solar power?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is not having the ready information with him. He will send it later. What is your second supplementary? Mr. Minister, you can send the information later.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is being discussed in the House that solar energy is required in the country but there is more need of non-conventional energy sources because environmental conditions in the country are deteriorating. Today, we need to encourage unconventional energy sources to save the environment. We can make analysis of it only if we compare conventional and non-conventional energy sources keeping in view the impact on environment. House is discussing this issue that even today electricity has not reached many of villages of the country and electricity is available to hardly 31 per cent villages of the country. We can supply power only if Ministry of Power give boost to non-conventional energy sources. I would like to ask to the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to encourage non-conventional energy sources, and whether any success has been achieved in this regard and particularly in Rajasthan which has much potential to promote non-conventional energy? What steps the Government have taken to encourage non-conventional energy sources in Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Barmer districts of the Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Sir, my question is that what steps the Government have taken to encourage non-conventional energy sources in Rajasthan particularly in Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner etc. districts of Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are the steps the Government has taken to encourage non-conventional energy?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: The Government of India have decided to formulate a new policy statement for renewable energy in order to boost production. A draft has accordingly been prepared by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please go through the slip also.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about Rajasthan.

In the State of Rajasthan, villages are being electrified by solar energy...(Interruptions) In Rajasthan, many villages, particularly the villages in Jaisalmer District, are being electrified by solar energy. Seven megawatt wind power capacity has been set up in the State of Rajasthan. Sir, 140 megawatt solar power project is being set up in future.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Sir, the Government are framing new energy policy. Due to subsidy given on solar heater this industry was encouraged on large scale in the entire country and people had become more inclined towards it. Now the Government has withdrawn this subsidy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of people's inclination towards solar energy, Government is considering to restore subsidy and increase the amount under new policy?

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: The hon. Member gave a good suggestion. We will include these items in our new policy statement for renewable energy.

CNG

+
*464. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted to allot CNG agencies in various States;

(b) whether the Indraprastha Gas Company Limited has expressed their inability to supply CNG for a large number of vehicles in the capital;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any new scheme to make availability of CNG in the capital in view of Supreme Court's orders to run almost all commercial vehicles on CNG; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) At present, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) outlets are owned and operated by M/s. Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) & Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) at Delhi and Mumbai respectively. In addition to these outlets, in some of the existing retail outlets of oil marketing companies also, CNG dispensing facilities have been co-located (along with motor spirit & high speed diesel dispensing units) where the compressors and dispensing units are owned by the IGL and MGL respectively but operated by the retail outlets. Thus, there are no specific norms fixed for allotment of CNG agencies.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. IGL has been advised to monitor, in consultation with the Delhi Government, the demand of CNG, based on the likely number of vehicles and accordingly increase the number of outlets/capacity. At present, there are 68 CNG stations operational. As against the demand for CNG at about 1,00,450 kgs. per day as on 31st March 2001, the capacity installed by Indraprastha Gas Limited. (IGL) is 2,00,000 kgs. per day. Two other stations that are ready are not operational due to encroachment of the approach road. Works are in progress at eight other sites and transfer of possession of two land sites are awaited from the concerned authorities.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, it was mentioned in the statement that the CNG outlets are only in Delhi and Mumbai. I would like to know as to whether the Government is going to issue any guidelines to the State Governments to use CNG for all commercial vehicles. If so, will there be any norms, which will be issued for these agencies?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Presently, CNG is being supplied in only two cities, namely, Delhi and Mumbai and the norms are already there. The CNG stations are being set up and also operated, the Delhi by M/s. Indraprastha Gas Limited, and in Mumbai by Mahanagar Gas Limited. Regarding providing CNG in other cities, as of now, we have to assess the availability of CNG. Presently, CNG is not available in that quantity. So, as and when CNG would be available, then only other cities can be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has asked about using CNG for the commercial vehicles.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The Supreme Court has presently said that CNG should be used for commercial vehicles. In the latest order of 26th March, 2001, the Supreme Court has also observed that there is low sulphur diesel. Whether low sulphur diesel can be used as a clean fuel, would be examined by the Bhure Lal Committee. We have, on behalf of the Government of India, made submissions before the Bhure Lal Committee to the effect that CNG alone may not be sustainable. Low sulphur diesel with 0.05 per cent is a clean fuel, which has been produced and supplied in Delhi, under the orders of the Supreme Court of May, 2000. So, we have submitted before the Bhure Lal Committee that this is also a clean fuel and dual fuel system should be better for Delhi. That has been suggested, and I hope, the Bhure Lal Committee will make its recommendations to the Supreme Court accordingly.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: The means, CNG will not be required in other cities...

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has answered your question in this regard.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Secondly, it has been mentioned in the statement that the demand up to 31st March, 2001 is 1,00,450 kgs. The installed capacity by Indraprastha Gas Limited in the 68 centres is 2,00,000 kg. per day. But today we can see a lot of chaos in the roads of Delhi. When the vehicles go for filling CNG in the CNG stations, drivers have to wait in the queue for even half a day. If the capacity is more, why is this particular shortfall in the CNG stations? I feel that M/s. Indraprastha Gas Limited has already said that there is a shortage of CNG. But, there, in the answer, it was mentioned that 2,00,000 kg. capacity has already been installed. I would like this to be clarified.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is a fact that we are in a position to supply 2,00,000 kg. per day, as stated. Actually, 50 per cent has been the offtake. Now, there have been some difficulties in particular CNG daughter stations where sufficient pressure was not available. For those 44 daughter stations, we have already ordered compressors, which would upgrade the pressure. By August-end, all CNG stations will have it. But in mother stations, which are available now, they are in a position to give CNG very quickly and there is no difficulty in giving CNG.

But the long queues are basically because the CNG auto-rickshaws are coming at the rate of 2,500 per month. This was not expected by the Delhi Government. The Government of Delhi did not inform the Indraprastha Gas Limited accordingly. I had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Delhi on 10th of April and she had agreed that she would supply all the information. Now, eight days have passed, but so far I have not received the information. I will again remind her to send the information so that we can equip the CNG stations accordingly.

Sir, there is one Director from the side of the Delhi Government on the Board of Indraprastha Gas Limited. There have been nine meetings of the Board of Directors, but the Director who represents the Delhi Government on the Board had attended only one meeting. So, probably they have not been that much serious. Now, the Chief Minister of Delhi had said that from the side of the Delhi Government also they would try to be more attentive and careful.

13.36 hrs.

At this stage, some slogans from the Public Gallery were heard.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a CNG car which is always in the queue and I have to use a taxi. I can never use my own car because of non-availability of CNG.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Central Government was not aware of the kind of vehicles that are to operate on the Delhi roads when they were putting the CNG order of the Supreme Court into practice. The supply was not sufficient. If they are giving the gas agency to only one company in the country, I would like to know what is the vested interest of the Government behind this. Could they not have explored more companies to see that CNG is provided in sufficient quantity? This is one question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, in part (b) of my question, I would like to ask the Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the new procedure that we have adopted in asking questions as part (a) and (b).

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, low sulphur diesel could have replaced high sulphur diesel. War that tried out before they decided to create chaos on Delhi roads and inconvenience a lot of people for the last 20 days which has almost become a crisis?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am extremely sympathetic to the woes that Delhi commuters had to suffer. Now, the major question is whether there can be any other gas-supplying agency. The Indraprastha Gas Limited is a joint venture of Bharat Petroleum Company Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited and also the Government of Delhi. She may not be knowing about it.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I know that. They believe in liberalisation. Then, why do they not see that things are put into order on the roads?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the Delhi Government has its equity in the Indraprastha Gas Limited also and that is why I said that the Delhi Government did not pay proper attention.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: What about the Central Government?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am replying on behalf of the Central Government.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Who licenses them? You are issuing licences.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am replying. What do you want?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You issue more licences.

MR. SPEAKER: Lady Members are very active in the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the people have suffered a lot because of the failure of the Delhi Government to assess how many vehicles are on the roads. Basically, permits are being issued by the Delhi Government and they did not act properly. That is why it had happened. So far as additional supply is concerned. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is totally uncalled for. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record; only the Minister's reply will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the house...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kantilal Bhuria, you are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except the Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, Indraprastha Gas Limited is a joint venture of Bharat Petroleum, Gas Authority of India and Delhi Government...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask supplementary you can ask later not now, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he wants to score a point...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am not scoring any point. I am giving the information. This is the first company and it has to be stabilised. Some difficulties will be there because it is a new project and that is the difficulty which they have faced.

* Not recorded.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir the hon. Minister has not answered the question asked by my predecessor just now. We are talking of CNG only because of pollution in Delhi, which is plagued because of suspended particulate matter in diesel...(Interruptions) I was trying to make him understand...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I am trying to speak the language, which may be understood by the Minister...(Interruptions)

[English]

Delhi is plagued because of suspended particulate matter (SPM), one of the culprits for polluting Delhi, in diesel. It has been discussed in the past and several Committees have been set up to look into the aspect of best of fuel for our public transportation. One of them was CNG. But switching over only to CNG creates a total monopoly for one technology. After all, the issue is not which technology it should be, but the issue is which technology causes the least pollution and meets the emission norms as specified in the law. What is being done about low sulphur diesel?...(Interruptions) The other point is that the hon. Minister has stated that the Delhi Government has not given them adequate information on the number of vehicles on the road...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker. This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I think, this is very misleading because the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in case the hon. Minister does not know the figures...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Ask the Question ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am asking the question. Donot tell me what to ask...(Interruptions) Do not try to explain it to me...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, you should protect him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, they must behave properly in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is too much. What is this? You are unnecessarily provoking the other Members. Shri Kamal Nath, what is your supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, he has talked of the demand of CNG, which will be there now. I would like to know what supply will be there to meet that demand. My point is that it is not the question that CNG will be available, but whether the quantity, which he has mentioned in his reply, will be available through adequate number of outlets. If it is not available through the outlets then what is the use of it being just available? I would also like to inform the House that the outlets are being made available through his Ministry.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, in his first question, he wanted to know about the quality of diesel and whether it is a clean fuel or not. The quality of diesel which we are supplying in Delhi is .05 per cent sulphur. Now, all over the world, this is the quality of sulphur, which is being supplied. I have figures of all the countries with me. Now, USA and Japan are having 0.05 per cent sulphur; in Australia, it is 0.15 per cent, which is more; in European countries, it is 0.035 per cent; in Portugal it is 0.20 per cent; and in China it is 0.30 per cent. As compared to the developed countries, we are giving the same type of diesel. It is clean diesel. I must also say that a New York, the total number of buses is 4,500 but only five per cent of them are CNG buses. In Sydney, 3,900 buses are there but only seven per cent of them are CNG buses. In Paris, only two per cent buses are CNG buses. So, the point is that whether only on CNG, we can have a public transport or not. It is the considered opinion of the Petroleum Ministry that this 0.05 per cent sulphur fuel, which has been produced under the directions of the Supreme Court in May 2000, on which we have invested a sum of Rs. 10,000 crore for upgrading our refineries is the clean fuel. That should be allowed. We have made that submission to the Bhure Lal Committee. They have been asked by the Supreme Court to look into this problem and the Bhure Lal Committee has been told that they should report to the Supreme Court within one month...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You should tell that to the Supreme Court but you are telling it to the Bhure Lal Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why, we have submitted it to the Bhure Lal Committee. In my discussion with the Chief Minister of Delhi, she has also agreed with this perception. They have also promised that they will accordingly make submissions to the Committee. The point whether they do it in time or not is another problem.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the availability of outlets?

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why, 0.05 per cent sulphur fuel is available in Delhi. There is no problem. Only the Supreme Court will have to take into consideration these facts and I hope that when they will hear the case and when they get the report from the Bhure Lal Committee, they will also take this view into consideration.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Minister has not answered my question relating to the number of outlets.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything regarding the number of outlets?

SHRI RAM NAIK: The Supreme Court had suggested that there should be 80 CNG outlets, out of that, 68 are in operation. Two are already ready but there is an encroachment which the Delhi Government has assured us that they will remove. Out of the remaining ten, eight are under construction. Only last week, Defence has agreed to give land for the remaining two and with that, in the next three, four months, the remaining 10 outlets will also be constructed. But, Sir, only 80 CNG stations would not be sufficient. We feel that 140 stations will have to be added to that. We are also doing that exercise and by September, we will make it available in a big quantity. That is the plan. But the earlier perception that 80 stations would be sufficient had gone wrong. That was the Order given by the Supreme Court. I cannot comment on that Order.

WTO In Agriculture

*465. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been drawn up to face the challenges of globalisation and WTO competition in Agriculture infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the public investments proposed to achieve ② 4% farm sector growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of India has recently announced the National Agriculture Policy which address the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalisation. The National Agriculture Policy seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian-agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, secure a fair standard of living for farmers and agricultural workers, and effectively face the challenges of the new era. A detailed action plan for implementation of the National Agriculture Policy is being developed through inter-ministerial interaction. In the meanwhile, several measures have been initiated to enhance the competitiveness of Indian agriculture, and to enhance the efficiency of agriculture and increase production and productivity, which lie at the core of the strategy to face the challenges of globalization. Some of the recent initiatives are listed below:—

- Launching of the Macro Management Mode to promote region-specific agricultural planning and development.
- Launching of a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern region.
- Formulation of a Programme for On-Farm Water Management to exploit ground-water resources in Eastern India.
- Operationalisation of a Technology Mission on Cotton.
- Effective implementation of the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
- Implementation of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.
- Increasing the availability of farm credit through the Kissan Credit Card Scheme, and by ensuring that 18% of net bank credit is earmarked for agriculture.
- Expansion of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and lowering of the interest rate.

- Provision of capital subsidy for construction, modernization and expansion of storages and cold storages.
- Formulation of a new subsidy-linked scheme for establishment of rural godowns.
- Promotion of the food processing industry and value addition in agriculture through excise exemptions and other interventions.
- Provision of facilitative climate for agriculture exports, *inter alia*, through establishment of agri-export zones.
- Reforms in seeds sector legislation and procedures to provide a facilitative climate for investment, besides enhancing seed replacement rates.

While initiating a package of measures to enhance economic efficiency and competitiveness of domestic agriculture, Government are committed to protecting Indian farmers from dumping of agricultural surpluses by developed countries, as well as from other adverse consequences of the WTO regime. Several instruments to this end are available at our disposal, such as import duties, which have been comprehensively enhanced during the past year, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, safeguard measures and sanitary and phytosanitary standards which can be used to protect domestic interest.

During the on-going negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture of WTO, food security of our people, protection of domestic farmers and their livelihood, as well as export maximization, are the guiding principles. India's initial negotiating proposals, submitted to WTO in January 2001, broadly aim at:

- Increasing the flexibility enjoyed by developing countries by creation of a 'Food Security Box' for providing domestic support to the agriculture sector under the special and differential provisions, as also further strengthening of trade defence mechanisms with a view to ensuring food security and to take care of livelihood concerns.
- Demanding substantial and meaningful reductions in tariffs including elimination of peak tariff and tariff escalation, substantial reductions in domestic support and elimination of domestic subsidies by developed countries so as to get meaningful market access opportunities.

(c) In order to achieve a growth rate increase of 4%, over the next two decades as envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy, it is estimated that investment to the tune of around Rs. 30,000 crore (at 93-94 prices) would be required in the year 2007-08 (*i.e.* by the end of X Five Year Plan). This estimate is based on assumption of an Incremental Capital Output Ratio (COR) of 1.57 which has been worked out on the basis of average of Gross Fixed Capital Formation and average of increase in value of agricultural output during 1993-94 to 1998-99. The level of investment has been calculated by applying this ICOR on increase in the value of output over the successive years. In order to step up capital investment in the agriculture sector, the Government is, *inter alia*, implementing the following Schemes:—

- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) initiated in the year 1996-97 for providing assistance to the States by way of loan for timely completion of selected large and multi-purpose irrigation projects.
- Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established during the year 1995-96. The RIDF corpus is to be increased from Rs. 4500 crore to Rs. 5000 crore and interest rate will be lowered from 11.5% to 10.5%.
- National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) launched during the year 1990-91 for a holistic and sustainable development of vast rainfed areas. In addition, Watershed Development Fund has been created with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore.
- Capital Subsidy Scheme for construction, modernization and expansion of storages and cold storages.

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister that in order to meet the challenges of WTO, particularly in regard to agriculture, whether the Government have developed new farm technologies to cut input costs and enhance farm productivity and quality, and give a chance to the farmers to compete in the world market. If so, what are the details in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, the Government are continuously making efforts to increase the productivity and production of agriculture and our quality should go

on improving so that we may be able to compete in the world market, this is our continuous effort. Many steps have been taken in this regard and in my reply I have given details of the steps being undertaken and programmes being run by the Government.

[English]

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: I understand that 300 items relating to agriculture produce and allied fields will be allowed to enter Indian markets. This, it is feared, will ruin Indian farmers as Indian farmers will not be able to compete with foreign products, particularly, from developed countries. What steps the Government is taking to protect the interests of Indian farmers in agriculture infrastructure as public investment should go up to meet the challenge?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We have taken steps for this, now we have open, we are monitoring the items which are being imported and custom duty on them has been increased. Besides this, the Committee of Secretaries has been constituted in the Commerce Ministry to have constant watch over it. It will monitor import of any special product, sensitive product in the country and will take steps to check too much import of such products. As far as the question of export is concerned, we have competitive advantage in respect of many items in the country, lots of our items are exported. Our agriculture products are also exported, we regularly promote them. So far as 'Agreement on Agriculture' is concerned, the mandated review of it is on, and India has presented its point and we have made demanded that there should be level playing field between the developing countries and developed countries. For this, developed countries should reduce subsidy in their country and should abolish export subsidy which is being given in many countries. We have given this proposal and we have placed concern of India and developing countries saying that 65 per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture and it is a question of livelihood. We have strongly presented our concern for their livelihood.

Thirdly, regarding infrastructure, we are making efforts to increase capital investment in agriculture.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture has become fate of the Indian farmers, no matter it may lead to loss also. In this situation we have to face the challenge of globalisation and World Trade Organisation also. My question is whether any special

scheme has been formulated for the marginal farmers in drought affected State like Rajasthan to face such challenges?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir not one, but many new schemes are being run for small and marginal farmers, under which more and more concessions are being given to them. The Government of India clubbed 27 centrally sponsored schemes under macro-management schemes and handed over it to the States, and every State can make changes according to the need of its area. The Government of India give 90 per cent of funds for it and the remaining 10 per cent is borne by the State Governments.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, in the reply it is stated that there is a "Provision of a facilitative climate for agriculture exports, *inter alia*, through establishment of agri-export zones." It is a good idea. Kerala is the real ground for cash crops. Everything can be exported. But the thing is that we are not giving any facility for the cash crops to be exported. My request to the Minister is this. May I ask him, through you, Sir, this question? Can the agri-export zones be established in Kerala for the first time so that the cash crops of Kerala can be processed and exported?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This has been mentioned in the present Exim Policy and the Government will give and consider his suggestion sympathetically and I will convey it to the Commerce Ministry.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister that to increase the agricultural production, developed countries are giving maximum rebate on agriculture to reduce the cost of agricultural production. Despite many requests made by you, he is not withdrawing the rebate on agriculture. In present circumstances, there is no other option but to give maximum rebate to the farmers, thereby reducing the cost price and increasing the production. Whether Government of India propose to give additional rebate on agriculture and reduce cost of agricultural production by directly giving subsidy and increasing agricultural production. If not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that developed countries are giving enormous assistance in the field of agriculture and there are different types of boxes in 'Agreement on Agriculture' — Green Box, Blue

Box, Ember Box, under which they provide help in many ways and this leads to market distortion. It is true and India has raised this issue under its proposal. The India has made presentation of its proposal. Many countries are supporting it. So far as the question of increasing subsidy in the country is concerned, it all depends on economy of our country. At present we are giving subsidy of both the types. We give product specific subsidy, we purchase under MSP and make procurement. So far as non-productive specific support is concerned, still many types of subsidy on electricity, water and fertilizers is given and many types of schemes are run which contained components of many types of subsidy. In this way State is extending maximum assistance.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The question was of reducing cost of production. European Parliament had conducted a seminar at Brussels on WTO. They are making the efforts, but these people are not ready to increase the subsidy in agriculture sector...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: At present, we do not have much time.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The recent decision of the Government to withdraw import tariff on 714 articles had led to a very serious situation so far as the farmers are concerned. It has become a practice in foreign countries to dump their agricultural produce in India. Now, it has been stated, in this reply that negotiations are going on with WTO. What will be the results of this? There is a proposal to create 'Food Security Box' for providing domestic support to the agricultural sector. How far have we succeeded in that respect? What do you mean by 'Food Security Box'? Would it be sufficient for the domestic agricultural produce to get sufficient security? The developed countries, especially USA, are against us and we are proposing a 'Food Security Box'. Would it be sufficient? With that, will we be able to sustain the loss incurred by agriculture? What about even the Minimum Support Price which you have declared?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please see the clock also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That answer has led to a very catastrophic situation so far as the farmers are concerned in Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now, any incident of dumping cheap material into our country by any other country has not come into light. As I have said earlier also, the Government is keeping vigil over it at every level.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There are imports...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Committee of Secretaries set up by the Government is monitoring every material being imported from abroad. As far as open market is concerned, the assessment of its impact is being done and it does not appear that any such situation has arisen due to open market.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Prime Minister should directly intervene in it. Farmer are dying in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The purchase centres of wheat which were opened there are of no use...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, some of the developed countries in Europe, and the US have introduced non-tariff barriers, which is practically bringing obstruction to Indian agriculture, especially in the name of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and codex. The Indian farmer does not know what is this codex, what is this sanitary, what is this phytosanitary. Is the Government seriously thinking to give more information to Indian farmers about the various restrictions and the various standards?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that farmers of our country are lacking information in this regard. As far as codex alimentarius is concerned, there is a lack of awareness in regard to food laws. The representatives of India are going to international meetings in this regard, they are presenting their point in the interest of India. The entire country should become aware in this regard, there is a need of campaign for this and we have decided to begin this work.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Integrated Pest Management Centres

*466. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Central Integrated Pest Management Centres are situated in the country, State-wise;

(b) the functions of these Centres;

(c) whether the Government have any system to monitor the functioning/activities of these Centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up any more Integrated Pest Management Centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There are 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres situated in 22 States and one Union Territory. State-wise and location-wise details is annexed in the statement.

(b) The functions of the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres are as under:—

- (i) Monitoring of pests and diseases for forewarning the States to facilitate undertaking timely control measures.
- (ii) Promotion of conservation of biocontrol agents for natural suppression of insect pests of crops in farmers' fields

(iii) Production and release of biocontrol agents for the control of insect pests and diseases in farmers' fields.

(iv) Human Resource Development for promoting Integrated Pest Management by imparting field training to extension functionaries and farmers through farmers' field school network; and

(v) Popularisation of Integrated Pest Management approach in the States by organizing demonstrations and 'kisan melas', distribution of literature in regional languages, etc.

(c) and (d) The monitoring system of the functions/activities of the Centres comprises of:

- (i) Critical review of periodic progress reports on targets and achievements in relation to pest/disease monitoring, conservation, production and releases of biocontrol agents, organisation of farmers field schools and training of extension workers and farmers by each Centre.
- (ii) The progress of each Centre is also reviewed during the annual meeting of the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres.
- (iii) Review of the progress of work by Senior Officers during their visits to the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The question does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Location of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in the Country

S.No. State/Union Territory

Location of Central
Integrated Pest Management
Centres

1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad 2. Vijayawada

1	2	3
2. Assam		3. Guwahati
3. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		4. Portblair
4. Bihar		5. Patna
5. Chhattisgarh		6. Raipur
6. Goa		7. Madgaon
7. Gujarat		8. Baroda
8. Haryana		9. Faridabad
9. Himachal Pradesh		10. Solan
10. Jammu & Kashmir		11. Jammu
		12. Srinagar
11. Karnataka		13. Bangalore
12. Kerala		14. Ernakulam
13. Madhya Pradesh		15. Indore
14. Maharashtra		16. Nagpur
15. Mizoram		17. Aizwal
16. Nagaland		18. Dimapur
17. Orissa		19. Bhubaneshwar
18. Punjab		20. Jalandhar
19. Rajasthan		21. Sriganganagar
20. Sikkim		22. Gangtok
21. Tamil Nadu		23. Trichy
22. Uttar Pradesh		24. Gorakhpur
		25. Lucknow
23. West Bengal		26. Burdwan

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to NGOs

*467. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations receiving financial assistance from the Ministry during each of the last three years, so far State-wise;

(b) whether these NGOs have been functioning as per rules and its functioning is being monitored;

(c) if not, whether the Government have received any complaints against the functioning of some of these NGOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Department of Tourism does not have any scheme for providing financial assistance to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). However, the Department of Culture administers schemes that extend financial assistance to NGOs. The details of these schemes are given in the Annual Reports of the Department. The Annual Report for the year 2000-2001 gives the details of all NGOs each of which received grant of Rs. 1 lakh or more. The Annual Report for the year 1999-2000 gives the details of NGOs which received grant of more than Rs. 5 lakhs. The Annual Report for the year 1998-99 gives information about the NGOs which received financial assistance for performing arts projects and productions. The Annual Report for the year 1998-99 also gives details of the NGOs which received salary grants as well. The Report also gives the details which were given grant of more than Rs. 1 lakh.

There are built-in mechanisms in the schemes for ensuring full utilization of the grants. These include recommendation of the State Government, consideration by Expert Committees, releases in installments based on audited accounts and utilization certificates.

According to the information readily available there are two organizations against which complaints were received and grants to them have been stopped pending inquiry against them.

[English]

ONGC Loss Making Entity

*468. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item-captioned "ONGC may become loss making entity" appearing in the Statesman dated March 23, 2001;

(b) if so, whether according to a study commissioned by the Government it has been revealed that ONGC is likely to become a loss making entity in the next few years;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to bring radical changes in the organizational structure to save ONGC from loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not initiated any study of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). However, ONGC had, in March, 1997, initiated a project for restructuring of the Corporation in consultation with M/s. McKinsey and Company Incorporated, international management Consultants.

The Consultants had submitted their recommendations on "Organization Transformation Project (OTP)" of ONGC to its management. The Consultants, on their own, had written to Government later about the need to expedite implementation of OTP and incidentally mentioned that with the present organisational structure, the profitability of ONGC may get eroded within a period of 3 to 5 years due to rising costs of operations and declining production and reserves.

(c) and (d) Being a Navratna company, ONGC enjoys substantial autonomy in its operations. While some of the recommendations of the Consultants are already under various stages of implementation, the rest are receiving attention of the management of ONGC. At present, Government, have no proposal under consideration for any change in the organisational structure of ONGC. However, the process of review by the Government of the performance of Public Sector Undertakings, like ONGC, is a continuous one.

Food Industry

*469. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have expressed serious apprehensions about the Indian food industry's capacity to meet the new challenges emerging out of the World Trade Organisation agreement;

(b) whether the Centre for Processed Foods has pointed out that agriculture is not getting its remunerative price in India and the products are also not assured of the minimum support price;

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the other views expressed by these experts; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to meet food industry fully equipped to face WTO challenge?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There have been some articles written by certain experts in this regard in the newspapers expressing certain apprehensions about the effect of WTO Agreement. This is not based on any substantive evaluation. However, Government of India is fully geared to the opportunities and challenges emerging out of the WTO Agreement.

(b) and (c) It has ascertained from the Centre for Processed Foods that they have not made any study regarding agriculture not getting either remunerative prices or not being assured of minimum support price.

- (d) (i) The Government of India have taken and is taking necessary steps to provide a level playing field for Indian Industry.
- (ii) it has been decided to impose import duty on maximum retail price (MRP) basis.
- (iii) A Notification has been issued to make all imported items strictly comply with the Indian laws including labeling requirements.
- (iv) Agreement on agriculture has been taken up for further negotiation to ensure beneficial treatment for the country.
- (v) A High level monitoring Committee has been formed to monitor any surge in particular items imported into the country.
- (vi) Imposition of countervailing duty on alcoholic beverages.
- (vii) Provision for imposing anti-dumping duties if a product is dumped.

Food and Mouth Disease

*470. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level team of veterinary experts comprising top officials of Central Government have visited the villages of various States particularly in Haryana, where cattle have been affected by the foot and mouth disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the guidelines issued by the experts team to the villagers;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control this disease; and

(d) the specific assistance being provided by the Union Government to each State to control the epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Recently, in the wake of outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in certain areas of Haryana and Punjab, a team consisting of Animal Husbandry Commissioner and National Project Coordinator, of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and Director and other senior officers of Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Haryana, visited some villages in the Districts of Rewari and Gurgaon of Haryana. The team assessed the situation, interacted with the villagers, discussed the situation with the State Government officials and collected necessary information with regard to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. In village Gokulgarh of Rewari District in Haryana, out of a total of 1000 cattle and buffaloes, 50 animals were affected due to Foot and Mouth Disease. During the course of the disease, 11 deaths were recorded of which 8 were adult animals. There had been no fresh case of Food and Mouth Disease and also no death after 22.2.2001 in Gokulgarh.

The Expert Team has also issued certain guidelines and advised certain measures to contain the disease. The major points are (i) to report any suspected case of Foot and Mouth Disease, Hemorrhagic Septicemia or any other disease to the nearest Veterinary Hospital immediately, (ii) to get the unaffected animals vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease, and Hemorrhagic Septicemia, (iii) to use disinfectant, (iv) to provide the animals with suitable feed, (v) to stop grazing of animals, (vi) to stop sending animals to cattle markets, and (vii) to get the affected animals treated.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India have advised all the State Governments and Union Territories to remain vigilant and take necessary steps on war footing in order to prevent the occurrence and spread of the disease. Further, the States have been advised to undertake vaccination of unaffected animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and to control movement of animals. The Department have requested the Ministry of Commerce to ensure that importation of livestock and livestock products from United Kingdom are not allowed without recommendation of the Department. The Regional and Animal Quarantine Officers have also been instructed to carefully screen all the consignments of livestock and livestock products from United Kingdom in order to prevent ingress of the disease.

(d) Under the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Program (which is a component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases) funds are provided to be State

Governments for vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease. The details of funds provided to the States and Union Territories for this component during the Ninth Plan period are in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Assistance provided by the Union Government to each State/Union Territory to control Foot and Mouth Disease during the last four years

S.No	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	3.00	0.18	3.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.75	3.00	2.00	2.00	8.75
3.	Assam	Nil	20.00	Nil	Nil	20.00
4.	Bihar	Nil	25.00	Nil	Nil	25.00
5.	Chattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	4.00	0.55	1.36	2.00	7.91
7.	Gujarat	3.50	30.00	Nil	29.05	62.55
8.	Haryana	Nil	8.50	6.66	12.34	27.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	6.60	6.50	10.00	29.10
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.00	Nil	4.00	Nil	8.00
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	50.00	Nil	65.00	27.83	142.83
13.	Kerala	Nil	6.079	4.00	3.50	13.579
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57.27	Nil	4.42	1.23	62.92
15.	Maharashtra	15.40	Nil	43.26	30.00	88.66
16.	Manipur	2.00	Nil	5.00	Nil	7.00
17.	Meghalaya	1.60	Nil	5.00	2.33	8.93
18.	Mizoram	8.00	9.00	6.33	15.00	38.33
19.	Nagaland	10.40	Nil	1.00	5.00	16.40
20.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Punjab	25.00	Nil	75.00	Nil	100.00
22.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	2.58	9.37	11.95
23.	Sikkim	7.00	Nil	Nil	5.00	12.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	Nil	6.50	13.50	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Tripura	4.52	Nil	19.66	27.20	51.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	29.50	50.00	28.73	36.00	144.23
27.	Uttanchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	West Bengal	30.00	25.00	Nil	30.00	85.00
	Total States	279.94	183.729	290.00	261.53	1015.199
1.	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	1.00	7.00	8.00
2.	Chandigarh	0.70	Nil	0.80	0.80	2.30
3.	D&N Haveli	0.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.40
4.	Daman Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Delhi	8.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	8.00
6.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	0.10	1.00	8.00
7.	Pondicherry	0.50	Nil	1.50	Nil	2.00
	Total UTs.	9.60	Nil	3.50	8.80	21.90
	Gand Total	289.54	183.729	293.50	270.33	1037.099

Fisheries Sector

*471. SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fisheries sector plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country;

(b) if so, the percentage share of fisheries sector in GDP;

(c) whether this sector has been recognised as an important income and employment generator for a large section of economically backward population of the country, particularly in the coastal areas;

(d) if so, the estimated employment generated through this sector at present;

(e) whether the Government intend to provide specific attention towards this sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the overall performance of this sector in regard to production, export and employment generation in each State particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1999-2000, the percentage share of fisheries sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current price is 1.1% (CSO Quick Estimates).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The estimated employment generated through the fisheries sector is about 7.38 lakh persons on full time basis and 7.13 lakh persons on part time basis as per the Indian Livestock Census 1992.

(e) and (f) The Government is providing attention towards this sector and during the Ninth Plan, in consonance with the overall strategy and focus on the fisheries sector to increase fish production, the subsidy component and the pattern of central assistance in the various plan schemes has been refixed.

(g) The overall performance of the fisheries sector as regards production and export is given in statement-I.

The figures of fish production (State-wise) for the year 1999-2000, export of marine products (port-wise) for 2000-2001 and persons engaged in fishing on full time and part time basis (State-wise) for 2000-2001 and persons engaged in fishing on full time and part time basis (State-wise) are given in statement-II, III, and IV respectively.

Statement I**Overall Performance of Fisheries Sector****Fish production**

	Fish Production in 1999-00 ('tonnes')			Fish Production in 1998-99 ('tonnes')			% increase		
	Inland	Marine	Total	Inland	Marine	Total	Inland	Marine	Total
All India	2,822,701	2,833,848	5,656,549	2,565,790	2,696,459	5,262,249	10.01	5.12	7.48
Maharashtra	135,390	397,901	533,291	125,496	394,883	520,379	7.9	0.8	2.48

Export Performance

	Export of marine products 2000-01		Export of marine products 1999-00		% increase	
	Quantity ('tonnes')	Value (Rs. cr)	Quantity ('tonnes')	Value (Rs. cr)	Quantity	Value
All Ports	421072	6308.80	343031	5116.67	22.7	23.3
Ports in Maharashtra	108641	832.51	83011	660.81	30.9	26.0

Statement-II**Fish Production by States/Union Territories, 1999-2000**

S.No.	States/UTs	Fish Production 1999-2000 (in tonnes)		
		Marine	Inland	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166,482	380,580	547,062
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2,395	2,395
3.	Assam	—	159,768	159,768
4.	Bihar	—	254,740	254,740
5.	Goa	62,113	3,509	65,622
6.	Gujarat	670,951	70,328	741,279
7.	Haryana	—	30,000	30,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	6,995	6,995
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	19,010	19,010
10.	Karnataka	165,653	126,646	292,299
11.	Kerala*	575,500	73,900	649,400

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	127,429	127,429
13.	Maharashtra	397,901	135,390	533,291
14.	Manipur	—	15,506	15,506
15.	Meghalaya	—	4,676	4,676
16.	Mizoram	—	2,890	2,890
17.	Nagaland	—	5,000	5,000
18.	Orissa	125,935	135,303	261,238
19.	Punjab	—	47,177	47,177
20.	Rajasthan	—	12,968	12,968
21.	Sikkim	—	140	140
22.	Tamil Nadu	363,000	112,000	475,000
23.	Tripura	—	29,340	29,340
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	192,714	192,714
25.	West Bengal	180,000	865,700	1,045,700
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	28,147	56	28,203
27.	Chandigarh	—	2	2
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	29	29
29.	Daman & Diu	15,946	—	15,946
30.	Delhi	—	4,300	4,300
31.	Lakshadweep	13,600	—	13,600
32.	Pondicherry	38,620	4,210	42,830
33.	Deep Sea Fishing Sector	30,000	—	30,000
Total:		2,833,848	2,822,701	5,656,549

Source: State Governments/UTs
 * Figures are provisional.
 — indicates nil.

Statement-III

Port-wise export for the period from 04/2000 to 03/2001

Port		2000-2001	1999-2000	+/-
1	2	3	4	5
Kandla	Q->	36027.66	38100.78	-2073.12
	V->	221.89	212.14	9.75

1	2	3	4	5
Porbandar	Q->	28992.47	33145.58	-4153.11
	V->	117.56	157.59	-40.03
Veraval	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Okha	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mumbai	Q->	14449.59	26583.36	-12133.77
	V->	181.79	217.03	-35.24
J.N.P.	Q->	94191.09	56428.29	37762.80
	V->	650.72	443.78	206.94
Goa	Q->	8946.43	9658.17	-711.74
	V->	28.22	36.56	-8.34
Mangalore/ICD	Q->	3780.80	13.63	3767.17
	V->	21.99	1.70	20.29
Karwar	Q->	2409.90	0.00	2409.90
	V->	7.52	0.00	7.52
Kochi	Q->	87805.64	91543.16	-3737.52
	V->	1031.20	1137.07	-105.87
Thiruvananthapuram	Q->	497.47	604.52	-107.52
	V->	12.80	9.88	2.92
Tuticorin	Q->	16984.11	17817.68	-833.57
	V->	491.44	411.99	79.45
Chennai	Q->	35154.69	25646.18	9508.51
	V->	1738.16	1050.71	687.45
Vizag	Q->	22680.96	23721.13	-1040.17
	V->	974.09	906.50	67.59
Paradeep	Q->	0.39	0.00	0.39
	V->	0.01	0.00	0.01
Haldia	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kolkata	Q->	18226.53	16397.21	1829.32
	V->	591.60	512.07	79.53

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Port Blair	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pipavav	Q->	50923.97	3370.85	47553.12
	V->	239.81	19.65	220.16
Other Ports	Q->	0.00	0.00	0.00
	V->	0.00	0.00	0.00
Q : Qty. in MTs	Q->	421071.70	343030.54	78041.16
V : Value Rs. Cr.	V->	6308.80	5116.67	1192.13

Source:— The Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Statement-IV

Persons Engaged in Fishing

(Numbers in hundreds)

State/Union Territory		Number of persons engaged in fishing operations	
		Full time	Part time
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,428	1,321
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	254	201
4.	Bihar	255	754
5.	Goa	24	14
6.	Gujarat	557	236
7.	Haryana	4	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19	22
10.	Karnataka	134	74
11.	Kerala	1,099	275

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	112	566
13.	Maharashtra	761	387
14.	Manipur	318	239
15.	Meghalaya	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—
18.	Orissa	225	128
19.	Punjab	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	5	9
21.	Sikkim	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	890	145
23.	Tripura	8	131
24.	Uttar Pradesh	301	750
25.	West Bengal	884	1,927
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9	22
27.	Chandigarh	3	1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—

1	2	3	4
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	9	21
32.	Pondicherry	83	11
	India	7,384	7,137

— indicates nil.

Source: Indian Livestock Census-1992, Summary Tables Volume-I
Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture

[*Translation*]

Varieties of Pulses and Oil Seeds

*472. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several measures are being taken to augment the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country;

(b) whether various Government and non-governmental institutions are engaged in increasing the production and developing high yielding varieties of pulses and oil seeds;

(c) if so, the names of such institutions alongwith the estimated increase in the production of pulses and oil seeds during the ensuing three years;

(d) whether it would be adequate to meet the domestic requirement; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) for Pulses and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) for Oilseeds are being implemented by Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses to augment the production of Pulses and Oilseeds in the country.

(b) and (c) The main implementing agencies of these schemes are the State Department of Agriculture of

various States. High yielding varieties of oilseeds and pulses are being developed by the ICAR systems. As regards the estimated increase in the production of pulses and oilseeds, efforts are being made to achieve the targeted production of 16.50 million tonnes for pulses and 30.00 million tonnes of oilseeds fixed by the Planning Commission for terminal year of the IXth Plan, i.e. 2001-2002. However, the production targets of pulses and oilseeds for the Xth Plan have not yet been fixed by the Planning Commission.

(d) and (e) The production targets of different crops including pulses and oilseeds are fixed by the Planning Commission for a Plan period keeping into consideration the domestic requirement. There is a gap in the demand and production of edible oil and pulses. The gap is being met through imports. The Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Projects (NPDP) have recently been strengthened to increase the production and productivity of these two crops.

[*English*]

Funds for Development of Ports

*473. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign investment has been permitted for development of various ports in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of investment received in this account;

(c) the terms and conditions agreed for such investment;

(d) the probable expenditure likely to be incurred on the development of ports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. 100% foreign direct investment has been permitted in Projects promoted by Private Sector in Major Ports.

(b) So far, the following two Private Sector Port Projects have been completed with foreign investment

(i) Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal promoted by M/s. P&O Ports, Australia at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores.

- (ii) Ms. PSA SICAL Terminal Ltd. promoted by M/s. PSA Corp., Singapore at a total Cost of Rs. 100 crores.

(c) As per the guidelines on private sector participation in major ports, a foreign investor would have to be registered as a company under Indian Companies Act and it should have the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. The major salient feature/terms and conditions of the two projects are as under:—

Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal promoted by M/s. P&O Ports, Australia at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores.

1. 30 years lease period on BOT basis.
2. the entire construction to complete within 3 years from the date of signing of the agreement *i.e.* on 3.7.1997.
3. The licence agreement provided for a minimum guarantee throughout (MGT) and payment of royalty. In case of shortfall in MGT, royalty is to be paid as per the prescribed rate. Total estimated royalty to accrue to the port during the lease period is Rs. 4046 crores.
4. At the end of the lease period, the property shall revert to the port free of cost.

M/s. PSA SICAL Terminal Ltd. promoted by M/s. PSA Corporation, Singapore at a total Cost of Rs. 100 crores.

During the year 1998 Tuticorin Port Trust privatised the Container Handling Operation awarding the work for 30 years on BOT (Build Operate and Transfer) to M/s. PSA SICAL Terminals Ltd., a Joint venture of M/s. PSA Corporation Ltd., Singapore, (57.5%), M/s. South India Corporation (Agencies) Ltd., Chennai (37.5%), and M/s NUR Investments and Trading Pte. Ltd., Singapore (5%), incorporated in India under the Company Act, 1956. The joint venture have invested Rs. 100 crores for developing the container terminal for which M/s. PSA Corporation, Singapore and M/s. NUR Investments and Trading Pte. Ltd., Singapore have invested USD 14.70 million (Rs. 62.50 crores) and M/s. South India Corporation (Agencies) Ltd., Chennai has invested Rs. 37.5 crores. The terminal has been commissioned during December, 1999. Any additional investments to develop the container terminal to cope with the growth in traffic shall be made by the joint venture. Since, the work has been awarded on BOT basis, at the end of 30th year the container terminal shall be handed over to the Port Trust.

(d) During the 9th Plan period *i.e.* 1997-2002, public expenditure of Rs. 4537 crores is anticipated. In addition, Government has approved 17 private sector projects in Major Ports involving a capacity of 60.05 MT and an investment of Rs. 4527 crores.

(e) The development of Major ports is an on-going continuous process.

Oil Import Bill

*474. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total oil import bill estimated during the year 2001-2002;

(b) the oil pool deficit expected by the end of the current fiscal year;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to bring down the import of the petroleum products as well as their consumption in the country in order to reduce the oil pool deficit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The gross imports of crude oil & products and the import bill for the year 2000-2001 are estimated to be 81.39 million metric tonnes (MMT) and Rs. 75,000 crore respectively. The gross crude oil and product imports during the year 2001-2002 are estimated to be 93.70 MMT. The import bill for the current year would depend on the crude oil and product prices in the international market.

The oil pool deficit at the end of the year 2000-2001 is estimated to be around Rs. 12,500 crore. The oil pool deficit at the end of the year 2001-2002 will depend on the oil process in the international market.

(c) and (d) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), set up under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, undertakes schemes and programmes that help avoiding wasteful consumption and for promotion of conservation of petroleum products. These include awareness campaigns, training programmes in the transport sector, introduction of efficient boilers, furnaces & other oil operated equipments in the industrial sector, rectification of existing pumps to make them more energy efficient in the agriculture sector, development & promotion of fuel efficient equipments and appliances like kerosene and LPG stove in the household sector etc.

Government have taken several steps to increase crude oil production in the country which include:

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.
- (ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.
- (iii) To explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.
- (iv) to develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.
- (v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.
- (vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

Relaxation in Crude Import Norms

*475 SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently relaxed crude import norms enabling all public sector oil companies to buy crude from multinational companies on term contract basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the import of crude oil by PSUs individually would have any impact on oil import bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the oil refineries of various oil companies are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) In order to facilitate enhancing oil supply security by reducing dependence on the spot market for such grades of crude oil which are not available in sufficient quantities on Official Selling Price (OSP) basis from the national oil companies (NOC), it has been decided to allow all

public sector oil companies operating refineries to source their crude oil requirement from the international market instead of being canalised through Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at present. This will have some impact on the oil import bill.

It has further been decided to allow such public sector oil companies to source their crude oil requirement by entering into term contracts with the NOCs that do not have OSP and with the major oil producing multi-national companies.

The above decisions will enable the public sector refineries to optimise their margins by sourcing crude oils matching the refinery configuration and savings in freight costs.

Proposal for Small Hydro Power Projects

*476. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set up small hydro power projects upto 25 MW capacity in the various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments to set up such plants in the country with the help of NRIs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has formulated various schemes for providing promotional incentives for the development of small hydro power projects up to 25 MW station capacity all over the country. The incentives are available for detailed survey and investigation of the sites, preparation of detailed project reports, grant of capital subsidy for Government sector projects and interest subsidy for commercial projects set up by the private sector, joint sector etc. Support is also available for renovation and modernisation of old SHP projects and for development and up-gradation of water mills. The schemes are applicable to all the States.

(b) Details of incentives are given in the statement.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has so far not received any proposals from the State Governments to set up SHP projects with the help of NRIs under the capital subsidy scheme.

(e) Only State Sector SHP projects are eligible for grants under the capital subsidy scheme. Projects set up in the private sector by Independent Power Producers, including NRIs, are eligible for support under the interest subsidy scheme.

Statement

Incentives under Small Hydro Power Programme

Schemes	Areas	Below 500 MW	500 KW upto LMW	Above 1 MW & upto 5 MW	Above 5 MW & upto 15 MW	Above 15 MW & upto 25 MW
Survey & Investigation	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs		Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs	
Detailed Project Report	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	
Interest Subsidy for Commercial Projects	Plain	5.00%		2.50%	2.00%	1.50%
	Hilly & NE region	7.50%		5.00%	3.00%	2.00%
Capital Subsidy for Govt. Sector Projects	N.E. Region, Sikkim	90% cost of the project up to Rs. 75000/- KW	90% cost of the project up to Rs. 60000/- KW	75% cost of the project up to Rs. 45000/- KW	Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 22.50 crores/project	Nil
	Middle Himalayas, Ladakh, A&N	Equipment Cost + 50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 45,000/KW		Equipment Cost +25% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 3.00 Crores/MW	Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 15 crores/project	Nil
	Other Areas (only notified hilly regions)	Equipment Cost+50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 30,000/KW		Equipment Cost+25% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 1.5 crores per MW	Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 7.5 crores/project	Nil
Renovation & Modernisation of Old Projects		Upto Rs. 2 crores/MW			Limited to Rs. 10 crores/project	Nil
Development/Upgradation of water hills						
Mechanical mode		Rs. 30,000				
Mechanical/Electrical mode		Rs. 60,000				

Production of Natural Gas and Oil

*477. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural gas and crude oil produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of crude oil is almost stagnant during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The quantity of crude oil and natural gas produced in the country during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Crude oil (Million Metric Tonne)	Natural Gas (Billion Cubic Metre)
1998-1999	32.70	27.43
1999-2000	31.93	28.45
2000-2001 (Provisional)	32.45	29.47

(b) and (c) The domestic crude oil production has been maintained at a steady level inspite of the following adverse factors:

- (i) Major fields like Mumbai High are on the decline, which is a natural process in ageing fields.
- (ii) No major discoveries could be made in the last 10-12 years.

- (iii) Environmental problems, delays in obtaining land, power shortages, etc. in the North-Eastern Region, which is a prospective area for oil and gas, have hampered exploration and production activities.

Support Price of Rabi Crops

*478. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the minimum support price of wheat and other agricultural products of rabi crops in this season as the price of inputs has gone up as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March 24, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government has recently announced the minimum support price of rabi crops of 2000-2001 to be marketed in 2001-2002 season as under:—

(Rupees per quintal)

Commodity	Minimum Support Prices		Increase over last year
	2000-2001	1999-2000	
Wheat	610	580	30
Barley	500	430	70
Gram	1100	1015	85
Rapeseed/Mustard	1200	1100	100
Safflower	1200	1100	100

[Translation]

Import of Railways Spares

*479. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the import of railway spare parts, passenger bogies, railway engines and other related material during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the quantum of orders placed with the public sector manufacturing units during the said period;

(c) whether the quantum of order placed with the public sector manufacturing units is decreasing for the last many years; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER
OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(in crores Rs.)

(a)	1999-2000	2000-2001
	668.50*	Accounts books are yet to be reconciled and closed. Figures will be available by August 2001
(b)	3812	4651*

* Provisional figure

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Foodgrain Production

*480. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an outlay of Rs. 9153 crore was approved by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for the Ninth Plan against Rs. 18,253 crore projected by the Department.

(b) if so, the reasons for allocating less amount; and

(c) whether the inadequate allocation will meet the targets set for the Ninth Plan giving the targets fixed for the Ninth Plan such as foodgrain targets, cereals and pulses target etc.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Details of outlays proposed by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and finally approved by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below:

(Rs. crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Division	IXth Plan Outlay proposed	Outlay approved by Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance
1	2	3	4
1.	Agricultural Census	56.50	48.00
2.	Cooperation	1362.45	765.00
3.	Credit	5078.49	1633.85
4.	Crops	1353.00	1279.82
5.	Extension	421.00	180.00
6.	Fertiliser	186.97	167.50
7.	Agri. Implements & Machinery	1052.00	96.00
8.	Horticulture	2380.00	1298.00
9.	Plant Protection	503.90	122.51
10.	Rainfed Farming System	1595.00	1030.00
11.	Seeds	138.25	130.80
12.	Dte. of Econ. & Stat. & CACP	362.16	244.00
13.	Soil & Water Conservation	1656.34	891.62
14.	TMOP	2058.75	906.00

1	2	3	4
15.	Natural Disaster Management	14.00	40.00
16.	Trade (SFAC) & International Cooperation	20.00	40.00
17.	Information Technology	0.00	180.00
18.	Secretariat Economics Services	15.00	15.00
19.	Plan Coord (Macro Management)	0.00	3.00
20.	Agriculture Marketing	0.00	70.00
21.	Policy Division	0.00	12.72
Total:		*18253.81	9153.82

*Outlay proposed by DAC excluding Fisheries Division.

(b) Allocation had to be reduced at plan approval stage keeping in view overall budgetary constraints and competing requirements of other sectors of the economy.

(c) It may not be possible to achieve the Ninth Five Year Plan food production targets without bringing in structural transformations in the production base of the Indian agriculture and further augmenting investment in agriculture and allied activities, including irrigation and flood control, in a substantial manner.

Big Companies

4795. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big companies in the country;

(b) the assets of each big company during each of the last three years;

(c) the total contribution of these companies in GDP; and

(d) the amount spent on research and development by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) There is no such team as 'Big companies' defined in the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revised Pay Scale

4796. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the revised and upgraded pay scale of Departmental Canteen Employees with effect from January 1, 1996 consequent upon the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission has not been implemented in CPCRI, Kasaragod in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The revised and upgraded pay scales based on Fifth Central Pay Commission Recommendations have already been implemented in respect of canteen Employees of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod and given effect to w.e.f. 1.1.1996.

[Translation]

Power Generation Plants

4797. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation Plants of the NTPC in Gujarat are not able to utilize their installed capacity due to non-supply of gas to them;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to ensure adequate gas supply to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has two gas based power plants in Gujarat viz., one at Kawas of 645 MW capacity and the other at Jhanor Gandhar of 648 MW capacity. The details of gas requirement, linkage, actual supply of gas and loss of generation in these stations due to inadequate gas supply are as follows:

	Gas Requirement (MCMD)	Gas Linkage (MCMD)	1999-2000		2000-2001	
			Gas Supply (MCMD)	Loss of Generation (MU)	Gas Supply (MCMD)	Loss of Generation (MU)
Kawas GPP	3.0	2.25	2.07	92	1.47	84
Jhanor Gandhar GPP	3.0	1.50	1.26	2741	1.53	2706

The gas supply to Jhanor Gandhar plant from South Gandhar gas field is gradually reducing. Against gas supply of 1.25 MCMD in 1998-99, the supply came down to 0.51 MCMD in March, 2001. To supplement the gas supply for optimum capacity utilization, gas from Kawas gas plant is being diverted to Jhanor Gandhar Gas Plant by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as M/s. GAIL was requested to link Hazira Bijapur Jagdispur (HBJ) Pipeline of M/s. GAIL with Jhanor Gandhar Gas Plant. A 14"x23 MK pipeline has been laid by M/s. GAIL alongwith all related infrastructure to link Gandhar gas plant to BHJ pipeline. The line has been commissioned on 11.8.2000. This has enabled NTPC to divert the gas allocated for Kawas Gas Plant to Jhanor Gandhar Gas Plant and supplement the gas supply.

Abbreviation:

MCMD: Million Cubic Meter Per day

MU: Million Units

GPP: Gas Power Plant

[English]

Strengthening of Hybrid Technology

4798. SHRI SUBODH RAY:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMAD SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the need for the adoption of hybrid technology and better farm practices have been stressed by the experts;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations made by them thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Hybrid Technology along with better farm practices is one of the important technologies for enhancing productivity and production of different field and horticultural crops. Accordingly, high priority is being accorded for development of hybrids especially in crops such as rice, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, sunflower, safflower, castor, rapeseed mustard and pigeonpea among field crops and brinjal, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, carrot, muskmelon, watermelon, mango, guava, grape, custard apple and apple among horticultural crops.

(b) The important hybrids developed and released in different field crops and horticultural crops are given in the enclosed statement.

Production technologies like nutrient and irrigation requirements, weed management, integrated pest and disease management have been recommended for realizing the high yield potential of various hybrids. Technologies for seed production of hybrids of these crops have also been standardized to obtain maximum seed production and to minimize the cost of seed.

(c) Hybrids in different field and horticultural crops have been released and notified by the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Released of Varieties of Agricultural Crops constituted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The hybrids thus released are under commercial cultivation. Action is also initiated for prompt popularization of all newly released hybrids soon after their release.

Statement

List of Hybrids

S.No.	Name of Crops	Name of Hybrids
1	2	3
A. Field Crops		
1.	Rice	APHR-1, APHR-2, DRPH-1, KRH-1, KRH-2, MGR-1, CORH-2, ADTRH-1, Pant Sankar Dhan-1, Narendra Sankar Dhan-2, CNRH-3, Sahyadri, PH—71, PA-6201
2.	Maize	(i) Full Season: decam 105, Trishulata, Paras, Dharwad Makka-3, HHM 1, HHM2 (ii) Medium Maturity : Deccan 107, Rajendra Makka-1, Rajendra Makka-2 (iii) Early Hybrids : Deccan 109, Him 129, Prakash, Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 1, Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 2, Vivek Hybrid-4, AH-58
3.	Sorghum	CSH 5, CSH-6, CSH 9, CSH 10, CSH 13, CSH 14, CSH 15R, CSH 16, CSH 17, CSH 18, JKSH 22, MLSH 14
4.	Pearl Millet	Pusa 322, Pusa 444, RHB 58, GHB 316, Pusa 605, Pusa 415, HHB 94, RHB 30, RHB 90, GHB 15, GHB 235, GHB 183, Shardha, Sabouri, Deogiri, X6, X7, JKBH 26, GK 1004, PAC 903.
5.	Cotton	(i) North Zone: Fateh, Dhanlaxmi, CSHH 29 (Om Shankar) LHH-144, LDH-11, HD 107, RD Hy 7, AAH-1 (ii) Central Zone: G Cot. 8, G. Cot. 10, CICR HH-1 (Kirti), JK Hy 2, NHH 302, PHH 316, PKV Hy-4

1	2	3
		(iii) South Zone : Savitha, Surya (TM 1312), DHH 11, DHB 105, LAHH 1, LAHH 4
6.	Pigeonpea	ICPH-8, PH-4, COH-1, COH-2, AKPH-4101, AKPH-2022
7.	Sunflower	PKVSH-27, DSH-I, KBSH-1, PSFH-67, Jawalamukhi, Sungene 85, PAC 36, 1091, MLSFH 47
8.	Castor	GCH 4, DCH 32, DCH 177, GCH 5, GCH-6
9.	Safflower	DSH 129, MKH 11
10.	Rapeseed & Mustard	Hyola 401
B. Vegetable Crops		
11.	Brinjal	Arka Navneet, Pusa Hybrid 6, Pusa Hybrid 5, ARBH 201, NDBH 1, ABH 1, MHB 10, MHB 39, NDBH 6, ABH 2
12.	Tomato	ARTH 3, ARTH 4, Pusa Hybrid 2, NA501, DTH 4, MTH 6, Arka Vardhan, KT 4, NA 601, FMH 1, BSS 20
13.	Cabbage	Pusa synthetic, Sri Ganesh Gob Nath 401, BSS 32
14.	Cauliflower	Pusa Hybrid 5
15.	Musk Melon	M 3
16.	Water Melon	Arka Jyothi
17.	Pumpkin	Pusa Hybrid 1
18.	Carrot	Hybrd 1
C. Fruit Crops		
19.	Mango	Amrapalli, Mallica, Arka Aruna, Arka Punnet, Arka Anmmol, Ratna, Sindhu, Dashehari-51
20.	Guava	Arka Amulya, Arka Mridula
21.	Grape	Arkavati, Arka Neelman, Arka Shweta
22.	Custard Apple	Arka sakan
23.	Apple	Lal Ambri, Sunehari, Ambred, Ambrich

Price Concession in Crude Oil Purchases

4799. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the OPEC Secretary General has recently visited New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the discussions held particularly with regard to the concession being agreed to in the purchases of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Secretary General, OPEC opined that OPEC as an organisation could not dwell on the price concession in crude oil purchase. However, it is left to the member countries to negotiate the terms of oil supplies to their customers. He agreed that a close cooperation between the oil exporting countries and oil consuming developing countries was needed to find mutually agreeable arrangements.

Development of Tourism in West Bengal

4800. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Hazarduari Palace of Murshidabad, Bird Sanctuary at Kulik in Uttardinagpur, Adina Mosque of Malda district, Jaldapara sanctuary in West Bengal as Central tourism project during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Animals

4801. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the export of animals from the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of animals exported during the said period animal-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Details of exports of animals during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Export of different animals during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

S.No.	Name of Animal	No. of Animals
1	2	3
1998-1999		
1.	Live horses, pure breeding	38
2.	Live sheep and Lamb for breeding purpose	20000
3.	Fowls of species Gallus domesticus Wt. <=185 gm	1504112
4.	Other live poultry weighing <=185 gm	1546831
5.	Fowls of species Gallus domesticus Wt. <2000 gm	82150
6.	Fowls of species Gallus domestius Wt. .> 200 gm	40000
7.	Other Live poultry weighing > 185 gm.	64700

1	2	3
1999-2000		
1.	Live horses, pure bred breeding	16
2.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. <=185 gm	1349852
3.	Other live poultry weighing <=185 gm	2689186
4.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. <2000 gm	212600
5.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. .> 200 gm	40000
6.	Other Live poultry weighing > 185 gm.	36090
2000-2001 (April, 2000 to Nov, 2000)		
1.	Live horses, pure bred breeding	1474
2.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. <=185 gm	598459
3.	Other live poultry weighing <=185 gm	2210042
4.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. <2000 gm	28520
5.	Fowls of species <i>Gallus domesticus</i> Wt. .> 200 gm	26652
6.	Other Live poultry weighing > 185 gm.	289789
7.	Live birds	4000
8.	Other live animals NES	2117

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Jajoba Plant

4802. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil and derivatives of the plant known as "Jajoba" has found to be effective for use in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals agent for industrial use, lubricants, electrical insulators etc.;

(b) if so, whether any laboratory tests have been conducted to find out that this oil can be used alternative fuel;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the productivity by cultivating more areas; and

(d) the incentives given to the State Governments for encouraging the cultivation of this plant?

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

Sir. "Jojoba" seed oil can be used in lubricants, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

(b) Laboratory tests have shown that "Jojoba" Oil can be used as replacement for lubricants. This oil is not an alternative fuel but it is very good lubricant even for high-pressure engines.

(c) Association of Rajasthan Jajoba Plantation and research Project established in 1995 is taking care of Jajoba plantations by way of supplying good planting material and purchase of the produce. Drip irrigation was found quite effective for enhancing the productivity.

(d) This plant is suited to desert ecosystem. With the active support of Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Agriculture Department of Rajasthan Government initiated Jojoba plantation during 1992. It is estimated that about 300 ha area is under Jojoba plantation in the country. Government of Rajasthan is providing 50 percent subsidy on purchase of seedlings.

and seeds of Jojoba to the growers. Plant survival was very poor under rainfed conditions of Andhra Pradesh and adjoining States.

Difficulties faced by Jute Bags Manufacturers

4803. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the Jute Bag manufacturers in the country who are selling their products at cheaper rates due to import of jute bags from Bangladesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There has been a very limited import of Jute goods during the past year. This has so far not caused adverse effect in the domestic market of jute goods. Moreover the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 provides Compulsory Packing of Jute goods in selected sectors like Food grains, Sugar and Urea and takes care of the interests of those engaged in the production of raw jute and jute goods.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues

4804. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding dues payable by each State Electricity Board to the Coal India Limited State-wise;

(b) whether the Government and the Electricity Boards have formulated any action plan for recovery of the outstanding amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Total outstanding dues payable by each State Electricity Board to the Coal India Limited State-wise is enclosed in the statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In July 2000, the Government announced a scheme for securitisation of the dues of

State Electricity Board towards the Central Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Coal. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) The concerned defaulting SEBs would issue bonds to CPSUs of the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Coal to cover the principal amount due upto 31.12.1999 or any other mutually accepted date.
- (ii) The bonds would be backed by a State Government's guarantee with specific allocations to be made in the concerned State Government's Budget for servicing the bonds in the event of the SEBs being unable to do so.
- (iii) By way of further comfort to the bond holder, the Central Government would undertake to use the existing authorization to deduct upto 15% of CPA allocations of the State concerned for the purpose of redemption of bonds if the State Government is unable to meet the guarantee obligations.
- (iv) The bonds will have tax-status.
- (v) With the above features, the bonds are expected to be tradable in the secondary market and the Central PSUs would have the option to recover their money by selling the bonds in the secondary market.
- (vi) The above facility of issue of guaranteed tax-free bonds by the SEBs will be available only to those SEBs/State Governments who agree to implement a suitable reform package including payment of current dues by the SEB and opening of LC to the extent of 105% of the current dues, adhering to milestones of reforms formulated by the Ministry of Power and the setting up of the SERC quickly in the concerned State etc.

Recently, an Expert Groups under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Ahluwalia, Member (Energy), Planning Commission has also been constituted to recommend measures for one time settlement of outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards towards the Central Public Sector Undertakings as also the dues from the CPSUs State Power Utilities.

Statement***Billing & Realisation Report for the month of March, 2001 (Upto 31.03.2001)***

Name of SEBs and PCs	Billing	Progressive for the year			As on 31.03.2001			
		Actual Realisation	E/B Royalty Cess Adj.	Total Realisation	Other Adj.	Disp.	Undisp	Total
BSEB	157.76	147.58	—	147.58	-6.17	92.08	198.28	290.36
UPSEB	1048.74	1016.92	50.12	1067.04	-30.34	14.5	394.92	409.42
PSEB	707.57	685.04	—	685.04	-23.67	201.34	48.19	249.53
TNEB	921.73	728.37	—	728.37	-58.61	220.98	233.98	454.96
HSEB	231.51	217.18	—	217.18	-29.32	2.09	49.96	52.05
RSEB	611.22	558.76	—	558.76	-0.37	10.73	74.21	84.94
MSEB	2086.94	1832.26	128.96	1961.22	-234.51	333.08	435.02	768.1
MPEB	1194.99	491.35	422.93	934.28	-10.24	133.12	872.02	1005.14
CSEB	88.9	—	65.33	65.33	—	—	3.57	3.57
DVB	841.92	763.07	—	763.07	-7.06	0.51	688.85	689.36
WBSEB	262.7	99.88	56.09	155.97	-13.06	14.44	286.43	300.87
WBPDC	408.08	68.91	142.89	211.8	-28.67	51.96	637.14	689.1
APEB	417.03	403.42	—	403.42	-1.24	4.44	23.03	27.47
ASEB	12.5	12.5	—	12.5	—	—	-1.25	-1.25
KPCL	168.2	160.43	1.34	161.77	-7.59	—	3.51	3.51
DPL	101.28	59.09	0.02	59.11	-8.65	1.85	186.45	188.3
DVC	482.6	203.31	275.65	478.96	-33.73	84.54	43.11	127.65
DVB	128.72	132.27	—	132.27	0.41	13.88	6.08	19.96
BTPS	338.83	298	—	298	-13.58	263.65	288.47	552.12
NTPC	4674.88	4337.72	—	4337.72	287.9	126.05	59.73	185.78
CESC	409.78	391.24	—	391.24	-8.75	0.75	13.76	14.51
AEC	114.01	114.3	—	114.3	-4.22	10.92	7.14	18.06
BSES	96.53	95.46	—	95.46	0.02	—	2.31	2.31
DPS	34.14	35.03	—	35.03	-0.1	—	1.32	1.32
Tenughat	—	59	—	59	5.18	—	9.46	9.46
HPCL	21.88	22.19	—	22.19	-3.89	—	-0.46	-0.46
OPGC	115.38	59.17	56.43	115.6	—	-0.74	-0.74	-0.74
RPCo.	232.83	232.83	—	—	—	—	—	0
Tata Hydro	—	—	—	—	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Total	15978.26	13225.28	1219.76	14445.04	-806.09	1580.91	4564.47	6145.38

*[English]***Cultural Liberalisation Package**

4805. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a "cultural liberalization" package to earn revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to place heritage sites in private hands;

(d) if so, whether any criteria has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government established the National Cultural Fund (NCF) in November, 1996 to enable institutions and individuals to cooperate in promoting and preserving India's cultural heritage.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The National Culture Fund enables private individuals/agencies to fund projects for the conservation of monuments, which are executed by the Archaeological Survey of India alone. However, creation of tourist related facilities and improvement of the environment around centrally protected monuments can be promoted directly by these agencies under strict terms and conditions laid down by the Archaeological Survey of India and subject to its overall control and supervision.

*[Translation]***Publication of Constitution**

4806. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year of the publication of latest edition of Constitution of India;

(b) whether revised edition of the Constitution of India is not available for the common people;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available the latest revised edition of the Constitution of India containing all the amendments made in it so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The year of publication of the latest edition of the Constitution of India is 2000.

(b) and (c) The latest diglot version of the Constitution of India was brought out recently, that is, in January, 2000. 22,500 copies of this were published and are available with the Controller of Publication, Civil Lines, Delhi for sale to the public.

(d) The publication of a revised edition is generally considered as and when the copies of the current edition are sold out.

*[English]***Re-Introduction of Train Service between Halbargaon and Mairabari**

4807. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the abandoned rail service from Halbargaon to Mairabari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said train service is likely to be re-introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Launch of New Electronic Guidance System

4808. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a new Electronic Guidance System to guide the tourists in Red Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch such facilities in other historical monuments;

(d) if so, the names of such monuments along with the expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon, monument-wise;

(e) the charges fixed for use of this system by tourists;

(f) whether the Government are also planning to release CD-ROMs on important monuments; and

(g) if so, the names of monuments selected therefore along with the expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The System called Handy Audio Reach Kit (HARK) is based on advanced technology and provides automated Bi-lingual description of various parts of the monument to the tourist on headphone as he goes near it.

This facility has been provided at the following locations in the Red Fort:— Naubat-Khana, Diwan-i-Aam, Hyatt-Baksh Garden, Shah Burj, Hammam, Diwan-i-Khaas, Rang Mahal, Khas Mahal and Mumtaz Mahal.

The total installation cost for the system was Rs. 2,22,500/-

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Electronic Guidance System is proposed to be introduced in a phased manner at different monuments in the country. The next two monuments where the system are to be installed shortly are:—

(1) Qutab Minar, New Delhi.

(2) Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi

The proposed cost for installing the electronic guidance system at Qutub Minar is Rs. 3,91,050/- and at Humayun's Tomb, Rs. 2,48,850/-

(e) The hiring charge is fixed at Rs. 20/- per equipment with Rs. 150/- as refundable security deposit on return of equipment.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has released Virtual CD ROMs on Khajuraho, Taj Mahal, Hampi and Konark. Virtual Walkthrough CD ROMs are proposed to be released on Hampi and Ajanta.

The Virtual CD ROMs on Khajuraho and Taj Mahal were produced at a total cost of Rs. 6,38,560/-. The CD ROMs on Hampi and Konark were produced at a total cost of Rs. 6,55,000/-. As regards the production of Virtual Walk Through CD ROMs on Hampi and Ajanta, the proposal is under process.

Committee on ONGC

4809. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mackenzie Committee constituted for giving recommendations on ONGC has since submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government on the basis of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had, in March, 1997, initiated a project for restructuring of the Corporation in consultation with the M/s. McKinsey and Company Incorporated, international Management Consultants. The recommendations of the Consultants were received by ONGC in phases over a period of time during the years 1997 to 1999. The recommendations of the Consultants highlighted the need to have a greater focus on ONGC's core activities of finding and producing oil and gas, better management of skills and expertise in oil field services, greater commercial and performance accountability and quicker decision making by decentralisation. The operative recommendations of the Consultant, *inter alia*, included the need for focussed attention on structural changes; and also changes in systems and procedures in the areas of exploration, reservoir management, drilling, material management, logistics, human resources, budgeting & costing, performance management systems research and development Institutes and information services. ONGC as a 'Navratna' Public Sector Undertakings enjoys substantial autonomy in its operations. While some of the recommendations of the consultants are already under various stages of implementation, the rest are receiving attention of the management of ONGC. At present, the Government has no proposal under its consideration for any change in the organisational structure of ONGC. However, the process of review by the Government of the performance of Public Sector Undertakings, like the ONGC, is a continuous one.

Losses due to Earthquake in Gujarat

4810. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered by the Departments under the Law Ministry due to recent earthquake in Gujarat; and

(b) the relief/aid sent by the Ministry for such Departments as well as for earthquake victims?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No loss has been suffered by any of the Departments under the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs. The question of sending any relief to such departments, therefore, does not arise. However, a sum of about Rs 1.68 lakhs has been contributed by the officers/staff of the Departments of this Ministry to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the earthquake victims.

Technology from Japan

4811. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 82% farmers are without investment capacity to face the challenges of globalisation; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be taken from Japan for acquiring/adopting their highly developed agriculture technology for value addition of produces and help capital formation and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) India agriculture is characterized by pre-dominance of small and marginal farmers, who hardly have investment capacity.

(b) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Length of Chandervihar Halt Station

4812. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Chandervihar halt ke

Nirman Nirdharit Lambai se Kam" appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated March 22, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any investigation into the irregularities committed in the construction of the said platform;

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking any action after holding probe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No irregularities have been committed in the construction of platform at Chander Vihar Halt. Platform has been provided as per the sanctioned work.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

World Bank Assistance to Readymade Garments Industry

4813. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is assisting the readymade garments industry of India;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance received by readymade garments industry during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the details regarding the offered assistance and the mode of receiving assistance by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Exploration in Mukta-Panna Oil Fields

4814. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking any step to exploit the Mukta-Pana oilfields with the help of private sector;

(b) if so, the details of national and international companies participating in the exploration of oil-fields; and

(c) the terms of conditions laid down on those companies for exploration of oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India has signed a contract on the 22nd December 1994 for the development of medium sized oil fields Mukta and Panna with the consortium of Enron Oil and Gas (India) Ltd. U.S.A., Reliance Industries Ltd., India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. with a participating interest of 30%, 30% and 40% respectively.

(c) The broad terms and conditions laid down in the contract are given below:—

- (i) ONGC has 40% participating interest in the contract.
- (ii) The contractor is required to pay royalty and cess on oil and gas as per the contract.
- (iii) profit petroleum is to be shared with Government based on post tax investment multiple as per the contract.
- (iv) The percentage cost recovery limit from annual production is 100%.
- (v) Contractor is required to pay signature and production bonuses as per the contract.
- (vi) Exemption from the Import duties on goods required for petroleum operations is available.
- (vii) Income tax is payable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (viii) Government has the first right of refusal and may buy crude oil and gas under the contract.
- (ix) Arbitration is as per UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law).
- (x) Applicable laws of India are to govern the contract.

Provision of Wagons for Supply of Coal to Power Plants in Karnataka

4815. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of wagons are not provided to meet the requirement of supply of coal to power plants in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of wagons provided to Karnataka for supply of coal during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient number of wagons to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway is able to meet the requirement of wagons for supply of coal to power plants in Karnataka as per demand. Average number of Box wagons supplied per day to power house in Karnataka is given as under:

Year	Average No. of Box wagons/Day
1998-1999	196
1999-2000	245
2000-2001	279

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Work of Second Phase of NTPC Anta

4816. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress in work for the second phase of the NTPC Anta;

(b) whether the land has been acquired for the second phase and the Government of Rajasthan has released its share of water; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work on second phase is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has planned the expansion of Anta gas power station by adding 650 MW generating capacity. The project was originally proposed to be set up with naphtha as bridge fuel and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as long term fuel. However, in view of abnormal increase in naphtha price in the recent past, NTPC has decided to match commissioning

of the project with the availability of imported regassified LNG at a reasonable price.

Based on the expected cost of regassified LNG, generation cost is estimated to be about Rs. 4.00 per kWh. NTPC had sought reconfirmation from beneficiary States for availing power from Anta expansion project at this indicative price. Major beneficiary States such as Uttar Pradesh have expressed their unwillingness to purchase power at such a high cost of generation. NTPC will take up further processing of Anta expansion project only after confirmation of availability of LNG at a reasonable firm price and acceptance of the cost of generation based on LNG price by the beneficiary States.

(b) Land for Anta expansion project has already been acquired. The Government of Rajasthan has agreed in principle to make available additional water required for this expansion project.

(c) As indicated at (a) above, further processing of Anta expansion project will be taken up by NTPC after confirmation of availability of LNG at a reasonably firm price and acceptance of the cost of generation based on LNG price by the beneficiary States. The tentative share of Rajasthan in power to be generated from this expansion project will be about 130 MW.

[English]

Foreign Tour

4817. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of a railway board or the senior officers are sent to foreign tours for the guidance of the foreign trainees of the railways;

(b) if so, the number of times the officers/Board Members were sent to foreign tour; and

(c) the number of officers who have not completed their training in Eastern Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no system of mandatory training in Eastern Zone for officers.

[Translation]

Closing of Makarana-Parbatsar Rail Line

4818. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Makarana-Parbatsar meter gauge line in Nagaur district under Jodhpur Division of northern railway has been closed;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-open this line for traffic;

(d) if not, reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to transfer the jurisdiction of this railway line to any other zone of Indian Railway.

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether any inspection has been conducted by the Railways in this regard;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof;

(i) whether residential colonies would be demolished and agricultural land would be acquired consequent upon transfer of railway line;

(j) if so, justification thereof;

(k) whether the Government have received any representation requesting for investigation of the entire episode; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Makrana-Parbatsar meter gauge line was converted into broad gauge in the year 1995-96 and Commissioner for Railway Safety's inspection carried out in April, 1996. However, as in the meantime miners had done mining of marble in the first block section of Makrana-Bidyad very close to the railway line, this line could not be made operative. After intervention of Hon'ble High Court/Jodhpur, it was decided jointly by Ministry of Railways and State Government of Rajasthan that the alignment in affected portion would be shifted to make the line operative. Even

after demarcation of alternative alignment, the land has not yet been made available by the State Government.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) to (h) Do not arise.

(i) and (j) The new alignment passes through some built up area. State Government has to hand over land to the Railway free of all encumbrances.

- (k) No, Sir.
- (l) Does not arise.

[English]

Effects of W.T.O. on Farmers

4819. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka has called the meeting of Members of Parliament from Karnataka to discuss the farm prices and also met the Prime Minister to apprise the Union Government about the effects of W.T.O. on farmers of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the main points referred by the Chief Minister of Karnataka to the Prime Minister and to the Union Minister of Agriculture; and

(c) the steps the Union Government have taken to meet the demands of the Government of Karnataka?

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

Standard for Slaughter Houses

4820. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Circular No. 18-65-DL. III of August 23, 1993 was issued to all State Government for implementing 20 Standards for slaughter houses;

(b) if so, during the intervening period any compliance report has been received; and

(c) if not, the follow up action taken to implement the Standards?

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

(b) and (c) Slaughter of animals is a State subject and the Indian Standards are voluntary standards. The State Governments have taken initiatives for modernization and improvement of slaughter for providing facilities in line with Indian Standards.

[Translation]

Agitation at Nardana Railway Station

4821. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers staged an agitation at the Nardana station of Western railways on January 15, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the railways to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agriculture Production

4822. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of contribution of live-stock in total agricultural production during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the loss suffered by the country due to the various cattle disease occurred during 2000-2001;

(c) whether the Government are considering to privatise the medical facilities to live-stock for providing effective health and breeding facilities for the development of live-stock;

(d) if so, the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per the latest available information, the percentage of contribution of livestock in total agriculture was 22.95% in 1996-97, 24.50% in 1997-98 and 23.16% in 1998-99.

(b) The number of cattle and buffaloes lost due to various important contagious diseases during the last three

years (*i.e.* 1998, 1999 and 2000) is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Since animal holding in the country is small and the animals are owned by marginal and small farmers, and medical facilities to livestock are welfare activities, Department is not considering to privatise the medical facilities to livestock.

Statement

Loss of cattle and buffaloes due to important contagious diseases during the last three years (1998, 1999 and 2000)

Name of the Disease	1998			1999			2000		
	OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT
Rinderpest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foot and Mouth Disease	100	79461	2444	1440	58704	884	1522	35899	237
Haemorrhagic Septicacemia	1226	10765	3831	644	5972	2332	545	2962	1300
Black Quarter	594	2128	1162	445	2054	741	479	1978	738
Anthrax	55	220	144	80	228	172	45	204	163

OB: Out Break AT: Attack DT: Death

[English]

Revision of Royalty Rate on Oil and Natural Gas

4823. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether off shore production of oil or gas has been subject to State royalty;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether royalty has been fixed on flat rate or on ad valorem basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas is payable at the rates fixed by the Central Government from time to

time pursuant to the provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 framed thereunder, as amended from time to time. Under provisions of the above said Rules, royalty on the crude oil and natural gas produced from offshore is payable to Central Government and that from onshore areas to the State Government. The Rules also provide that the Royalty on crude oil and natural gas cannot exceed 20% of the selling price at well-head. Royalty on crude oil is payable on flat rate basis and on ad-valorem basis for natural gas for the cases where Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) and Petroleum Mining Leases (PMLs), other than the PELs/PMLs under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) or on NELP terms, had been granted to Oil India Ltd. and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL). Royalty on crude oil is payable on flat rate basis and on ad-valorem basis for natural gas for the cases, where PELs and PMLs, other than the PELs/PMLs, under NELP, are held by Private Companies pursuant to the Production Sharing Contracts signed by Government of India. Royalty on both crude oil and natural gas is payable on ad-valorem basis for the cases, where PELs

have been granted under NELP or NELP terms. A Committee to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil applicable *w.e.f.* 1.4.1998 has been constituted by the Government.

Manufacturing of Vaccine

4824. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the development and manufactures of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine by NDDB and other firms Foot and Mouth Disease continues to rage in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that to escape responsibility the authorities are naming the outbreak as haemorrhagic septicaemia;

(d) if so, the present status of the Foot and Mouth Disease in the country indicating the decrease in milk production on this account, State-wise; and

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

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

(b) Foot and Mouth Disease, a highly contagious viral disease of the cloven footed animals, is endemic in India and occurs throughout the year. The disease can be prevented by routine prophylactic immunization of the susceptible animals. However, for effectively controlling the disease in whole or part of the country, certain measures like mass vaccination, movement control, sero-surveillance and sero-monitoring are required.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State-wise incidence of Foot and Mouth Disease in the country for the last three years (1998, 1999 and 2000) is given at the enclosed statement I.

No specific study to quantify the losses in milk production due to Foot and Mouth Disease has been carried out.

(e) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling animal diseases, Government of India is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases. Under Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme component of this Scheme Central assistance is extended for vaccination of the susceptible cattle for which the cost of the vaccine is borne by the Central Government, State Government and the beneficiary on 25:25:50 basis. In Union Territories, the component is implemented on 100% basis. The State-wise details of funds released during Ninth Plan for control of Foot and Mouth Disease are given in statement II.

Statement I

Incidence of Foot and Mouth Disease in India during the last three years (1998, 1999 & 2000)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Species	1998			1999			2000		
			OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	<i>bov</i>	221	6092	159	108	4502	6	42	1406	2
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	17	657	41	24	257	72	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	<i>bov</i>	12	80	0	4	273	2	7	686	0
3.	Assam	<i>bov</i>	7	9	1	4	451	0	2	370	0
4.	Bihar	<i>bov</i>	19	963	31	7	15	0	3	36	0
5.	Chattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0
6.	Goa	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	17	558	17	3	204	0
		<i>buf</i>	0	0	0	4	102	0	2	42	0
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	2	135	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Gujarat	<i>bov</i>	49	1674	0	49	1116	18	29	1283	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	1	100	0	4	15	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	<i>bov</i>	12	28841	0	3	9629	0	16	572	1
		<i>buf</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	<i>bov</i>	10	1881	52	3	83	0	8	268	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	6	3263	10	0	0	0	6	521	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	<i>bov</i>	20	3267	9	3	1319	0	9	2353	12
		<i>ovi/cap</i>	2	112	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	<i>boy</i>	249	3952	423	576	19146	142	1154	23498	161
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	<i>bov</i>	137	2094	40	193	4520	240	36	200	9
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	<i>bov.</i>	0	0	0	8	609	0	1	25	0
15.	Maharashtra	<i>bov.</i>	84	2133	80	112	3059	34	71	868	19
		<i>ovi/cap</i>	1	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	<i>bov</i>	3	11	1	12	262	32	1	89	0
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	3	11	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	<i>bov.</i>	3	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	<i>bov</i>	1	24	0	24	693	9	18	161	5
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	1	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	2	200	50	4	12	2
19.	Nagaland	<i>bov</i>	73	3843	146	81	5597	207	12	1040	22
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	34	1050	41	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	1432	4
21.	Punjab	<i>bov</i>	83	21597	1460	0	0	0	5	61	0
22.	Rajasthan	<i>bov</i>	8	608	0	97	2723	159	0	0	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	0	0	0	1	40	0	0	0	0
23.	Sikkim	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	2	241	0	3	38	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	<i>bov</i>	80	1473	39	4	82	17	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	<i>bov</i>	7	479	0	51	1930	1	3	35	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	<i>bov</i>	6	293	3	1	20	0	1	10	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal		—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	<i>bov</i>	2	13	0	25	605	0	22	1045	2
29.	A&N Island		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	22	0
31.	D&N Haveli		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	<i>bov</i>	5	81	0	45	141	0	10	67	0
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
34.	Lakshadweep	<i>bov</i>	10	16	0	2	845	0	7	56	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	47	4
35.	Pondicherry	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	5	183	0	0	0	0
Total		<i>bov</i>	1100	79461	2444	14336	88602	884	1519	35825	237
		<i>buf</i>	0	0	0	4	102	0	3	74	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	65	5288	92	32	429	72	9	568	4
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	7	346	50	6	16	2

bov : bovine*Buf*: buffalo*ovi/cap*: ovine/caprine*sui*: swine

OB: Out Break

AT: Attack

DT: Death

Statement II

*Assistance provided by the Union Government to each State/Union Territory
to control Foot and Mouth Disease during the last four years*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	3.00	0.18	3.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.75	3.00	2.00	2.00	8.75
3.	Assam	Nil	20.00	Nil	Nil	20.00
4.	Bihar	Nil	25.00	Nil	Nil	25.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	4.00	0.55	1.36	2.00	7.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Gujarat	3.50	30.00	Nil	29.05	62.55
8.	Haryana	Nil	8.50	6.66	12.34	27.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	6.60	6.50	10.00	29.10
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.00	Nil	4.00	Nil	8.00
11.	Jharkand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	50.00	Nil	65.00	27.83	142.83
13.	Kerala	Nil	6.079	4.00	3.50	13.579
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57.27	Nil	4.42	1.23	62.92
15.	Maharashtra	15.40	Nil	43.26	30.00	88.66
16.	Manipur	2.00	Nil	5.00	Nil	7.00
17.	Meghalaya	1.60	Nil	5.00	2.33	8.93
18.	Mizoram	8.00	9.00	6.33	15.00	38.33
19.	Nagaland	10.40	Nil	1.00	5.00	16.40
20.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Punjab	25.00	Nil	75.00	Nil	100.00
22.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	2.58	9.37	11.95
23.	Sikkim	7.00	Nil	Nil	5.00	12.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	Nil	6.50	13.50	40.00
25.	Tripura	4.52	Nil	19.66	27.20	51.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	29.50	50.00	28.73	36.00	144.23
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	West Bengal	30.00	25.00	Nil	30.00	85.00
	Total States	279.94	183.729	290.00	261.53	1015.199
1	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	1.00	7.00	8.00
2	Chandigarh	0.70	Nil	0.80	0.80	2.30
3	D&N Haveli	0.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.40
4	Daman Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Delhi	8.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	8.00
6	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.00	1.20
7	Pondicherry	0.50	Nil	1.50	Nil	2.00
	Total UTs.	9.60	Nil	3.50	8.80	21.90
	Grand Total	289.54	183.729	293.50	270.33	1037.099

*[Translation]***Delhi Milk Scheme**

4825. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme propose to keep its depots open throughout the day; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and rationale behind the said proposals?

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

(b) DMS has so far started 32 number of such depots. By keeping the depots open throughout the day, Delhi Milk Scheme will be able to provide effective services to its consumers for a longer period.

CNG Production and Import

4826. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of CNG production in the country and its import from other countries; and

(b) the extent of gap in the CNG production in the country in comparison to the required consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) CNG is only natural gas in a compressed form. Therefore production of CNG depends upon the allocation of natural gas made for the purpose of conversion to CNG. The installed capacity and supply of CNG in Delhi and Mumbai where at present CNG is supplied as on 15.04.2001 are as follows:

- (1) Delhi—2,00,000 kg. per day as against the demand of 1,20,000 kg. per day.
- (2) Mumbai—1,20,000 kg. per day as against the demand of 1,00,000 kg. per day.

While there is a gap between the availability of the Natural Gas and the demand, as regards the Compressed Natural Gas, the present capacity is adequate to meet the requirement at Delhi and Mumbai.

In view of the above fact import of it is not required.

*[English]***Problems of Powerloom Weavers**

4827. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spate of suicides of powerloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Sircilla town is continuing with four more members of a powerloom weavers' family including an eight year old girl committing suicide on April 4, 2001 following starvation.

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have examined the reasons and problems which are faced by the powerloom weavers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to supply power and yarn at subsidised rates to powerloom weavers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) It has been reported that 30 weavers of Powerloom Community, over a period of last two years, in and around Sircilla division of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh have committed suicides due to a variety of reasons like high incidence of indebtedness; high power tariff and also lack of uninterrupted power supply; prevalence of diseases; poor marketability of low technology powerloom products etc. Government of A.P. has taken the following steps:

- (i) 500 old age and 16 widow pension case have been sanctioned to the eligible weavers.
- (ii) Distribution of 6,232.20 kgs. of rice @ 10 kgs. distributed to the affected family members.
- (iii) 1100 white ration cards were distributed among the affected weavers.
- (iv) Health camps are being organized in the affected areas.
- (v) Survey of powerloom weavers is being taken up by the District Rural Development Agency at Sircilla.

- (vi) An Apparel Design Centre is opened at Sircilla to impart training to women on Juki (Japan) sewing machine. The Centre has already commenced its training with 20 ladies. Besides this the District Administration is taking steps to impart training in embroidery, computer and other skill-upgrading occupation.
- (vii) Government have planned to train 30,000 shop floor workers to provide jobs in the Apparel Export Park at Gundla Pochampally, Medchal Mandal in R.R. District.
- (viii) State Government have decided to give training to families of deceased powerloom workers on juki sewing machines at Common Facility Centre of Gundlapochampally.
- (ix) Powerloom Development Cell is being opened in the Office of the Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Hyderabad, Government of A.P.

Government is fully seized of this matter. A programme for modernisation of the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. In order to rationalize the power tariffs for powerloom sector, Ministry of Textiles has taken up the matter with the major textile manufacturing States in the country. Rationalisation of power tariff particularly for powerloom sector was also discussed in the Conference of State/UT Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Textiles held on 10.4.2001 in New Delhi. There is no shortage of yarn for the last few years.

CNG Outlets in Delhi and Maharashtra

4828. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more CNG retail outlets in Delhi and Maharashtra during the current and next financial years; and

(b) if so, the names of places identified in Delhi and Maharashtra, year-wise with criteria to be adopted separately for departmental and private managed cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. In Delhi 12 more and in Mumbai 17 more CNG outlets are proposed to be set up during the year 2001-2002.

During the next financial year opening of more CNG outlets in the city of Delhi will depend on the demand. In the city of Mumbai 5 more CNG outlets are proposed to be opened for which process of identification of sites is going on.

(b) Names of the places identified in Delhi and Maharashtra for opening new CNG outlets during the current year are given in the enclosed statement. Since the outlets are to be opened and managed by the respective companies themselves, there is no question of adopting any criteria as such for allocation to Departmental and privately managed cases.

Statement

List of Places Identified for Opening of CNG Outlets during the Current Year

Delhi

1. Vasant Vihar
2. IP Depot
3. East Vinod Nagar
4. Bandha Bahadur-I
5. Bandha Bahadur-II
6. Okha-I
7. Dheerpur
8. Peeragarhi
9. Rohtak Road
10. Adjacent to IP Depot
11. Shakurpur
12. Nanglamachi

Mumbai

1. RTO Plot, Tardeo
2. Plot Opp. Raheja Centre Nariman Point
3. PWD Plot, Next to Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhavan, Chumi Road
4. PWD Plot, Next to Nariman Point Fire Brigade, Cuffe Parade
5. BMC Plot, Near NSCI Worli or Plot Next to BMC Office Along Dr. E. Moses Rd.
6. MMRDA Plot No. 243A Opp. UCO Bank Nariman Point

7. Royal Auto Bhendi Bazar
8. Intel Carport Near Sahar Airport
9. Express Petroleum Colaba
10. Suburban Service Bandra (W)
11. Plot within Tata-SSL Factory Premises Borivali (E)
12. India Garage Worli
13. Sachedeva Auto Malad (W)
14. Ghatkopar (E) Best Depot
15. A D Adjanja Grant Road
16. Karfuel Pvt. Ltd. Ballard Pier
17. Famous Auto Borivli (W)

Suicide by Farmers

4829. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
 SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN:
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY
 SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
 SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural farmers committed suicide, sold their children and women folks in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years till February 2001, district-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons for such incidents either at Union or State level;

(c) if so, the findings of the study; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the farmers to overcome their financial and other related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) As per available information, in Andhra Pradesh, 358 farmers during 1997-99, 5 during 1999-2000 and 22 during 2000-2001 committed suicides, 60 farmers in Karnataka during

1998, 32 in Maharashtra during 1998 and 3 in Punjab during 1998.

(b) and (c) A Study sponsored by the Government of Punjab has revealed that suicides were mainly due to family discord, alcohol & illicit drug use, indebtedness and loss of status.

(d) Necessary action is required to be taken by the concerned State Governments. The Government of India only supplements the efforts of the State Governments.

Economic Reforms

4830. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend economic reforms to agriculture to speedily remedy the situation of burgeoning foodgrain stocks and falling market prices of agriculture products, leading to distress sales and lower off take from the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the extent to which the situation has eased, as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing Price Support Scheme under which large scale procurement of foodgrains has been done. The Government has taken measures to increase storage capacity, promote exports and allow free movement to facilitate disposal of stocks. The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to formulate a long term Grain Policy for the country and the report is expected by end of May, 2001. Moreover, the budget proposals for 2001-2002 point to significant reforms, as well as an enlarged role of State Governments, in procurement and distribution of foodgrains for PDS/Distribution System.

[Translation]

Development of Wild Life Sanctuaries as Tourist Spots

- 4831 SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to develop wildlife sanctuaries as tourist spots.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial provision made for it especially in respect of Madhya Pradesh, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Tourism

4832. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collective allocation of Rs. 300 crore by various State and Rs. 110 crore from the Centre were not enough to develop India's potential as a major tourist destination;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for inflow of funds for creating infrastructure facilities for the attraction of international tourist;

(c) whether the Government took a note of a press report appeared in "The Asian Age", New Delhi dated September 14, 2000 revealing about a survey conducted with regard to views expressed by international tourists about the facilities existing in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism has approached the Planning Commission to enhance budgetary support for creating more infrastructural facilities at tourist destinations in various States/UT Administrations.

(c) to (e) The Government is already aware about various problems at Airports, Railway Stations and bad

condition of roads. The Department of Tourism has approached concerned Ministries to take appropriate measures. In addition, the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers on Tourism Industry and Trade and a Committee of Secretaries to look into various issues relating to tourism. Airport Facilitation Committees have also been formed at International Airports to look into various problems.

Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1954

4833. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Registrar of the Ministry has issued notices under section 73(2) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1954 to the then Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Directors and Deputy General Manager of the Super Bazar in the fraud cases;

(b) if so, the complete details of the notices so issued and on the basis on which the action is likely to be taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the other Multi-State Co-operative Societies in Delhi have any proposal to esquire into the other societies if similar situation exist in those societies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. In fact the correct title of the Act is Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

(b) After considering the inquiry report under section 73(1) of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, New Delhi has issued notices to former Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Directors and Deputy General Manager of Super Bazar. The Central Registrar has issued notices to these persons in exercise of statutory provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The Central Registrar, as an quasi-judicial Authority, will take appropriate decisions on these notices in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Act and rules.

(c) and (d) If any other issue of similar nature in respect of any other Multi-State Cooperative Society is brought to the notice of the Central Registrar, appropriate action would be taken as per provisions of the Act and Rules.

Funds for Agriculture

4834. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken for increasing food production and gearing up the financial sector for more funds for agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Government is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the production and productivity in agriculture and allied activities and also to facilitate availability of agricultural inputs and agriculture credit to the farmers. A regionally differentiated strategy is being developed to maximize production and productivity through the Macro Management Mode of agricultural planning, launching of a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region and formulation of a Scheme for On-Farm Water Management in Eastern India. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been constituted in NABARD for advancing loans to State Governments and State Owned Corporations for quick completion of on-going projects relating to medium & minor irrigation, soil conservation, watershed management and other forms of rural infrastructure. The corpus is being raised to Rs. 5000/- crore during the budget year 2001-2002 and the rate of interest lowered from 11.5% to 10.5%. Steps have also been taken for simplification of lending procedures and strengthening institutional mechanism. A series of measures have been taken for providing timely and adequate credit to the rural sector. 18% of net bank credit has been earmarked for agriculture.

Central Research Institute for Dry Land

4835. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture-Hyderabad;

(b) the manner in which it is helping farmers of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total manpower and yearly expenditure on the Institute;

(d) whether the work load for the staff is adequate; and

(e) if so, its achievements so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) was set up under ICAR during 1985 at Hyderabad to take up lead and strategic in dryland agriculture at the national level. Main activities of the institute are:

- (i) Development of strategies for sustainable farming systems in the rainfed areas.
 - (ii) Act as a repository of information and provide leadership to the network research for generating location specific technologies for rainfed areas.
 - (iii) Act as a centre for training on all aspects related to management of rainfed farming systems.
 - (iv) Collaborate with relevant national and international agencies and provide consultancy in the areas of dryland agriculture.
- (b) (i) CRIDA, Hyderabad is the major ICAR institute working for the resource poor rainfed farmers of India, in general, and Andhra Pradesh, in particular. One centre of the institute is working at Anaparthi which also has an Operational Research Project. This station is involved in generating appropriate rainfed technologies to stabilize the income of groundnut based production system farmers in red soils region of Rayalseema region.
- (ii) The institute has developed appropriate technologies such as screening of crops/varieties for drought tolerance, contingency crop planning, cropping systems, rainfed horticulture and watershed management for red soils of southern Telangana region of A.P.
 - (iii) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) established in 1978 at CRIDA is involved in improving the farmers, farm women and rural youth of Ranga Reddy and adjoining districts. Institute Village Programme is also being implemented for the last 4 years.
 - (iv) CRIDA is imparting training for skill upgradation, organizes frontline demonstrations, develops contingency crop planning and makes weather forecasting for rainfed crops.
 - (v) Scientists of CRIDA are involved in transfer of rainfed technologies in Andhra Pradesh through

participation in the programmes of the State Government, dissemination of knowledge and technologies in the local language, organization of Kisan Mela in different districts of A.P. and talks/reports on radio and television.

(c) **Manpower**

Scientific	68
Administration	57
Technical	99
Supporting grade	77
Total	301

Expenditure (Yearly basis)

Plan	121.00 lakhs
Non-Plan	410.00 lakhs
Non-Plan Schemes	20.7 lakhs
Plan Schemes (AICRPDA, AICRPAM)	1082.80 lakhs
AP Cess Fund Schemes	2.37 lakhs
Funding by other agencies	48.29 lakhs
total	1685.16 lakhs

(d) Besides, the main activities (mentioned at a), the institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Rainfed Production System Research and Technology Assessment and Refinement (TAR) under NATP. The institute has more than 100 research projects and 24 IVLP-TAR centres. All the scientists and technical staff have been fully engaged with the responsibilities of research, training, extension, coordination monitoring and publication activities.

(e) **Major achievements of the institute include:**

- Delineation of drought-prone areas and predictions on nature and extent of their spread.
- Delineation of the potential areas suitable for mono-cropping, intercropping and double-cropping across the dry farming zones of the country.
- Contingent crop plans and management strategies to deal with the late onset, intermittent breaks and early withdrawal of monsoonal rains.

- Assessment and identification of an array of crops and their varieties and cropping systems for their stability/drought vulnerability.
- Development of simple crop weather models for pre-harvest forecasting of crop yields, drought monitoring and assessment of yield pattern of the crops in relation to the date of occurrence of sowing rains.
- Validation of various crop growth simulation models and impact of global climate change on crop productivity.
- The most efficient crops and their varieties for different agro-climatic regions have been identified based on a continuous evaluation and screening of relapsed crop genotypes.
- The optimal time of seeding, plant density and crop geometry for different crops and cropping systems have been determined.
- Contrary to the past belief on excessive risk associated with the use of chemical fertilizers, research findings conclusively established that there is vast potential for increasing crop yields through fertilization, typically N fertilizers, across contrasting rainfed environment.
- A number of promising alternate land use systems were identified for different rainfall zones and soil types which included agrisilviculture, agrihorticulture and silvipasture systems and their economics worked out.
- A number of efficient low cost farm implements were designed for various operation, i.e. drill plough, plough planter, Fespo-plough, etc.
- Major constraints in the adoption of dryland agricultural technology were identified and the feedback provided to the researchers through operational research projects.
- The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) located at CRIDA has organized a total of 800 training programmes both on and off-campus during the period covering 20,000 farmers and farm women.

[Translation]

W.T.O. Programme

4836. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the Geneva negotiations for liberalization in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions of the Geneva agreement and figures of increase in agriculture production during each of the last three years as per the World Trade Organisation Agreement;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement further the Geneva agreement through World Organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Being a signatory to the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India is committed to abide by the provisions of the Agreement. Article 20 of the AoA mandates negotiations for further

progressing liberalization to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system in the world. India, on 15.1.2001 has submitted its initial negotiating proposals to WTO. With a view to deriving the best possible benefits from the negotiations, in its proposals, besides demanding substantial and meaningful reductions in tariffs including elimination of peak tariff and tariff escalation, substantial reductions in domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries, the country has also demanded the increased flexibility enjoyed by the developing countries by creation of a 'Food Security Box' for providing domestic support to the agriculture sector under the special and differential (S&D) provisions as also further strengthening of trade defence mechanisms with a view to ensuring its food security and taking care of livelihood concerns. The said mandated negotiations have been going on at Geneva since January, 2000.

The details of production of the major agricultural commodities in the country over the last three years are enclosed in the statement.

Statement

The details of production of major agricultural commodities in the country over the last three years

(Million tonnes)

Commodity	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Rice	82.54	86.08	89.48
Wheat	66.35	71.29	75.57
Coarse Cereals	30.40	31.33	30.47
Cereals	179.29	188.70	195.52
Pulses	12.97	14.91	13.35
Total Foodgrains	192.26	203.61	208.87
Oil Seeds	21.32	24.75	20.87
Sugarcane (Cane)	279.54	295.73	299.23
Cotton*	108.50	122.90	116.40
Jute**	99.60	88.40	94.20
Mesta**	10.60	9.70	11.10
Jute & Mesta**	110.20	98.10	105.30

* Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

** Lakhs bales of 180 kgs. each.

[English]

Production of Coconut, Pepper, Arecanut and Cardamom

4837. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the maximum and minimum per acre production of coconut, arecanut, pepper and cardamom in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by the Government to reduce the huge gap between the maximum and the minimum rate of production per acre;

(d) if so, the extent to which the said gap is likely to be reduced;

(e) whether any future plan has been formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) State-wise and all-India yield rates of production of coconut, arecanut, black pepper and cardamom during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in the Statements I to IV.

(c) and (d) The production per unit of area (productivity) depends on a large number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, managerial skills for farmers, timely application of appropriate inputs, availability of credit. Since these factors vary a great deal from region to region, so does the productivity.

(e) and (f) To increase production and productivity of coconut, cardamom and spices including black pepper, assistance is provided to State Governments, among other things, for production and supply of quality planting material. Further, assistance for cardamom replanting and irrigation is also extended for increasing productivity of cardamom.

Statement I

State-wise Yield of Coconut during 1996-97 to 1998-99

State	(nuts/hectare)		
	1996-97	1997-1998	1998-1999
Andhra Pradesh	7546	8588	19573
Assam	6041	6442	6442
Goa	4818	4885	4859
Karnataka	5140	5127	5195
Kerala	5802	5793	6188
Maharashtra	17470	15020	15020
Orissa	5123	7641	14589
Tamil Nadu	11621	11620	11620
West Bengal	13211	12601	12935
A&N Islands	3506	3492	3543
All India	6908	6834	7821

Statement II*State-wise Yield of Arecanut during 1996-97 to 1998-99*

(Kgs/hectare)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Assam	864	768	744
Karnataka	1430	1432	1437
Kerala	1100	1235	1148
All India	1178	1281	1189

Statement III*State-wise Yield of Black Pepper during 1996-97 to 1998-99*

(Kgs/hectare)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	243	240	239
Kerala	312	319	279
Tamil Nadu	235	235	198
All India	308	316	277

Statement IV*State-wise Yield of Cardamom during 1996-97 to 1998-99*

(Kgs/hectare)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	58	57	57
Kerala	125	111	129
Sikkim	153	196	82
Tamil Nadu	93	91	74
West Bengal	254	261	240
All India	127	123	104

KVK at Gaya

4838. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of Agriculture had given a promise for setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Gaya and agricultural university at Magadh University;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action on those promises; and

(c) the measures now proposed to be taken to set up these institutions?

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

Maksudpur Institute of Research and Education in Natural and Social Sciences (MIRENS) submitted a proposal for establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Gaya. It was indicated that the proposal shall be considered in future when the establishment of new KVKs would be finalized.

The Agricultural University is established by concerned State Government. No such proposal has also been received by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

(b) and (c) In view of dispute of ownership of the land proposed for establishment of the KVK, the proposal was not considered.

Renewal of Tracks

4839. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether track renewal was undertaken in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government have identified the rail tracks, particularly the narrow gauge lines for renewal during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the renewal work is likely to be completed in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The details of track renewals are not maintained State-wise. However, Himachal Pradesh is served by Northern Railway. The track renewal works that have been sanctioned and are in progress in Himachal Pradesh

during the last 3 years *i.e.* 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Complete Track Renewal of 4.5 kilometre, Sleeper Renewal of 14.89 kilometre and Sleeper Renewal of 38.65 kilometre respectively.

(e) The work against existing sanctioned renewals are expected to be completed in 3 years subject to availability of funds.

Culture Policy

4840. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formed a working group on art and culture to decide the Culture Policy for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof;

(c) whether some persons, earlier nominated on the said Working group has refused to accept the said nomination;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Planning Commission has set up a Working Group on Art and Culture to formulate the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The list of the members and terms of reference of the Working Group are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from Planning Commission, one person has refused to accept the nomination due to ideological differences.

(e) The Government has taken note of the individual's refusal to be associated with the Working Group.

Statement

*Composition of the Working Group for formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan.
Working Group of Art and Culture—Tenth Five Year Plan.*

1.	Shri R.V.V. Ayyar, Secretary, Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.	Chairman
2.	Mrs. Kiran Aggarwal, Pr. Adviser (Edn.), Planning Commission, New Delhi.	Member
3.	Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Janpath, New Delhi.	Member

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 4. | Director General (Tourism)
Government of India,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 5. | Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad,
Thiruvananthapuram. | Member |
| 6. | Director General,
National Council of Science Museums,
Sector V, Block GN,
Bidhan Nagar,
Calcutta-700 091. | Member |
| 7. | Secretary (Culture),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal. | Member |
| 8. | Ms. Premlata Puri,
Director General
Centre for Culture Resources & Training,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 9. | Prof. K.N. Panikkar,
Centre of Historical Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
Mehrauli Road, New Delhi. | Member |
| 10. | Shri Krishna Khanna,
C/o Lalit Kala Academies,
Artist Corner, Garhi Village,
East of Kailash, Kalka Devi Marg,
New Delhi-110065. | Member |
| 11. | Dr. O.P. Agrawal,
Director General,
International Cultural Centre (I.C.I.),
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. | Member |
| 12. | Director,
Indian Museum,
27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Calcutta-700016 | Member |
| 13. | Director,
Bharat Kala Bhavan,
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi-221005. | Member |
| 14. | Director,
National School of Drama,
Bahawalpur House,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 15. | Director,
North Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre,
Dimapur. | Member |

16.	Dr. K.K. Chakravarty, Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya, Post Box No. 2, Shamla Hills, Bhopal.	Member
17.	Mrs. Komal Anand Director General A S I New Delhi.	Member
18.	Rev. Kanpo, President, All Ladakh Gonpa Sangh, Leh, Ladakh.	Member
19.	Dr. Amita Ray, Retd. Prof. of Archaeology, Calcutta University, Calcutta.	Member
20.	Mrs. Chitra Chopra Additional Secretary (Planning), Department of Art & Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member Secretary

Terms and Reference of Working Group on Art and Culture—Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)

1. To review the existing approach, strategy, priorities; on-going policies and programmes and their implementations for protection and preservation of National Heritage and Culture and to suggest rationalization/minimization of the on-going programme and effective inter-sectoral conversions.

2. To review the status of various Institutions/NGOs working in the sector for providing the focus attention for the development perspective for this sector for the Tenth Five Plan.

3. To review the functioning of the existing administrative structures and mechanisms both at the Central, State and Project levels with a special reference to setting up of various science Museums and Science City and suggest improvements, if necessary;

4. to identify the neglected areas and groups; gaps, weaknesses and bottlenecks; and to take note of the persisting and emerging problems/situations related to various forms of Art and Culture and to suggest the future directions of the programmes including expansion and

qualitative up-gradation in terms of standards, facilities and attainments with special reference to tribal Folk Art/Culture.

5. The suggest measures to create effective linkage between different organizations engaged in the sector and better utilization of infrastructure.

To examine critically the following:

- Resource assessment under different activities/programs; ways and means for mobilization of additional resources; and ways and means for the involvement of Non-Government Organizations/community/other private organizations, Panchayati Raj Institution including industry and trade in the programmes under this sector.
- To review the physical and financial achievements in relation to the targets set under various programmes during the Tenth Plan and project programme-wise requirements, both physical and financial in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007).

- To converse the similar schemes/programmes under CS/CSS to avoid implications of efforts and reduced their number.

Marine Archaeological Research in Tamil Nadu

4841. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the ASI to do marine archaeological research in Tamil Nadu alongwith sites so far explored in the eastern coast in this regard;

(b) whether the ASI has not taken any steps so far to conduct marine archaeological exploration In Tamil Nadu after the preliminary survey;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the ASI has started a separate wing for marine archaeology at Delhi and propose to start the same in Chennai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) During 1995-97, the ASI took up offshore exploration around Arikamedu (Pondicherry) and Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu) with the help of marine wing of the Geological Survey of India.

(b) and (c) Due to non-availability of requisite infrastructure underwater archaeological explorations could not be conducted by ASI thereafter. However, offshore exploration along the coastal areas including Tamil Nadu are planned to be taken up during the year 2001-2002.

(d) and (e) The ASI has just started a separate wing for marine archaeology at Delhi. There is no proposal to start any branch at Chennai.

Conservation of Monuments of Delhi

4842. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi was declared as a World Heritage City in a book published by the ASI in 1982 and identified about 1400 monuments out of which only 170 are protected by the ASI;

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

(c) the reasons for not selecting all the monuments;

(d) whether the Hauz Rani, Hauz Khas, Begumpur, Khirki, Mehrauli, Lado Sarai, Kalu Sarai and Savitri Nagar monuments are slowly getting wiped out from the map of Delhi due to natural degradation, encroachments and neglect of ASI; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no provision for declaring any city a heritage city under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958. In Delhi, 166 monuments/sites have been declared as of national importance. The location-wise details are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Only those monuments which are considered to be of exceptional historical or archaeological merit have been enlisted as protected monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Due to urbanization, the open areas around the monuments/sites are being encroached. However adequate timely measures are taken by the A.S.I. to contain such illegal encroachments through the various agencies involved e.g. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, local Police, etc. In addition legal action is also taken wherever necessary to evict encroachers. Suitable conservation measures are implemented depending upon the requirement of the monuments subject to available resources.

Cargo Handled by Ports

4843. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cargo handled by different major ports during the last two years, port-wise;

(b) whether the Kandla port has increased the handing of cargo in 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the target set for 2000-2001 and the number of cargo handled by Kandla Port Trust during the current year;

(d) the cargo handling facilities available at present in the port;

(e) whether the proposal to provide additional cargo berths in the KPT is under consideration of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The cargo handled by different major port during the last two years are as under:

(In million tonnes)		
Ports	1999-2000	2000-2001*
Calcutta	10.31	7.16
Haldia	20.71	22.80
Paradip	13.64	19.90
Vizag	39.51	44.68
Chennai	37.44	41.22
Tuticorin	9.99	12.28
Cochin	12.80	13.12
New Mangalore	17.60	17.90
Mormugao	18.23	19.63
J.L. Nehru	14.98	18.58
Mumbai	30.41	26.95
Kandla	46.30	36.74
Total	271.92	280.96

*provisional.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The traffic handled by Kandla Port during the year 2000-2001 was 36.74 million tonnes as against the target of 39.00 million tonnes.

(d) Facilities for handling POL, Fertilizers, Coking Coal, Containers, Foodgrains and other general cargo are available at Kandla Port.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Kandla Port has formulated plans and taken steps to construct additional general cargo berths.

[Translation]

Use of Fertilizer under New Foreign Policy

4844. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made under the New Agricultural Policy in regard to the quantity of fertilizer to be used in order to increase the annual agriculture production by 4 percent in the ensuing years;

(b) if so, the total estimated requirement of the quantity of various chemical fertilizers in order to achieve the target of agricultural production;

(c) the present annual production thereof; and

(d) the quantity of chemical fertilizers being used in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The exercise to assess the demand for fertilisers during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and beyond is currently under way. This exercise will also take into account the targets for agriculture production and the requirement of fertilisers to achieve those targets.

(c) and (d) The production and consumption of chemical fertilisers in N.P.K. nutrient terms during the year 2000-2001 was as under:—

Production	Estimated Consumption
(N&P)*	(N, P&K)
147.51 lakh MT	165.89 lakh MT

*Requirement of K is met wholly through imports.

[English]

Train Service hit due to Bandh in Orissa

4845. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken note that train service in Orissa was hit during bandh called by political parties;

(b) whether such sad experiences have been noted by the Ministry wherein the Railway property worth crores of rupees has been damaged; and

(c) the permanent measures, the Government have taken to overcome the evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) it is not possible to prescribe permanent measures to overcome this problem. However, the administration on prior information, takes adequate preventive steps by deploying security personnel to minimize the impact of such agitation.

[Translation]

Survey for Kolayat Phalodi Rail Line

4886. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had undertaken survey to lay rail line between Kolayat and Phalodi;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of this rail line is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Action for obtaining the requisite clearances for construction of broad gauge line from Kolayat to Phalodi on strategic consideration has already been initiated and work would be taken up once the clearances are available.

[English]

Sale of Stake of Refineries

4847. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to mop up Rs. 1317 crores from the sale of its stake in three refineries to IOC and BPCL;

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

(c) whether the sale of refineries to IOC and BPCL would have any impact on the performance and future plans of the oil companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) With a view to strengthening the stand alone refineries to face the ensuing deregulated environment and improving the synergy between the refineries and marketing companies in the public sector, Government decided to restructure these public sector undertakings (PSUs). Consequently, the entire share holdings of Government in Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) and Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) have been sold to IOC and that in Kochi Refineries Ltd. (RKL) to BPC for a total consideration of Rs. 1317.23 crores (i.e. IOC = Rs. 658.13 crore, BPC = Rs. 659.10 crore)

(c) and (d) There is synergy and inter-dependence between the above refineries and the marketing companies, viz. IOC and BPCL, which have set up marketing infrastructure to evacuate the products of these refineries to meet their marketing volumes in the Southern region of the country. With acquisition of Government's stake in these refineries, IOC and BPC can plan effectively their future marketing strategies along with the expansion and modernisation programmes of the refineries so as to enhance their competitiveness under deregulated market conditions.

Training of Officers Abroad

4848. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India nominates Railways officers for training to the reputed foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capabilities in the field of General/Technical/Public Administration and MBA courses at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the names of officers sent abroad by Railways for both the short term and long term training courses during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SC/ST categories among such officers; and

(d) the reasons for not nominating adequate number of SC/ST officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway officers are nominated for training in foreign Institutions both under aid programmes and on Government of India expenditure.

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

(c) 17.

(d) No percentage has been laid down for nominating officers belonging to SC/ST for training in foreign institutions. However, subject to fulfilling the requirements, SC/ST officers are given due consideration in respect of training abroad.

Statement

List of Indian Railway Officers sent for Training abroad during 2000

Names	Railway	Category
1	2	3
V Prakash Rao	CR	
Sharma Anupam	CR	
Sharma S C	CR	
Kishore Sanjeev	CR	
Gupta Prem Sagar	CR	
Malik Sushil Kumar	CR	
Pradeep Kumar Srivastava	CR	
P K Tiwari	DLW	
Saha N B	DLW	
K Dubey	DLW	
Pan S N	DLW	

1	2	3
Kumar Pradeep	DLW	
Singh B N	DLW	
Manoj Kumar Pandey	DLW	
Shubhramshu	DLW	
Sinha L K	DLW	
Agarwal Alok K	DLW	
Kohli Rupesh	DLW	
Prasad Rajaram	DLW	
Goyal Ajay Kumar	ER	
Shailendra Jha	ER	
Bhattacharya Devasis	ER	
Pillai K S Balakrishnan	ICF	
Chak Sumant	ICF	
Ashok Kumar Mishra	IRCOT	
Mitra S M	IRTMTTC	
Khatarkar Vijay	NFR	
Lalit Mohan Sahore	NR	
Achal Khare	NR	
Gupta S K (Dr.)	NR	
Singh Ajay Kumar	NR	
Sharma Dineshwar (Dr.)	NR	
Prasad Anup Kr.	RB	
Chaudhuri S K	RB	
Sharat Anurag	RB	
Khosla Arun Kumar	RB	
Govind Narain Asthana	RB	
Singh A K	RB	
Agnihotri Satish C	RB	
Khare Adarsh	RCF	
Satwinder Singh	RCF	
Garg M K	RCF	

1	2	3
Jain S K	RCF	
Raman K	RCF	
Gurmail Singh	RCF	
Kochar S S	RCF	
Prasad Gajanand	RCF	
Chugh R. S.	RCF	
Bhadra Sheel	RCF	
Gupta Sudhir	RCF	
Kumar Ravi	RCF	
Gupta A. K. ,	RDSO	
Verma S. M.	RDSO	SC
Majumdar Gautam	RDSO	
Nitin Chowdhury	RDSO	
Yadav S. N.	RDSO	
Sanwalka A. K.	RDSO	
Verghese Thomas	RSC	
Padmanabhan V. A.	SCR	
Dhananjayulu Raaasam	SCR	
Ramanujbaba P. P.	SCR	
Ashok Kumar Agrawal	SER	
Patel Sushil Kumar	SER	
Rajiv Chandra	SR	
Dash Debi Prasad	SR	
Raveendran Palaniyandi	SR	
Radha Variyar	SR	
Prasad L. Narasim	SR	
Singh Ajay	W&AP	
Modgil B.B.	WR	
Chopra Ashok Kumar	WR	
Aggarwal Surender K	WR	
Singh Amit Kumar	WR	
Total	73 Officers	

*List of Indian Railway Officers sent for
Training abroad during 1999*

Names	Railways	Category
1	2	3
Banerjee Pranab K.	CLW	
A.K. Pandey	CLW	
S.C. Prasad	CLW	
R.K. Srivastava	CLW	
Raheja Vijay Kumar	CLW	
Ahirwar Deep Chandra	CLW	SC
S.K. Hazra	CLW	
Molay Sengupta	CLW	
Narendra	CLW	
Singh Satwant	CLW	
Sujeet Mishra	CLW	
Sehgal P.C.	CLW	
Vinet Pandey	CLW	
A.K. Sinha	CLW	
Sadasivan V.	CLW	
D. Ghosh	CLW	
Anupam Sharma	CR	
Sareen R.K.	CR	
J.N. Tiwari	CR	
Sharma Ram Prakash	CR	
Singhal Mukesh K.	CR	
Parthasarathy S.	CR	
Agarwal Rajiv	CR	
Punia R.C.	DCW	
Karunakar Thakur	DLW	
Sirajuddin Mohd.	DLW	
Pabby V.K.	DLW	
Mehta Arun	DLW	
Khan A.A.	DLW	

1	2	3
Choudhury C.B.	ER	
Banerjee G.S.	ER	
Pandey R.S.	ER	
Sharma C.K.	ER	
Bhaskar Ghosh	ER	
Jha Jitendra	ER	
Jha Gunanand	ER	
Tripathi R.D.	ER	
Bhatt T.R.	ER	ST
Asthana G.N.	ER	
Choudhary R.K.	ER	
Sangewar Promod K.	ER	
Garg J.M.	ER	
Sinha A.K.	ER	
Jain Nikhilesh	ER	
Upadhyay Anand Sagar	ER	
Mathur Prakash	IRIMEE	
Kumar Hemant	IRIMEE	
A. Mukhopadhyay	IRIMEE	
Singh Umesh	METRO	
Rizvi A.M.	NER	
Tewari Vinod Kumar	NER	
Karkane Atul Kumar	NFR	
Goswami J.D.	NFR	
Dr. Nirmal Kumar Hazarika	NFR	
Saraswat Kavita (SMT)	NR	
Dr. Dwarika Prasad Pandey	NR	
Mohit Chandra	NR	
Thakur Ranjan Prakash	NR	
Rana Ajay Kumar	NR	
Pandey D.C.	NR	
S.M. Jangid	NR	

1	2	3
Tyagi Arvind Kumar	NR	
Kashyap Satish K.	NR	
Kumar Sudhir	NR	
Goyal Anjali (KM)	NR	
Bharthuar Varun	NR	
Kumar Vijay	NR	SC
Lal Amitabh	NR	
Gupta Anshul	NR	
Agarwal Ganga Ram	NR	
Khare Vivek	NR	
Tayal B.P.	NWR	
Chaudhry M.R.	NWR	
Mal Mahendra Pratap	RB	
Kulbhushan	RB	
Khosla Arun Kumar	RB	
Suman S. Gurmail	RB	SC
Khanna Dipali (Mrs.)	RB	
Kaushik Amit	RB	
Mathur Usha (Mrs.)	RB	
Mandal P.	RB	
Goel Rashmi (Mrs.)	RB	
Kumar Shivendra	RB	
Gupta Kamlesh	RB	
Manglik V.K.	RB	
Kumar Pradeep	RB	
Khanna Abhay Kmar	RB	
N.K. Aneja	RB	
Singhal Anil	RB	
Rao N. Madhusudana	RB	
Vijaymohan R.	RCF	
Bhagra Arun	RCF	
Verma S.M.	RDSO	

1	2	3
Kumar Keshav	RDSO	
Pal Ved	RDSO	
Joshi Sudanshu S.	RDSO	
Agarwal Dilip Kumar	RDSO	
Chandra Ramesh	RDSO	
Kumar Anoop	RDSO	
Mehta Mahesh	RDSO	
Duhoon A.K.	SCR	
Singh Balram	SCR	
Sharma R.V.N.	SCR	
Chandrashekharan S.	SCR	
Nayak D.K.	SCR	
Rai Umesh B.	SCR	
Prasad Gola John	SCR	
Murthy N.S.N.	SCR	
Murthy Narayana G.V.	SCR	
Singh R.P.	SER	
Sahoo K.S.	SER	
Joshi H.S.	SER	
Meena R.	SER	ST
Tripathy Subrat	SER	
Sinha B.K.	SER	
Krishnamurthi N.	SER	
Swain Chittaranjan	SER	
Koshy Titus P.	SR	
Amarendra M.	SR	
Kothari Satish	SR	
Shreekumar N.	SR	
Srinivas S.	SR	
Sharma Rajeev	WR	
Chandra Naresh	WR	

1	2	3
Bhatnagar Arvind	WR	
Singh Yudhishter	WR	
Shankar Vishwanath	WR	
Vishnoi Rajeev	WR	

Total = 128 Officers

*List of Indian Railway Officers sent
for Training abroad during 1998*

Names	Railway	Category
1	2	3
R.C. Saha	CLW	
S.P. Patra	CLW	
Sunil Kumar	CLW	
S.S. Meena	CLW	ST
Md. Bashir Ahmed	CLW	
Agarwal Pradip Kumar	CR	
Jamshed Mohd.	CR	
Sahu Rita (Smt.)	CR	
Laxmi Raman	DLW	
Shukla Dinesh	DLW	
Malhotra A.K.	DLW	
V.P. Rao	DLW	
Kumar Madhuranjan	DLW	
Chandra Mahesh	DLW	
Ramesh Kumar	DLW	
Rastoge Ajai Kant	DLW	
Arora Rajnish	DLW	
Pandey J.P.	DLW	
R.A. Tripathi	DLW	
R. Kerketta	DLW	ST
Mohan Rajesh	DLW	SC
Shishir Dutt	DLW	

1	2	3
Priyadarshi Atul	DLW	
Dhirendra Singh	DLW	
Lalit Kumar	DLW	
Prakash Pandey	DLW	
Tiwari A.K.	DLW	
Parag Gupta	DLW	
Pradhan Pravin	DLW	SC
Dr. A.K. Das	ER	
Sharma D.C.	ER	
Ghosh Ashok Kumar	ER	
C.P. Sharma	ER	
Uttam Mukherjee	ER	
M. Venkataramana	ICF	
J. Maran	ICF	
M. Paramsivam	ICF	SC
P. Somasundaram	ICF	
Jain Jainendra Kumar	ICF	
S.K. Sen	IRIMEE	
B.P. Awasthi	NCR	
Jaiaya Varmah (Smt.)	NER	
D.K. Srivastava	NER	
S.K. Dutta	NFR	
Natarajan S.S.	NFR	
Paswan B.K.	NFR	SC
Swapnil Garg	NR	
Garg Sanjiv	NR	
Bhattacharaya S.B.	NR	
Das Sandhya Deep (Mrs.)	NR	
Anand D.A.	NR	SC
Jain Ranjan Kumar	RB	
Kumar Umesh	RB	
Jawa Naresh Kumar	RB	
Rudola Devendra K.	RB	

1	2	3
Sharma Vinod Kumar	RB	
K. Gangadharan	RB	
Khanna Abhay Kumar	RB	
Tripathi S.K.	RB	
Sharma K.D.	RB	
Khati Urvila (Mrs.)	RB	
Goyal Rakesh Kumar	RB	
R.K. Gupta	RCF	
Gupta Ashok Kumar	RCF	
Pawar Roshan Lal	RCF	SC
Kumar Dinesh	RCF	
Srivastava Vinay	RCF	
Thakur Joginder Singh	RCF	ST
R.P. Sharma	RCF	
R.N. Halder	RDSO	SC
Sharma Manoj	RDSO	
Nitin Choudhary	RDSO	
Saxena Ravindra Kumar	RDSO	
Singh Mahi Pal	RDSO	SC
J.S. Mehrook	RDSO	
Agarwal Girish Chander	RDSO	
Sood Sursh Chandra	SCR	
Moktali Vishwas Rajendra	SCR	
Rao P. Ganeshwara	SCR	
Patnaik Ajit Kumar	SER	
Rama V. Kalyan	SER	
Jain Manak C.	SER	
Jha J.N.	SER	
K.M.C. Rao	SR	
Akhilesh Mishra	WR	
Bansal Deepak	WR	
Misra A.K.	WR	
Total =		87 Officers

Abbreviations Used

RLY	Railway
CR	Central Railway
ER	Eastern Railway
NR	Northern Railway
NER	North Eastern Railway
NFR	North East Frontier Railway
SR	Southern Railway
SCR	South Central Railway
SER	South Eastern Railway
WR	Western Railway
METRO	Metro Railway
NCR	North Central Railway
NWR	North Western Railway
CLW	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works
DCW	Diesel Component Works
DLW	Diesel Locomotive Works
ICF	Integral Coach Factory
RCF	Rail Coach Factory
W&AP	Wheal & Axle Plant
RB	Railway Board
RSC	Railway Staff College
IRIMEE	Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
RDSO	Research Design & Standards Organisation
IRCOT	Indian Railways Central Organisation for Telecom
IRTMTTC	Indian Railways Track Maintenance Training Centre

Appointment/Posting of SCs/STs

4849. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts in the rank of Heads/ CMD, official/non-official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils in Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Central Silk Board and Export Promotion Council and the number of persons from SCs/ STs working there, separately as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000;

(b) the reasons for not providing adequate representation of SC/ST in such organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The total number of posts in the rank of Heads/CMD, official/non-official Members of Board of Management/ Governing Councils in the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Central Silk Board and Export Promotion Councils under Ministry of Textiles, are 324 on 01.01.96 and 322 on 01.01.2000, respectively, and amongst them, 6 are from SC/ST as on 01.01.96 and 5 are from SC/ST as on 01.01.2000 respectively.

The majority of Members on the Committee of Administration/Executive Committee of the Export Promotion Councils are elected from trade as per the provisions of respective Articles of Association.

Indian Judicial Service

4850. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 on 3.8.2000 and State:

(a) whether the Government have created the All India Judicial Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter relating to the creation of All India Judicial Service is still under consideration of the Government. Most of the State Governments and High Courts are in favour of the proposal. Points raised by dissenting States and High Courts are being examined. Consequent upon the creation of three new States viz. States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal and also three new High Court, consultations are being made with them in this regard. Further, creation of All India Judicial Service will require a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under article 312 of the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

Separate Benches of Gujarat High Court

4851. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the benches of Gujarat High Court in Surat and Rajkot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court for the establishment of Benches of Gujarat High Court *inter-alia* at Surat and Rajkot. Necessary action in the matter can be taken by the Central Government only on receipt of such a proposal.

It may also be clarified that the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 24th July, 2000 on a writ petition filed by the Federation of Bar Associations in Karnataka stated that "the High Court is the best suited machinery to decide whether it is necessary and feasible to have a bench outside the principal seat of that High Court. If the High Court does not favour such establishment it is pernicious to dissect a High Court into different regions on the ground of political or other considerations. So it is out of question to decide for establishment of a bench outside the principal seat of a High Court contrary to the opinion of the Chief Justice of that High Court which has been formed after considering the views of the colleague Judges."

Railway Projects received from Uttar Pradesh

4852. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(b) the steps taken on each of the said proposals;

(c) the details of surveys conducted during the said period;

(d) the details of works performed to streamline and expand the railway network in Uttar Pradesh during the said period;

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period; and

(f) the reasons for slow pace of progress for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During 2000-2001 a reference was received from Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh for a Circular Railway in Lucknow area. Electrification of Circular Railway around Lucknow area under Northern/North Eastern Railway has been sanctioned by the Government in 2000-2001.

(c) List of Surveys conducted and completed in Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001 are at Appendix-I.

(d) to (f) Details of ongoing Railway projects in U.P. which will improve the Railway network in the State, including their present status are at Appendix-II. Expenditure incurred on these projects during 2000-2001 will be known after the accounts are finalised in June, 2001.

Reasons for slow progress wherever applicable are also contained in Appendix II.

Statement-I

S.No.	Plan-Head	Name of the Project	Kms.	Cost (in Crores of Rs.)	Rate of Return (in %)
Surveys in Uttar Pradesh Completed in 2000-2001					
1.	New Line	Tanakpur-Purnagiri	11.56	60.93	-3.84
2.	New Line	Maripet-Tuglakabad	35.8	287.58	-2.9
3.	New Line	Rishikesh to Dehradun	19.62	81.78	Negative
4.	New Line	Panki-Mandhana	12.32	87.39	2.73
5.	New Line	panipat-Muzaffarnagar	93.025	256.41	-16.25
6.	Doubling	Shahdra-Shamli	87	130.93	-21.04
7.	Doubling	Shikohabad-Farukhabad	110	311.55	3.76

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Cost (In Crores of Rupees)	Status
1	2	3	4
On-Going Railways Projects in Uttar Pradesh			
New Line			
1.	Guna-Etawah	337.33	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior - Seoni sections have already been completed. The next phase work of Gauge Conversion between Nonera-Seoni have been completed and opened for passenger traffic on 21.8.2000. Work between Seoni-Bhind is in progress where earthwork, minor bridges and ballast collection have been taken in hand and major bridges have been completed. This section is targeted for conversion during major bridges have been completed. This section is targeted for conversion during 2001-2002. The last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah involves construction of 3 major bridges on the rivers Chambal (9x76.2 mts), Kunwari (6x45.75+1x76.2 mts) and Yamuna (10x61 mts). The work on Yamuna Bridge has already been taken up and sinking of 10 wells is the progress. Tender for work of Chambal bridge has been invited. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
2.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	925.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey for 100 km from Lalitpur end and entire 64 km from Mahoba to Khajuraho and 22 km from Rewa toward Singrauli has completed and Final Location Survey for balance section is in progress. Papers for land acquired are under submission to the State Government.
3.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	109.00	Final Location Survey has been completed. Part estimate sanctioned. Preparation of Plans and estimates has been taken up. Papers for land acquisition from Bhandai-Shamshadbad for 18.4 m submitted to State Government.
4.	Katra-Faizabad	81.86	Work is progressing well. 138 acres of land out of total 142.49 acres has been acquired. Earthwork 6.64 lakh cum has been completed out of 7.06 lakh cum. The work on the Suryu bridge is in good progress.
5.	Rampur-Lalakuan-Kathgodam ROB on NH	10.77	The revised plan has been sent to MOST for approval. Railways portion of work will start as soon as State Government start their portion.
6.	Etawah-Mainpuri	120.00	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion			
7.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	58.89	The work has been completed and Commissioned.
8.	Chhapra-Aunrihar	170.93	Work completed and Commissioned.

1	2	3	4
9.	Khadda-Gorakhpur	102.49	The work has been completed. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and long welded rails (LWR) conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
10.	Mathura-Achnera	33.67	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura.
11.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow (Phase-I : Gonda to Baharaich)	48.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
12.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar, Nautanwa	250.00	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
13.	Indara-Phephana	34.47	The work has been completed and Commissioned.
4.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly	609.04	Work is planned to be completed in 4 phases: Phase-I : Kanpur Furkhabad (140 km). Earthwork is nearing completion and 103 out of 169 minor bridges have been completed. Work is in progress in 2 out of 5 major bridges. Phase-II : Farukhabad-Kasganj (108 km): Earthwork and bridges have been taken up. Phase-III : Kasganj-Mathura (105 km): No work has been taken up in this stretch so far. Phase-IV : Kasganj-Bareilly (107 km): Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
15.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra	268.00	New work of 1999-2000. The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
16.	Agra Fort-Bandikui	178.03	Earthwork and bridges are in progress. 60 minor bridges out of 193 nos, substructure of 4 major bridges out of 9 nos. and 8 minor bridge have been completed and 1.3 lacs cum earthwork out of 3.07 lac cum has been completed. The work is being progressed as availability of resources. No Target Date has yet been fixed.
Doubling			
17.	Mathura-Bhuteshwar	5.54	The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Earthwork and bridges are in progress. The work is expected to be completed in 2001-2002 subject to availability of funds.
18.	Manipur-Cheonki: Phase-I Doubling of Manikpur-Katayadandi	48.00	Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up.
19.	Gonda-Jarwal Road	69.79	The work is in progress. 85% earthwork and all 33 minor bridges have been completed. Work on 3 out of 8 major bridges have been completed and work is in progress in other 5. Gonda-Maizapur (18 km) has been completed in May, 2000. Remaining portion from Majipur to Jarwal Road is targetted to be completed in 2001-2002.
20.	Gorakhpur-Sahajanva : Phase-I Gorakhpur-Gonda	61.51	Work has been temporarily frozen due to lower operational priority.

1	2	3	4
21.	Jarwal Road-Burhwal (Patch Doubling)	23.80	Preparation of plans and Estimate is in progress.
22.	Ghaziabad-Hapur-Moradabad patch doubling (Phase-I)	61.94	The work has been completed.
23.	Kanpur-Panki: 3rd Line (Phase-I)	35.13	Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. 76.2 m. girders for fly over are being manufactured at Manmad Workshop.
24.	Muradnagar-Meerut City	57.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
25.	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	35.95	The work on Tundla-Etamadpur and on the fly over is in progress. The earthwork and minor bridges have been completed. The work of Tundla-Etmadpur including flyover will be completed during 2001-2002.
26.	Utralia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan	65.85	Final Location Survey has been completed. Plans are under finalisation. Work is being taken up.
27.	Amroha-Moradabad	51.41	Final Location Survey has been completed. Plans are under finalisation. Work is being taken up.
28.	Amroha-Kankather	48.00	Final Location survey has been completed. Preparation of plan and estimate have been taken up.
29.	Zafrabad-Utretia Phase-II (Zafrabad-Srikrishnnagar)	48.00	Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plan and estimate have been taken up.
<i>Railway Electrification</i>			
30.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mughalsarai including Garhara-Barauni	363.36	401 RKms have been energised till March 2001. The progress has been slow due to law and order problems and failure of contractor. Work is now targeted for completion by March 2002.
31.	Ambala-Moradabad	152.22	The work from Ambala to Saharanpur has been completed. Section from Saharanpur to Moradabad which was frozen earlier, has since been defrozen in November 1998 and entire section is targeted for completion by March 2003.
32.	Khurja-Hapur-Meerut City-Saharanpur	89.21	The work has been pended for the present due to lower operational priority
33.	Kanpur-Lucknow	58.07	Work completed and residual jobs are in hand.
34.	Mughalsarai-Zafrabad as Phase-I of Lucknow-Mughalsarai	49.96	Propoal is being sent to Planning Commision again for clearance.
35.	Circular Railway around Lucknow area	24.23	New work included in the Supplementary Budget 2000-01. Work is targetted for completion by March 2002.

On-going Railway Projects in Jharkhand and Bihar

4853. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV
SHRI RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present on-going railway projects and surveys in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) the reasons for slow progress and the expenditure incurred thereon so far along with the estimated cost thereof, project-wise;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(d) the funds allocated to each project during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(e) the reasons for not acquiring land for Ranchi-Lohardagga rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Details of all ongoing railway projects in Jharkhand and Bihar including their cost, expected outlay likely to be incurred upto March, 2001, and funds allocated to each of these projects in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given at statement I.

Present status of each project including the reasons for slow progress if any is also indicated in Statement I. Target date of completion wherever fixed have been given.

Process of land acquisition for Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardagga with extension to Tori has been initiated.

A list of ongoing surveys with their present status are given at statement-II.

Statement I

Sl No	Name of Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay for 1999-2000	Outlay for 2000-01	Outlay Proposed for 2001-02	Status
(Amount in Crores of Rupees)						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
On-going Railway Projects in Bihar & Jharkhand						
Doubling						
1	Parsabad-Punpun (Patna-Gaya, Phase-II)	14.32	7.00	2.80	5.00	Estimate has been sanctioned. The work is being taken up.
2.	Patna-Parsaad (Patna-Gaya, Phase-I)	14.55	2.00	2.00	0.10	Section commissioned on 17.10.2000.
3	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya, Phase-III)	42.54	5.00	1.00	2.00	Preliminary arrangements are being made for taking up the work.
4.	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda	62.35	0.15	1.00	0.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
5.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai: 3rd line with bi-directional signalling & flyover at Sonenagar	244.75	30.00	38.00	14.83	This project is partially funded out of ADB loan. Work is progressing well. Out of 16 block sections, 15 have been completed. The last section (9 km) is expected to be completed during 2001-2002.
6.	Chhapra-Hajipur	73.06	1.00	0.10	10.00	Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.
7.	Karpurigram-Siho	30.98	1.00	0.10	10.00	Work is in progress. Tenders for earthwork for 3 block section have been finalised.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Goelkera-Manoharpur: 3rd line	186.92	10.00	10.00	1.00	Final location survey and preparation of land acquisition has been taken up. 74 hect. of land is to be acquired for which paper have been submitted to State Govt. Work in railway land at Manoharpur has been taken up. In the first phase, Railway plans to take to only Posote-Goelkare section. The rest of the project is under review. Work on rest of the section will be taken up when once the land is made available by State Government.
Gauge Conversion						
9.	Chhapra-Aunihar	170.93	1.00	0.10	0.10	Work completed and commissioned.
10.	Hajipur-Bachwara	75.56	1.00	3.00	0.10	work completed & commissioned. Short fall in ballast is being made good. Work of long welded rail has been completed
11.	Jayanagar-Darbhanga- Narkatiaganj	335.77	10.00	8.00	10.00	The work is being done in phases, Phase-I being Jayanagar-Darbhanga and Phase-II is Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj. Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
12.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan- Chhapra	268.00	0.001	0.10	1.10	New work of 1999-2000. The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
13.	Mansi-Saharsa (Phase-I)	89.50	10.00	3.00	3.00	Work is in progress. Earthwork has been completed in 29.17 km. 9 out of 13 minor bridges completed. 1 major bridges out of 10 completed. 2 bridges on Bagmati river are in progress. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
14.	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	121.86	4.00	2.00	0.10	The work has been completed and commissioned. The work for Birgunj to Raxaul (5 km) which is sanctioned as a material modification has also been completed.
15.	Narkatiaganj- Valmikinagar	67.87	1.50	3.00	5.00	The work has been completed and commissioned. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and long welded rail conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
16.	Samastipur-Khagaria	70.00	0.001	0.10	5.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
17.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar- Radhikapur)	257.00	0.0001	10.00	15.00	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The gauge conversion of Katihar Radhikapur will be taken up as a material modification to main work.
18.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Ton	185.31	10.00	3.00	4.00	The earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up on the Phase-I Ranchi-Lohardaga section. Work of 14 arch bridges & casting RCC Box is in progress. On Ton-Lohardaga (New Line) Final Location Survey has been completed and land acquisition has been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
19.	Ara-Sasaram	120.00	10.00	6.00	6.00	Final Location survey has been completed for 50 km length. Land acquisition papers for stretch between Sasaram and Nokha have been submitted to State Government. Possession of land for 22 villages out of total 23 villages falling in this stretch has been given. Land acquisition for remaining one village is in process. contract for the earthwork & bridges has been awarded for Sasaram-Nokha section and work started on the land already available.
20	Deogarh-Dumka	180.00	2.00	1.00	4.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location surveys has been completed. Proposal for land acquisition for 11.2 km has been submitted. Contracts for Earthwork and Bridges for 1.5 km length have been finalised.
21	Deogarh-Sultanganj	312.00	—	6.00	12.00	New works from Banka to Barahat (13.4 km) and Banka to Bhitiah road included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification. Final location survey from Deogarh to Katuria (30 km) just completed. Land application papers for the same section are expected to be submitted to State Government shortly.
22	Fatua-Islampur including material modification for extension of new line from Bihar Sharif to Barbigha	131.39	14.00	12.10	15.00	Earthwork has been completed for 16 km. length between Islampur & Hilsa. Work of bridges has been taken up between Islampur and Hilsa. For the rest of the section land acquisition is in process and work would be taken up as soon as the land becomes available. Work of Dhaniyawan to Biharsharif has been approved as a material modification to this project, for which requisite clearances are being obtained. Extension of new work of this line upto Barbigha (19 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
23.	Giridih-Koderma (Phase-I)	145.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	The requisite clearances has since been obtained. Final location survey has been completed. Papers for land acquisition of first 20 km from Koderma to Maheshpur have been submitted to State Government. Land acquisition is in progress. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.
24.	Koderma-Ranchi	491.20	14.00	25.00	20.00	The requisite clearances have been obtained. Final location survey has been completed up to Hazaribag (63.5 km.). Papers for Land acquisition have been submitted for 37.5 km. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.
25.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	170.47	4.00	4.00	6.00	Phase-I Mandarhill-Dumka (66 km):— Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for 23 km stretch from Mandarhill side have been submitted to State Government. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Government. Phase-II Dumka-Rampurhat: 64 km:— Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and Estimate is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Monghyr-Rail Bridge on Ganga	600.00	2.00	2.00	5.00	Surveys and detailed investigations including model studies have been taken up through M/s. RITES. Once the bridge parameters are decided and cost firmed up, necessary clearances would be obtained.
27.	Patna-Ganga Bridge with linking lines between Patna & Hajipur	610.00	5.00	5.00	15.00	The detailed investigation & final location survey has been taken up by RITES. CCEA clearance is yet to be obtained. Model studies are being done by Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee and are likely to be completed by December 2001 after which the alignment and configuration of the bridge will get finalised. Thereafter, the cost estimates shall be firmed up and the project will be processed for obtaining requisite clearances. Alignment of approach alignment on Patna side has been approved by State Govt. This bridge will only be a Rail Bridge only.
28.	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaya	49.50	14.00	2.00	5.00	Final Location Survey has been completed and land acquisition papers for 20 kms. stretch covering 70 hectares of land have been submitted to State Govt. The alignment in Rajgir area is under reconsideration due to restrictions around archaeological monuments.
29.	Durahunda-Maharajganj	3.57	2.00	0.10	0.10	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. Planning Commission have been requested for the same.
30.	Khagana-Kusheshwarsthan	78.00	1.00	0.10	5.00	Final location survey has been completed & preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. The land acquisition proposals for 20.63 km length have been submitted to State Govt. Earthwork in Khagana yard has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land becomes available.
31.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	100.00	2.00	0.10	10.00	Final Location survey has been completed. Preparation of land plans & papers & other preliminary works are in progress. Earthwork in Sitamarhi Yard for one km length has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land is made available by State Government. Papers for acquisition of 67.55 acres of land have been submitted to State Government.
32.	Sakri-Hassanpur	89.70	5.00	0.10	5.00	land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for the entire length 1226.3 acre and 1191.93 acre land has been acquired. Earthwork from Sakri to Jagdishpur is in progress.
<i>Railway Electrification</i>						
33.	Kusunda-Katrasgarh-Jamuniatanda	16.42	7.00	2.00	9.41	The work is in progress and is expected to be completed December 2001.
34.	Patna-Gaya	41.24	0.10	0.10	0.10	The project proposal has once again been sent to Planning Commission for clearance. Clearances not yet received.
35.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai including Rampur Dumra-Garhara-Barauni	363.36	68.53	40.20	23.98	401 RKms have been energised till March 2001. The progress has been slow due to law and order problems and failure of contractor. Work is now targeted for completion by March 2002.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36.	Bokaro Steel City-Muri Hatia-Bondamunda- Bimlagarh-Kiriburu/Barsuan incl. Purulia-Kotshila	269.63	20.00	25.00	15.00	287 RKms energised till March 2001. Entire section targeted for completion by March 2002. The project has been delayed due to law and order problems and failure of OHE contractor and delay in release of 132 KV supply by DVC/BSEB.
37.	Chandil-Muri-Barakakana	47.67	3.55	8.03	8.49	Work has been completed. Residual jobs in hand

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan-Head	Status
On-Going Railway Surveys in Bihar & Jharkhand			
1.	Chakdharpur— Bandamunda: 3rd Line	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
2.	Mansi-Saharsa-Banmankhi- Katihar	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
3.	Azimganj-Lalgola	New Line	Survey is in progress.
4.	Dehri-on-Sone to Barwadih	New Line	Survey is in progress.
5.	Dehri-on-Sone to Jadunathpur via Banjari	New Line	Dehri-on-Sone to Akbarpur completed. Survey for the remaining portion is in progress.
6.	Hazaribagh-Garwa Road	New Line	Survey is in progress.
7.	Pirpainty to MGR	New Line	Survey is in progress.
8.	Deoria Sadar-Padrauna	New Line	Yet to be taken up.
9.	Hajipur-Samastipur via Mahuwa	New Line	Yet to be taken up.
10.	Koparia-Bihariganj via Sonbarsaraj-Alamnagar	New Line	Survey is in progress.
11.	Kursela-Manihari via Bhavanipur-Jarlahi	New Line	Railway Line not feasible.
12.	Kursela-Rupali-Saharsa	New Line	Yet to be taken up.
13.	Nirmali-Bhaptiai	New Line	Survey is in progress.
14.	Barwadih to Chirmir Restoration of railway line	New Line	Survey is in progress.
15.	Lohardaga to Korba	New Line	Survey is in progress.
16.	Merry-go-Round of NTPC	New Line	Survey is in progress.
17.	Jhajha-Giridih	New Line	Included in Budget 2001-02.
18.	Patratu-Chandil via Barkakana	New Line	Included in Budget 2001-02.

*[English]***Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Orissa**

4854. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are funding some Hydro-electricity projects in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no hydro-electric project under construction in Central Sector in the State of Orissa. However, Power Finance Corporation have sanctioned a total term loan of Rs. 640 crores to Orissa Hydro Power Corporation for State Sector projects, namely, Upper Indravati HEP [4x150 MW] and Balimela HE Extension Project [2x75 MW] & Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating of the existing Hirakud Project in Orissa.

Control of Traffic through Inland Waterways

4855. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to enhance Cargo Traffic from Haldia/Calcutta to Allahabad via Ganga (National Waterways 1);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is envisaged to control the minimum 10% traffic through this waterways for carrying coal, food, petroleum, petro-chemical products etc. of Government and PSUs; and

(d) whether any fiscal concessions have been considered to attract private sectors to invest in IWT vessels and carrier operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Continuous efforts are being made to provide a clear navigable channel between Haldia/Calcutta and Allahabad. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is making consistent efforts to persuade cargo shippers to use the Inland Water Transport mode. During 2000-2001 the IWAI demonstrated navigability by deploying its own vessels and vessels of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation for transportation of gunny bales, over dimensional construction equipment, lime stone and

dolomite. Besides, voyage of IWATs now vessel carrying food items is being organised shortly from Calcutta to Patna.

(c) The Government have issued instructions for earmarking 5% of cargo of the Ministries dealing with administered commodities requiring bulk transportation through inland waterways on the routes notified as operational by IWAI. But for various reasons including non-availability of navigable channel for continuous regular traffic, this plan is yet to take off.

(d) Yes, Sir. The package of measures recently approved by the Government envisage concessions like 100% tax exemption to investors in IWT sector for five years and further 30% tax exemption under the Income Tax Act to be availed of in the next five years within a period of 20 years, enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels, introduction of vessel building subsidy of 30% for inland water vessels built in Indian shipyards and levy of minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waters.

Central Assistance for Fishing Harbours

4856. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State Governments which have demanded Central assistance for construction of fishing harbours;

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by the Central Government on construction of fishing harbours; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The details of the State Governments which have formulated project proposals for construction of fishing harbours in accordance with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on fishing harbour facilities at major and minor Ports and which have been sanctioned by the Government of India are given statement-II.

(b) The total approximate expenditure likely to be incurred by the Central Government including for completion of ongoing fishing harbours is Rs. 14146 lakhs.

(c) Execution of construction work of the sanctioned fishing harbour projects is by respective State Governments. The targeted date of completion in respect

of each of the ongoing fishing harbour projects which have been approved by the Government of India is furnished in statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of State	No. of fishing harbours	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakh)	GOI's share (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	1470.830	735.415
2	Gujarat	4	2077.000	1038.500
3	Karnataka	5	568.590	284.30
4	Kerala	7	5035.200	2517.60
5	Maharashtra	1	1840.500	920.25
6	Tamil Nadu	6	428.560	214.28
7	Orissa	3	1382.300	691.15
8	West Bengal	3	1416.820	708.41
9	Goa	—	—	—
Total:		32	14219.80	7109.90

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the fishing harbour	Sanctioned cost of the project	GOI's share	Target date of completion (*)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1. Machilipatanam	470.88	235.44	3/99
2	Karnataka	1. Gangolli	832.00	416.00	3/2003
		2. Malpe-II	1196.70	598.35	9/2000
		3. Mangalore-II	75.00	37.50	9/2003
		4. Karwar-II	130.00	65.00	3/2002
3	Orissa	1. Dharma-II	640.00	320.00	3/2001
4	Maharashtra	1. Agraao	414.00	207.00	3/2001
5	Gujarat	1. Jakhau	1143.00	1143.00	5/97
6	Kerala	1. Vizhinjam	704.00	352.00	2/97
		2. Thangassery	1980.00	990.00	3/97
		3. Kayamkulam	624.00	312.00	8/98
		4. Muthalapozhy	1366.00	683.00	3/2004
7	West Bengal	1. Sultanpur	473.47	236.735	3/2003
		2. Harwood Point	1350.00	675.00	5/2006
8	Pondicherry	1. Pondicherry	423.00	423.00	3/2002
9	Tamil Nadu	1. Chinnamuttam	684.00	342.00	3/2002
Total			12506.65	7036.625	

Note (*): The targeted date indicate are as per the sanctioned issued by Government of India.

Opening of Food Plazas at Railway Stations

4857. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to open Food Plazas at various railway stations in joint venture with fast food giants of the country;

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

(c) the time by which these Food Plazas are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the initial phase these facilities are planned by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation at Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin, Mumbai Central, Pune, Agra Cantt., Howrah, Chennai, Bangalore City, Jaipur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Gorakhpur stations. The scheme is open to both State enterprises as well as private sector companies.

(c) The Food Plazas are expected to be in operation in the current financial year.

[*Translation*]

Labour Employment

4858. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is a major industry in our country wherein maximum number of labour is engaged;

(b) whether three-fourth of farmers engaged in this sector are small and marginal farmers who can create maximum opportunities for employment for labourers by adopting new labour intensive agriculture technique;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken concrete steps for making investment in new labour intensive agriculture technology for providing new and additional avenues of labour employment in agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the total percentage of labourers who earn their livelihood from agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) As per Population Census 1991, cultivators and agricultural labourers constitute 35.2% and 23.8% respectively of total workforce. As per the Agricultural Census 1990-91, 59.4% of the total operational holdings were marginal (below one hectare) and 18.8% of operational holdings were small (between 1 to 2 ha.). The absorption of labour in agriculture depends upon the level of adoption of technology by the farmers. However, the thrust of the Indian Agricultural Policy is to increase the production and productivity through various methods including intensive cultivation, which have positive impact on employment generation. Encouragement of agro-based industries and development of agricultural infrastructure being taken up by the Government in rural areas also contribute to employment generation. In addition, the Government is implementing several self and wage-employment programmes/schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and Indira Awaas Yojana which directly lead to creation of gainful employment of the rural poor including small and marginal farmers.

[*English*]

Changing of Cropping Pattern

4859. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the cropping pattern in view of the crash in the price of several agriculture products;

(b) if so, the methods proposed to be adopted by the Government to change the cropping pattern;

(c) whether the Government intend to encourage the production of special Basmati rice for export; and

(d) if so, the crops proposed to be encouraged in place of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Adoption of fixed cropping system may lead to decline in factor productivity and associated problems, hence, change in Cropping Patterns are suggested according to land use capability and availability of resource/inputs. However, cost of production/economic return is governing factor for adoption of cropping pattern by farmers.

(c) For encouraging Basmati rice cultivation, Rice seed minikits, Front line demonstrations and Specialized Training Programmes are being organized under Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(d) The alternate crops for Wheat and Rice include Potato, Sugarcane, Sunflower, Soyabean, Maize, Mustard, Pulse, Vegetables, Fodder crops and several other promising horticultural crops. The cropping systems based on the inclusion of these crops have generally been found to be economically remunerative and sustainable on the long-term basis.

[Translation]

Nidhi Companies

4860. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Nidhi Companies registered under the Company Act, 1956 have vanished with thousands crores of rupees of the innocent investors/depositors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken against these Nidhi Companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Procurement of Wagons

4861. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons purchased by the Government during 2000-2001, Zone/division-wise;

(b) whether there is any shortage of wagons in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone/division-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During 2000-01, 17753 wagons in terms of Four Wheeler Units have been acquired by Indian Railways and allotted to various Zones as given below:—

(Four Wheeler Units)	
Railways	Quantity
Central	1195
Eastern	4529.5
Northern	3892.5
North Eastern	535
Northeast Frontier	212.5
Southern	360
South Central	1092.5
South Eastern	3189.5
Western	2746.5
Total	17753.0

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Selling of Tents

4862. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tents and other items received from foreign countries as part of the relief for the victims of earthquake in Gujarat are being openly sold in the market at a high price;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government to identify the racket involved in it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to

(d) Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat and no such report has been received from them.

[*Translation*]

Action Plan for Development of NCES

4863 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any specific Action Plan for the development of Non-conventional Energy Sources in newly formed Chhattisgarh State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Various programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro are being implemented throughout the country including in the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh. At present, no separate Action Plan for development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been formulated for the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh. The Ministry provides financial support for implementation of various non-conventional energy projects/proposals on a case to case basis as submitted by the State Government Departments, State Nodal agencies, Implementing Organizations etc. The Ministry has taken up a project for the electrification of 90 tribal villages in newly formed State of Chhattisgarh through solar photovoltaic systems. Besides 2921 solar lanterns, 3510 solar home lighting systems and 1171 solar street lighting systems have been installed during the year 2000-2001. The physical targets for setting up of biogas, improved chulha and solar photovoltaic systems/devices are being finalized in consultation with the concerned State Nodal Department and State Nodal Agency for the year 2001-2002, in the State of Chhattisgarh.

[*English*]

Development of Heritage Sites

4864. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRI H.G. RAMULU:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of heritage sites in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the heritage sites and historic Belur and Halebid temples in Karnataka in collaboration with the private sector under the National Cultural Fund;

(c) if so, the amount spent or proposed to be spent under the National Cultural Fund during 2000-2001; and

(d) the amount spent on Hampi ruins under the National Cultural Fund during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are altogether 503 Protected Monuments in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) The National Culture Fund Projects are undertaken in partnership with communities and corporate bodies. The contribution made to National Culture Fund is exempted from Income Tax. The project are identified in consultation with the partners and funded out of the contributions made by them. An MOU was signed between National Culture Fund and Archeological Survey of India and Indian Oil Foundation on 30.03.2001 for development of World Heritage Site at Hampi. There is no proposal for any other site in Karnataka as of now.

[*Translation*]

New Shatabdi Express Trains

4865. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new Shatabdi Express trains by providing new coaches imported from Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new Shatabdi Express Trains are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce Shatabdi Express with the new coaches between New Delhi and Lucknow in lieu of the 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express.

(c) The new Shatabdi Express is likely to be introduced after obtaining mandatory permissions and completing essential formalities necessary to introduce new types of coaches in service.

Support Price of Linseed

4866. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government several times to announce the support price of Linseed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which support price of linseed is likely to be announced by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The proposal of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of linseed was received and examined. Since the production of linseed is localized in nature and the MSP's are fixed for commodities having all India importance in terms of area and production, it has not been feasible to agree to the proposal.

B.T. Cotton Seed

4867. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivation of B.T. cotton pollutes the environment and also causes several diseases to human beings as well as animals;

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

(c) whether the Government have recommended cultivation of the said crop in the country; and

(d) if so, the name of States where this crop has been sown and the area of land under cultivation of this crop in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The data generated under the control of Ministry of Science and Technology on bio-safety and environmental safety on Bt. Cotton in a duration of three years does not indicate that cultivation of Bt. Cotton pollutes environment. Toxicity and allergenicity studies conducted on Bt. Cotton indicated that it is safe to animals. The Bt. Gene had been introduced into the Indian cotton germplasm and there is no report available that it causes diseases to human beings.

(c) and (d) The Government of India so far has not permitted the commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton in the country.

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Karnataka

4868. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion of some metre and narrow gauge rail lines are pending since long in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received from the Government of Karnataka for gauge conversion during the last three years;

(c) the action initiated by the Union Government to implement these conversion projects; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for these projects during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Proposals were received from Chief Minister Karnataka for obtaining clearances, providing adequate funds and expediting the following gauge conversion works

in Karnataka. The details of the proposals, action taken thereon, funds provided to these works during the last 3 years are as under:—

1	2	3	Original Outlay provided in cr. of Rs. during		
			1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Proposed)
1	2	3	4	5	6
(i)	Gauge Conversion of Sakleshpur-Mangalore-Providing adequate resources and expediting progress.	This is a part of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project. Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed & commissioned. Earthwork bridges, ballast collection on the rest of the section are in progress. Formation is ready between Mangalore and Kabakaputtur (44 km) and Kabakaputtur to Subramanya Road will be completed this year. Lowering of tunnels and widening of bank in ghat section, has been taken up together with geonet treatment to prevent slip and slope failure in ghat section. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Funding through Karnataka State is being explored.	28	26	58
(ii)	Gauge conversion Mysore-Chamarajana-gar with extension to Mettupalayam -Expediting CCEA clearance.	The work was included in the Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances action for which has been initiated. Work would be taken up once clearances are received.	0.10	0.10	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
(iii)	Gauge conversion of Solapur-Gadag —Speeding up the work on Bijapur-Gadag section	The work is being done in phases. The work Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Funding through Karnataka State is being tried with a view to expedite early completion of this work.	7	10	10
(iv)	Gauge conversion of Shimoga-Talugpa- Allotment of more funds.	This is a part of Bangalore-Hubli - Birur - Shimoga. The work on the line from Bangalore-Hubli & between Birur & Shimoga has been completed. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa. Earthwork has been taken up from Shimoga-Kamsi (25 km) and Sagara-Talguppa (15 km) where progress is 90%. work is being progressed as per availability of resources.	3	2	0.5

[Translation]

Women Degree Holders in Agriculture Sciences

4869. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of female graduates in agriculture is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to bring any bill for fixing a minimum quota for female graduates in agriculture;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make any provision for providing compulsory jobs to these female graduates in agriculture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) There is no policy decision for job reservation for women in any Government Department.

Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh

4870. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railways projects received from Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken on each of the proposals and the reasons for non-approval of the projects, if any;

(c) the details of present status of on-going railway projects/surveys along with the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the expenditure incurred on each project along with the allocations made to each project during the said period and the current year;

(e) the reasons for the slow progress in regard to completion of these projects; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Planning of Railways services or projects is made keeping a national perspective in view and taking an integrated view of traffic demands as well as of System requirements. Geographical boundaries of a State do not form a criterion for taking investment decisions. However, proposals relating to Railway projects, received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the last three years and action taken thereon are given below:—

Year	Proposal	Action Taken
1998-99	<i>Expediting the execution of:</i> Bilaspur-Urkura: 3rd Line Akaltara-Champa: 3rd Line Urkura-Raipur- Saron: doubling	Final location survey for Bilaspur to Batapara has been completed. Contracts for bridges and ballast have been awarded. Work of earthwork, minor bridges and ballast are in progress. Akaltara-Naila-Hasdeo (23 km) completed, except the Hasdeo bridge which will be completed during 2001-2001. Work completed and commissioned.
1999- 2000	New Line from Ramganj Mandi to Bhopal. New Line from Khandwa to Dahod	This work has been included in the Railway Budget 2000-01. Final Location Survey under progress and will be completed by June 2001. Government of MP has been approached for financing the proposed line.
2001-2001	Expediting the Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia, including Balaghat-Katangi	Final location survey from Gondia to Balaghat including Balaghat-Katangi has been completed including geo-technical investigations of major bridges. The survey between Balaghat-Jabalpur is in progress. Land has been acquired upto Balaghat. Formation work, bridge work and ballast supply are in progress between Gondia and Balaghat.

(c) to (f) Details of all ongoing Railway projects presently in Madhya Pradesh, including their estimated cost, expected expenditure likely to be incurred on each project upto March 2001, allocations made in each of the last three years, outlay proposed for 2001-2002 and target

wherever fixed along with reasons for slow progress, if any are at Statement-I.

Details of ongoing surveys presently in Madhya Pradesh are at Statement II. Approximate cost of the projects will be known after the completion of the surveys.

Statement I

Sl No	Name of Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay expected to end of 2000-2001	Budget Outlay for 1998-1999	Budget Outlay for 1999-2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-2001	Budget Outlay Proposed for 2001-2002	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

(Amount of Crores of Rupees)

On-Going Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh**New Lines**

1.	Guna-Etawah	337.33	275.33	21.50	18.00	25.00	25.00	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Soni sections have already been completed. The next phase work of Gauge Conversion between Soni and Bhind is in progress where earthwork, bridges and ballast collection have been taken in hand. The last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah involves construction of 3 major bridges on the rivers Chambal, Kunwari and Yamuna. The work on Yamuna Bridge has already been taken up and sinking of wells is the progress. Tender for work of Chambal bridge has been invited. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
2.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	925.00	6.22	1.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey for 100 km from Lalitpur end and 64 km from Mahoba to Khajuraho and 22 km from Rewa toward Singrauli has been completed and Final Location Survey for balance section is in progress. Papers for land acquisition are under preparation.
3.	Godhra-Indore-Dewas-Maksi	597.00	25.18	5.00	4.00	10.00	15.00	This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas & Maksi is now in progress. Work is in progress on 2 major bridges remaining 6 major bridges have been completed. Work on all 49 minor bridges have been completed. The ballast supply is in progress. This sub section is targetted during 2001-2002. Work on

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								Phase-II from Godhra to Indore will be taken up after Phase-I get completed.
4.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	425.00	0.05	—	—	1.00	5.00	Final location survey is under progress and will be completed by June, 2001.
	Gauge Conversion							
5.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	386.30	16.02	20.00	22.00	16.80	15.00	Final location survey from Gondia to Balaghat including Balaghat-Katangi has completed including geo-technical investigations of major bridges. The survey between Balaghat-Jabalpur is in progress. Land has been acquired upto Balaghat. Formation work, bridge work and ballast supply are in progress between Gondia and Balaghat.
6.	Neemuch-Ratlam	116.74	14.81	10.00	5.00	5.00	15.00	Work on long lead items has been taken up. Strengthening of sub-structure on all 31 major bridges have been completed. Strengthening of sub-structure on 110 out of 123 minor bridges have been completed. Superstructure of 6 major and 94 nos. minor Bridges also have been completed. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
	Doubling							
7.	Kalapipal-Phanda/Maksi-Bhopal	53.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.10	1.00	This work has been temporarily frozen owing to low operational priority and constraint of resources.
8.	Bolai-Kalisindh, Kalisindh-Kisoni, Kisoni-Bercha & Maksi-Pirumrod	94.39	51.88	10.00	10.00	16.00	0.10	Work has been completed and commissioned.

Statement II

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan-Head	Status
1	2	3	4

On-going Railway Surveys in Madhya Pradesh

1.	Pulgaon-Arvi GC with extrn. To Amla	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress
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1	2	3	4
2.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress
3.	Chhindwara-Nainpur	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress
4.	Pratapnagar to Chhota Udaipur Gauge conversion and new BG line from Chhota Udaipur to Dhar	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress
5.	Bad-Bhainsa	New Line	Survey is in progress
6.	Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh	New Line	Survey is being taken up
7.	Jalna-Khamgaon	New Line	Survey is in progress
8.	Khandwa to Nardana via Khargone, Sendhwa	New Line	Survey is in progress
9.	Shirpur-Mhow	New Line	Survey is in progress
10.	Bilaspur to Jabalpur	New Line	Survey is in progress
11.	Bisrampur to Jabalpur	New Line	Survey is in progress
12.	Katangi to Tirodi	New Line	Survey is in progress
13.	Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur	New Line	Survey is in progress
14.	Ramtek to Gotegaon via Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma	New Line	Survey is in progress
15.	Chota Udaipur-Dhar	New Line	Survey is in progress
16.	Dungarpur to Ratlam via Banswara	New Line	Survey is in progress

Agreement between Union Government and Haryana Government

4871. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between the Union Government and Haryana Government in regard to supply of Power; and

(b) if so, the details of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) An MOU has been signed between the Government of India and the State Government of Haryana on 13th February 2001 to affirm the continued joint Commitment of the two parties to reforms in power sector in the State of Haryana. In the MOU, the Government of Haryana has committed to achieve mutually agreed upon milestones in reforming power sector. These milestones

include 100% metering by 31.12.2001, energy audit of all major towns by 31.3.2002, reduction of T&D losses by 5% every year, formation of distinct distribution profit centres at Divisional level etc. The Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from unallocated share of power from Central Generating Stations, taking up of Faridabad gas based thermal power station by NTPC, assistance to develop transmission system, financial assistance through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of old thermal plants.

[English]

Plan of NCE

4872. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the important centers of development and promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies (RTE);

(b) the details of the perspective plan of Non-Conventional Energy;

(c) the details of the physical and financial dimensions and salient features of Perspective Plan; and

(d) the share of involvement of Public and Private Sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The important Centres for development and promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies are:

1. Solar Energy Centre, Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon, and solar energy technologies;
2. Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for wind power technologies;
3. Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, University of Roorkee, for small hydro power technologies;
4. Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Jalandhar, Punjab for research and development in various areas relating to renewable energy technologies.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement for development of renewable sources of energy in the country. The main objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewables, viz., solar, wind, biomass and small hydro for meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralized/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and, grid quality power generation and supply. The Policy Statement envisages a target of generating 10,000 MW or upto 10% of new power capacity addition projected for the period upto 2012.

Funding will mainly be met through private investments alongwith adequate budgetary allocations in the Central and State Plans. Financing through financial institutions and banks, and international funding are also envisaged. A detailed Action Plan including the requirement of funds and means of financing will be prepared after approval of Policy Statement.

[*Translation*]

Fruit and Vegetable Production

4873. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables produced in the country and the percentage out of them being processed;

(b) the bottlenecks in the appropriate development of the industry; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage modernisation of the food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) According to the Indian Horticulture Data Base 2000 published by National Horticulture Board, the production of fruits and vegetable in the country is as under:—

Year	Fruit	Vegetable
1998-1999	4,40,42,400 MT	8,75,36,300 MT

Less than 2% of the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are being processed in organized sector.

(b) Some of the major bottlenecks are-low demand, paucity of processable varieties and inadequate infrastructure.

(c) The Department of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan for setting up/modernization of food processing industries to PSUs, Joint Sector, Private/Assisted Sector, NGOs/Cooperatives. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agriculture and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), also provide assistance under their respective schemes. This Sector has also been included as priority sector for providing loan by financial institutions. The Department of Food Processing Industries have also drawn up a draft National Food Processing Policy which is expected to contribute in creating an enabling environment for this sector.

[English]

**Execution of Mangalore-Bangalore
Pipeline through Petronet**

4874. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petronet is executing the Mangalore-Bangalore pipeline through its sister companies;

(b) if so, whether the pipeline completion is being delayed due to various demands made by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the pending demands of HPCL;

(d) whether such delays are pushing up the cost of the project and whether the Government have examined the management ethos of HPCL in all such matters; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to revamp the administrative management of HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petronet India Limited is executing Mangalore-Bangalore pipeline through its joint venture company viz. Petronet MHB Limited.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Fake Foreign Tourist Entry in Taj Mahal

4875. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreigners pose as Indians to gain entry into the Taj Mahal in view of high entry fee for foreigners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to reduce fake foreigners entry ticket rationally to encourage tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India rely on voluntary compliance. In the matter of differential entry fee in ticketed monuments including Taj Mahal. Experience so far has been satisfactory.

Food Processing Parks

4876. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to food processing parks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received for setting up of food processing parks Karnataka locations-wise; and

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be sanctioned to each park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Department of Food Processing Industries has received five proposals from Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance for setting up of food processing parks in Districts Kolar, Bangalkot, Belgaun, Chitradurga and Mandya.

Out of the five proposals received from Government of Karnataka, the Department of Food Processing Industries has granted in principle approval for providing grant-in-aid assistance of Rs. 4.00 crores each for setting up of food parks in Kolar and Bagalkot.

Amendment in Food Processing Act

4877. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to attract more foreign investments in the Indian food processing sector, the Union Government propose to amend the Processed Food Development Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these amendments are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) An Approach Paper on the proposed Processed Food Development Act was drawn up and circulated to various Government Departments, State Governments and Industry Association. Subsequently, a revised version has been circulated to related Government Departments for their final comments. The proposed Act envisages harmonization and simplification of existing laws, development orientation, creation of a Development Fund, defining standards through a Processed Food Authority etc.

Taking into consideration the various procedures to be followed, a definite time-frame for the finalization of the Act is difficult to envisage.

Reconstruction/Upgradation of Historical Monuments

4878. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to develop tourism in the country, Archaeological Survey of India has upgraded/reconstructed some monument sites during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of such sites, year-wise and State/location-wise along with amount earmarked for such upgradation with special reference to Maharashtra, monument-wise; and

(c) the names of monument sites identified for upgradation/reconstruction during 2001-2002 and the expenditure incurred therefor, monument-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has identified thirty four monuments for upgradation of tourist facilities, environmental improvement and conservation.

The details of expenditure incurred on these monuments during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

The programme of upgrading these monuments would continue in the current financial year also. Since the financial year has just begun, it would not be possible to indicate expenditure incurred thus far.

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments Identified for upgradation

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/Site	Expenditure incurred during (in lakhs)		
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Taj Mahal, Agra	17.41	16.71	21.43
2.	Agra Fort, Agra	23.74	05.96	19.58
3.	Fatehpur Sikri, Agra	14.79	12.08	32.68
4.	Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra	33.44	14.35	02.74
5.	Ellora Caves, Maharashtra	08.26	07.52	05.87
6.	Elephanta Caves, Maharashtra	12.24	22.85	07.83
7.	Group of Monuments at Hampi	10.70	08.44	33.41
8.	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	04.96	05.85	00.30

1	2	3	4	5
9	Sun Temple at Konark	13.48	18.57	20.26
10	Group of Monuments at Khajuraho	17.28	10.47	14.80
11	Group of Monuments at Sanchi	03.64	07.28	08.38
12	Churches & Convents of Goa	14.93	21.24	24.28
13	Brihadiswara Temple at Thanjavur	04.56	05.25	02.49
14	Group of Monuments, Mamallapuram	03.30	05.75	06.54
15	Qutab Minar, New Delhi	09.92	0.527	06.95
16	Humayun's tomb, New Delhi	27.40	21.22	20.72
17	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	15.84	84.93	32.72
18	Group of Monuments, Sibsagar	10.45	11.77	17.32
19	Remains of Bhishmak Nagar	—	02.75	07.10
20	Group of Monuments, Nalanda	10.00	21.83	6.84
21	Red Fort, Delhi	28.40	24.26	44.48
22	Fort & Churches, Daman	—	12.89	15.40
23	Rani-ki-Vav, Patan	—	08.11	00.78
24	Sheikh Chillis Tomb, Distt. Kurukshetra	04.82	00.09	06.74
25	Kangra Fort, Kangra	04.95	—	04.79
26	Hemis Gompa, J&K	04.23	02.11	02.98
27	Bekal Fort, Bekal	02.79	06.13	02.47
28	Temple of Vishnu, Bishnupur	—	04.73	04.17
29	Stone Memorial of Narting	—	—	02.00
30	Dimapur Fort, Dimapur	04.07	—	08.60
31	Mughal Sarai Dakhini, Jalandhar D.	02.91	02.02	04.70
32	Chittorgarh Fort, Rajasthan	04.35	05.27	11.50
33	Unakoti, Tripura	—	03.00	06.85
34	Hazarduari Palace, Murshidabad	25.16	16.39	06.97

Closure of Petrol/Diesel Pumps

4879. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol/diesel pumps closed down in Orissa during the last year;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the number out of them restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Two retail outlets (ROs) were closed down in the State of Orissa during the last year.

One of these ROs, viz., M/s Rajpath Motors, Bhubaneswar, was closed on the orders of the Supreme Court in a case filed by the lessor for eviction. The other RO, viz., M/s Batmangala Service Station, Puri, was closed owing to the cancellation of the NOC and the Trading Licence by the District Authorities. This RO was re-started on 22.3.2001 on the grant of a stay order by the High Court of Orissa.

[Translation]

Variety of Seeds of Cash Crops

4880. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has developed new variety seeds of the cash crops during the previous and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States in which these seeds were sown and would be sown; and

(d) the yield of each cash crop made therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No new variety of cash crops was developed by Indian Agriculture Research Institute during the previous and current year.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Agriculture Information Centre

4881. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Centre for Agriculture Information in each part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open a Centre for Agriculture Information in the Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) under Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). These Centres are located in 25 State Agricultural Universities and 15 ICAR Research Institutes. The objective of these centres is to create a single window support system to provide technology products, diagnostic services and information for reducing the transmission losses in technology dissemination. The list of these Centres is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to set up an Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) at Azamgarh. However Azamgarh falls within the jurisdiction of Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Faizabad where an ATIC has been established by ICAR. The farmers of the district may take advantage of this ATIC.

Statement

List of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC)

S.No.	Name of University/Institute
1	2
1.	SKUAS&T, Srinagar (J&K)
2.	UAS, Bangalore (Karnataka)
3.	IGKV, Raipur (MP)
4.	INKVV, Jabalpur (MP)
5.	MAU, Parbhani (MS)
6.	MPKV, Rahuri, Ahmednagar (MS)
7.	PDKV, Akola (MS)
8.	TNV&ASU, Chennai (TN)
9.	CSAUA&T, Kanpur (UP)
10.	BCKVV, Mohanpur, Nadia (WB)

1 2

[English]

Credit Requirements of Farmers

4882. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate on the credit requirement of farmers in the cyclone affected districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether a review is proposed to be made in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any action plan for the current year or for remaining years of the Ninth Plan to ensure adequate and easy credit for the farmers of the cyclone and drought affected districts in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had estimated the credit requirement in respect of cyclone affected districts in Orissa through its Potential Linked Credit Plans (PLP).

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Adequate institutional arrangements exist to monitor regularly the position of the credit flow to the farmers in the cyclone and drought affected districts in Orissa. Therefore, no separate Action Plan is proposed to be formulated in this regard.

Statement

Estimated credit requirement for the year 2001-2002 in respect of cyclone affected districts in Orissa

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Crop Loan	Agriculture & Allied
1	2	3	4
1.	Cuttack	6547.20	2279.44

- 11 CARI, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- 12 CPRI, Shimla (HP)
13. CIFT, Willingdon Island, Cochin (Kerala)
- 14 CMFRI, Ernakulam, (Kerala)
15. CPCRI, Kasargod (Kerala)
- 16 CIAE, Bhopal (MP)
- 17 CICR, Nagpur (Maharashtra)
- 18 ICAR, Res. Complex for NEH Region, Umroi Road, Barapani, Meghalaya
- 19 CIFA, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)
- 20 CAZRI, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
- 21 PAU, Ludhiana (Punjab)
- 22 HPKV, Palampur (HP)
23. TNAU, Coimbatore (TN)
- 24 HAU, Hissar (Haryana)
- 25 APAU, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad (AP)
- 26 RAU, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar)
- 27 YSPUHF, Solan (HP)
- 28 AAU, Jorhat (Assam)
29. UAS, Dharwad (Karnataka)
- 30 RAU, Bikaner (Rajasthan)
31. GAU, Sardar Krishi Nagar, Banaskantha (Gujarat)
- 32 IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.
33. IIHR, Bangalore (Karnataka)
34. IISR, Calicut (Kerala)
35. NDRI, Karnal (Haryana)
36. KAU, Thrissur (Kerala)
37. KKV, Dapoli, Ratnagiri (MS)
38. GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)
39. NDUAA&T, Kumarganj, Faizabad (UP)
40. IVRI, Izatnagar, Bareilly (UP)

1	2	3	4
2.	Jagatsinghpur	3272.00	2155.13
3.	Kendrapada	2351.50	1517.49
4.	Jajpur	1688.00	1530.92
5.	Keonjhar	1879.02	2869.90
6.	Mayurbhanj	2331.60	1937.75
7.	Khurda	1945.20	1646.34
8.	Nayagarh	4104.50	1000.51
9.	Ganjam	13194.00	3720.12
10.	Gajapati	1585.80	1295.81
11.	Balasore	3887.20	2461.36
12.	Bhadrak	3308.00	1642.46
13.	Puri	3411.95	2012.47
14.	Dhenkanal	3039.70	1075.06

National Commission for Agriculture

4883. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up National Commission for Agriculture Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration for setting up a National Commission for Agriculture Development. However, Government has set up a Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister, and also a Task Force on Agriculture, chaired by Shri Sharad Joshi, to suggest measures on various matters relating to production and marketing of agricultural produce and allied activities, as well as the impact of globalisation etc.

[Translation]

NPHC's Share in Parvati Projects

4884. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share capital of the NHPC has been increased from 50 million to 60 million;

(b) if so, whether it includes the construction of infrastructure of the Tista-phase four of Downstream Parvati project;

(c) whether initiative has been taken by the Corporation with the Uttar Pradesh Government to jointly take up the 420 Megawatt Lakhwar Vyasi project; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The authorised share capital of NHPC is at present Rs. 7000 crores.

(b) Teesta Stage-IV Project in Sikkim has not been transferred so far to NHPC by the State Government for execution in the Central Sector. The development of the hydro-electric potential of the river Parbati in Himachal Pradesh is being undertaken by NHPC.

(c) and (d) An MOU was signed on 25.2.2000, between the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh for execution of Lakhwar Vyasi HE Project (420 MW) as a joint venture. Consequent upon the formation of Uttaranchal, the State Government has to take a view on the future course of action regarding this project located in Uttaranchal.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Reforms in Power Sector

4885. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has evolved a scheme to provide financial assistance to States that committed to bring reform in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State especially Maharashtra has been allocated funds for Accelerated Power Development Programme during the last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Power Finance Corporation provides both technical and financial assistance to reforming States. The

details of such assistance are in statement-I. PFC's policy on financial package for reforming States; through which PFC meets a major portion of the reform related funding of reforming States, are in statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the funds allocated to various States including Maharashtra under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) during 2000-2001 are in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Technical and Financial Services Offered by PFC to Reforming States

With the objective of commercialising the operations of the State Power Utilities (SPUs), and creating enabling environment through regulatory framework, PFC has taken a number of initiatives in line with the Govt. of India (GOI) policy, and provided incentives to the State Govts, to take up power sector reforms. For the States to be considered as reforming they need to commit to undertake reform and restructuring with technical and financial assistance from PFC, establish and operationalise SERCs, undertake studies for restructuring/reform as may be necessary to develop reform package. PFC's financial and technical assistance will be linked to satisfactory implementation of milestones of reform-Operational and Financial Action Plan (R-OFAP). Under the commitment made by the State Governments to PFC for reforming the power sector, PFC will provide the following assistance:—

1. Technical Assistance:

- Assist in development systems for strengthening of T&D systems for loss reduction.
- Assist in development systems for conducting energy audit in identified high loss areas, introducing computerisation and communication system including SCADA system.
- Assist in developing systems for effective accounting of electricity through metering, billing and collection and its computerisation.
- Assist the States to get reform related studies conducted which need to be undertaken to determine the changes in the structure of the power sector and its regulation. PFC would help States in finalising Terms of Reference, bidding, evaluation and selection of consultants for carrying out the reform related studies and would be associated closely with the State

Governments, State Power Utilities and the consultants at each stage of the reform process.

- Support institutional strengthening of the utilities in areas like distribution management; DSM load growth; demand pattern; asset valuation; master plan development; financial restructuring; tariff rationalization during the interregnum of the reform process and the post reform/restructuring period when new utilities are incorporated.
- Provide support to the utilities for having commercial arrangements by providing model documentation for PPA, RFP, RFQ, distribution management agreement.
- Organise workshops/seminars and training programmes on reform/restructuring and regulation for the benefit of the stakeholders in the power sector in order to disseminate information and experience about reforms.

2. Grants/Soft Loans:

- Provide limited amounts of grants/interest free loans to State Governments/State Power Utilities to carry out the reform related studies.
- Give, in addition, soft loans for studies in all areas of reforms/restructuring and commercialisation of SPUs.
- Provide limited amounts of grants to State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) in areas like procurement of computers and accessories, conducting reform related studies, organising seminars and workshops.
- Help in getting additional technical and financial support from multilateral agencies as grants to support further studies.

3. Financial Assistance:

- Provide a comprehensive package of financial assistance to the States going for reforms, covering most of the investment requirements during the remaining period of IXth Plan and Xth Plan based on the investment plan finalised, in relaxation of the current policy in regard to exposure limit for considering sanctions.
- Provide counter-part funding based on the investment plan to those States which are undertaking reforms with World Bank/ADB assistance.

- Relax eligibility conditions for State Power Utilities on RoR, DSCR, etc. and requirement for OFAP (for one year) for new State Utilities formed after reforms while providing financial assistance.
- Provide concessional lending for selected projects capable of providing quick returns.
- Providing support to the financial restructuring plan recommended by the reform studies and finalised in consultation with stakeholders.
- Offer increased funding assistance covering major part of the cost of the project, as against lower percentages for different types of schemes at present.
- Provide higher working capital to State utilities in reforming States.
- Consider new private power utilities formed as a result of the reform process for funding.

Statement-II

PFC Policy on Financial Package for Reforming States

1.0 Background

1.1 Government of India (GoI) has been laying increasing emphasis on State Power Sector Reforms. The structural reforms in the State power sector as specified by Government of India aims at:

- Establishment of SERCs.
- Corporatisation of SEBs.
- Unbundling of generation, transmission and distribution into separate corporate entities.
- Creation of GENCOs, DISCOs and TRANSCO.
- Privatisation of DISCOs.

2.0 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of restructuring the State power sector, to which PFC will address itself, are the following:—

- I. Achieve commercial and operational efficiency and financial viability.
- II. Improve delivery of services and achieve cost effectiveness through technical, managerial and administrative restructuring of the power utilities.

- III. Increase the operating efficiency of all power sector utilities through greater competition, managerial autonomy and higher responsibility/accountability.
- IV. Create an environment, which will attract private capital both domestic and foreign to supplement public sector investment for the power sector for meeting the growing capacity addition and the associated transmission and distribution system requirements.
- V. Promote conservation of energy through resource planning, efficient utilisation, demand side management and minimizing waste.
- VI. Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development.

The measures presented below seek to bring competition by restructuring the monopoly utility by corporatisation and separating generation, transmission and distribution. Reforms would also enable the development of an independent regulatory authority for tariff fixation and regulation of the power sector.

2.2 Qualifying criteria for a State to be considered as a Reforming State

The State Governments interested to avail the benefits of funding under this Policy will have to undertake reforms of the State Power Sector with PFC assistance and would be considered as Reforming State provided the State makes a written commitment to:

- I. Take up power sector reform;
- II. Establish and operationalise the SERC;
- III. Undertake studies for restructuring/reform, as may be necessary;
- IV. Develop the reform package and incorporate it in a Reform Operational and Financial Action Plan (R-OFAP) to be jointly accepted by PFC and the utility after approval by the State Government.
- V. Implement the R-OFAP with clearly defined milestones;
- VI. Constitute a high power Committee, preferably under Chief Secretary, to steer the reform implementation programme. PFC's nominee should be included in the Committee in those states which take up the Reform with PFC's assistance.

3.0 Reform Package:

3.1 Efforts of PFC to develop a reform package in consultation with State Governments/State Power Utilities will be in congruence with GOI initiatives as outlined in para 1.1; initiatives taken for introducing Central legislation; outcome of the State Power Ministers' conference held on 26th Feb. 2000 and the proposed scheme by GOI to provide incentives to reforming States. The reform programme agreed to should basically aim at creating a proper enabling environment, focussed on financial and institutional development, improvement in system efficiency, quality of power supply, customer services, promote competition by restructuring the monopoly utility through corporation and functional segregation and promote private participation.

3.2 The reform package will be based on the needs and requirements of the State as brought out in the reform studies undertaken. Based on the Reform and Restructuring studies, the States in consultation with PFC will develop a Reform-OFAP covering action plan with related milestones. The flow of financial assistance by PFC will be effectively linked to the achievement of reform related action plans by the State Governments and State power utilities. The exact linkages of these action plans and related milestones and the time within which these are required to be achieved will be tailored to suit the exact requirements of the State. It is recognized that PFC will have to adopt a flexible approach with regard to timing and extent of linkages seeing the complexities of the issues involved.

4.0 Financial Package:

4.1 The leverage of a big package of funding is needed to help the States to take the tough decisions on reform. PFC's efforts have to be geared up to develop and maintain a momentum for radical power sector reform, while realising the fact that the pace of the progress of reforms will vary from State to State. Substantial investment will be required for transmission and distribution to rehabilitate the existing transmission and distribution system to reduce losses and improve quality of supply. These investment requirements cannot be mobilized by the State Governments without inviting private sector investment, restoration of credit worthiness of power utilities and establishment of a proper enabling environment.

4.2 Implementation of the reform programme is expected to involve a time span of 5-7 years. The financial assistance to the reforming States would be based on

Investment Plan by the State Power Utilities, covering their investment needs for remaining period of IXth plan and for the Xth plan. A ceiling limit of financial assistance based on the Investment Plan would be worked out by PFC covering about 80% of the Investment Plan, with 20% of the counter-part funding coming from the State Governments/State utilities. In addition funding would also be provided to Private Utilities formed as a result of the Reform process. For States going in for reforms with World Bank and ADB, Projects would also be considered for counter-part funding by PFC.

4.3 Institutional Support:

To facilitate the work to be carried out under the reform programme, the States will be eligible for technical assistance through grants/soft loans/interest free loans to develop required skills and implement the reform programme and undertake investment programme. The concerned State Governments/State Power Utilities and/or its successors and SERCs will be supported for technical assistance areas like Reform related studies; Computerization/Communication; Support to SERC (grants only approved by PFC from time to time); Improvement in metering; billing and collection; distribution management; DSM load growth, demand pattern; asset valuation; master plan development; financial restructuring; tariff rationalization; PPA; system operation; human resource development; Institutional development; Project projections/formation; R&M/R&U and RLA studies.

5.0 Relaxation in Eligibility Conditions

The following eligibility conditions for lending as prescribed in the OPS would stand relaxed for utilities in the reforming States during the Reform period.

- I. 3% FoR
- II. DSCR
- III. Exposure limits
- IV. Extent of funding for all types of project will be relaxed upto 80% of the cost of the project.
- V. Working Capital for twice the amount and twice the period as compared to utilities in non-reforming States.
- VI. These will be applicable to both State Utilities as well as private utilities formed as a result of the reform process.

6.0 Conditions to be Fulfilled:

The conditions which need to be fulfilled by the State Power Utilities in the States qualifying as a Reforming State as stated in para 2.2 are given below:—

- I. Opening of Escrow account in favour of PFC equivalent to 1.25 times of PFC dues.
- II. State Government Guarantee (Comfort letter for working capital) for State utilities and charge on assets for private utilities.

III. Entity should not be a defaulter to PFC.

IV. Projects meeting the eligibility criteria as per OPS.

V. The sanctions and disbursements will be related to achievement of milestones in the Reform-OFAP. For his purpose PFC may ask for report and send periodic mission to monitor the reform process.

Statement III*List of Approved Projects*

Sl. No.	State Utility	Name of Scheme	Name of the Project	Cost of Project	Proposed APDP Sanction		Total Amount under APDP
					Grant	Loan	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh							
1.	APGENCO	R&M of Vijaywada TPS-U 1&2 (2x210 MW)	R&M	22.30	5.58	5.58	11.15
2.	APGENCO	R&M of KTPS B & C (2x105x110)	R&M	67.76	16.94	16.94	33.88
3.	APGENCO	Various Activities for Hydel Power Station Under the Programme of Accelerated Generation, Evacuation & Refurbishment (PAGER)	R&U	2.06	0.52	0.52	1.03
4.	APGENCO	Flood Protection Wall for Nagarjuna Sagar HEP (1x110 MW+ 7x100MW)	R&U	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
5.	APTRASNCO	Eluru Circle	DISTR TRANF	7.38	1.85	1.85	3.69
6.	APTRASNCO	Eluru Circle	Meter	29.26	7.32	7.32	14.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	APTRASNCO	Tirupati Circle	DISTR. TRA NF	13.53	3.38	3.38	6.77
8.	APTRASNCO	Tirupati Circle	Meter	19.72	4.93	4.93	9.86
9.	APTRASNCO	Warangal Circle	DISTR TRANSF	9.97	2.49	2.49	4.99
10	APTRASNCO	Warangal Circle	Meter	19.72	4.93	4.93	9.86
				194.70	48.68	48.68	97.35
Bihar							
11.	BSEB	PESU (East)	Trans	8.93	2.23	2.23	4.47
12.	BSEB	R&M PF IZZAFAR [IR	R&M	20.55	5.14	5.14	10.28
13.	BSEB	PESU (East)	Meter	5.58	1.40	1.40	2.79
14.	BSEB	Muzzafarpur	Meter	7.82	1.96	1.96	3.91
				42.88	10.72	10.72	21.45
Gujarat							
15.	GEB	R&M of Wanakbori TPS	R&M	4.45	1.11	1.11	2.23
16.	GEB	Sabarmati Circle	Meter	12.98	3.25	3.25	6.49
17.	GEB	Palanpur & Himmatnagar Zone	Meter	9.80	2.45	2.45	4.90
18.	GEB	Restoration of Power Sys. of Kutch Distt. (Total cost is Rs. 470 Crs, Expenditure for IST six Months only)	Trans	192.00	48.00	48.00	96.00
				219.23	54.81	54.81	109.62
Haryana							
19.	DHBVNL	Hissar Town	Trans	7.71	1.93	1.93	3.86
20.	DHBVNL	Hissar Circle	Trans	4.50	1.13	1.13	2.25
21.	DHBVNL	Faridabad Town	Trans	8.84	2.21	2.21	4.42
22.	DHBVNL	Faridabad Circle	Trans	8.50	2.13	2.13	4.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	UHBVNL	Sonepat Circle	Meter	8.77	2.19	2.19	4.39
24.	UHBVNL	Sonepat Circle	Trans	1.98	0.50	0.50	0.99
25.	UHBVNL	Karnal Circle	Meter	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
26.	UHBVNL	Karnal Circle	Trans	6.56	1.64	1.64	3.28
27.	HPGCL	R&M of Faridabad TPS	R&M	23.70	5.93	5.93	11.85
28.	DHBVNL	Hissar	CAP	0.34	0.09	0.09	0.17
29.	DHBVNL	Faridabad	CAP	1.93	0.48	0.48	0.97
30.	DHBVNL	Hissar	Dist. Tran	2.40	0.60	0.60	1.20
31.	DHBVNL	Faridabad	Dist. Tran	14.00	3.50	3.50	7.00
				99.23	24.83	24.83	49.66
Jharkhand							
32.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Circle	Trans	29.89	7.47	7.47	14.95
33.	Jharkhand	Loyabad Circle	Trans	14.05	3.51	3.51	7.03
				43.94	10.99	10.99	21.97
Karnataka							
34.	KPCL	R&M of Raichur TPS-U- 1,2,&3 (3x210MW)	R&M	28.84	7.21	7.21	14.42
35.	KPCL	R&U of Sharavati, Supa, Lingnamaki, Bhadra & Varahi HEPS	R&U	16.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
36.	VVNL	RM&U of 28 MW Munirabad Hydro Power Station (2x9+1x10 MW)	R&U	3.64	0.91	0.91	1.82
37.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Distr Transf	9.98	2.50	2.50	4.99
38.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Meter	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
39.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Trans	27.48	6.87	6.87	13.74
40.	KPTCL	Bijapur Circle	meter	5.84	1.46	1.46	2.92
41.	KPTCL	Bijapur Circle	Trans.	39.90	9.98	9.98	19.95
42.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Distr. Transf.	9.99	2.50	2.50	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
43.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Meter	6.59	1.65	1.65	3.30
44.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Trans	4.72	1.18	1.18	2.36
				162.98	40.74	40.74	81.49
Kerala							
45.	KSEB	Pathanamithitta Circle	Meter	9.91	2.48	2.48	4.96
46.	KSEB	Pathanamithitta Circle	Trans	4.60	1.15	1.15	2.30
47.	KSEB	Manjeri Circle	Meter	19.81	4.95	4.95	9.91
48.	KSEB	Manjeri Circle	Trans	10.50	2.63	2.63	5.25
				44.82	11.21	11.21	22.41
Madhya Pradesh							
49.	MPEB	R&M of 1142.5 MW Satpura TPS (5x625+1x200+3x210 MW)	R&M	22.34	5.59	5.59	11.17
50.	MPEB	Gwalior	Meter	12.41	3.10	3.10	6.21
51.	MPEB	Indore	Meter	19.35	4.84	4.84	9.68
52.	MPEB	Ujjain	Meter	21.36	5.34	5.34	10.68
53.	MPEB	Gwalior	Cap	0.42	0.11	0.11	0.21
54.	MPEB	Indore	Cap	2.99	0.75	0.75	1.50
55.	MPEB	Ujjain	Cap	1.70	0.43	0.43	0.85
56.	MPEB	Indore	Dist. Transf.	18.49	4.62	4.62	9.25
				99.06	24.78	24.78	49.55
Maharashtra							
57.	MSEB	Addl. Financial Assistance for Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) Scheme of Parli TPS	R&M	4.41	1.10	1.10	2.21
58.	MSEB	Ash Water Recovery Scheme of Parli TPS	R&M	8.05	2.01	2.01	4.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
59.	MSEB	ESP Augmentation Retrofit for Nasik TPS	R&M	22.00	5.50	5.50	11.00
60.	MSEB	Repair & Modification of Coal Mills by MPSP System at Koradi, Nasik and Parli TPS	R&M	6.00	1.50	1.50	3.00
61.	MSEB	R&M of Koradi TPS (U-5) (Aug. of ESP)	R&M	48.00	12.00	12.00	24.00
62.	MSEB	Solapur Circle	Meter	40.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
63.	MSEB	Ratnagiri Circle	Dist. Trans	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
64.	MSEB	Ratnagiri Circle	Meter	14.15	3.54	3.54	7.08
65.	MSEB	Osmanabad Circle	Meter	40.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
66.	MSEB	Jalgaon Circle	Dist. Trans	26.27	6.57	6.57	13.14
67.	MSEB	Jalgaon Circle	Meter	50.00	12.50	12.50	25.00
				268.88	67.22	67.22	134.44
Orissa							
68.	OHPC	RM&U of Hirakud-1 (Burla) U-3&4	R&U	126.13	19.00	19.00	38.00
				126.13	19.00	19.00	38.00
Punjab							
69.	PSEB	R&U of Shanan HEP	R&U	11.98	3.00	3.00	5.99
70.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Distr Transf	8.51	2.13	2.13	4.26
71.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Meter	9.68	2.42	2.42	4.84
72.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Trans	25.00	6.25	6.25	12.50
73.	PSEB	Khanna Circle	Distr Transf	7.44	1.86	1.86	3.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
74.	PSEB	Khanna Circle	Meter	12.79	3.20	3.20	6.40
				75.40	18.85	18.85	37.70
Rajasthan							
75.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur Circle	Distr Tranf	27.89	6.97	6.97	13.95
76.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur Circle	Meter	15.62	3.91	3.91	7.81
77.	RRVPNL	Alwar Circle	Trans	7.12	1.78	1.78	3.56
78.	Jaipur VVNL	Alwar	Meter	9.00	2.25	2.25	4.50
79.	Ajmer VVNL	Jhunjhunu	Meter	8.15	2.04	2.04	4.08
80.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur	Meter	10.85	2.71	2.71	5.43
81.	Jodhpur VVNL	Alwar	Cap	3.20	0.80	0.80	1.60
82.	Ajmer VVNL	Jhunjhunu	Cap	3.70	0.93	0.93	1.85
83.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur	Cap	4.45	1.11	1.11	2.23
				89.98	22.50	22.50	45.00
Tamil Nadu							
84.	TNEB	Routine R&M Activities (Addl) Under R&M Phase-II of Tuticorin TPS	R&M	33.84	8.46	4.86	16.92
85.	TNEB	R&M of ENNORE TPS (Construction of Ash Dyke)	R&M	73.04	18.26	18.26	36.52
	TNEB	Capacitors	Cap	24.03	6.05	6.05	12.10
				130.91	32.77	32.77	65.54
Uttar Pradesh							
86.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Paricha TPS (2x210 MW)	R&M	32.80	8.20	8.20	16.40
87.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Panki TPS Unit 3&4 (2x210 MW)	R&M	31.43	7.86	7.86	15.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
88.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Anpara 'A' TPS (3x210 MW)	R&M	26.10	6.53	6.53	13.05
89.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Paricha TPS (2x210MW) (Pager)	R&M	8.02	2.01	2.01	4.01
90.	UPJVNL	R&U of Khodri HEP	R&U	10.50	2.63	2.63	5.25
91.	UPJVNL	R&U of Chilla HEP	R&U	47.10	11.78	11.78	23.55
92.	UPJVNL	R&U of Chibro HEP	R&U	20.90	5.23	5.23	10.45
93.	UPPCL	Moradabad	Meter	14.41	3.60	3.60	7.21
94.	UPPCL	Gorakhpur	Meter	11.64	2.91	2.91	5.82
				202.90	50.72	50.72	101.46
West Bengal							
95.	WBSEB	R&U of Jaldhaka HEP STG-1 (3x9 MW) & STG-II (2x4 MW)	R&U	49.79	12.45	12.45	24.90
96.	WBSEB	Meters for Domestic Consumer in Identified 3 Circles (Howrah, Bidhannagar & 24 Pargana)	Meter	7.20	1.80	1.80	3.60
97.	WBSEB	Meters, CAP, & Dist. Trans. in 3 Circles	Meter	30.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
				86.99	21.75	21.75	43.50
Chattisgarh							
98.		Raipur	Meter	6.40	1.60	1.60	3.20
99.		Bilaspur	Meter	5.00	1.25	1.25	2.50
100.		Rajnandgao	Meter	6.10	1.53	1.53	3.05
101.		Raipur	Cap	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.50
102.		Bilaspur	Cap	1.40	0.35	0.35	0.70
103.		Rajnandgao	Cap	0.61	0.15	0.15	0.31
				20.51	5.13	5.13	10.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttaranchal							
104.		Dehradun	Meter	3.60	0.90	0.90	1.80
105.		Roorkee	Meter	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
106.		Rudrapur	Meter	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
				9.60	2.40	2.40	4.80
Grand Total				1918.14	467.1	467.1	934.2
(A) Special Category States							
Arunachal Pradesh							
1.	Arun PD	Meters down upto 11 KV/HT	Meter	2.82	2.54	0.28	2.82
2.	Arun PD	Metering in APEC III Circle	Meter	3.50	3.15	0.35	3.50
				6.32	5.69	0.63	6.32
Assam							
3.	ASEB	Strengthening of Silchar Network	Trans	15.60	14.04	1.56	15.60
4.	ASEB	Meters Down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	4.42	3.98	0.44	4.42
				20.02	18.02	2.00	20.22
Himachal Pradesh							
5.	HPSEB	Meters Down upto 11 KV/HT	Meter	25.32	22.79	2.53	25.32
				25.32	22.79	2.53	25.32
J&K							
6.	J&K PDD	Meters Down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	6.99	6.29	0.70	6.99
				6.99	6.29	0.70	6.99
Manipur							
	Manipur PD	Meters down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	0.72	0.65	0.07	0.77
				0.72	0.65	0.07	0.77
Meghalaya							
8.	Megha.PD	Meters Down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	1.81	1.63	0.18	1.81
				1.81	1.63	0.18	1.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mizoram							
9	MizoramPD	Meters Down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	1.06	0.95	0.11	1.06
				1.06	0.95	0.11	1.06
Nagaland							
10.	Nagaland	Meters down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	1.89	1.70	0.19	1.89
				1.89	1.70	0.19	1.89
Sikkim							
11.	SikkimPD	Meters down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	1.88	1.69	0.19	1.88
12.	SikkimPD	Meters Ph-II	Meter	4.50	4.05	0.45	4.50
				6.38	5.74	0.64	6.38
Tripura							
13.	Tripura	Meters down upto 11KV/HT	Meter	5.00	4.50	0.50	5.00
				5.00	4.50	0.50	5.00
Total (A)				75.51	67.96	7.55	75.51

Alagh Committee

4886. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the suggestions made by Prof. Y.K. Alagh Committee to restructure the various aspects of farms economy to meet the forthcoming challenges; and

(b) the action taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh has reportedly been constituted by the Punjab Government. The details are being obtained from the Government of Punjab.

[Translation]

Non Electrification of the Villages of Jharkhand

4887. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which have not been electrified in Jharkhand till date, district-wise;

(b) the time by which the complete electrification are likely to be carried out in Jharkhand; and

(c) the hurdles in the way of rural electrification of Jharkhand and the steps being taken to remove these hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The district-wise details of number of villages unelectrified in Jharkhand are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) The priorities for Rural Electrification programme are determined by the State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, who own and operate the distribution system in the States, as per the policy and directions of the State Governments. The timeframe for complete electrification of villages would depend upon the financial resources for creating infrastructure for strengthening the distribution system, availability of power in the State and demand from the consumers.

Finance Minister, in his speech while presenting the Union Budget for 2001-2002 has announced a package of initiatives to improve the power distribution system in rural areas. This includes: completion of electrification of bulk of the remaining villages in the next six years; extension of assistance to the States for village electrification works under the Prime Minister's Gramodyog Yojana (PMGY) whose funding is being augmented; stepping up credit support from the Rural Electrification Corporation to SEBs, for speedy electrification of dalit bastis, households of scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society; improving the quality of power supply in villages, augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas supported by REC under the Accelerated Power Development Programme; earmarking a sum of at least Rs. 750 crore out of RIDF for rural electrification works; augmenting the resources of REC, by allowing it to float capital gains tax exemption bonds along with NABARD and NHA under Section 54EC of the Income Tax Act. The proposals for electrification of villages in Jharkhand would also be covered under the above mentioned package of initiatives.

Statement

Statement showing District-wise Unelectrified Villages in Jharkhand

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Unelectrified Villages
1	2	3
1.	Deoghar	1010
2.	Dumka	2357
3.	Godda	854
4.	Sahebganj	1356
5.	Pakur	
6.	Ranchi	632
7.	Loherdaga	
8.	Gumla	760
9.	Palamu	1666
10.	Garhwa	
11.	E. Singhbhum	1956
12.	W. Singhbhum	

1	2	3
13.	Hazaribagh	1748
14.	Chatra	
15.	Koderma	
16.	Girdih	1553
17.	Dhanbad	484
18.	Bekare	
Total		14376

Cotton and Sugarcane Growers

4888. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been requested to help cotton and sugarcane growers of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the main demands of cotton and sugarcane growers of the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra have sent proposal for the development of cotton and sugarcane in the State for the year 2001-2002 keeping in view the demands and problems faced by the farmers. The major problems faced in the cultivation of these crops includes supply of seeds, need for water saving devices like sprinklers, menace of diseases and pests, information and training on production technologies and supply of sprayers/ implements.

In order to increase the production of cotton, Government of India is assisting various States including Maharashtra through Mini Mission-II under Technology Mission on Cotton. Under this Scheme assistance is provided for the transfer of technology through field demonstration on production technology, integrated pest management as well as training of extension workers and farmers. Besides, assistance is also provided for the concessional supply of inputs like seed, sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents and sprinklers/drip irrigation units. For the implementation of the scheme during 2001-2002, Government of India has allocated Rs. 1056.51 lakhs to Maharashtra consisting of Rs. 829.88 lakh as Central share and Rs. 226.63 lakh as State share.

The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sugarcane has now been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture Development with effect from October, 2000 giving flexibility to States to adopt

activities to their needs and suiting to their agro-climatic conditions. Under Macro Management Mode, a sugarcane development scheme in Vidarbha Region is being implemented by the State Government of Maharashtra with a total outlay of Rs. 600 lakh for the year 2001-2002. The major activities of the scheme include transfer of technology, seed production, training of extension workers and farmers as well as supply of green manure, gypsum, in-situ trash compost and farm implements.

[English]

Railway Projects in Gujarat

4889. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had demanded extension of Rajkot-Veraval Rail line via Kodinar upto Somnath and also gauge conversion of Navlakhi-Dahinsara-Morbi-Wankaner, Dahinsara-Maliya-Miyana, Ahmedabad-Vijapur, Himatnagar-Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar and Jambusar-Samakhiali-Palanpur rail lines; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not acceding to these demands in the current railway budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Position of the projects referred in the Question is given as under:—

Project		Status
1		2
1.	Extension of Rajkot-Veraval rail line upto Kodinar via Somnath	Survey for construction of new line from Veraval to Kodinar via Somnath has been completed and report is under finalisation in consultation with the Railway. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the report is finalized.
2.	Gauge conversion of Navlakhi-Dahinsara-Morbi-Wankaner & Dahinsara-Maliya-Miyana	Gauge Conversion of these lines have already been completed.
3.	Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Vijapur	Work of gauge conversion of Kalol-Adraj Moti is already included in the Budget as a part of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol new line project. This will provide BG connection between Ahmedabad-Adraj Moti, as BG line already exists between Ahmedabad and Kalol. In view of the acute constraint of resources, there is no proposal to convert Adraj Moti-Vijapur MG line into BG at present.
4.	Gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar	No such demand has been received. However, surveys for gauge conversion of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur with extension to Dhar and Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur sections are already in progress. Further consideration of these projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.
5.	Gauge conversion of Jambusar-Samakhiali-Palanpur	No such demand has been received. However, survey for gauge conversion of Jambusar-Vishvamitri (Pratapnagar) has already been completed as a part of the proposed 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad. Gauge conversion of this section will be considered at the time of taking up the 3rd line work in this area depending upon availability of resources.

1

2

Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur is already included in the Budget and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

A BG line already exists between Vishvamitri-Palanpur via Mahesana and Vishvamitri-Samakhiali via Viramgam.

[Translation]

Foreign Companies Investment in Power Sector

4890. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding giving permission to the foreign companies for investment in the power sector;

(b) the details of foreign companies permitted by the State Governments to set up new power plants during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the names of places, especially in Bihar, where foreign companies want to set up the said plants, State-wise;

(d) whether the Ministries have accorded approval to the said projects during the said period;

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

(f) the extent to which the power requirement of the country is likely to be met after the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Under the policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the power sector announced in October, 1991, up to hundred percent (100%) foreign equity participation can be permitted for projects set up by foreign investors in the Indian Electricity Sector.

(b) to (e) A Statement indicating State-wise, the details of private power projects accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during the last three years (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) involving foreign equity and indicating the requisite particulars, is enclosed at Annexure-I. None of the projects accorded TEC by CEA and having foreign equity participation fall in the State of Bihar.

(f) The total quantum of installed capacity likely to be added after completion of all the projects mentioned in the enclosed Annexure-I is 10728.67 MW.

Statement

Private Sector Power Projects techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority during the last three years (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) involving foreign equity participation

Sl. No.	Project	Capacity (MW)	Location
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP	520	Nellore
2.	Vemagiri CCGT	492	East Godavari
Gujarat			
3.	Jamnagar TPP	500	Jamnagar

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
4.	Nagarjuna TPP	1015	Nandikur near Mangalore
5.	Peenya CCP	107.6	Bangalore
Kerala			
6.	Kannur CCGT TEC date: 16.2.2000	513	Kannur
7.	Vypeen CCGT	679.2	Ernakulam
Madhya Pradesh			
8.	Guna CCGT	330	Guna
9.	Khandwa CCGT	171.17	East Nimar
Orissa			
10.	Duburi TPP	500	Jajpur
11.	IB Valley TPP	500	Jharsuguda
Rajasthan			
12.	Barsingsar TPP	500	Bikaner
13.	Dholpur CCGT	702.7	Dholpur
Tamil Nadu			
14.	North Madras-III	525	M.G.R.
15.	Cuddalore TPP	1320	Cuddalore
16.	Vembar CCGT	1873	Ramanathapuram
Uttaranchal			
17.	Shrinagar HEP	330	Pauri Garhwal
West Bengal			
18.	Gouripore TPP	150	North 24 pargana
Total		10728.67	

*[English]***Survey for Sahajanva-Dhoharighat Rail Line**

4891. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a survey for laying railway line between Sahajanva and Dhoharighat under North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far to lay the said railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) An updating survey for new broad gauge line from Sahajanva to Dhohrighat and conversion of meter gauge line from Dhohrighat to Indara was conducted in 1989. As per the

survey report the cost of the proposal involving 103 km. long line was assessed as Rs. 67 cr. with a rate of return of 3.47%. In view of the unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

Complaints against HPCL

4892. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5232 on December 21, 2000 and State:

(a) whether the information required has since been collected and laid on the table of the House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available records there is no evidence of complaints received regarding the premature release of the leased accommodation at 6, Sorrento Mount, Pleasant Road at Mumbai and its subsequent purchase by a close relative of a former Director (Marketing) of HPCL at a throw away price. The erstwhile ESSO management (which was latter taken over by HPCL) in accordance with their scheme (to sell the Flats occupied by their Senior Officers to the occupants), sold the flat under reference to one Shri H.B. Chablani (brother-in-law of Shri B.N. Sillani former Director (M) of HPCL. The flat which was on lease with HPCL, was release to the owner on 1.1.1983. HPCL was not a party to the sale deal.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Loss to Kharif Crops

4893. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Kharif crops is likely to fall by 12 lakh tonnes due to the occurrence of flood and drought in several States of the country, recently;

(b) if so, the total loss of Kharif crops, life and property suffered due to flood and drought this year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has sent a Central team to States on the spot for study of the situation;

(d) if so, the names of the States to which these teams has been sent;

(e) whether the Government have received the reports from these study teams;

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

(g) the action taken so far on these recommendations by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK):

(a) As per available information, the advance estimates of kharif 2000 foodgrains production is likely to be 102.32 million tonnes against the target of 108.92 million tonnes.

(b) A statement indicating State-wise details of damage to life and property during the current financial year due to drought and floods, as reported by the State Governments, is in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (g) Inter-Ministerial Central Teams were deputed to Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal for assessment of the situation in the wake of drought and floods. State-wise details of assistance approved/released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of drought and floods is in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I*State-wise details of damage to life and property in the wake of drought and floods during 2000-2001*

Sl.No.	State	Loss of		Houses damaged (Nos.)	Cropped area damaged (in lakh ha.)
		Human lives (Nos.)	Animals (Nos.)		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	257	5368	104374	4.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	9131	17	0.04
3.	Assam	32	NR	NR	2.24
4.	Bihar	274	1861	312076	3.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	11.36
6.	Gujarat	116	406	23844	10.19
7.	Himachal Pradesh	149	NR	NR	4.04
8.	Karnataka	152	690	54591	0.57
9.	Kerala	75	NR	9474	NR
10.	Madhya Pradesh	13	147	3297	39.52
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	45.00
12.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	11.00
13.	Punjab	7	NR	35	0.25
14.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	89.47
15.	Sikkim	11	NR	140	NR
16.	Uttar Pradesh	462	888	33649	4.35
17.	West Bengal	1320	83630	2194858	19.20

NR—Not reported.

Statement II*State-wise details of Assistance Approved/Released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the Wake of Drought and Floods during 2000-2001*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Calamity	Assistance Approved/ Released from NCCF
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rains/floods	10.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Flash floods	2.00
3.	Bihar	Rains/floods	29.67

1	2	3	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	Drought	40.00
5.	Gujarat	Drought	85.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Flash floods	33.29
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Drought	35.00
8.	Orissa	Drought	35.00
9.	Rajasthan	Drought	85.00
10.	West Bengal	Rains/floods	103.25

Varities of Rice and Potato

4894. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present activities of Indian Council of Agriculture Research situated in Meghalaya;

(b) whether any research has been conducted to develop high breed varities of rice and potato suitable for high altitude region;

(c) the number of officers and other subordinate staff, with brake-up, working there;

(d) the area of land occupied by I.C.A.R. for farm area and residential area; and

(e) the altitude of the Research Centre and the amount of rainfall in the area occupied by ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research established ICAR Research Complex for the North East Hill Region at Umiam in Meghalaya in 1975. This institute encompasses all the disciplines of agriculture, horticulture, animal sciences, agricultural engineering, agroforestry and fishery to cater to agricultural research needs of the tribal areas of N.E.H. Region, including Sikkim.

(b) Yes, Sir. Two rice varieties namely NEH Megha Rice 1 and NEH Megha rice 2 were released for high altitude (>1500m) area. These varieties have an average yield of 30 sq/ha. and cover more than 50 per cent of the area under rice. Potato varieties, Kufri, Jyoti, Kufri Megha and Kufri Giriraj have been developed and released for cultivation in NEH Region including Meghalaya.

(c)	Category	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
A.	R.M.P.	2	1	1
B.	Scientific	90	76	14
C.	Technical	132	113	19
D.	Administrative	89	67	20
E.	Supporting	68	67	1

(d) The total farm area of the institute at Umiam is 101 ha. and 20 ha. of the farm land area is under residence, office, laboratory, stores etc.

(e) Altitude : 980-1080 m above msl
Rainfall : mean around 2,400 mm/annum.

Petrol Pump Allotment Scam

4895. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appeared in 'The Times of India' New Delhi dated March 23, 2001 regarding petrol pump allotment scam;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the rules governing allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Complaints against selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products are received from time to time and action is taken on them after investigation.

A Grievance Redressal System is provided in the existing guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors for Retail Outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, whereby the concerned oil company conducts enquiry in respect of all complaints against selection of dealers/distributors. The complaints against the empanelled candidates are investigated by two officers of the concerned oil marketing company. The inquiry report is forwarded by the oil marketing company to the DSB. The Chairman, in consultation with the other members of the DSB, examines the report with reference to the complaint and conveys his directions/order for compliance by the oil company.

The guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products are reviewed from time to time to maintain transparency and fairness in the selection of dealers/distributors.

Poultry Marketing Federation

4896. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Poultry Marketing Federation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the 8th Plan there was a proposal to establish a National Development Board under which it was also envisaged that all the State Poultry Federations/Corporations will play an active role. The proposal was examined in detail in consultation with the Planning Commission, National Cooperative Development Corporation, State Governments and Ministry of Finance.

After examining all aspects, a decision was taken not to pursue the proposal any further.

Indian Council of Veterinary Research

4897. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) (a) to (c) In view of the need for an intensive farming approach, which calls for integration of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors, separation of veterinary and fishery science research system from Indian Council of Agricultural Research is not proposed at this stage.

[*Translation*]

Foodgrain Production

4898. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) target fixed for foodgrain production in the country for the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the Government have identified such foodgrains whose production is less than domestic consumption;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the foodgrain production is less/more than the previous years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and total production of foodgrains in various States each year during the last three years; and

(f) step being taken by the Government to increase the foodgrain production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Planning Commission has fixed the targets for foodgrains production in the country for 2001-2002 at 208.0 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) According to report of working Group on "Demand and Supply projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics" for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, the consumption requirement of pulses for 2001-2002 (behaviourstic approach) is projected at 16.25 million tonnes. However, the production of pulses during 2001-2002 is likely to be less than consumption projection.

(d) and (e) The foodgrains production during 2000-2001 is estimated at 196.13 million tonnes which is lower compared to that of 1999-2000. The State-wise details of total foodgrains production during last three

years *i.e.* 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is enclosed in the statement.

(f) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

Statement

Production of total Foodgrains during 1997-1998 to 1999-2000

State	Production (Thousand Tonnes)		
	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	10822.3	14905.0	13423.9
Assam	3577.6	3434.0	4042.6
Bihar	14093.2	13625.9	14561.1
Gujarat	5709.7	5566.7	4051.7
Haryana	11347.7	12123.2	13066.5
Himachal Pradesh	1441.2	1490.7	1341.2
Jammu & Kashmir	1420.0	1519.6	1271.1
Karnataka	8046.8	9996.6	9933.2
Kerala	797.6	754.5	794.3
Madhya Pradesh	17361.9	19501.2	21015.6
Maharashtra	9664.0	12752.8	12607.2
Orissa	6637.8	5793.1	5600.2
Punjab	21143.2	22906.9	25197.8
Rajasthan	14048.9	12944.5	10700.0
Tamil Nadu	8103.8	9418.7	8857.4
Uttar Pradesh	41589.2	40417.2	45238.4
West Bengal	14353.2	14367.2	15067.6
Others	2100.6	2089.1	2105.0
All India	192258.7	203606.9	208874.8

*[English]***Dairy Development**

4899. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants released by the Union Government for dairy development in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu; and

(b) the details of schemes chalked out for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing two dairy development schemes viz. (i) Integrated Dairy Development Programme in Non Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas, and (ii) Assistance to Cooperatives, during January, 2000. No proposal for dairy development has so far been received from the Union Territory of Daman & Diu Administration, under the above dairy development schemes.

Development of Fishing in Orissa

4900. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to promote and develop scientific fishing in tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of financial and physical targets set and achieved during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have sent new proposals for seeking financial assistance for fishing by tribals in Orissa; and

(d) the details of action taken thereon and funds provided during 2001-2002 for the purpose;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" which aims to promote and develop scientific inland aquaculture practices in the country including the tribal areas of Orissa.

(b) During 1997-98, Rs. 120.00 lakh as 50% Government of India's share was released to Orissa State. No further releases were made during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The Central share is not released district-wise. Details of district-wise physical achievements water area covered under scientific fish culture during the last three years is annexed in the statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Districts	Annual Target	Water area brought (in ha.)		
			1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Angul	110	117.68	37.17	57.38
2.	Balasore	110	113.99	47.00	48.64
3.	Bargarh	160	199.68	160.56	124.18
4.	Bhadrak	100	104.79	39.80	44.93
5.	Bolangir	130	145.32	33.38	56.76
6.	Bough	80	102.25	167.90	97.56
7.	Cuttack	90	79.51	70.83	51.71
8.	Deogarh	40	55.03	57.82	19.10
9.	Dhenkanal	90	102.35	37.87	35.81

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Gajapati	30	10.00	12.20	15.50
11.	Ganjam	130	141.04	300.99	127.85
12.	Jagatsinghpur	80	62.56	20.06	8.49
13.	Jajpur	60	59.82	30.18	23.21
14.	Jharsuguda	70	103.49	50.93	119.06
15.	Kalahandi	30	60.55	29.90	22.52
16.	Kendrapara	80	62.97	43.39	51.68
17.	Keonjhar	150	140.52	78.07	44.28
18.	Khurda	60	61.85	49.28	33.10
19.	Koraput	50	58.88	61.43	37.08
20.	Malkangiri	80	104.00	130.48	125.60
21.	Mayurbhanj	160	160.71	54.14	50.16
22.	Nawapara	40	43.80	21.85	86.60
23.	Nawarangapur	60	50.72	36.17	8.08
24.	Nayagarh	60	30.61	25.83	29.10
25.	Phulbani	30	0.00	0.00	0.80
26.	Puri	100	101.25	91.39	54.99
27.	Rayagada	20	8.13	23.66	32.76
28.	Sambalpur	80	96.65	97.08	40.76
29.	Sonepur	80	80.40	18.20	24.77
30.	Sundargarh	140	145.17	18.63	42.86
Total		2500	2603.72	1845.99	1535.33

[Translation]

Subsidy to Agricultural Sector

4901. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the subsidy being provided to agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The interest of agriculture is uppermost with the Government of India. Subsidies to the Agricultural Sector have been enhanced over time. The position of subsidies is regularly monitored and decision taken, duly taking into account the requirement of the agricultural sector, resource availability and international commitments.

[English]

Procurement of Copra by NAFED

4902. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of copra procured by NAFED during the past one year, State-wise;

(b) whether the procured copra has been sold or disposed off; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) NAFED has procured the following quantities of copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) during the year 2000-2001:—

(in MTs)		
State	Milling Copra	Ball Copra
Kerala	79697	—
Tamil Nadu	111983	—
Andhra Pradesh	16257	3
Karnataka	—	4720
Lakshadweep	3080	—
A&N Islands	7087	—
Goa	590	—

(b) and (c) NAFED has sold 22839 MTs of Milling Copra and 1023 MTs Ball Copra in whole form and 18467 MTs of Milling Copra by processing during the same period.

Buildings of Central Agricultural University

4903. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction of the Head Quarter Buildings of the Central Agricultural University at Imphal is likely to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds allotted for construction of its building are lapsed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The construction of the Headquarters building has not been

started since provision of funds for the construction of the Headquarters building will be made in phase II, which will be under the Xth Plan. the State Government has allotted 287.97 acres of land to the university, its physical possession has not been given till now.

However the construction of eight buildings has been approved by ICAR for the college of Agriculture, Imphal, which is located at the headquarters of the University. the buildings-wise status of construction is as under:

1. Girls Hostel — Completed in Sept., 1999.
2. Warden's residence (Girls' Hostel) - Completed in September, 2000.
3. Guard room—Completed in September, 2000.
4. Type V (4 Nos.)—Completed in October, 2000.
5. Dean's residence-cum-Guest House to be completed by 20th March, 2001.
6. Library-cum-Museum completed in December, 2000.
7. Departmental block likely to be completed by December, 2001.
8. Boys Hostel (B to E) likely to be completed by March, 2002.

(b) No, Sir. The EFC approved by Govt. of India for VIIIth Plan provided for an outlay of Rs. 41.00 crores. As per the requirement of the University Rs. 12.60 crores has been released by the ICAR, out of which Rs. 8.26 crores was spent. The remaining amount has been revalidated and used by the University during the IX Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation and Restructuring of Breeding Operations

4904. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation and restructuring of breeding operation and release Rs. 21 crores during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation and restructuring of cattle and buffalo breeding operations in the State and release of Central grant to the tune of Rs. 39.39 crore during 2000-2001 was received in January, 2001. Out of available budgetary provision of Rs. 26.35 crore under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding during 2000-2001, a sum of Rs 8.91 crore was released to the State for this purpose.

Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee

4905. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have nominated fifteen members in each Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee;

(b) if so, the rules laid down by the Railways with regard to nomination of the Committee; and

(c) the details of members nominated and the facilities enjoyed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The constitution of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) provides for nomination of persons belonging to various categories, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. The total number of persons nominated on nine ZRUCCs vary from 34 to 82.

The various facilities enjoyed by the members of ZRUCCs are broadly as under:—

- (i) Non-official Members of ZRUCCs are given free first class pass from the railway station nearest to the place of residence of the members to the place of meeting and a similar concession for the return journey alongwith one attendant in Second class. They are also paid Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance for the days spent in the journey and in attending the meeting.
- (ii) The Travelling Allowance of official Members is regulated under their own rules and borne by their respective departments.

- (iii) There is a provision in the constitution to arrange Conducted tours for the non-official members of ZRUCC twice a year to place of importance from the railway point of view in the different parts of their railway. However, if a sufficient number of members are not forthcoming for a conducted tour, non-official members of ZRUCC are given facilities for travel by issue of passes individually to an itinerary of their own choice on the basis of one round trip for conducted tour not arranged or participated in.
- (iv) They can call upon a Station Master at any station or a Ticket Collector or Travelling Ticket Examiner who is readily available to arrange a check in his/her presence of a compartment or carriage where it is suspected that persons without valid tickets or passes are travelling.
- (v) They are further authorised to inspect Book Stalls and Book Trolleys on the stations and also the Catering and Vending Establishments at stations and Restaurant/Dining/Buffer, Cars on trains, whether run by contractors or departmentally.
- (vi) They can enter the platform without purchasing a platform ticket on the authority of identity card issued to them. However, they cannot travel free in train on the authority of this identity card.

Statement

The details of members of different categories which can be nominated on Zonal Railways Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) as per its constitution are as under:—

1. One representative each of the Government of the States served by the Railway as recommended by such Governments.
2. One member each of the State Legislatures recommended by the State Governments.
3. Not more than five representatives of principal Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations having a standing of not less than five years.
4. Not more than two representatives to be sent by State Government or Governments of Agricultural Associations and other bodies not included in or affiliated to the Chambers of Commerce, etc. referred to in item (3) above.

5. One non-official representative elected from each of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees.
6. Two representatives of the Public Sector Undertakings including Ports in the case of Railways serving Ports. On the Northeast Frontier Railway, the representation will be given to one Public Sector Undertaking only.
7. Registered Passenger Association—one from each of the States which have a sizeable route kilometer on the railways.
8. One representative of Consumer Protection organisation.
9. Ten Members of Parliament (7 from Lok Sabha and 3 from Rajya Sabha).
10. One nominee of each Union Minister to be given representation on the ZRUCC serving his/her constituency.
11. One member to represent special interests to be nominated on the recommendation of the General Manager of the Railway; and
12. Eight members as the Minister may appoint to represent the interests which he considers are necessary to be represented to the Committee.

Note: Persons holding assignments of profit connected with the Railways, e.g. catering and vending contractors, out-agency contractors, handling contractors, engineering contractors Rail Travellers' Service Agents, State and Central Govt. Servants etc. are debarred from the membership of the Railway Users' Consultative Committees.

[*Translation*]

Assistance from UNICEF

4906. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the UNICEF to India in cash and kind to promote cultural and educational activities during each of the last three years and the probable amount for 2001-2002;

(b) the details of assistance distributed to each State in cash and kind;

(c) whether the hilly, backward and tribal dominated areas were also given the said assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) To the extent information is readily available UNICEF had not provided any assistance to the Department of Culture and the Organisations attached to it. Information in regard to educational activities is being collected from the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Funds by Rural Electrification Corporation to States

4907. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1054 on March 1, 2001 and state:

(a) whether in the absence of proper monitoring of funds released by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the funds released to some States have been deversified for some other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the REC to ensure that funds meant for the purchase of energy meters should be utilized for the same purpose;

(c) the details of funds released so far by REC against invoices of manufacturers and the amount disbursed to manufacturers against such invoices along with the balance amount yet to be released;

(d) whether the State Governments promised to disburse the balance amount to SSI manufacturers by March 31, 2001;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the final payment is likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to the State Power Utilities/State Governments for various schemes including procurement of meters according to its guidelines. The release of funds under the schemes sanctioned by the corporation is linked to

progress in implementation by the borrowers. In case of Energy Meters funds are released partly on their procurement and partly on their installation. Loan assistance upto 90% is released on pro-rata basis against claims submitted by the borrower on receipt of equipment and supported by the copy of the invoice of the manufacturer duly approved and signed by the authorised officer of the Division/Circle or the Board. The balance 10% of the loan is released after the installation/completion report is received from the SEB together with the village-wise, taluka-wise, district-wise details (and sub-station details, if any, involved).

On receipt of a complaint about the diversion of funds meant for purchase of energy meters, the matter was taken up by the then Minister of Power with the Chief Minister, Manipur on 11.8.2000 requesting the State Government of Manipur to confirm whether the money released by REC for the purpose of energy meters has been spent for the specified purpose, the suppliers have completed the supply of the requisite number of meters of the requisite quality and due payments made against the supply made.

(c) REC does not procure meters or any other equipment. Hence, the question of release of funds to the manufacturers by REC does not arise.

(d) to (f) The Electricity Department, Government of Manipur had earlier informed that the balance amount due to SSI manufacturer will be released by 31.3.2001. However, the State Government has recently informed that the said amount of Rs. 36.54 lakhs will be released to the suppliers as and when financial position of the State improves.

Development of Tourism with the Australia

4908. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australia to promote tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Historic Artefacts

4909. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the A.S.I. has permitted historic and medieval period artefacts to be exported abroad from Hazaribagh;

(b) if so, the reasons for A.S.I. taking a very lenient view on this matter;

(c) whether the ASI has appointed any team to study the Kushana era artefacts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether ASI will permit foreign buyers free access to such historic findings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 does not permit the export of antiquities and art treasures.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has not constituted any such team for Hazaribagh.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Vacant Flats on National Library, Calcutta

4910. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that out of 48 type IV flats, 32 have been lying vacant for more than nine years in the campus of National Library, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the financial loss suffered by the Government on this count; and

(c) the action taken/initiated against officials responsible for keeping the flats vacant?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. 32 type IV quarters had been vacant for periods ranging between 9 months to 9 years.

(b) The reason was that the National Library had vacancies at higher levels of the hierarchy. Besides each Pay Commission's recommendations have changed the eligibility of categories of personnel originally eligible for type IV quarters. The non-allotment of above quarters has resulted in loss to Government of Rs. 3.50 lakhs on account of non-receipt of licence fee.

(c) Action has been taken to allot all (except 4) type IV quarters to non-eligible category by charging 3 times the full standard licence fee payable under F. R. 45A in terms of Government order. The four unallotted flats have been kept for officers to be appointed to the post of Director and Principal Library and Information Officer and also for proposed Reader's Hostel.

Traffic Projections

4911. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major ports achieved the targeted traffic projection during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The achievement of targets by Major Port Trust during the last three years are as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Target	Achievement
1998-1999	258.00	251.72
1999-2000	258.00	271.92
2000-2001	283.80	280.96

Cargo traffic targets are fixed based on primarily on anticipated cargo availability for handling by ports as indicated by the User Ministries/Agencies. The actual materialization however depends on a variety of

constraints including pace of industrial and other cargo generating activities in the hinterland of the ports.

Waiving of Loans

4912. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government for waiving of the interest on loan availed of by the farmers from the co-operatives and banks;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No specific proposal for waiving of interest on loan availed of by the farmers from the cooperatives and banks has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Textile Designing Exhibition

4913. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any textile designing exhibition has been organised in the country especially in the scheduled caste/scheduled tribe areas during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred thereon, location-wise;

(c) the details of purchase orders received during such exhibitions during the said period, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to organise more such exhibitions in the country in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Handlooms exhibitions are organized by the State Governments. The Central Government also provides some assistance to some of these exhibitions. Dyeing-cum-Design exhibitions are held by the Weavers Service Centre throughout the country regularly. However, it is not caste or region specific.

[English]

Accidents in North-East Frontier Railways

4914. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-East Frontier Zone was the most accident/derailment prone zone during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative figures of accidents/derailments occurred in each of the zone during each of the last three years along with reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There were more accidents on Northeast Frontier Railway as compared to the previous years.

(b) Parts of Northeast Frontier Railway cover hilly area involving sharp curves and steep gradients in the track. Working conditions are also not conducive for optimum output. Efforts are being made to replace overaged assets subject to availability of resources.

(c) Zone-wise details of consequential train accidents (including derailments) and derailments during the last three years are as follows:—

Railway	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001*	
	Derailments	Total No. of Accidents	Derailments	Total No. of Accidents	Derailments	Total No. of Accidents
Central	57	68	47	68	43	58
Eastern	25	31	21	31	29	35
Northern	35	54	54	80	25	66
North Eastern	16	23	9	25	23	37
Northeast Frontier	23	27	67	76	88	95
Southern	50	59	34	48	33	43
South Central	31	45	34	49	33	48
South Eastern	38	55	36	52	44	53
Western	17	26	23	30	27	29
Metro	—	—	—	—	—	—
Konkan	8	9	4	4	6	9
	300	397	329	463	351	473

The reasons for the above accidents were as detailed below:—

Reason	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001*
1	2	3	4
Failure of Railway Staff	268	287	325
Failure of persons other than Railway staff	63	105	88

1	2	3	4
Equipment Failure	33	28	5
Sabotage	11	21	25
Combination of factors	11	21	25
Combination of factros	1	—	1
Incidental	14	15	25
Could not be established	7	7	4
Total	397	463	473

*Figures for 2000-2001 are provisional.

(d) Some of the important steps taken by the Government to check accidents are given below:—

- (i) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections of Mumbai.
- (iv) A pilot project of AWS on trial basis for Tughlakabad-Mathura section of Central Railway has been sanctioned on trial basis.
- (v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (vi) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- (vii) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (viii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- (ix) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- (x) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (xi) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (xii) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (xiii) Routine Over hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.
- (xiv) Funds being received from the diesel cess will be used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.
- (xv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

- (xvi) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xvii) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xviii) Steps are being taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xix) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- (xx) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xxi) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.
- (xxii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xxiii) A pilot project of Anti Collision Device (ACD) has been sanctioned for Northeast Frontier Railway. Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been started. After successful completion of this pilot project, a decision would be taken for its application on other routes of Indian Railways.
- (xxiv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

[Translation]

Construction of Over-Bridges on Ratlam-Ajmer Section

4915. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for construction of an over-bridge is being made for a long time in view of heavy traffic on the railway stations of Jaora, Mandsaur and Neemuch on Ratlam-Ajmer section of Western Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir Demand has been raised in the past.

(b) Level of traffic on only Javara level crossing No. 177 qualifies it for replacement with Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis by Railway and State Government. On other two places, traffic is low and work can be taken up on deposit terms on behalf of the sponsoring agency. Action can be taken after sponsoring agency agree to accept their share of cost and other pre-requisites.

[English]

Charges from Unregistered Fishing Trawlers

4916. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the charges being collected by the Mumbai Port Trust from the registered fishing trawlers at the time of fish landing;

(b) the charges being collected by Mumbai Port Trust from unregistered fishing trawlers for the similar purpose;

(c) whether the charges collected from unregistered trawlers are abnormally higher;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government/MPT authority are considering to reduce the charges for unregistered trawlers to bring them at par with the registered trawlers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A monthly licence fee of Rs. 15 per GRT (Gross Registered Tonnage) per month with option to pay lump sum of Rs. 120 per GRT per annum is charged from the registered fishing trawlers.

(b) Unregistered trawlers are not allowed to use the facilities. Whenever an unregistered trawler is detected, it is charged at the rate applicable to registered trawlers for the specific trip.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Position of Mumbai Port Trust

4917. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 125 year old Mumbai Port Trust which was India's premier port till 1995-1996 has now slipped to fifth position among India's major ports;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the coveted position has been usurped by Kandla and Vizag ports during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to improve the functioning of Mumbai Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decrease in handling of cargo is due to, (i) reduction of import of POL products, (ii) diversion of containers to Jawaharlal Nehru Port, (iii) physical constraints in Mumbai Port to handle large ships, such as limitation of draft, enclosed dock system with lock gate, (iv) old and outdated port equipment, (v) low productivity and consequently high cost of handling; and (vi) octroi levied by the Municipal Corporation.

(c) No, Sir

(d) To improve the functioning of the Mumbai Port, the steps mooted are: (i) modernisation of equipment consistent with emerging cargo mix; (ii) change in operating systems and extension of better facilities to trade; (iii) achieve optimum employee strength, and (iv) improve productivity and reduce costs to the users.

Foodgrain Production

4918. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether target has been set up for production of foodgrains during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the progress in achieving these targets;

(c) the role of various schemes for increasing foodgrains production; and

(d) the performance of these schemes during the first three years of the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Production target set for production of foodgrains for the first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were, 202.00, 210.00 and 210.00 million tonnes, respectively. Achievement made during these three years were, 192.26, 203.04 and 208.88 million tonnes, respectively.

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments for increasing foodgrains production, Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals were under implementation during first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan by Government of India. Besides this schemes relating to production of Pulses and Minikit Programmes on Cereals and Pulses are being implemented throughout the country.

Under these schemes emphasis is laid on the transfer of improved Crop Production Technologies through production technology demonstration and farmers training. Besides, to motivate the farmers to adopt improved Crop Production Technologies, financial assistance is provided to the farmers through respective schemes on the use of input like certified/high yielding varieties/hybrid seeds, improved farm implements and sprinkler/drip irrigation system.

From October, 2000, schemes on Wheat, Rice, Coarse Cereals have been subsummed under Macro Management mode with a view to provide flexibility to adopt regionally differentiated technology suited to the Agro-climatic conditions of different States/Union Territories.

Encroachment in Barbati Fort at Cuttack

4919. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made by the Archaeological Survey of India to remove the encroachment from Barbati Fort Complex at Cuttack (Orissa);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the encroachment is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The assistance of the concerned authorities of the State Government has been sought in removing the encroachments/unauthorised constructions from the Barbati Fort complex at Cuttack.

(c) Since the removal of encroachments involve legal processes, no time frame can be indicated in this regard.

[Translation]

Laying of Rail Line between Alwar and Narnaul

4920. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a railway line from Alwar (Rajasthan) to Narnaul (Haryana);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the survey for laying the said railway line is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Looting in Vidarbha Express

4921. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passengers of Second Class A/C compartment in Vidarbha Express were robbed of ornaments and cash worth over Rs. 1.5 lakh on March 4, 2001;

(b) if so, whether some railway staff were involved in the looting;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No case has been reported regarding looting in 2nd A/C Compartment in Vidarbha Express on 4th March 2001.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Special Tourism Areas

4922. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided for each place identified as a special tourism area, so far; and

(b) the progress of tourism development made in each of the said area?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details of financial assistance provided by the Department of Tourism to the State Governments for different tourism projects located in the special tourism areas are:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
State	Special Tourism Area	Amount Sancd.
Tamil Nadu	Muttukadu-Mamallapuram	48.31
Orissa	Puri	70.61
Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	198.70
Daman & Diu	Diu	41.07
Kerala	Bekal Beach	190.00

(b) Except Bekal in Kerala and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, no significant progress has been made in other 3 areas.

Effects of Pesticide

4923. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to have bumper crop, the tea garden owners and agriculturists have taken a number of corrosive pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers resulting thereby adversely on drinking water, health of people, domestic and wild animals; and

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to counter its ill effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The tea garden owners and agriculturists are to apply recommended agro-chemicals like pesticides, fertilizers etc. for better yield of crops. In case the agro-chemicals are used as per Good Agricultural Practices, there are no adverse effects on drinking water, health of people, domestic and wild animals.

(b) In order to counter the ill-effects of chemical pesticides, the Government has already banned 23 hazardous pesticides/pesticide formulations and restricted the use of 10 pesticides. Besides, Integrated Pest management (IPM) is being implemented which, *inter-alia*, includes cultural, mechanical, biological control methods and judicious need based use of pesticides. The use of biocontrol agents, pheromones and biopesticides under the overall ambit of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme is being promoted.

The use of fertilizers is being advocated based on soil tests. Enhanced use of organics, manure, compost, green manure and bio-fertilizers is being promoted to reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers.

Production of LPG Cylinders

4924. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG cylinders produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the names of companies engaged in its production;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding supply of sub-standard LPG cylinders to consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are procuring cylinders from the 83 approved cylinder manufacturers having the statutory clearances from Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The total number of cylinders supplied by approved manufacturers to the Oil Industry during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Quantity
1997-1998	114,03,057
1998-1999	93,62,013
1999-2000	180,99,058

(b) and (c) Oil Companies have not reported any complaints from their LPG customers relating to supply of spurious cylinders during the last three years.

[Translation]

Entry of M.N.C. in Milk Trade

4925. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Multinational Companies have entered in the Milk trade sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to safeguard the interests of the milk producers in the rural areas in view of the large number of multinational companies operating in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The following multinational companies have been granted registrations under Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992:—

- (i) Nestle India Limited, Moga, Punjab.
- (ii) Nestle India Limited, Samalkha, Haryana.
- (iii) Heinz India Private Limited, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
- (iv) Smith Kline Beecham Consumer Health Care Limited, Nabha, Punjab.
- (v) Smith Kline Beecham Consumer Health Care Limited, Dewleswaram, Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) Nutricia India Private Limited, Etah, Uttar Pradesh.
- (vii) Britannia Industries Limited, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (viii) Hindustan Lever Limited, Marathahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka.

Government have allotted specific milkshed areas, on the basis of marketable surplus of milk for milk procurement, to the above mentioned multinational companies. These companies have to procure milk from the allotted milkshed only, which will not in any way affect the interests of rural milk producers.

[English]

Fortification of Food

4926. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide techno-commercial assistance for fortification of food;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Department in popularising fortified food;

(d) whether any support from international agencies is available for food fortification;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Department propose to make food fortification mandatory for certain sectors of industry; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of industries selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided under the plan schemes of the Department for research and development work in the processed food sector including fortification of foods. Technical assistance is also made available to the prospective entrepreneurs with the help of national institutions like Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

(c) The Department has organised a number of seminars/conferences to popularize fortified foods. The Department has initiated awareness campaign through Television spots and short films.

*(d) and (e) As per the information available, no financial assistance is available from international organisations like Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Health Organisation and UNICEF for food

fortification. However, certain micro-nutrients-mal-nutrition amelioration programmes are being implemented in some States by an international Non-Governmental Organisation (Micro-nutrient Initiative).

(f) and (g) The National Nutrition Policy provides that essential food items shall be fortified through appropriate nutrients. It provides that micro nutrient deficiencies viz. deficiencies of Vitamin-A, Iron and Folic Acid and Iodine among children, pregnant women and nursing mothers shall be controlled through intensified programmes.*

Oilseed Production Programme in Andhra Pradesh

4927. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to revalidate the unspent balance of Rs. 505.00 crores available with the State under the Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) as on March 31, 2000 and use this amount for seed subsidy during Khariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also urged to release additional amount of Rs. 352 lakhs towards seed subsidy for distribution to groundnut and soyabean seeds in addition to Rs. 110 lakhs already provided; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government on the demand of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 505.16 lakh was reported to be unspent by the State of Andhra Pradesh under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) as on 31.3.2000 and the same amount was revalidated to be utilized for the distribution of truthfully labeled seed and certified seed of groundnut and soyabean during the year 2000-2001. In the month of May 2000, a request of additional

*.....The reply to parts (d) (e) (f) and (g) as shown above was furnished by the Minister of State in the Department of Food Processing Industries, Sh. Th. Chaoba Singh afterwards to complete the original reply as the reply to these parts was missing earlier. The correction was accepted under Direction 16 (iii) of the Direction by the Speaker on the orders of S.G.

allocation of funds of Rs. 3.52 crores was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh as distribution subsidy on groundnut and soyabean. Subsequently, it has been intimated by the State that they have an amount of Rs. 902.29 lakhs as revised unspent balance and the State Government does not need the additional assistance as requested.

[Translation]

Construction of Over-Bridges in Maharashtra

4928. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of level crossings where fly-overs need to be constructed in Maharashtra to mitigate the problems of the people;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to construct flyovers on railway crossings; and

(c) the details of amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In Maharashtra, 71 level crossings qualify for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis but where works not yet sanctioned. Besides these level crossings, works on flyover are in progress at 79 locations.

(b) Railway pursues with State Government to sponsor proposals for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in replacement of level crossings which qualifies for same on cost sharing basis.

(c) In the Budget for 2001-2002, Rs. 26.63 crores have been proposed for allocation for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in Maharashtra.

[English]

Supply of Wheels/Wheelsets by Romanian Firms

4929. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board placed two orders each on two Romanian firms in January and May 1996 for manufacturing and supply of 33,886 BG and 1645 MG locomotive wheels/wheelsets at a cost of Rs. 45.27 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has raised certain objections in audit report on the subject in Chapter 4 on stores and assets management, starting from page 114 of their Report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways); and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government on each of the points raised therein by CAG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The para of CAG report referred has brought out mainly that this procurement resulted in loss of Rs. 3.44 crores on account of supply of 1282 defective wheels.

In this connection it is mentioned that after reported failure of a wheel, out of supplies made by these two firms, 100% inspection of all the wheels received from these firms was ordered and the wheels of suspect quality were segregated and jointly inspected by RDSO with a technical team from the manufacturers. Finally 1108 wheels costing about Rs. 3.12 crores have been rejected. This amount has already been recovered from the firms. All the issues raised in CAG report have been replied as per laid down procedure.

Modern Food Industries

4930. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Modern Food Industries Limited (MFIL) a Public Sector Unit has incurred a huge loss after the disinvestment of the unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said loss has created threat of retrenchment of employees and later closure of the unit;

(d) if so, whether the employees union of the MFIL has urged the Government to review the disinvestment situation of the unit and take effective steps to ensure job security and work condition of the employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Consequent upon disinvestment of 74% of its equity to Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL), Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) is no longer a Government company *w.e.f.* 1.2.2000. The loss for the financial year ended 31st March 2000 was Rs. 48.23 crores. The loss for the nine months period ending 31st December 2000 was Rs. 16.05 crores.

(c) to (f) The company has no plans for retrenchment of its workforce presently. However, the company could consider a VRS Scheme in line with the prevailing norms for certain units closed prior to disinvestment.

Division of NCRF

4931. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court sought reply by May 8, 2000 from the Centre on the alleged diversion of National Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF) by the States for other purposes and lack of monitoring by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have submitted its reply;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has also pointed out in its report for the year ended March 31, 1998 cited instances of rampant misuse of relief fund;

(f) if so, the action taken against the Deputy Commissioners of Karnataka in this regard;

(g) whether there is a general belief amongst the common man of this country that the relief amount collected/donated is either misappropriated and embezzled or does not reach the needy people; and

(h) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate this belief and ensure that the relief money reaches the really needy and deserving persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) A

Writ Petition No. 1308, Dr. B.L. Wadehra, Advocate, Delhi High Court *versus* Union of India was filed in the High Court of Delhi and came up for hearing on 8.5.2000 and was defended by the Central Government Standing Counsel on behalf of the Government of India. The Writ Petition mentioned various irregularities such as some States not maintaining a separate CRF fund, ineffectiveness of State Level Committees (SLCs), mismanagement and embezzlement of funds by the States, delayed response in providing relief by the States, deficiencies in cash book, funds being utilised for purposes not connected with calamity etc.

(b) and (c) All relevant information was submitted to the High Court of Delhi in the form of a Counter Affidavit informing *inter-alia* that it was primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to provide relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities in the State. The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and formerly National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) during 1995-2000.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Report no. 3 of 1999 submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India mentioned the misuse of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) by various States.

(f) The jurisdiction of taking action against Deputy Commissioners of Karnataka falls within the purview of the Government of Karnataka.

(g) The administration and management of CRF by the State Government has by and large served the purpose for which the Fund has been created notwithstanding the fact that instances of misuse of CRF have been reported by the media in some of the States.

(h) The Government has advised the State Governments regularly to take corrective measures on the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General and avoid recurrence of such events in future. Further, on the basis of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the Scheme of CRF has been modified on 24th, November, 2000 incorporating certain mandatory conditions which are to be fulfilled before the Centre's share of CRF is released to the State Governments, which *inter-alia* include constitution of a separate CRF by the State and certification by the Accountant-General of the State, furnishing of a certificate by the State that the amount received earlier has been credited to the Fund

alongwith the State's share of contribution accompanied by a statement giving the up-to-date expenditure and the balance amount available in the CRF. The States have also been advised about the items of expenditure and norms of assistance expenditure on which alone is chargeable from CRF. The States are also required to submit a report every year to the Central Government in a prescribed proforma on the natural calamities occurring in the States.

[*Translation*]

Safety of Handicapped Persons

4932. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legal provisions are inadequate to provide safety of the handicapped persons at present;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received representations for making amendments in the existing penal code and other laws to help the handicapped;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Development of Ayodhya as Heritage Zone

4933. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make Ayodhya a Heritage Zone by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Outlay on Agriculture R&D

4934. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outlay on Agriculture R&D in the country has been rising;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that output quality of R&D has been declined in the ICAR system as judged from any improvements which affect productivity or quality of life of farmers;

(d) if so, whether the ICAR has not come up with any timely action on watershed management and resources, land degradation, wastelands and other ailments including improved productivity or decreased use of expensive inputs of water energy and other inputs;

(e) whether USA and Europe together are not producing 12 US\$ billions worth of organic food while Cuba has turned totally organic as against poor production in India where bureaucrat and technocrats have joined together to promote vested interests by working against organic methods on false and frivolous arguments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is a total failure of accountability as seen from the failure of the five year review mechanism of ICAR institutes; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details of allocated plan funds in respect of DARE/ICAR is as under:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1997-1998	331.17
1998-1999	531.17
1999-2000	504.00
2000-2001	550.00
2001-2002	684.00

(c) India has witnessed spectacular advances in the production and productivity of different crops including foodgrains, oilseeds and commercial crops. In food grains, production has increased from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to an all time high of 208.88 million tonnes in 1999-2000. It is significant that area under food crops has remained about 125 million ha. for the last 25 years. The increase in crop production thus has been achieved largely through increase in productivity. The productivity from 1950-51 to 1999-2000 increased from 522 kg/ha to 1637 kg/ha in foodgrains; 481 kg/ha to 855 kg/ha in oilseeds and 33422 kg/ha to 71989 kg/ha in sugarcane. The foodgrain production in the country over the period 1949-50 has maintained an impressive compound growth rate of 2.69% as compared to population growth rate of 2.1 percent. This has enabled the chronically food deficit country to become self sufficient besides having about 33 million tonnes in the buffer stock and 4 to 5 million tonnes of cereals in excess of its domestic demand for export.

Significant achievements have been made in developing high yielding and superior varieties, standardisation of agro-techniques, control pests and diseases and post harvest management of various horticultural crops. As a result, productivity of fruits and vegetables has become double alongwith substantial increase in area and production during the last few decades. Fruit crops such as aonla, ber, bel and tamarind have also been identified for growing in wasteland and their suitable varieties and production technology have been developed. This has helped in improving quality of life of farmers.

As far as the production potential of important cereals is concerned the average production potential of wheat from demonstration plot was 41.00 q/ha against the national average of 26.22 q/ha, 44.24 q/ha and 22.40 q/ha of irrigated and rainfed paddy respectively against the national average of 19.85 q/ha and 22.07 q/ha of maize against the national average of 16.55 q/ha.

The production potentials of important oilseeds, pulses and major cereals conducted on the farmers plot demonstrated possibilities of increasing the productivity by manifold. Against the average national productivity of 8.55 q/ha of oilseed, the productivity of demonstration plots varied from 10.29 q/ha in linseed to 24.38 q/ha in castor. Similarly, against the average productivity of 6.08 q/ha of pulse in the country, the production potential of demonstration plot varied from 8.40 q/ha in blackgram to 14.67 q/ha in field pea.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The achievements of the KVKs during the last two years indicated that there has been increased number of activities related to training programmes, frontline demonstration and production of seeds and planting material by the KVKs. The number of training programmes has been increased by 2765 with the additional participation of 0.437 lakh farmers, rural youths and extension functionaries during 2000 over the previous year. Similarly, the area covered under frontline demonstration has been increased by 1117 ha. with additional 4636 demonstration over the previous year. There has been a quantum jump in the production of quality seeds and planting material of various crops. During 2000, additional 2370.57 tonnes of seeds and 13.22 lakh to planting material were produced by the KVK and provided to the farmers of their respective areas.

(d) The entire thrust on watershed development and research in the country has been mainly due to timely, effective and sincere efforts continuously made by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Hqrs. and its different institutes since 1923 when Dry Farming Research was started at Pune leading to establishment of 8 Soil Conservation Research Development of Training Centre (1954-61). This led to the development of Drought prone Area programme (1971) and River Valley Projects (1971) of the Ministry of Rural Development/Agriculture.

The technology developed by ICAR was effectively demonstrated in 47 Model Watersheds Operational Research Projects (1984-87) which was greatly appreciated and led to the development and implementation of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) of Ministry of Agriculture. The concept of participatory watershed development approach was successfully demonstrated through landmark projects like Sukhomajri, Relmajra, Tajpura and Chitradurga. Thus concept was later on widely adopted by NGOs and State agencies and formed the basis of Common Approach (guidelines of NWDPA Jan Sahbhagita) adopted by Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development.

ICAR Institutes have also greatly helped in capacity building for watershed development programmes through training of watershed workers, farmers, exhibitions/demonstrations, media reports and publication of a large number of brochures, manuals and popular literature.

(e) and (f) U.S.A., Europe and other Latin American countries like Cuba have food surplus with stabilized

population growth whereas country like India with increasing population pressure have to produce 300 million tonnes of food in next 2-3 decades from the existing level of 209 million tonnes. This can only be done by providing adequate inputs like fertilizers (inorganic and organic), plant protection measures including bio-pesticides and Integrated Plant Nutrient System as propagated by ICAR through its Institutes, All India Coordinated Research Projects and National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). In view of the inadequacies of organic fertilizers (like phospho compost, vermi compost, Farm Yard Manure) we may have to lay greater emphasis on Integrated Plant Nutrient and Protection System wherein a judicious mix of organic (including green manures) may be used alongwith the inorganic fertilizers.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. There is no such failure. On the contrary, a long term perspective visionary approach document has been developed by the ICAR to secure sustainable food production and also to meet the future demand for food. The document presents the outlook towards 2020 and provides framework for a revised mandate, new priorities, new programmes and participatory modes of action, and organisational adjustments for effectively addressing the challenges and opportunities before us and for ushering in an ever green revolution. The following paradigm shift has been chalked out to reform and revamp the National Agricultural Research System.

- (i) Consolidation and right sizing of research infrastructure.
- (ii) Research prioritisation through bottom-up and participatory mode.
- (iii) Introduction of project based budgeting.
- (iv) Merit linked, performance oriented incentives and rewards.
- (v) Human resource capacity building through national-international exchanges and networking.
- (vi) Building partnership with private sector and voluntary sector.
- (vii) Augmenting research-extension-farmer linkages.
- (viii) Decentralised administration.

The five yearly review mechanism has been taken up in all the Institutes/National Research Centres, Project Directorates and All India Coordinated Research Projects

through Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) comprising eminent experts, as and when due. The recommendations of the QRT are examined by the Council as well as the Governing Body of the Council and regular follow-up action is being taken.

Construction of Cold Storages

4935. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of credit linked subsidy scheme;
- (b) the main objectives of the scheme;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to expand the credit linked subsidy schemes for construction of cold storages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages and storages, the Government have a December, 1999 approve a scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1999-2002) with an outlay of Rs. 175.00 crores. The Scheme is being implemented by National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD); National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under the Scheme, capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh per project for States other than North Eastern States and @ 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for the North Eastern State is provided to the eligible organizations viz. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Association of Growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Market Committees, Marketing Boards/Committees and Agro Industries Corporations. The Scheme envisages back ended subsidy to the promoters/beneficiaries after completion of the project to be released by NHB and operated by the NABARD in the case of projects financed under NABARD re-finance scheme and in the case of cooperative projects financed by NCDC, by the NCDC.

The scheme also envisages providing 50% term loan through banks and financial institutions at PLR+1% under NABARD refinance Scheme.

The main objective of the Scheme is to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure for perishable commodities.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the announcement made by Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech of 2001-2002 regarding expansion of abovementioned cold storage scheme to include storage for non-perishable commodities, the Government has decided to introduce a scheme for construction of rural godowns on the pattern of above mentioned cold storage scheme for storing non-perishable commodities. The parameters of the scheme are being firmed up for seeking the Government's approval.

Funds for Mobilising of Bonds

4936. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether inland Waterways Authority of India is going to issue bonds for mobilising funds; and

(b) if so, the time by when this issue is likely to be opened and the total amount of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The issue of bonds require amendment to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Act, 1985 so as to statutorily empower IWAI to borrow and mobilise funds from the market by raising bonds. An amendment Bill to amend the IWAI Act, 1985 is likely to be introduced in the Parliament in the current Session. Hence the opening of the issue for subscription would be considered after amendment to the Act. The modalities and other conditions for mobilisation of funds through bonds are being simultaneously worked out.

Amendment in the Hindu Succession Act

4937. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3839 on August 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether all the State Governments have submitted their views;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken decision to make amendment in Hindu Succession Act; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) So far, the Department has received comments from 14 State Governments/Union territory Administrations. Out of them, 5 State Governments and 3 Union territory Administrations have agreed to amendments in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. The issue will be examined after comments are received from more State Governments/Union territory Administrations. No timeframe can be given in this regard.

[Translation]

Repairing of Locos at Bikaner Workshop

4938. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail coaches were manufactured in the Northern Railway workshop at Bikaner during the erstwhile princely State era;

(b) whether the said workshop has adequate land, trained and skilled labour force, infrastructural facilities and equipments;

(c) if so, the time by which repairing of broad gauge rail coaches and maintenance and repair work of rail engines would be assigned to the said workshop; and

(d) the time by which the said workshop is likely to be modernized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Bikaner workshop was basically set up for overhauling of Meter Gauge (MG) coaches, wagons and locomotives.

(b) The total area of Bikaner workshop is 141226 Sq. Mts. With the rationalization of periodic Overhauling activity, the workshop undertakes Periodic Overhauling (POH) of approx. 20 MG coaches per month. The workshop has skilled labour and infrastructural facilities for the same.

(c) The existing capacity for maintenance and repair of Broad Gauge rail coaches and engines is adequate on Indian Railways. Therefore, at present, there is no proposal to start such activity at Bikaner.

(d) The workshop, at present, has adequate capacity and infrastructure to undertake the work of Metre Gauge coach POH. Modernisation in terms of infrastructure facilities is a continuous process and such inputs are made as and when needed.

[English]

Funds to Develop Hydro Electric Generation

4939. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to levy a consumption cess for generating more funds to develop hydro electric generation capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the method by which the cess is proposed to be realized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Policy on Hydro Power Development announced by the Government of India in August, 1998 provides for the establishment of National Power Development Fund through levy of cess at 10 paise per Kwh to electricity consumed in the country. A proposal to levy cess at 5 paise per Kwh of electricity generated was subsequently put up for consideration of the Government but was deferred. However, on a petition filed by NHPC for levy of a surcharge of 10 paise/unit on energy available at bus bar on the electricity generated from its generating stations, CERC has allowed NHPC to levy development surcharge at the rate of 5% of the billing amount to be used for development of hydro power in the Region. This amount collected and invested in the project will not earn any return on equity in the tariff.

Creation of Additional Courts

4940. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has taken a serious view of the failure on the part of the most States in creating additional courts, as reported in the Statesman, dated March 21, 2001;

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

(c) the names of States, which have created additional courts in their States alongwith the number thereof; and

(d) the time by which the additional courts are likely to be set up in the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to create additional courts in consultation with the concerned High Court. However, the Central Government has been periodically writing to the State Governments on the need for expeditious filling up of existing vacancies in the Subordinate judiciary as well as creation of additional courts to cope with the pendency of cases.

Production of Chilly

4941. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantum of Chillies produced during each of the last two years in the country, State-wise; and the steps taken to increase the production of chillies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): A statement showing the state-wise and all-India production during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is annexed. The production of chillies has resisted a long term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations. Its production was 5.09 lakh tonnes in 1980-81 which increased to 9.21 lakh tonnes in 1998-99.

To increase production of species including chillies, "Integrated Programme for Development of Spices" is being implemented during Ninth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 146.48 crores. From the year 2000-2001, the scheme has been subsumed under the scheme "Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation and Complementation of States 'Efforts through Work Plans'.

Statement

*State-wise production of Chillies
during 1997-98 & 1998-99*

Production '000' Tonnes

State	1997-1998	1998-1999
Andhra Pradesh	338.3	403.3
Assam	9.5	9.7
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	4.5	4.7
Gujarat	21.3	18.2
Haryana	2.2	1.5
Himachal Pradesh	0.3	0.3
Jammu & Kashmir	0.4	0.6
Karnataka	130.8	142.6
Kerala	0.6	0.6
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	23.7	19.7
Maharashtra	60.8	57.7
Orissa	72.4	76.6
Punjab	8.0	8.0
Rajasthan	66.4	49.2
Tamil Nadu	42.4	39.7
Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	17.1	15.5
West Bengal	55.6	51.3
Others	15.8	22.1
All India	870.1	921.3

Cities Connected with Waterways

4942. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the cities at present in the country connected with waterways;

(b) whether all the cities of Maharashtra situated at the banks of rivers are connected with waterways so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The National Transport Policy Committee had identified following ten Waterways having potential for development and declaration as national Waterways:—

1. Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system
2. The Brahmaputra
3. The West Coast Canal
4. The Sunderbans
5. The Godavari
6. The Krishna
7. The Mahanadi
8. The Narmada
9. The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa
10. The Tapi.

So far three major waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km), the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (391 km) and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam including Champakara and Udyogmandal Canal (205 km) have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India by providing infrastructural facilities, such as, navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids subject to availability of resources. The cities situated on the banks of these waterways get connected with the Waterways. No waterway has so far been declared as National Waterway in the State of Maharashtra establishing connectivity with the cities of Maharashtra situated at the banks of rivers owing to the scarcity of resources. The declaration of new waterways as national waterways would depend on availability of resources.

[Translation]

Scheme for Fodder Production

4943. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme to increase the production of fodder in tribal districts of Gujarat is being implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the success of this scheme in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to increase the production of fodder especially in fodder scarced areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is no specific scheme for tribal districts. However, Central Government have released Rs. 10.00 lakhs and revalidated Rs. 117.00 lakhs of unspent amount during 2000-2001 for fodder development in the State of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

(e) Government of India is implementing the following schemes to increase the production of fodder especially in fodder scarced areas:—

- (1) Seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and a Central Fodder Seed Production Farm.
- (2) Central Minikit Testing Programme for fodder crops.
- (3) Centrally sponsored Scheme-Assistance to the State for fodder development comprising the following components and funding patterns (Central : State):
 - (i) Strengthening of Fodder Seed Production Farms (75:25).
 - (ii) Establishment of Fodder Banks (75:25).
 - (iii) Fodder Seed Production through Registered growers (25:75).
 - (iv) Enrichment of straws and Cellulosic wastes (100:00).
 - (v) Establishment of Silvipasture System for increase in Bio-mass production (100:00).

(vi) Grassland Development including Grass Reserves (100:00).

(vii) Sample Survey for Area, Production and Requirement of Fodder crops (100:00).

Electrification of Villages

4944. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms provided for the electrification of villages;

(b) the number of villages electrified during the year 2000-2001, State-wise;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be electrified during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which all the villages are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The priorities for Village Electrification programme are determined by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Power Utilities who own and operate the distribution system in the States, as per the policy and directions of the State Governments. Accordingly, the selection of un-electrified villages which may be electrified in a year is made by the concerned SEBs/Power Utilities keeping in view the available resources for the purpose. From the financial year 2000-2001, the funds under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) are being released directly to the States as part of normal central assistance instead of the earlier practice of routing through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The State-wise details of the number of village electrified during the year 2000-2001 are given at the statement.

(c) and (d) The timeframe for complete electrification of villages would depend upon the financial resources for creating infrastructure for strengthening the distribution system, availability of power in the State and demand from the consumers. However, the Finance Minister which presenting the budget for the year 2001-2002, has announced a package of initiatives to improve the power distribution system in rural areas. This includes completion

of electrification of bulk of the remaining villages in the next 6 years and extension of assistance to the States

for village electrification works under the PMGY whose funding is being augmented.

Statement

Statement showing villages electrified upto February, 2001

Sl. No.	States	Total inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Achievements as on 31.3.2000 Numbers	Achievements as on 31.3.2000 %age	Cumulative at the end of Feb. 2001	Total Achievement to the end of 2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	100.0	—	26565 (*)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171	59.5	Nil	2171 ©
3.	Assam	24685	19019	77.0	NA	19019 (b)
4.	Bihar	67513	47888	70.9	36	47924 (\$\$) (f)
5.	Goa	360	360	100.0	—	360 (@)
6.	Gujarat	18028	17940	100.0	—	17940 (*)
7.	Haryana	6759	6759	100.0	—	6759
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16844	99.1	37	16881
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6315	97.5	NA	6315(\$)(a)
10.	Karnataka	27066	26691	98.6	6	26697(+)(e)
11.	Kerala	1384	1384	100.0	—	1384
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	68346	95.6	11	68357
13.	Maharashtra	40412	40412	100.0	—	40412 (@)
14.	Manipur	2182	2001	91.7	Nil	2001
15.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	45.8	Nil	2510 (e)
16.	Mizoram	698	691	99	Nil	691
17.	Nagaland	1216	1196	98.4	Nil	1196 (d)
18.	Orissa	46989	35190	74.9	42	35232
19.	Punjab	12428	12428	100	—	12428
20.	Rajasthan	37889	35447	93.6	246	35693
21.	Sikkim	447	405	100	—	405 #
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	100	—	15822
23.	Tripura	855	810	94.7	2	812

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89117	79	236	89353
25.	West Bengal	37910	29515	77.9	71	29586 (f)
	Total (States)	586165	505826	86.3	687	506513
	Total (UTs)	1093	1090	100	—	1090 (*)
	Grand Total	587258	506916	86.3	687	507603

Note: Target for the year 2000-2001 not finalized.

(*) Fully electrified. Balance not feasible for electrification.

(#) Provisional 42 Nos. forest villages not electrified.

@ Provisional to be confirmed as per 1991 census.

(+) 329 villages declared non-feasible for electrification.

(\$\$) Achievement as per 1981 census.

(S) Achievement as per 1971 census. 1991 census not held.

(a) as on 31.3.1998

(b) as on 30.11.1999

(c) as on 31.7.2000

(d) as on 30.9.2000

(e) as on 31.12.2000

(f) as on 31.1.2001

[English]

New Technology

4945. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:
DR. (MRS.) RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Wheat Research (DWR) has developed for farmers Zero tillage Machines and Furrow Irrigated Raised Bed (FIRB) planting, to reap rich harvest;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) its advantages over traditional ploughing; and

(d) the action proposed to propagate the new technologies in various parts of the country and particularly in Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The zero tillage machine originally developed by the Pantnagar University for the wheat programme in 1993 was tested under the Frontline Demonstration (FLD) Programme since 1994 by Directorate of Wheat Research

(DWR). Further improvements in the design were made and most satisfactory results were obtained. Following this, the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India came out with a scheme to popularise it in wheat growing States through FLDs. The machine is tractor driven and can be locally fabricated at an approximate cost of Rs. 13,000.

The Furrow Irrigated Raised Bed (FIRB) machine was developed by the Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal and Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana which was modified/improved later on over the years and being popularized under the FLD(s).

(c) Under the rice-wheat cropping system, Zero Tillage helps in advancing sowing of wheat crop, consequently the yield losses due to late sowing are reduced. It also saves fuel, money and time in comparison to conventional tillage. It saves about Rs. 1200 in tillage operations.

FIRB helps in efficient input usage such as water and nutrients. In wheat crop, a saving of more than 25 percent has been observed in seed and nitrogen fertiliser. The water saving can be 10 to 40 percent depending upon the soil type.

(d) It is proposed to propagate this new technology through demonstrations. The process has already been started. To demonstrate and propagate these technologies,

more than 200 zero tillage machines were supplied to different centres. Frontline demonstrations were conducted in farmers fields during 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 in various parts of country including Haryana. FIRB Technology is also getting popular in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Financial Misappropriation in Salem Sub-Circle

4946. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred for the Salem sub-circle monuments protected by ASI during each of the last three years so far, monument-wise;

(b) whether financial misappropriation took place in Salem sub-circle;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring officials;

(d) whether the Superintending Archaeologist, Chennai Circle had given any explanation for the occurrence of such misappropriation of funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The expenditure incurred on the conservation and maintenance of the centrally protected monuments in the Salem Sub-Circle of Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

A case of financial misappropriation was detected by an official of the Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India during a surprise check of the Salem Sub Circle.

The Conservation Assistant in charge of Salem Sub-Circle has been placed under suspension. The case has been referred to the CBI for investigation.

Statement

Expenditure incurred by Salem Sub-Circle of Chennai Sub-circle during last three years

		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Muruganathaswamy Temple Triumruganpooni	2,67,185/-	4,61,097/-	2,93,638/-
2.	Hill Fort and Temple, Chinnakavandanur	3,959/-	4,14,112/-	3,78,673/-
3.	Sugreswara Temple, Sircarperiyapalayam	Nil	2,25,800/-	Nil
4.	Narashimaswamy Temple, Namakkal.	2,51,247/-	53,136/-	39,982/-
5.	Ranganatha Swamy Temple	20,149/-	19,942/-	5,62,573/-
6.	Hill Fort Namakkal	3,207/-	1,971/-	1,810/-
7.	Sugriswaraswamy Temple Sircarperiyapalayam	32,970/-	21,724/-	4,815/-
8.	Fort Attur	26,831/-	64,580/-	1,36,480/-
9.	Jain Temple, Mettupudur	4,139/-	3,473/-	4,300/-
10.	Chennaryaperumal Temple Adiyamankottai	13,390/-	4,958/-	8,196/-
11.	Fort Royakottai	8,045/-	2,971/-	1,940/-
12.	Fort Krishnagiri	Nil	4,588/-	1,934/-

Development of Poultry

4947. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand poultry sector in the country;

(b) if so, the incentives granted to poultry farmers to develop poultry in various States during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the achievement made by these States in poultry sector during each of the last three years?

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

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is not implementing any direct beneficiary oriented scheme for poultry farmers. However, the Department is providing 100% Central Assistance for strengthening State poultry/Duck farms since 1999-2000 for North-Eastern States including Sikkim. This scheme is being extended to thirteen other States/UTs viz. Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshwadeep, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh from 2001-2002 on 80:20, Centre to State share basis.

(c) The achievement reflected in terms of egg production for various States during the last three years is enclosed in the statement.

Statement*Production of Eggs for 1999 to 2001*

(lakh nos.)

	States/ UTs	Egg		
		1998-1999	1999-2000 Provisional	2000-2001 Anticipated (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59248	59220	59590
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	326	378	355
3.	Assam	4864	5229	5382
4.	Bihar	14304	14679	14700
5.	Goa	1066	1103	1135
6.	Gujarat	4671	6489	4671
7.	Haryana	6827	7119	7268
8.	Himachal Pradesh	775	819	840
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5200	4568	4590
10.	Karnataka	19380	21798	23850
11.	Kerala	20440	23121	23795
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14001	14490	15000
13.	Maharashtra	29377	30461	30900
14.	Manipur	645	819	800
15.	Meghalaya	825	914	866
16.	Mizoram	334	430	380

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Nagaland	480	510	540
18.	Orissa	7628	10994	11760
19.	Punjab	26300	31374	32289
20.	Rajasthan	5344	5544	5500
21.	Sikkim	160	189	175
22.	Tamil Nadu	35886	34682	40000
23.	Tripura	1080	693	713
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7665	9356	10249
25.	West Bengal	26532	28665	29150
26.	A&N Islands	527	441	560
27.	Chandigarh	173	315	200
28.	D&N Haveli	40	32	33
29.	Daman & Diu	45	63	65
30.	Delhi	463	756	600
31.	Lakshadweep	60	63	69
32.	Pondicherry	90	95	80
Total		284756	315400	326105

Free Railway Passes

4948. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free railway passes issued by the railways during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the value of free railway passes availed by the railway staff during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue instruction to concerned departments to bear these expenses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Complimentary card passes are issued to different categories as per the schemes announced from time to time and also under the discretionary powers of Minister of Railways. The number of complimentary railway passes issued during the last two years category-wise are as follows:

Category	No. of passes issued during 1998-2000 (1-1-1998 to 31.12.2000)
1	2

Card Passes

(i) Freedom Fighters

Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the the Sabha

1	2
(ii) Arjun Awardees/Olympic Medalists/ Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists/Dronacharya Awardees	746
(iii) Winners of Chakra Series Gallantry Awards (Defence)	Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha
(iv) Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry & Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).	—do—
(v) Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India, Olympic Associations affiliated to IOA.	124
(vi) Non-official Members of Hindi Salahakar Samiti	80
(vii) Ex. MRs/MOS(R)s/DMRs.	9
(viii) Card Passes issued to eminent persons/Organisations engaged in social/cultural/educational/sports/welfare activities & others on medical grounds, etc. under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways.	423
<i>Cheque Passes</i>	
(i) Licensed Porters	Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the sabha
(ii) Individuals and Organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways, Minister of State for Railways & Railway Board, as per guidelines evolved by the Ministry of Railways	826 (covering 3,222 persons)

(b) Railways employees are entitled to passes as a part of their service conditions. Hence, their value is not computed.

(c) and (d) Reimbursement in respect of the cost of Complimentary Card passes issued to freedom fighters is borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Railway Ministry's request to other nodal Ministries to bear at least a part of the cost of Complimentary Card passes issued to other categories has not been agreed to.

[Translation]

Power Tariff of NTPC

4949. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge variation in power tariff of NTPC, Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Reliance Patalganga Power Private Limited;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is variation between the power tariff of NTPC and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB).

NTPC is supplying power to MSEB from its power stations in Western Region at Korba, Vindhyachal, Kawas and Gandhar. The allocation of power to Maharashtra from these stations is 1725 MW. The average cost of power supplied from these stations has been about Rs. 1.48 per unit during 2000-2001.

The details of average realisation from sale of power from MSEB are given in the statement.

In case of Patalganga project, the Date of Completion (COD) of the project is yet to be achieved. As such, the sale rate of electricity from this project can be known only after the projects achieves COD. However, based on the techno-economic clearance given by the Central Electricity Authority, the levelised tariff at 68.5% PLF is estimated at Rs. 2.51 per Unit (at constant prices).

As the tariff rates are finalized on taking into consideration various factors like fixed costs, variable costs etc. by the concerned authorities, the variation in tariff cannot be ruled out.

Statement

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity for Power Supply to various Categories of Consumers Effective from 1.5.2000 by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board

S.No.	Consumers	Load KW	Load Factor %	Consumption units/month	Rate Paise/unit
1.	Domestic	2	—	100	239.25
2.	Domestic	5	—	400	359.57
3.	Domestic	10	—	1000	447.43
4.	Commercial	5	—	200	421.80
5.	Commercial	10	—	1000	622.71
6.	Commercial	20	—	2000	649.91
7.	Agriculture	5 HP	15	408	91.91
8.	Agriculture	10 HP	20	1089	107.44
9.	Small Industry	10 HP	25	1361	335.23
10.	Medium Industry	50	40	14600	360.53
11.	Large Industry	1000	65	474500	429.85
12.	Heavy Industry	10000	60	4380000	436.36
13.	Railway Traction	12500	30	2737500	420.00

Source: Central Electricity Authority

[English]

Revival of NTC Mills

4950. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to revive the maximum number of NTC mills as reported in 'Hindu' dated March 29, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of NTC mills to be revived;

(c) the reasons for non-revival of all mills;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the rehabilitation of the sick NTC mills as per the decision taken by the Government;

(e) the time by which these mills are likely to be revived;

(f) whether the revival scheme of cotton mills of NTC in West Bengal hangs in balance owing to confrontation between his Ministry and State Industrial Reconstruction Department as reported in the 'Statesman' dated March 24, 2001;

(g) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(h) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. With a view to revive maximum number of mills, the Government had adopted, in the case of NTC mills, the following broad approach:

- (i) There will be a unit by unit assessment to decide whether a unit is revivable or non-revivable;
- (ii) All revivable units will be revived;
- (iii) Non revivable units will be closed and attractive VRS option(s) will be made available to the employees.

Accordingly unit-wise viability was studied and revival proposals have been given to Operating Agencies for preparing Draft Revival Schemes (DRSs) for submission before BIFR, who take final decision regarding revival or non-revival of units and the cost of such a revival scheme.

(f) No Sir, there is no such confrontation Government of India had requested all State Governments to give unconditional concurrence for sale of lands of NTC Mills to generate maximum resources for revival. BIFR had also directed all State Governments to give unconditional concurrence for sale of lands and change of land use. However, Govt. of West Bengal has given only a conditional concurrence in this regard which may limit the resources available for revival/rehabilitation of mills.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

High Quality Protein Maize Seeds

4951. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide high quality protein maize seeds to the maize growing farmers of the States and Bihar in particular;

(b) if so, whether quality protein maize is a good source of protein for malnourished people; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Production and distribution of certified seeds to farmers is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments which undertake this through their State Seeds Corporations, Seed Farms, State Department of Agriculture, Cooperatives, etc. The National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) also supplement the efforts of the State Government. Private sector is also operating through its own network and infrastructure.

The Seed Division of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India received indent of Breeder seed of two cultivars/variety of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) viz: Shakti-1 (10 kgs from NSC) and Shaktiman (Female parent 8 kgs and Male parent 4 kgs) from Government of Rajasthan for supply in Kharif-2002 Season for further multiplication into foundation seed and then certified seed. No other States/agencies have indented the Breeder seed of these varieties. None of the States have indicated the availability of these seeds for Kharif-2001 Season.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Quality Protein Maize (QPM) cultivars contain; (i) 4.07g/16g N Lysine against 1.88g/16g N Lysine in normal maize; (ii) 0.92g/16g N Tryptophan as against 0.35g/16g N Tryptophan in normal maize.

Special Benches of High Courts

4952. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI AMIR ALAM:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the country's High Courts to constitute special benches to dispose of criminal cases pending before them for more than five years as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of criminal cases pending before each of the High Court for more than 5 years old; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Supreme Court in their judgement dated 22.3.2001 in Criminal Appeal No. 320 of 2001, Smt. Akhtari Bi vs State of M.P. has expressed concern over non-filling up of vacancies in the High Courts which is leading to delays in disposal of criminal cases in which prisoners are languishing in jails. It has directed the High

Courts to find ways and means of ensuring that criminal appeals, in cases where the accused persons are in jails, are disposed of within five years. The Court has further directed that if an appeal is not disposed of within a period of five years, for no fault of the convicts, such convicts may be released on bail on such conditions as may be deemed fit by the Court.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the Chief Justice of India periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts. The last such communication was made in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats. Measures like increasing use of Information Technology in courts and simplification of laws like the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code are also being taken to expedite disposal of cases.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of criminal cases pending for more than 5 years old	As on
1.	Allahabad	70495	12/2000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	129	12/2000
3.	Bombay	3390	6/2000
4.	Calcutta	17530	6/2000
5.	Delhi	6052	12/1999
6.	Gauhati	659	6/1999
7.	Gujarat	4171	3/2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	284	9/2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	569	9/1999
10.	Karnataka	87	9/2000
11.	Kerala	15	12/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32111	9/2000
13.	Madras	3080	6/2000
14.	Orissa	14618	12/2000
15.	Patna	2528	9/2000
16.	Punjab & Haryana	8595	12/2000
17.	Rajasthan	7766	9/2000
18.	Sikkim	0	12/2000

MoU with Karnataka Rail Development Corporation

4953. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways entered into an MoU with Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation to implement Guntakal-Hospet rail line;

(b) if so, the time by when the MoU was signed;

(c) the average amount being earned annually by Guntakal Division by way of freight charges through Iron, Steel and Coal;

(d) the amount so far spent on the said project; and

(e) the amount to be provided during 2001-2002 for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) An MOU was signed on 20.9.2000 with the State Government of Karnataka for formation of a Joint Venture for execution of the following projects.

1. Hubli-Ankola New Line
2. Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion
3. Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion
4. Guntakal-Hospet Doubling

(c) The earnings of Guntakal division during 2000-2001 by way of freight charges are:

Iron & Steel	Rs. 22.94 Crores
Coal	Rs. 1.82 Crores

(d) Rs. 4.81 Crores.

(e) Amount proposed in the Railway Budget for 2001-2002 is as follows:

Railway	Rs. 0.0001 Crores
BOLT	Rs. 5.0000 Crores

[Translation]

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

4954. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 'Tatkal Reservation Scheme' introduced by the railways has not really benefited the public but the touts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide the benefit of the said scheme to the public and to take stern action against the touts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Tatkal Reservation Scheme introduced by Zonal Railways has definitely benefited the public at large. However, to avoid misuse of 'Tatkal Scheme', booking under this Scheme is given only on the authority of one of the proofs of identity prescribed in the 'Tatkal Scheme' and the passenger has to carry the same proof of identity during the journey on the basis of which he/she has procured the ticket. A mention of this fact is also made on the ticket. Further, to avoid misuse of this facility by touts, a provision has been made in the scheme that no refund would be admissible on the tickets issued under 'Tatkal Scheme' except when the tatkal service coach is not attached or train gets delayed by more than 3 hours.

[English]

Investment by PSUs in Pipeline and Refineries

4955. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are investing in the pipeline and refineries without any assessment to demand and supply situation;

(b) if so, whether there is any central planning body which ensures the activities of the public sector oil companies;

(c) whether the public sector oil companies are attracted in large capital investment rather than improving their existing facilities and marketing set up;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to monitor their seeming profligate investment tendencies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Investments in projects are made by the public sector oil companies on the basis of Detailed Feasibility Studies with the help of reputed consultant which include among others assessment of future supply demand scenario of petroleum products.

Refinery sector is delicensed and refineries are outside the administered pricing mechanism. Navaratna oil PSUs take their investment decisions for investments on refining capacity addition and the views of the Government are conveyed by the part time Government directors of the board. The refinery projects of the non-navaratna companies have been approved by the Government.

[Translation]

Summer Rush of Passengers

4956. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of extra rush of passenger traffic during summer period;

(b) if so, the number of such passengers increased during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of additional trains provided to meet the extra rush of passengers during the said period;

(d) the number of passengers likely to be increased during the coming summer period; and

(e) the arrangements made by the Government to meet the extra rush of passengers during the current summer period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A comparative increase in the total number of passengers booked during the peak summer month June in comparison to the lean month February, during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Increase (Figures in millions)	Percentage increase
1998	47.26	13.89
1999	42.34	12.29
2000	29.64	7.79

(c) The number of additional trains run to meet the extra rush during the summer period in the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of Trains
1998	1959
1999	2272
2000	2038

(d) During the present summer, the additional summer specials planned to run and coaches to be augmented are expected to cater to the demand of 61 lakhs additional passengers approximately on all classes together.

(e) During the current year, 2050 Summer Special Trains have been planned on 46 different routes. Besides, load of 100 trains will also be augmented to cater to extra rush of traffic.

[English]

Crop Diversification

4957. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have suggested crop diversification plan in view of the declining agricultural productivity due to prolonged wheat-rice rotation, soil degradation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the crop diversification plan;

(c) if so, the details of the features of crop diversification plan;

(d) whether the farmers are not in favour of this plan;

(e) if so, their apprehensions in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Crop diversification is intended to give a wider choice in production of variety of crops in a given area so as to expand production related activities on various crops and also to lessen risk. The crop diversification in India is generally viewed as a shift from traditionally grown less remunerative crop(s) to more remunerative crop(s). Package of practices evolved through research system of Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as State Agricultural Universities make recommendations for adoption by the farmers keeping in view the agricultural productivity, soil health and management of natural resources. However, cost and economic return is governing the crop diversification.

(d) and (e) The alternate crops for wheat and rice include potato, sugarcane, sunflower, mustard, soyabean, maize, pulses, vegetables, fodder crop and several promising horticultural crops. However, risk free production and assured market of rice and wheat supported with remunerative prices attract the farmers for cultivation of these crops. In adoption of other crops under diversification farmers apprehend risk in production, marketing and prices.

(f) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for increasing the production and productivity of crops. From 4th October, 2000, 27 Centrally sponsored Schemes have been subsumed with Macro Management Mode of Agriculture and States have been given funds to implement these schemes. Thus States will have flexibility in choosing the schemes most suited to their agro-climatic conditions and also to meet the demand of farmers.

[Translation]

Religious use of Monuments/Memorials

4958. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission for religious use of monuments and memorials important from archaeological and historical point of view; and

(b) if so, the names thereof, location/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No such blanket permission has been given in respect of the

centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India. However such of the centrally protected monuments which were in religious use when they were notified as monuments of national importance have been allowed to continue with their customary usage.

Capacity of Ahmednagar Railway Station

4959. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to develop and increase the capacity of the Ahmednagar railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop and increase the capacity of Ahmednagar railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Facilities currently available at Ahmednagar are adequate to deal with the traffic being handled at this station.

[English]

Investments by Private and Foreign Companies

4960. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private and foreign companies who had agreed to invest in the field of oil exploration in lieu of marketing rights;

(b) the extent to which oil production is likely to be increased as result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have been considering offering marketing rights to private and foreign companies in case investments are made by them in oil exploration and refining;

(d) if so, the number of companies shown interest in this regard; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No proposal has been received in this regard from any of the companies.

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

(c) to (e) As per the recommendations contained in the report of "India Hydrocarbon Vision 2025", Government is in the process of finalization of guidelines regarding granting of authorization to market transportation fuels.

[Translation]

Honorary Passes

4961. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for issuing honorary passes; and

(b) the names of the persons to whom the said honorary railway passes have been issued during the last 18 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No 'honorary' passes are issued by the Railways. However, 'Complimentary Card Passes' are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways, to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities and to others on compassionate/medical grounds. As a measure of austerity and economy, no Complimentary Card Passes, under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways are being issued at present. However, Complimentary Card Passes to the following categories of persons are being issued as per the schemes announced from time to time by the Ministry of Railways:

S.No.	Category
1	2
1.	Freedom Fighters (Cost borne by Ministry of Home Affairs).
2.	Arjun Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists/Dronacharya Awardees.
3.	Winners of Chakra series Gallantry Awards (Defence Personnel)

1	2
4.	Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry (Police Personnel)
5.	Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India, Indian Olympic Association and State Olympic Associations affiliated to Indian Olympic Association.
6.	Non-official Members of Hindi Salahakar Samiti.
7.	Ex-MR/MOS(R)/DMR

Besides, Cheque Passes (for single journey/to and fro journey) are issued in deserving cases on medical grounds, compassionate grounds and to eminent persons engaged in the field of social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities etc. at the discretion of Minister of Railways/Minister of State (Railways)/Board Members.

Agreement in Power Sector between India and America

4962. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement in the field of power sector was reached between India and America during 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States and the companies in the power sector included in the agreement; and

(d) the time and the extent to which benefits are likely to be accrued to India from this agreement in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of United States in September, 2000 which envisages establishing a Sub-Ministerial Working Group to conduct energy consultations for the purpose of enhancing the understanding of energy issues and promoting the exchange of information on energy policies, programmes and technologies by consultations.

In addition to the above, the following agreements were signed in respect of three power projects in the

private sector in September, 2000. The details of agreements are given below:

- (i) A Memorandum of Understanding/Intent to Finance was signed between the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) and M/s. Synergies Energy Development Inc. of USA on September 14, 2000 for financing the 330 MW Srinagar Hydro-electric Project of M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd. in Uttaranchal. The project is scheduled for completion by September, 2005.
- (ii) A development agreement was signed between M/s. Southern Energy Asia Pacific Ltd. of USA and Reliance Power Ltd. and Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. on September 14, 2000 to jointly develop the 3960 (6x660) MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in the State of Orissa. The first unit is expected to be commissioned 39 months from the date of financial closure. Thereafter, the remaining units will be commissioned one by one after a gap of 3 months each.
- (iii) A joint Development Agreement was signed between M/s. Tamil Nadu LNG and Power Company Private Ltd., and Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. on September 14, 2000 for jointly developing the 1884.645 MW Ennore LNG based power project in Tamil Nadu. The project will be completed 36 months from the date of financial closure.

The Government also signed two Protocols of Intent in September, 2000. The first one was for conducting a detailed technical and economic feasibility study for setting up a commercial scale Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) demonstration power plant. The signatories include the Government of India, the United States Government and also the NTPC and USAID. The second protocol was for capacity building in the power sector and the signatories were the Government of India and USAID which represents the Government of USA. No specific timeframe have been indicated in the above protocols.

[English]

IOC and BPCL Refineries

4963. SHRI SUBODH RAY:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move of the Government to allow Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to take over four refineries has anything to do with the decision to deregularise oil sector in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after gaining control over four standard oil refineries by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited the public sector oil companies will be able to compete with multi-national oil majors, who may be allowed to operate freely in the country very soon; and

(d) if so, the further steps the Government propose to make Indian Oil major stand high before foreign oil majors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government have taken a decision on the integration of stand-alone refineries with Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies. Under the aforesaid arrangement, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) and Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) would be made the subsidiaries of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), and Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) would be made subsidiaries of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

This arrangement will help the stand-alone refineries to face the challenges of de-regulation in the better way as well as enhance the supply of petroleum products to IOCL and BPCL especially in Southern and North-East Region.

Free Movement of Foodgrains

4964. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide free movement of foodgrains throughout the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the advantages of this decision;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted while taking this decision;

(d) whether the Government are monitoring for smooth implementation of all provisions of this decision;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) According to the present policy of the Central Government, the entire country is treated as a single food zone for *inter-State* and *inter-State* movement of foodgrains (wheat, paddy, levy-free rice, coarsegrains and pulses). On 26.3.1993, all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were informed of this national policy of treating the entire country as a single zone. They were requested to ensure that there were no impediments in the movement of foodgrains. They were also advised to remove statutory restrictive provisions which may be impeding the inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains by sending formal proposals to Government of India for obtaining prior concurrence under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Removal of all restrictions on the movement of foodgrains will help in better distribution and availability of foodgrains all over the country. This will also enable the farmers to get the best price for their produce anywhere in the country.

(d) to (f) The State Governments/Union Territories are the implementing authorities of the Central Orders, in this regard. In response to this, all the States/Union Territories except the State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have removed all restrictions on movement of foodgrains. The remaining three States have retained certain restrictions on *inter-State* movement of rice/paddy in order to maximize procurement or to prevent smuggling across the international borders.

Production of Durum Wheat

4965. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the farmers to grow the superior durum wheat of international standard to make a breakthrough in international trading of wheat; and

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to growers/farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) To encourage the production of Durum Wheat in the

country, Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Crop Development Schemes are being implemented in which seed minikit demonstrations and frontline demonstrations on Durum Wheat varieties are also being organised on the farmers' fields. Besides, specialized training programmes and national level seminar/workshop on wheat production technology including Durum Wheat are also organised.

Durum Wheat varieties are developed for different agro-climatic zones through ICAR Research Systems. These zones are Central and Peninsular part of India and North Western plains. The grain quality of Durum Wheat varieties produced in Central part of India is superior which can be exported whereas Durum Wheat produced in North Western Plains is having high productivity and fit for use in domestic market.

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

4966. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agriculture production in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the Kharif and Rabi season in the year 2000-2001 upto 31st March, 2001;

(b) the separate details of the production of sugarcane, cotton, wheat, onion and millet; and

(c) the scheme being drafted by the Government to increase agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The data on agriculture production are maintained by Agriculture Year (July to June) and not by Financial Year. The production of sugarcane, cotton, wheat onion and millet during agriculture year 1999-2000 in the country and in the State of Maharashtra is given in statement.

(c) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

Statement*Production of certain Agriculture Crops at All-India and in Maharashtra during 1999-2000*

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	All-India			Maharashtra		
	Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total
Sugarcane	299.04	—	299.04	53.14	—	53.14
Cotton*	11.64	—	11.64	3.10	—	3.10
Wheat	—	75.57	75.57	—	1.44	1.44
Onion	@	@	4.90	@	@	1.39
Millets (Ragi & Small Millets)	3.02	—	3.02	0.24	—	0.24
Foodgrains	104.85	104.02	208.87	8.24	4.36	12.60
Oilseeds	12.32	8.55	20.87	2.12	0.52	2.64

* Million bales of 170 kgs. each.

@ Season-wise break-up not available.

*[English]***Appointment of Judges for Enquiries**

4967. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by his Ministry to appoint judges of Supreme Court of inquiry into various incidents during the last three years; and

(b) the criteria for appointment of sitting judge or retired judge for any inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) During 1999-2001, the Chief Justice of India was requested on two occasions to nominate a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India to constitute a Commission of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

Normally, a sitting Judge is not appointed to discharge functions other than those of a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. However, when appointment of a sitting or retired Judge of the Supreme Court is required, the Government is guided by the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

Visit of Central Team to Gujarat

4968. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited Gujarat for evaluation of disaster due to recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the details of findings of the team; and

(c) the steps being taken both by the Centre and the State on the findings of the Evaluation Team?

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

(b) and (c) The Report of the Team is awaited.

Basic Amenities in EMU Trains

4969. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that water and toilet facilities are not available in the coaches of the E.M.U. trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide the facilities in EMU trains;

(c) if so, the time by which the facilities are likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) EMU services have been provided on suburban section in Metropolitan towns having very high density and short distance traffic. Provision of toilets and water in EMU coaches is not desirable as it will eat in to the carrying capacity of the trains. Besides, there will be problem of cleanliness and watering of toilets as these services run intensively without adequate duration of stoppages enroute or at terminals.

[Translation]

Bazaar Assessment Expert Committee

4970. SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Bazaar Assessment Expert Committee for assessing the demand and supply of agriculture products in India and abroad in view of situation created out of import of agriculture products in our country;

(b) if so, the main purpose of this Committee and details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the problem likely to be faced by farmers at the time of sowing and selection of crops so as to get remunerative prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government has not constituted a Bazaar Assessment Expert Committee. However, an Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural

Marketing has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shankarlal Guru. The Terms of Reference of this Committee, *inter-alia*, require the Committee to review the present system of Agricultural Marketing in the country in the context of increasing agricultural production and liberalization of international trade, and to examine the requirements of market intelligence for the farmers, exporters traders and consumers and to make recommendations in this regard.

[English]

Vigilance Wing in High Courts

4971. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has called upon the Vigilance Wing of the State High Courts to keep a close tab on 'corrupt and and dishonest' Judges in the subordinate judiciary;

(b) whether the State level conference of the district judges and unit heads on February 17, 2001 has urged the vigilance wing to probe the activities of dishonest judges and punish them accordingly;

(c) if so, whether any concrete steps are being considered by the Government to check the corruption in judiciary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) In the absence of details regarding the dignitary who made such observations and full details of the State Level Conference of District Judges, it has not been possible to ascertain the correctness of the observation from the Supreme Court Registry.

(c) and (d) The subject matter regarding corruption in lower judiciary is the concern of respective High Courts in accordance with the provisions of Article 235 of the Constitution of India. Care is taken to recruit/promote persons of integrity. Use of information technology in courts is being encouraged to promote transparency and easy access to information, which reduce the scope for corrupt practices.

Amount Outstanding against Foreign Airlines

4972. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign airlines owe a huge amount to different oil companies as cost of turbine fuel;

(b) if so, the details of foreign airlines that have defaulted payment of their dues to Public Sector Oil Companies; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues from these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is mainly on account of non-payment of sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) supplied to them. the details of non-payment of sales tax by foreign airlines as on 31.3.2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

Under the Air Services Agreements signed by India with foreign countries, it is stipulated that the airlines of the concerned signatories shall be exempted from all national duties and levies on fuel on a reciprocal basis. Various States like Maharashtra, West-Bengal, Delhi and Tamil Nadu levy Sales-tax on sale of ATF to International Airlines. The international airlines have refused to pay the Sales tax on ATF under the plea that they are exempted from all national duties and levies on fuel under Air Service Agreements signed by India with their country.

Consequent upon the de-control of ATF pricing with effect from 1.4.2001, a decision has also been taken that the under-recoveries incurred by the oil companies due to non-recovery of sales-tax on sale of ATF to foreign airlines shall be borne by the Oil Pool Account.

Statement

	(Rs./Crs.)			
	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total
	1	2	3	4
Aeroflot Soviet Airlines	20.42	—	1.34	21.76
Air Canada	—	3.04	—	3.04
Air France	46.34	—	—	46.34
Air Maldives	0.84	—	—	0.84
Air Mauritius	0.17	5.54	—	5.71
Alitalia	—	38.15	—	38.15
All Nippon Airlines	—	4.38	—	4.38
Asiana Airlines	—	1.98	—	1.98
Austrian Airlines	4.95	—	—	4.95
Bellview Airlines	—	0.82	—	0.82
Biman Bangladesh	4.78	—	—	4.78
British Airways	11.48	95.99	—	107.47
Cargolux	3.52	—	—	3.52

	1	2	3	4
Cathay Pacific Airways	11.21	—	—	11.21
Delta Airlines	—	0.48	21.53	22.01
Druk Air	—	—	—	0.00
Egypt Air	—	1.31	—	1.31
El Al Israel	14.08	—	—	14.08
Emirates	—	6.39	—	6.39
Gulf Airways	4.75	4.94	—	9.69
Japan Airlines	—	3.03	—	3.03
Kenya Airways	—	1.26	6.11	7.37
KLM Royal Dutch	2.85	41.96	—	44.81
Korean Air	—	5.01	—	5.01
Kuwait Airways	16.19	—	—	16.19
Kyrgyzstan	0.37	—	—	0.37
Luda Air	0.81	—	—	0.81
Lufthansa German Airlines	102.22	—	—	102.22
Malaysian Airlines	7.76	—	—	7.76
Matin Air	—	0.01	—	0.01
Middle East Airlines	—	0.28	—	0.28
North West Airlines	8.75	14.78	—	23.53
Oman Airways	3.04	—	—	3.04
Quantas Airways	3.03	—	—	3.03
Royal Jordanina Airlines	11.70	—	—	11.70
Sabena	4.91	—	—	4.91
Saudi Arabian Airlines	28.72	—	—	28.72
Scandinavian Airlines	6.15	—	—	6.15
Silk Air	0.77	—	—	0.77
Singapore Airlines	24.22	10.47	—	34.69
Srilankan Airways	2.16	—	—	2.16
Swiss Air	4.01	50.15	—	54.16
Syrian Arab Airlines	2.19	—	—	2.19
Thai Airways	5.57	0.01	—	5.58

	1	2	3	4
Turkeministan Airways	0.74	—	—	0.74
United Airlines	6.80	—	—	6.80
United Parcel Service	—	2.98	—	2.98
Uzbekistan Airways	—	3.17	—	3.17
Virgin Alantic	—	2.26	—	2.26
Yemenia Yemen Airways	1.40	—	—	1.40
Total	366.90	298.39	28.98	694.24

Action against Producers

4973. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to create awareness among the masses for food processing a sum of Rs. 1.24 crore was released as advance for production of 45 films to 16 films producers during March 1995 to February 1999;

(b) if so, the number of films completed and telecasted so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the films are not yet completed and the films already completed have not yet been telecasted as of June 1999;

(d) whether the end-objective of creating awareness for food processing was foiled for lack of exercise of proper control;

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

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the time by which the remaining films are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) A Committee was constituted by the Secretary of the Department to look into reasons for delay for preparation of films and suggest measures to expedite their completion. The Committee found that delay has occurred due to finalisation of shooting schedule, reluctance of food processing units to allow shooting, delay in receiving technical inputs from institutions and their inability to pre-review films. Among the suggestions, the Committee made was that pre-review may be got done from Technical Officers of the Department. Action was accordingly taken and as a result, the Department has been able to complete 39 out of 45 films in all respects. Out of the remaining 6 films, masters in Hindi of 3 films have been received. The contract of the producer has been terminated for failure to dub these films in the Regional Languages and the balance amount of 30% due to the producer has been forfeited. The masters of remaining 3 films in Bengali language have also been received.

The films were originally planned to be telecast on Kushi Darshan programme of Doordarshan. However, Doordarshan considered these films to be commercial for which payment was required to be made on fixed rates. The Department has finally succeeded in getting these films telecast on Gyan Darshan channel of Doordarshan. About 30 films have already been shown between November, 2000—February, 2001. The remaining completed films have also been given and are scheduled for telecast in coming months through Gyan Darshan. Apart from telecast, the films are also shown in fairs, seminars and exhibitions.

The objective of creating awareness amongst the rural people through the films has thus been by and large achieved.

[Translation]

Shortage of Cattle Research Farms

4974. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Cattle Research Farms in the country and the existing farm are not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the locations of such Cattle Research Farms in the country; and

(c) the details of particular breeds developed in the existing farms during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are no Cattle Research Farms under Indian Council of Agricultural Research. However, some cattle for experiments/research are maintained at National Dairying Research Institute, Karnal and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.

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

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

[English]

Hybrid Seeds

4975. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to grow hybrid seeds in collaboration with some multinationals companies;

(b) if so, the name of Multi-National Companies whose help has been sought by the Government to achieve the above objective;

(c) whether any MNC has established tie-up with the Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Research of Coconut/Arecanut

4976. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to raise the standard of research of various plantation crops like coconut and arecanut in the C.P.C.R.I.'s in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The research programmes on plantation crops like coconut and arecanut at C.P.C.R.I., Kasaragod in Kerala has been strengthened.

(b) The thrust areas identified on coconut and arecanut are - enrichment of gene bank, control of diseases and pests, development of palms based cropping system, development of high yielding varieties, product diversification and bye-product utilization and socio-economic appraisal of new technologies. The benefits anticipated are enhancement of yield and improving the economic returns to the growers.

[English]

Fall in Agricultural Products

4977. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of agricultural products is likely to fall in the next few years, as reported in 'The Statesman' dated January 8, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any schemes to check declining trend in agricultural products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The production of agriculture crops generally shows a long term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations. The foodgrains production during 1999-2000, for instance, increased to 208.87 million tonnes from 176.39 million tonnes during 1990-91.

(b) and (c) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-around development of agriculture.

UN Action Plan in Gujarat

4978. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UN action plan for rehabilitate the earthquake victims in Gujarat is likely to concentrate on women and children;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme of action plan has been initiated by the UN;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The office of United Nations Resident Coordinator has informed that there is a UN system response to Gujarat earthquake and there is a Woman and Child component in the UN Action Plan. Also, there are ongoing

projects in Gujarat as a part of the UN Action Plan for Gujarat through activities in sectors like child protection, reproductive health, livelihood and education. According to them, activities are underway and range from the period immediately after the earthquake to ongoing during the next couple of years.

Earthquake in Gujarat

4979. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention was drawn to the report in the 'Hindustan Times' of February 5, 2001, captioned "Shunned by the Government, these villagers refuse to give in"; and

(b) the steps taken to provide the disaster relief to these Kutch villages, where all the houses had been raised to the grounds, 1,000 people died and over 25,000 were rendered homeless?

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

(b) The Central Government has released funds amounting to Rs. 1000 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the State for taking necessary relief and restoration measures in the wake of the earthquake. The distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State Government and they have drawn up the rehabilitation and reconstruction package to assist the affected population.

Employment through Fishery Dairy Sector

4980. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to generate employment in the fishery and dairy sector in Orissa and other States;

(b) if so, the State-wise possibility explored in that regard in Eighth Plan and outcome thereof; and

(c) the programme drawn up if any for Orissa in Ninth Plan?

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

Fisheries

Marine coastal capture fisheries has been found to have good potential for employment generation in maritime States and Union Territories. Accordingly a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for motorisation of traditional craft was implemented in these States/UTs. During Eighth Five Year Plan 19281 traditional craft were sanctioned for motorisation. In order to generate employment in deep sea fishing sector, the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET) has been training candidates drawn on all India basis at its three Centres. In brackishwater aquaculture 21,837 farmers were trained while in freshwater aquaculture 634108 farmers were trained so far. The State-wise details of possibility explored and outcome of the aforesaid schemes in fisheries sector is furnished in statement-I, II and III.

Several Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes are under implementation for development of marine capture fisheries, brackishwater aquaculture and freshwater aquaculture in fisheries sector in Orissa during Ninth Five Year Plan. In the coastal marine Sector during the first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan 640 traditional crafts

were sanctioned for motorisation, 11 candidates were trained at CIFNET in deep sea fishing, 5448 number of farmers were trained in fresh water quaculture, and 3909 farmers were trained in brackishwater aquaculture.

Dairy:

Apart from the ongoing dairy development scheme of Operation Flood, the Government of India launched a new Central Sector Scheme in Dairy sector titled Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non Operation Flood Hilly and Backward Areas during the 8th plan period. Under this scheme 3970 Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) with a membership of 3.12 lakh farmers were organised in 20 States/UTs up to the end of 8th plan. State-wise details of targets and achievements are given in Statement-IV.

The IDDP scheme has been under implementation in Orissa State also since 1993-94 and is continuing in 9th plan. So far four different projects with a total outlay of Rs. 2480.58 lakh have been sanctioned and are at various stages of implementation in that State. Government of India has so far released Rs. 1462.64 lakh to the State Government. Out of the cumulative target of organizing 1039 DCS with a membership of 60910 farmers, 484 DCS with a membership of 31200 farmers have been organised up to September, 2000.

Statement-I

Development of Marine Fisheries through Motorisation of Traditional Craft

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of crafts sanctioned for motorisation			
		Eighth Plan (1992—97)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,700	500	300	500
2.	Gujarat	200	—	—	130
3.	Goa	400	100	110	42
4.	Karnataka	477	200	210	120
5.	Kerala	2,600	500	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Maharashtra	229	—	—	.
7.	Orissa	1,900	140	—	500
8.	Tamil Nadu	11,500	—	—	—
9.	Pondicherry	200	—	120	—
10.	A&N Islands	75	72	—	70
Total		19,281	1,512	740	1,362

Statement-II*Achievement of Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies since inception till 1999-2000*

S.No.	State/UT	No. of BFDAs	Water area covered (ha.)	Fish Farmers Trained (Nos.)	No. of Benefi- ciaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	847	1854	1181
2.	Goa	1	161	167	167
3.	Gujarat	3	1674	367	658
4.	Karnataka	2	930	2012	439
5.	Kerala	7	1077	2217	1069
6.	Maharashtra	4	570	1515	213
7.	Orissa	7	12533	3972	9003
8.	Tamil Nadu	5	1679	258	1097
9.	West Bengal	3	3386	9475	4044
10.	A&N Island	1	—	—	—
Total:		39	22,857	21,837	17,871

Statement-III*Achivements of Fish Farmers Development Agencies since inception till 1999-2000*

S.No.	State/UT	No. of FFDAs	Water area covered (ha.)	Fish Farmers trained (Nos.)	No. of benefi- ciaries	Average Produc- tivity (Kg./ha./Yr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	4120	11927	5805	3500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	661	3100	4003	1200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	23	3694	20118	11433	1870
4.	Bihar	49	24729	24769	26574	2175
5.	Goa	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	17	49270	17970	15341	1244
7.	Haryana	16	9668	12221	12594	3052
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	373	3564	1662	2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	5673	9934	2878	2530
10.	Karnataka	18	38846	11988	8493	1429
11.	Kerala	14	17267	23347	59278	2500
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	76180	35162	79374	1739
13.	Maharashtra	29	22547	13383	60030	1749
14.	Manipur	8	2275	3874	7292	2400
15.	Meghalaya	2	513	1308	1308	1500
16.	Mizoram	5	444	1516	1530	2000
17.	Nagaland	8	2398	3671	14606	1800
18.	Orissa	30	33215	46654	122162	2059
19.	Punjab	17	14110	17130	13745	4734
20.	Rajasthan	15	3164	9405	2710	2053
21.	Sikkim	1	21	1031	1322	3000
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	16080	7620	13511	1768
23.	Tripura	4	4369	78175	29936	2300
24.	Uttar Pradesh	56	93683	93640	91719	2350
25.	West Bengal	18	107712	196820	354695	2950
26.	Pondicherry	1	217	681	926	1475
Total		422	5,31,229	6,34,108	9,33,927	2225.7

Statement-IV*Physical Progress of IDDP as on 31.3.1997*

State	Year of sanction of the Project	DCS organised			Farmer Members (In '000s)		
		EOP TAR	Actuals as on		EOP TAR	Actuals as on	
			31.3.96	31.3.97		31.3.96	31.3.97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A&N Islands	1995-96	15	—	8	1.30	—	0.24
Andhra Pradesh	1995-96	—	40	155	20.92	1.62	5.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	1993-94	50	10	22	1.55	0.30	0.56
Assam	1994-95	414	182	182	29.79	12.17	12.17
Bihar-I	1994-95	100	40	54	3.48	1.20	2.51
Bihar-II	1995-96	800	—	140	28.00	—	—
Gujarat	1993-94	240	180	235	19.20	10.39	19.39
Haryana	1995-96	75	—	23	2.25	—	0.37
J&K - Jammu	1995-96	145	—	0	10.83	—	0.00
J&K - Kashmir	1995-96	372	—	0	22.40	—	0.00
M.P. I, II & III	1993-94	260	158	181	12.18	5.14	6.07
M.P. IV	1995-96	356	—	195	15.29	—	7.00
Maharashtra	1995-96	714	—	452	89.50	—	49.70
Manipur	1993-94	60	30	30	3.25	1.00	1.00
Meghalaya	1994-95	36	25	36	2.01	1.15	1.66
Mizoram-I	1993-94	26	26	26	3.64	3.32	3.60
Mizoram-II	1995-96	20	—	20	1.39	—	0.52
Nagaland	1993-94	80	25	50	3.07	0.90	1.58
Orissa-I	1993-94	225	245	247	15.00	9.20	14.72
Orissa-II	1994-95	150	109	150	18.00	10.00	14.00
Sikkim-I&II	1993-94	155	46	156	6.52	4.63	1.03
Tamil Nadu	1995-96	489	477	535	138.10	126.69	126.70
Tripura-I	1993-94	100	56	64	8.01	4.48	4.74
Tripura-II	1994-95	30	15	20	4.48	0.38	0.64
U.P.-I, II, & III	1993-94	1000	588	876	33.90	20.10	31.29
West Bengal	1994-95	240	71	113	18.00	2.60	6.63
Total:		6152	2323	3970	512.06	215.26	311.98

Note:

Targets and achievements include existing infrastructure in the project districts/areas.

EOP Tar. : End of Project Targets

DCS : Dairy Cooperative Societies

TLPD : Thousand Litres Per Day

PRCSG CAP Processing Capacity

Under completion

Salinity Ingress

4981. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large stretch of coastal land in Orissa are facing the growing menace of salinity ingress;

(b) if so, the estimated areas thereof in Orissa and other coastal States; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the salinity ingress in the coastal areas of Orissa and other States?

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

(b) No extensive and detailed survey has been taken up to assess the problem of coastal salinity in the country. However, it is estimated that about 17.09 lakh ha. area is affected by coastal salinity in the country of which Orissa accounts for 2.54 lakh ha. The State-wise area affected by coastal salinity is annexed in the statement.

(c) The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and its Regional Station at Canning Town, West Bengal together with Water Technology Centre, Bhubaneswar have developed appropriate technologies and formulated remedial and preventive measures to address the problem of salinity ingress in the coastal areas of Orissa and other States. These measures include water conservation, soil reclamation and adoption of salt tolerant crops and varieties.

Statement

Statement showing state-wise coastal salinity in the Country

(Area in lakh ha.)

Name of the State	Coastal saline land
1. Andhra Pradesh	0.71
2. Gujarat	3.01
3. Karnataka	0.05
4. Kerala	0.66
5. Maharashtra	0.24
6. Orissa	2.54
7. Tamil Nadu	1.67
8. West Bengal	8.20
Total	17.09

Development of Horticulture

4982. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to encourage development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture, floriculture, roots and tubing, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting horticulture in the rainfed as well as irrigated areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. All horticultural crops like fruits, vegetables including root and tuber crops, mushroom, medicinal and aromatic plants, floriculture, cashew and spices are covered for development under the Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

New Crop Varieties

4983. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to develop new crop varieties, particularly of food crops, with higher nutritional value through adoption of biotechnology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Developing new crop varieties with better nutritional value using biotechnological tools is a priority research area. Paddy varieties rich in vitamin-A and iron, maize varieties with better quality protein, wheat varieties suitable for value added products and chickpea varieties with high nutritional quality are being improved through application of biotechnology.

(c) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Decline in Fertility of SOIL**

4984. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the decline in fertility of soil due to pollution as also annual loss of foodgrains in the country due to damage of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where damage of foodgrains is reported to be maximum; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Studies under All India Coordinated Research Project of Indian Council of Agriculture Research on "long-term fertilizer experiments" over the last few decades indicate that if nitrogenous fertilizers alone are used in excessive quantities, there may be decline in crop yields and it may also have deleterious effect on long-term fertility of soils. To ensure that there is no ill-effect of any kind due to excessive use of fertilizers, the Government propagates use of fertilizers based on soil tests.

There is no quantitative estimate available to indicate the loss of crop yields due to soil pollution.

(c) The Govt. advocates enhanced use of compost, Farm yard manure (fym), manure, green manuring and bio-fertilizers in order to sustain fertility of the soils and reduce exclusive use of chemical fertilizers.

*[English]***Oil Palm Seed Gardens**

4985. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where oil palm seed gardens are being established in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the time by which these gardens are likely to start functioning; and

(c) the extent and usefulness of these gardens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Sir, three oil palm seed gardens have been established in Andhra Pradesh at following places.

(i) Rajamundry, East Godawari District.

(ii) Pedavegi, West Godawari District.

(iii) Lakshmipuram, West Godawari District.

(b) Actual production of hybrid seeds at Rajahmundry seed garden will commence from 2001. Seed garden at Pedavegi has recently been established and seed production will start by 2009-2010. Seed garden at Lakshmipuram has already started producing hybrid seeds.

(c) The seed gardens have helped in stopping the import of Oil Palm seeds/sprouts. Presently, they are able to meet the demand of Oil Palm seeds/sprouts in the country.

Tomato and Cabbage Growers

4986. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tomato and cabbage growers of Karnataka has decided to sell their produces at throw away prices;

(b) whether the prices of these vegetables have been crashed even the Centre is taking of rescuing steps for the farmers from the vagaries of the market which has already thrown maize and other foodgrain growers in the Karnataka into a vortex of misery; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the problem of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Prices of tomato and cabbage declined in Karnataka during the months of January, February and March 2001 and have shown recovery during April, 2001.

(c) The Government is setting up five agro food parks in the State as a long term solution to the problems of farmers. Besides, the National Dairy Development Board is setting up a terminal market complex at Bangalore and is developing infrastructure facilities in other parts of the State for marketing of fruits and vegetables. Moreover, a Market Intervention Scheme is being implemented for procurement of horticultural items of importance when their prices tend to fall below economic levels on the basis of formal request of concerned State Governments, for which the State Government have to share 50% of the losses, if any, incurred in the procurement process.

Production of Horticulture

4987. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total cultivated areas under horticultural plants in the country;

(b) the manner in which the Government propose to increase the productivity of horticulture crops so as to increase the income of the farming community;

(c) whether any research has been made to develop superior varieties of fruits;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any programme has been launched to keep the farmers abreast of the latest technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The estimated area under horticulture in the country is around 15.01 million hectares in 1998-99.

(b) The Government propose to increase the productivity of horticultural crops by providing quality planting material through nurseries tissue culture units, rejuvenation of old and senile plantations, technology dissemination through demonstration and training Programmes, deploy hi-tech intervention like drip irrigation, green house, plastic mulching besides deploying honey bees as agents of cross pollination for increasing crop

productivity. Assistance in this regard can be availed of by the State Govts. under the Macro management mode of implementation of various Horticulture Schemes. The Govt. has also sanctioned Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have released a large number of superior varieties of fruits. The important varieties of some fruits which have been released are:

1. Mango: Amrapali, Mallika, Aarka Aruna, Arka Puneet, Arka Anmol, Ratna, Sindhu, Dashehari-51.
2. Banana: Co-2, H-1, H-2.
3. Guava: Arka Amulya, Arka Mridula, Lalit.
4. Grapes: Arkavati, Arka Neelmani, Arka Shweta.
5. Papaya: Co-1-6, Pusa Delicious, Pusa Nanha, Pusa Giant, Coorg Honey Dew, Surya.
6. Acid Lime: Pramalini, Vikram, PLM-1, SAI Sarvati.
7. Pomegranate Ganresh, Jyoti, Rubi, Amlidana.
8. Aonla: NA-6, NA-7
9. Litchi: Swarna Roopa, Sabour Madhu.
10. Sapota: PKM-2
11. Custard Apple Arka Sahan.
12. Apple Lal Ambri, Sunehari, Ambred, Ambrich.

(e) and (f) The Government is providing assistance for training of farmers and for organising study tours in various aspects relating to the latest developments on crop production, post harvest management etc.

Gas through Pipeline in Delhi and Mumbai

4988. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress made in supplying pipeline gas to the households in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether there is slow progress in implementing the schemes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration to provide gas through pipeline in other parts of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In Delhi, M/s. Indraprastha Gas Limited, which is implementing the city gas distribution project in the city, has already connected 4086 households spread over 16 localities. Similarly, in Mumbai, M/s. Mahanagar Gas Limited, has connected over 55,000 households in various parts of the city.

(d) No, Sir. There is no proposal of Mahanagar Gas Limited to supply piped gas for domestic households in other parts of Maharashtra.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

LNG Terminal at Chembur-Trombay in Maharashtra

4989. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LNG terminal at Chembur-Trombay in Maharashtra is being set up with joint venture between Tata Group and Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total cost of the project;

(c) whether the local residents of Chembur and Trombay are agitating since long against the setting up of this plant in that area;

(d) if so, the reasons for their resentment;

(e) whether such type of plants prove hazardous in densely populated areas;

(f) whether the Government propose to shift this plant to some other place keeping in view the safety of the residents of Chembur and Trombay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Total Gas and Power India, a subsidiary of M/s. Totalfina Elf of France is the third joint venture partner.

(b) The project involves setting up the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal of 3 million tonnes per annum capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,500 crores and is targeted for completion during the later part of 2005. There are plans to double the capacity in the future.

(c) and (d) The public hearing for the project was completed in November 2000 and only thereafter the State Government has recommended for environmental clearance.

(e) The proposed LNG terminal is designed with adequate safety measures and there are similar kinds of plants located in other densely populated cities in the world.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. As the safety requirements have been taken into account, there is no need for shifting the proposed LNG terminal.

Import of Agricultural Articles

4990. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the audit during 1996 has revealed failure to recover the sum of Rs. 80.43 lakh from the importers who were liable to pay the same towards inspection fee on the import of agricultural articles during October, 1989 to April, 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to recover the same now from the importers;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on the officials for their failure to recover the amount and take due diligence in the discharge of their duties;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action likely to be initiated by the Government against the guilty officials?

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

(b) to (e) The import of plants/plant materials is regulated as per the provisions contained in the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of import into India) Order, 1989 (PFS Order) issued under the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914 (DIP Act). The principal PFS Order provided for the levy of fees on account of plant quarantine inspection/treatment of the consignments of plants/plant materials. The levy of the said fees was however challenged in different courts by importers and certain interim orders were passed by them from time to time. The Hon'ble Kolkata High Court in their judgement dated 19.6.90, declared the levy of plant quarantine inspection fee as ultra vires, on the ground that the DIP Act did not contain any enabling provisions therefor. A Presidential Ordinance was, therefore, promulgated on 25.1.1992 empowering the Central Government to levy the plant quarantine fee retrospectively by amending the DIP Act. This Presidential Ordinance was ratified by the Parliament on 31.3.1992. The arrears of fees got accumulated under these peculiar circumstances. The process of recovery of fee was started by pursuing the matter with importers. However due to a legal lacunae viz. there being no specific provision for enforcing the recovery of arrears of fee in the existing DIP Act or in the PFS Order, the efforts did not yield any result. The remedial action has been taken in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue to recover the arrears of fee under Section 142 of the Customs Act, 1962. Out of Rs. 80.43 lakh, a sum of Rs. 18.10 lakh has been recovered as on 31.3.2001.

Procurement of Soyabean

4991. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED has appointed AP Oilfields as its agent and Girijan Cooperative Corporation as its sub agent for procurement of Soyabean;

(b) if so, whether this process of appointing agents and sub agents is causing delay in payment to farmers of their produce;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to appoint TRIFED as Union Government's agent for procurement of Soyabean in the Scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh and timely payment to farmers of their produce; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of soyabean in the Scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh, NAFED has been utilising the services of Girijan Cooperative Development Corporation which is a constituent member of the TRIFED. This arrangement has been working well. Nomination of two parallel agencies for procurement under PSS may create operational and coordination problems which have to be avoided in the interest of the farmers.

NAFED has been drawing funds from the State Bank of India under cash credit limit sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India for the purpose by hypothecating of stocks procured under PSS for payment to the farmers.

Looting in Trains

4992. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a train was stopped and looted near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on February 28, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether South Central Railways are unable to take preventive measures in such incidents;

(d) whether inquiries have been conducted to find out negligent railways officials responsible for inaction on the train;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A case of theft was reported on the night of 28.2.2001/1.3.2001 at about 23.33 hrs., in that the gold chain of wife of one Shri K.V. Rao of Paderu occupying berth No. 49 in S-5 coach attached to Konark Exp. Train No. 1020, was stolen at Km. No. 695/19 between Narsipatnam Road-Gullipadu Railway Stations. In this regard, Tuni Railway Police has registered a case on crime No. 17/2001 u/s 379 IPC.

(c) No, Sir. All preventive measures are being rendered to the Government Railway Police.

(d) to (f) No such complaint was received about the negligence on the part of railway officials in this regard.

[*Translation*]

On-Going Railway Projects in Maharashtra

4993. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status of on-going railway projects/surveys in Maharashtra;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each project till date; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The present status of on-going railway projects/surveys in Maharashtra, including their anticipated cost, expected expenditure likely to be incurred till March 2001, outlay for 2001-2002 and targets wherever fixed are at Statement-I. Details of on-going surveys in Maharashtra are at statement-II.

Statement I

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay expected to end of 2000-2001	Budget Outlay Proposed for 2001-2002	Status
(Amount in Crores of Rupees)					
1	2	3	4	5	6

On-Going Railway Projects in Maharashtra

New Lines

1.	Amravati-Narkher	175.30	39.58	8.00	Land acquisition in 6 villages out of 72 villages have been completed. Earthwork and bridge for 18 section out of 27 has been taken up and work is in progress. Contracts for 9 major bridges have been awarded. Building work of Amrawati station building is nearing completion. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
2.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjnath	353.08	3.46	3.00	Final location survey has been completed for 15 km from Ahmednagar end. Land acquisition plans & papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for this length. The work would be progressed once the land becomes available. Station building at Beed is also in progress.
3.	Panvel-Karjat: Electrified Line (Phase-I)	106.90	34.38	14.00	All land except 10.64 hect. forest land has been acquired. Land acquisition process for forest land is in progress. Earth work in 7 sections out of 9 is in good progress where 79% progress have been achieved.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Work on 2 out of 9 major bridges and 19 out of 39 minor bridges have been completed. Work on the 2.7 km long tunnel is in good progress. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
4.	Baramati-Lonad	75.00	0.10	4.00	Final location survey has been taken up and is expected to be completed shortly. This will be followed by preparation of land acquisition plans and papers.
5.	Puntamba-Shridi	32.00	1.00	4.00	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition is being taken up.
	Gauge Conversion				
6.	Miraj-latur	329.02	105.30	20.00	The work is being progressed in phases. In the first phase, Gauge conversion work from Kurduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) has been completed. Residual works in the section are in progress. On Latur Road-Latur (42 km) earthwork and major and minor bridges have been completed. Ballast collection is nearing completion. Work on Kurduwadi-Latur (143 km) is in progress between Khurduwadi and Yedshi (113 km) section. No work on Osmanabad diversion (30 km) has been taken-up. Miraj Pandharpur (137 km) Ph IV work will be taken up as last phase of the project. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
7.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	170.51	37.60	20.00	The work has been taken up under BOLT scheme. Agency has not been able to progress the work of late due to financing problem. In case finance is made available project is expected to be completed in 18 months time.
8.	Solapur-Gadag	265.77	130.04	10.00	The work is being done in phases. The work Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Financial participation of Government of Karnataka in the project is being tried with a view to expedite early completion of this work.
9.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-	287.83	35.00	19.87	The work has been taken up in first phase from Mudkhed-Nizamabad (96 km). Supply of ballast 1,50,650 cum out of 2,34,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bodhan				cum has been collected at site. On Mudkhed-Nizamabad in seven reaches earth work has been completed and in balance 13 reaches works are in progress. Work has also been taken up in the remaining sections. The possibility of getting private funding for part of the work is being explored, with a view of expediting its completion.
10.	Akola-Purna	228.00	10.00	10.00	Final Location Survey is in progress. Arrangements are being made to take up earthwork and bridges in first section from Purna to Hingoli (95 km).
11.	Gondia-Chandafort	242.82	242.32	0.10	The work has been completed. Funds required for financial adjustments.
	Doubling				
12.	Daund-Bigwan	45.50	40.00	5.00	The work is in good progress where earthwork and bridges have been completed and linking is in progress and expected to be completed during 2001-2002.
13.	Diva-Vasai	142.00	120.71	20.00	In phase-I, 11 km from Vasai Rd. to Kaman has been commissioned and 17 km from Kaman to Bhiwandi has been completed. Bhiwandi to Diva is in progress where earthwork and bridges have been taken up. The work will be completed during 2001-2002.
14.	Panvel-Roha-Land acquisition	4.10	3.10	0.10	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition is in progress and is likely to be acquired shortly.
15.	Diva-Kalyan doubling of 5&6 line	49.00	7.00	13.00	Earthwork and Bridges in Diva-Dombivali and Dombivali-Kalyan are being taken up. Plans are under approval.
16.	Panvel-Jasai-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)	48.00	1.00	1.00	Final location survey has been completed. Detailed planning has been taken up.
	Metropolitan Transport Project				
17.	Kurla-Thane 5th & 6th line (Phase-I)	95.00	59.76	10.00	Work of earthwork, supply of Ballast, Track linking, Major Bridges, Foundation and erection OHE structures and other works are in progress in stretches which are free from encroachments.
18.	Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi part of corridor No. 1 in Navi Mumbai	131.47	83.14	10.00	Civil works for second line are nearing completion. Electrification and signaling works are in progress. Delay in acquisition of land is affecting the progress of work.

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Belapur-Panvel Doubling	92.50	82.38	8.00	Double line has been commissioned and opened for commuter traffic on 14.4.2000. Balance works to be executed by CIDCO are in progress.
20.	Belapur-Seawood-Urban : Electrified line	163.49	20.99	21.40	Work of important bridge on Panvel creek construction of minor bridges, sub way at Seawood and work at Sanpada carshed are in progress. Due to financial crunch being faced by CIDCO, execution of the project has been divided in two phases. Under first phase single line will be laid in the section
21.	Kurla-Thane 5th and 6th line (Bhandup to Thane) Phase-II	56.79	20.24	10.00	Earthwork, supply of Ballast, Bridges and 22 KV aerial feeder obstructing 5th and 6th line by underground cable between Bhandup-Mulund and Mulund-Thane section is in progress.
22.	Thane-Mumbra 5th and 6th line	49.34	0.09	7.00	Work has been included in the Budget 2000-2001 subject to clearances. Detailed survey report is beng processed for submission to Planning Commission for their appraisal.
23.	Borivali-Virar: Quadrupling	401.66	64.56	40.00	Work for earth work, major & minor bridges yard remodelling and quarters is in progress.
24.	Santacruz-Borivali: 5th line	87.89	82.42	5.00	Work on all minor and major bridges have been completed. Work which was held up at certain locations due to delay in removal of encroachment, has been restarted. Borivali-Andheri section has already been commissioned.
25.	Virar-Dahanu Road: Autoblock Signalling	39.19	14.65	17.50	Signalling works completed. Ancillary works in progress.
26.	Virar Dahanu Road - Development of facilities for introduction of EMUs and terminal facilities at Dahanu Road	25.82	0.01	0.10	Work has been included in the budget of 2000-2001 subject to necessary clearances. Process for obtaining clearances has been initiated.
Railway Electrification					
27.	Udhna-Jalgaon	138.13	59.16	15.31	Target is March 2003.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan head	Status
1.	Rotegaon-Punthamba	New Line	Survey is in progress.
2.	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded	New Line	Survey is in progress.
3.	Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad	New Line	Survey is in progress.
4.	Chinchwad and Roha	New Line	Not yet taken up.
5.	Shirpur-Mhow	New Line	Survey is in progress.
6.	Pune and Nasik	New Line	Survey is in progress.
7.	Khandwa to Nardana via Khargone, Sendhwa	New Line	Survey is in progress.
8.	Jalna-Khamgaon	New Line	Survey is in progress.
9.	Pulgaon-Arvi GC with extn. to Amla	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
10.	Pune-Lonavla Quadrupling	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
11.	Daund-Manmad	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
12.	Kalyan Kasara 3rd line.	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
13.	Daund-Bigwan-Gulbarga	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
14.	Umrer to Nagpur via Khaperkheda and Koradi	New Line	Survey is in progress.
15.	Ramtek to Gotegaon via Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma	New Line	Survey is in progress.
16.	Umrer to Nagbhir	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
17.	Chhindwara-Nainpur	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
18.	Nagbhir to Nagpur	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
19.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	Gauge Conversion	Survey is in progress.
20.	Mumbai Central-Borivali	Doubling	Survey is in progress.
21.	Dahanu Road-Nashik Road	New Line	Survey is in progress.

*[English]***Ceiling of Irrigable and Non-Irrigable Land**

4994. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ceiling of 12 and 19 acres on irrigable and non-irrigable land respectively and no ceiling

is applicable on land possessed by co-operative farming societies many of which are non-existent and bogus in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to identify the bogus cooperative farming societies in Uttar Pradesh, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to apply the ceiling act on them equally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Since land is State Subject, the ceiling of land holding is governed by Land Ceiling Acts, applicable in State Governments including Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). In UP, land ceiling is governed by U.P. Land Ceiling Act, 1960 amended from time to time.

In respect of Cooperative Farming Societies, land Ceiling is applicable to the limit of total land allowable to individual families forming the cooperative.

(b) and (c) Government of U.P. issued Orders in August, 2000 to identify and liquidate bogus societies.

[Translation]

Food Production

4995. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to "Paryavaran Ko Ho Rahe Nuksan Se Khadhya Utpadan Ghatane Ka Khatra" as mentioned in the report released by the International Food Policy Research Institute; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check decline in the production of foodgrains in the country?

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

(b) Several steps have been taken by central and State research and development agencies to check the decline in production of foodgrains in the country. Some of the important efforts include:

- (i) Technology for the reclamation of waterlogged, saline and alkali soils has been developed, validated and demonstrated. It is now being widely adopted by State agencies and affected farmers.
- (ii) Water efficient cropping systems and application methods have been developed and the same are being adopted by CADAs and the farmers for efficient use of water resources.

- (iii) Well focussed and targetted development schemes have been launched for watershed development in the rainfed areas, reclamation of alkali soils, control of shifting cultivation and stabilization of sand dunes.
- (iv) Suitable soil amendments and integrated plant nutrition systems have been developed to check the chemical degradation of soils and improving agricultural productivity.
- (v) Studies have also been initiated to study the impact of global climate change, afforestation, and carbon-di-oxide and methane emission on agricultural productivity.

[English]

Reappropriation of Fund

4996. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Railways reappropriating of fund against 'nil' provisions therein;

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

(c) whether the Railways have carried out any investigation into such cases and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) if so, the action propose to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Railways have not been able to keep a control over the accounting procedures and the authorities; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Reappropriations as permissible under the rules are resorted to taking note of developments during the year. For instance, works that are in the final stages of execution, and are expected to be completed in a certain financial year, are dropped from the list of works for the subsequent year and no further allocation is made to such works. However, due to some remnant contractual obligations, arbitration awards etc., some funds become necessary, which are allotted through reappropriations with the approval of the competent authority.

Railways have a good and tested system for budgetary, financial and accounting control. There is also an endeavour to effect improvements.

Recognition to Basmati Rice

4997. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give recognition to Basmati rice produced in the State of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh only;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of the Southern States have been hit hard due to this decision of the Government; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure that the farmers of Southern States get remunerative prices for the basmati rice produced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Survey for Loop Rail Line in Sriganganagar

4998. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted by the Railways for the canal loop rail line connecting major mandies of Sriganganagar in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work on the said rail line is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The survey for gauge conversion of Sriganganagar—Sarupras canal loop (115.76 kms.) was conducted in 1997. The survey report has revealed that the gauge conversion of 115.76 kms. rail line would cost Rs. 77.30 crs.

(c) and (d) The work was included in the Railway Budget with the proviso that it would be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances. Action to obtain clearances has been initiated and the work would be started once the clearances are obtained.

[English]

Projects Implemented in Andhra Pradesh

4999. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects based on Non-Conventional Energy Sources sanctioned during the year 2000-2001, Scheme-wise State-wise;

(b) whether there is any increase in the reduction of Non-Conventional Energy (NCE) from previous year to this year;

(c) if so, the quantum of increase;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government for bringing improvement in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The details of Non-Conventional Energy projects and capacity sanctioned during the year 2000-2001, programme-wise and State-wise are given in Statement-I. In addition, the details of decentralised systems such as biogas plants, improved chulhas, water pumping windmills, solar photovoltaic lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems sanctioned/installed during the year 2000-2001, State-wise are given in Statement-II.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. A total power generation capacity of 334 MW has been added through major non-conventional energy sources i.e. wind, biomass, small hydro power, solar photovoltaics and power from urban and industrial wastes during the year 2000-2001 as compared to 240 MW capacity added during the year 1999-2000. This is an increase of 94 MW.

(e) The Ministry is encouraging promotion, development and utilisation of non-conventional energy sources by providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives including financial support and soft term loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

Statement-I**State-wise Number of Projects and Total Capacity Sanctioned under Major Non Conventional Energy Programmes during 2000-2001**

Sl.No.	States/UT	SHP		Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power		Biomass Gasifier		SPV Power (kWp)	U&I	
		(Nos.)	(MW)		(Nos.)	(MW)	(Nos.)	(kW)		(Nos.)	(MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	6.50	3.8	9	61.85	20	5740	275	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	10.20	—	—	—	5	70	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	6	1110	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	15.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	—	10.4	1	6.00	1	300	30	—	—
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1	6.00	—	—	339	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	110.6	—	—	2	1000	186	1	1.00
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	2	3.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	2	3.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	0.20	—	—	—	2	200	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	2	4.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	41.9	—	—	4	920	211	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10.50	—	—	—	3	900	325	—	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	0.5	—	—	1	350	25	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	5.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		26	58.2	172.5	11	73.85	44	10590	1716	1	1.00

SPV=Solar Photovoltaic; SHP = Small Hydro Power,

U&I = Urban & Industrial Waste Energy, MW = Mega Watt; kWp=kilowatt peak

Statement-II*Details of State-wise Systems/Devices Sanctioned/Installed under Decentralised Non-Conventional Energy Programmes during 2000-2001*

Sl.No.	States/UT	**Biogas Plants (Nos.)	**Improved Chulha (Nos. in lakh)	Solar Photovoltaic			Water Pumping	
				SLS (Nos.)	HLS (Nos.)	SL (Nos.)	PP (kWp)	Wind Mills (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16037	1.04	50	100	7000	—	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	155	*	0	200	1000	9.2	—
3.	Assam	87	0.01	20	1450	200	4.5	—
4.	Bihar	271	0.02	200	1000	8000	—	—
5.	Goa	120	*	0	0	100	—	—
6.	Gujarat	8131	0.53	100	1000	12000	5.25	95
7.	Haryana	1561	0.30	200	4000	5000	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	497	0.01	300	2500	2000	10.0	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	*	0	3000	2000	—	—
10.	Karnataka	26832	0.12	100	1000	1500	5.92	—
11.	Kerala	1142	0.21	130	5950	6000	42.0	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10873	0.01*	1171	3510	3421	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	10172	0.51	150	250	1500	—	—
14.	Manipur	146	0.02*	0	200	500	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Meghalaya	—	*	0	500	600	35.5	—
16.	Mizoram	400	0.01	0	0	2500	100.0	—
17.	Nagaland	—	*	50	200	300	—	—
18.	Orissa	10826	1.39	600	2000	2500	—	—
19.	Punjab	4982	0.42	400	800	3500	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	612	0.22*	300	6550	4000	—	—
21.	Sikkim	202	0.05	0	100	100	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1330	0.55	100	50	5000	—	2
23.	Tripura	170	0.05	60	100	6000	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7855	1.10	200	11000	10000	—	—
25.	West Bengal	13968	2.05	120	8200	300	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	0.01	20	200	300	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	125	600	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	*	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	*	—	375	1000	10.0	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	65.0	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	38257	2.09	—	2550	11500	—	—
Total		154626	10.49	4271	56910	98421	287.4	99.00

SLS=Street Lighting System. HLS = Home Lighting System, SL = Solar Lanterns ** Achs. as on 28.2.2001.

PP=Power Plants, MW=Mega Watt; kWp=kilowatt peak *Reports awaited.

Development of Infrastructure at Ports

5000. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a steering group to monitor, study coastal routes, availability of cargo and development of infrastructure at ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said steering group has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be received from the steering group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to conduct a Study of the coastal routes, availability of cargo including return cargo, specific needs for development of infrastructure at ports, etc. also covering integration of coastal shipping and inland water transport, wherever feasible.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At this stage it is not possible to give specific time.

Handloom Export Promotion Council

5001. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, with the approval of Regional Director, Company Law Board, Chennai has amended its Articles of Association which are in gross violation of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Articles of Association of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, a Government of India organisation has been amended following the due procedure of law. The approval of Regional Director, Chennai, Department of Company Affairs is subject to the condition the amended articles will take effect from the date a special resolution is passed by the said organisation. The necessary amendments have been approved by the Council in its Extra-ordinary General Meeting held on 27.11.2000.

Exploration of Alternative Sources to Reduce Import of Oil

5002. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to explore alternate and non-conventional sources to reduce import of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on each source of alternate and non-conventional sources during the last one year;

(d) whether some sources of alternate and non-conventional have been identified in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programme to harness the available potential of various non-conventional energy sources such as biogas, solar, wind, biomass, small hydro power and urban and industrial wastes. These provide alternate fuels for meeting the demand for cooking, heating and lighting for rural as well as urban areas and thereby save oil to some extent in the country. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas also have undertaken three Pilot Projects to examine the environmental, operation and financial impact of blending of ethanol with Motor-Spirit.

(c) During the year 2000-2001, a total amount of Rs. 340.84 crores have been spent under various Non-Conventional Energy programmes out of which Rs. 146.75 crores was spent on power generation projects from Wind, Small Hydro Power, Biomass, Solar Energy and Urban and Industrial Wastes etc. Remaining amount was spent on various decentralized renewable energy programmes. Cost in respect of Ethanol Pilot Project will be worked out only after their completion.

(d) and (e) In the State of Maharashtra, the potential of power generation from major Non-Conventional Energy Sources such as wind (3650 MW), bagasse based co-generation (1000 MW), small hydro power (599 MW) and energy from municipal and solid wastes (100 MW) have been estimated. In addition out of the three Ethanol Pilot Projects mentioned above, two are located in the State of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Madhya Pradesh

5003. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored new schemes being implemented/proposed for the development of agriculture in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the details of achievements made in regard to the said schemes during the said period; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilised so far in relation to these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The only new centrally sponsored programme in Madhya Pradesh is the Macro Management Programme subsuming 27 identified centrally sponsored schemes launched in 2000-2001. A sum of Rs. 15.18 crore was released to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme during the year 2000-2001 for which progress reports/utilisation certificates are yet to be received from the State Government. For the year 2001-2002 a provisional allocation of Rs. 50 crore has been kept for Madhya Pradesh for implementing the Macro Management scheme.

[English]

Job Racket in ASI, Chennai Circle

5004. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a job racket took place in ASI, in Chennai Circle; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An employee in the Archaeological Survey of India's Circle Office in Chennai and two outsiders are suspected to be involved in an employment racket. The Archaeological Survey of India's employee has been suspended. The Central Bureau of Investigation have registered a preliminary inquiry and are investigating the matter.

Upgradation of Retail Outlets

5005. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Oil Companies in that direction so far; and

(c) the funds earmarked by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and other oil companies for upgradation of retail outlet in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Oil Marketing Companies are upgrading/modernising their selected retail outlets by providing better facilities and making them attractive to bring them at par with international standards. The upgradation involves implementation of the new colour scheme and provision of RCC driveways, yard lighting, canopies, sales building with rainbow bands, MPD, digital inflators, etc.

A total amount of Rs. 384 crores (approx.) has been earmarked by the Oil Marketing Companies for upgradation/modernisation of their retail outlets in the year 2001-2002.

Visa on arrival Scheme

5006. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3285 dated August 11, 2000 regarding Visa on Arrival Scheme and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the scheme;

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

(c) whether there is any objection on the introduction of the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government is considering the scheme of VISA on arrival. The scheme will be implemented after entire details are worked out and approved by the Government.

Price of Imported Cotton

5007. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of imported cotton are cheaper than domestic cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the measures the Union Government are contemplating to get the International price at par with the Indian Cotton and save farmers from committing suicides due to losses incurred by cultivating cotton;

(d) the shortfall of domestic cotton expected for the cotton industry during the current season; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the current cotton season, mainly cotton of long staple length group was registered in the Office of Textile Commissioner for import with the price range of Rs. 56.03 — Rs. 68.96 per k.g., whereas, prices of equivalent Indian varieties range between Rs. 53.40—Rs. 63.20 per k.g.

(c) The Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of kapas (seed cotton) every year to protect the interest of the cotton growers. Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the productivity and quality of cotton thereby ensuring good quality of indigenous cotton to the industry and remunerative returns to the cotton growers.

(d) and (e) For the current cotton season 2000-2001 (Oct.-Sept.), the Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the total availability of cotton at 186.50 lakh bales (crop size of 146 lakh bales and carry over stock of 40.50 lakh bales) as against estimated consumption of 171 lakh bales. Apart from the launching of TMC to increase production/productivity, import of cotton is under OGL with 5% duty and the user mills are free to procure cotton of desired quality parameters to meet their requirements.

Year (April/March)	Indent from Govt. (FCI & allied agencies)	Demand from other sectors	Total (Excluding Hessian)
1998-1999	326.6	559.7	886.3
1999-2000	414.3	493.1	907.4
2001-2001	405.3	539.7	945.0

(d) to (f) The jute industry is able to meet the demand of the user industries. However, a provision exists in the notification of 25.10.2000 regarding the compulsory use of jute packaging materials that, in the event of disruption in supplies, relaxation upto 20% for foodgrains & sugar and 5% for urea can be given by the Government.

Production of Jute Gunny Bags

5008. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of jute gunny bags produced during each of the last three years and estimated for 2001-2002;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the domestic demand of jute gunny bags in the country both in the Government departments and in the private sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the jute industry is not able to meet the growing demand;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effort being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The information is given below:—

(Qty. in '000 MT)

Year (April/March)	Production of Sacking	Production of Hessian
1998-1999	903.3	344.1
1999-2000	909.2	344.5
2000-2001	956.0	337.8
2001-2002* (Estimated)	950.00	350.0

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given below:

(Qty. in '000 MT)

Year (April/March)	Indent from Govt. (FCI & allied agencies)	Demand from other sectors	Total (Excluding Hessian)
1998-1999	326.6	559.7	886.3
1999-2000	414.3	493.1	907.4
2001-2001	405.3	539.7	945.0

Survey for Gadchiroli-Desaiganj Rail Line

5009. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 320 on February 22, 2001 regarding Survey of Gadchiroli-Desaiganj rail line and state:

(a) whether the Government have since completed the examination of survey report for a new broad gauge line between Wadsa (Desaiganj) and Gadchiroli (49.5 kms.)

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the examination of the survey report is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Survey Report for a new broad gauge line between Wadsa—Armori-Gadchiroli has revealed that the cost of construction of this 49.5 km. long line will be about Rs. 76.85 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of the acute resource constraints as well as unremunerative nature of the project, it has not been possible to consider taking up the work for the present.

Hybrid Technology

5010. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has joined the selected club of a few countries and transnational corporate houses to possess hybrid wheat technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the hybrid wheat is likely to help to achieve the higher productivity levels;

(d) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided the modalities of patenting the technology and passing commercial seed production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Indian Agricultural Scientists have developed experimental wheat hybrids, which are currently under field evaluation in the research stations.

(c) According to the preliminary information available from limited experimental data, hybrid wheat may offer 15-20% higher grain yield.

(d) As the hybrid wheat is yet to be developed as a technology, it is premature to say anything on patenting of wheat hybrid and taking up its commercial seed production. Moreover, there is no legislation in the country to patent plant varieties.

(e) Question does not arise Sir.

Declaration in Agricultural Growth

5011. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the latest NCAER report which States that there will be a declaration in agricultural growth this year;

(b) if so, the extent of reduced growth rate forecast in agriculture;

(c) whether rice production and cereal production were respectively lower by 2.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent last year;

(d) if so, the State which have shown this decline in rice and cereal production alongwith the reasons for this decline;

(e) whether any corrective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The growth rate of foodgrains production during 2000-2001, according to the third advance estimates as on 12.04.2001, is expected to be 6.1%. This based on advance estimates which is subject to revision after completion of agriculture year 2000-2001.

(c) The production of rice and cereals is expected to be lower by 4.4% and 5.7% respectively during 2000-2001 compared to those of 1999-2000.

(d) Decline in production of rice during 2000-2001 compared to 1999-2000 is expected mainly in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal) and West Bengal. With regard to decline in cereal production, it is expected mainly in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Maharashtra,

Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal) and West Bengal. The expected decline in production during 2000-2001 is due to aberrant weather conditions in some parts of the States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal.

(e) and (f) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

Modernisation of Workshops

5012. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated a plan to modernise 12 workshops;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost and the funds provided therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have failed to provide the adequate funds for their modernisation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the extent to which the cost and time overrun; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the modernisation process of the workshops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways had planned for modernization of 12 Workshops and the works have since been completed.

(b) and (e) A statement is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(f) Modernisation of workshops is a continuous process and is planned from time to time depending on the need to upgrade infrastructure and improve working environments.

Statement

The modernisation of 12 workshops was taken up with a view to improve working conditions as also to upgrade various facilities to cope up with the maintenance and periodic overhauling requirements for the rolling stock. All the 12 Works of modernisation have since been physically completed. The details of these 12 modernisation Works giving the Sanctioned Cost, Completion Cost and Time Overrun are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Workshop	Sanctioned cost	Completion cost	Cost over run	Target Date of Completion	Actually Completed	Time Overrun (months)
1.	Jhansi	9.77	9.77	—	31.12.1997	31.03.2000	27
2.	Bhusawal	8.00	8.00	—	31.03.1996	31.03.1996	—
3.	Kancharapara	11.69	11.69	—	31.03.1998	31.03.2001	36
4.	Jamalpur	9.63	9.63	—	31.03.1998	31.03.2001	36
5.	Alambagh	6.85	9.32	2.47	31.03.1997	31.03.2001	48
6.	Charbagh	4.63	5.40	0.77	31.03.1999	31.03.2001	24
7.	Jodhpur	7.01	9.12	2.11	31.03.1998	31.03.2001	36
8.	Dibrugarh	6.27	6.27	—	31.03.1998	31.03.2001	36
9.	Perambur	9.89	9.88	—	31.03.1998	31.03.2001	36
10.	Hubli	11.47	16.17	4.70	31.03.1997	31.03.2001	48
11.	Kota	7.34	8.73	1.39	31.12.1997	31.03.2000	27
12.	Ajmer	5.63	7.41	1.78	31.03.1998	31.03.2000	24

Surplus of Petroleum Products

5013. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand and high refinery utilisation could leave India with a 10 million tonnes surplus of petroleum products at the end of 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the demand expected during 2001-2002; and

(c) the extent to which it will help in reducing the import burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During 2001-2002 it is estimated that about 9.8 million tonnes of petroleum products would be surplus and exported as compared to 8.1 million tonnes in 2000-2001 (provisional).

(b) The demand of petroleum products during 2001-2002 is estimated at 104.6 million tonnes.

(c) The import bill for the year 2001-2002 will depend on the crude oil and petroleum product prices in the international market and the dollar rupee parity.

Family Courts

5014. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family courts set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more family courts in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A statement indicating the number of Family Courts set up in the country, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) to (d) As per Section 3(1)(a) of the Family Courts Act, the State Government after consultation with the High Court shall establish Family Courts in cities towns whose population exceeds one million. The States may also establish Family Courts for such other areas in the States as they may deem necessary. The Department of Justice has been periodically urging various State Governments/ UTs to set up as many Family Courts as required for speedy disposal of family disputes.

Statement

Total Number of Family Courts in the country is 80. State-wise break-up of these Family Courts is as under:

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Family Courts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Gujarat	4
5.	Jharkhand	1
6.	Karnataka	8
7.	Kerala	7
8.	Maharashtra	16
9.	Manipur	1
10.	Orissa	2
11.	Pondicherry	1
12.	Rajasthan	6
13.	Sikkim	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	6
15.	Uttar Pradesh	14
16.	Uttaranchal	2
17.	West Bengal	2

Trial of Imported Coaches

5015. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have imported specially designed air-conditioned passenger coaches from Germany recently;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(c) whether these imported coaches were stoned and badly damaged during a test trial conducted under Northern Railways on March 4, 2001;

(d) if so, the loss suffered by the Government due to incident of stones and brick bats;

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry to find out the reasons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the railways propose to develop its own technology to produce such coaches; and

(h) if so, the time by which these coaches are likely to be manufactured indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange incurred on import of 24 coaches from Germany is DM 52,663,500.

(c) The ALSTOM-LHB coaches undergoing trials in Northern Railway were damaged due to stone throwing incidences. However, the incidences did not take place on 4th March 2001 but on 3rd, 6th, 13th & 14th March 2001.

(d) The estimated loss suffered is approximately Rs. 2.8 lakh.

(e) The coaches were stoned by miscreants and therefore no enquiry was found necessary to find out the reasons.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Yes, Sir. The Railways have entered into a Transfer of Technology contract with M/s. ALSTOM-LHB, Germany in order to transfer the complete know-how for manufacture of 2nd class AC chair car, executive class chair car and generator-cum-brake van which were imported. The contract also covers complete design

development and manufacturing of prototype of following 3 types of coaches:

(i) Air-conditioned first class-cum-sleeper coach.

(ii) Air-conditioned sleeper coach.

(iii) Air-conditioned hot buffet coach.

The contract also covers development of vendors for indigenous supply of components by suitable collaborations wherever necessary.

(h) It is proposed to manufacture 27 coaches during the year 2001-2002. Number of coaches to be manufactured during subsequent years will be decided based on the requirement and availability of funds.

Dowry Death Cases

5016. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, relating to dowry deaths pending in various courts in the country;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed to decide such cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite decision on the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Available information regarding cases pending in 11 High Courts and the concerned subordinate courts is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No time limit has been prescribed by law for courts to decide dowry death cases.

(d) Both the Government and the judiciary are concerned with the pendency of cases including cases relating to dowry death. Various steps are being taken in this regard. These include amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of judges/judicial officers, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, setting up of Fast Track Courts etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the High Courts	Number of dowry deaths cases pending	
		High Court	Subordinate Court
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140	1373
2.	Bombay	436	4974
3.	Himachal Pradesh	141	85
4.	Jharkhand	—	936
5.	Karnataka	—	2064*
6.	Kerala	35	152
7.	Madhya Pradesh	397	1349
8.	Patna	71	2213
9.	Punjab & Haryana	842	705
10.	Rajasthan	926	—
11.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil

* This includes cases in the High Court also.

Decline in Growth Rate of Employment

5017. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the growth rate of employment in Agriculture Sector in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the growth rate of employment in Agriculture Sector in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course of time.

Electronic Voting Machines

5018. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) has devised 100% tamper proof electronic voting machines;

(b) if so, whether ECIL is in a position to supply the required number of improvised machines for the ensuing elections;

(c) if so, whether the Election Commission has placed requisition for the improvised voting machines for the coming assembly elections in five States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Electronic Voting Machines being used by the Election Commission in the elections are being manufactured and supplied by two Central Public Undertakings, namely, M/s. Electronics Corporation of India, Hyderabad and M/s. Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore. The software used in these machines is of fixed programme nature, which is fused into the processor and is effectively unalterable. A Committee of experts constituted by the Government in April, 1990, consisting of Professor P.V. Indiresan, Dr. C. Rao Kasarbada and Professor Sampath has given its unanimous report that these machines cannot be tampered with.

(b) to (d) The Commission had placed orders for the supply of 66,900 machines on each of the aforesaid two firms. Both the firms have completed the supply of these machines. The new Electronic Voting Machines are to be used for elections in the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Reintroduction of Trains

5019. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger train from Dehri-on-Sone to Gaya has been discontinued;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to restart the said train service;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reintroduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. 2GD/5GD Gaya Dehri-on-Sone Passenger has been extended upto Mughalsarai in one direction and upto Patna in the other and renumbered as 741/742 Patna-Mughalsarai Passenger.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

International Price of Petroleum Products

5020. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in International price of petroleum products after last increase of internal price of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefit of reduction of internal price has been given to the consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The prices of petroleum products in the international market are linked to the price of crude oil. The price of Brent crude oil which was US Dollar 28.04 per barrel at the time of the last revision in the domestic consumer prices in September, 2000, moved upward upto a level of US Dollar 32.58 per barrel in November, 2000, after which it started moving downwards. Presently, the price of Brent crude oil is over US Dollar 27 per barrel.

(c) to (e) The decrease in consumer prices of petroleum products can be considered after the accumulated outstandings of the Oil Pool Account are liquidated.

Power Projects

5021. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to offer loans guarantees to the tune of 1.5 billion dollars for power projects to be set up in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Processed Food

5022. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of the scheme to promote export of processed food is necessary to give impetus to the setting up of a food processing industry in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote the export of processed food;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (e) Government provide assistance under the Plan Scheme for development of food processing sector which also include units engaged in export production. The assistance provided in this regard include the following:—

- (i) Provision of Grant/Loan for establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking research and development, human resource development, for development and modernization of Fruit & Vegetable processing, meat processing, fish processing and marketing.
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality control systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units.
- (iii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
- (iv) Setting up integrated cargo handling cold storage facilities at various international airports.

[English]

Crimes on Railways

5023. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified the most vulnerable sections where crime and robbery have taken place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether frequent joint meetings are held between Senior Railway Officials and the State Police Chiefs to discuss the strategy to check crime in railways;

(d) if so, the details of such meetings held during the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the crimes on railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the most affected sections for crime is attached as Appendix.

(c) and (d) Frequent Joint Meetings are held between Sr. Railway Officials and State Police/GRP authorities to discuss the strategy to check the crimes on Railways. The details of such meetings held during the year 1999 and 2000 are as under:—

Railways	Year	
	1999	2000
Central	175	140
Eastern	75	89
Northern	89	84
North Eastern	347	377
Northeast Frontier	210	185
Southern	126	133
South Central	136	121
South Eastern	382	340
Western	250	220

(e) Though the maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, Railway officials co-ordinate with the GRP for ensuring better security to the Railways passengers and their belongings.

The following steps have taken by the Railways for improving the passenger safety:

1. A meeting of Chief Secretaries and Director General of States were convened in January, 2000 by the Minister for Railways. Arising out of this meeting a high level Committee of Railways and State Government Officials was set up to suggest ways and means to improve effectiveness of GRP and RPF in preventing crimes in trains and Railway premises. The Committee's report is under consideration. RPF Officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counter-parts on the GRP and Civil Police.
2. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.
3. Proper watch is being kept by Coach Attendants/TTEs on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are properly locked during their run especially in night hours.
4. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards Stations Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
5. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
6. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.
7. Periodic High Level co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyze the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.

<i>Statement</i>	
Railways	Section Affected
1	2
C.R.	Solapur-Daund, Jhansi-Bina, Bhusawal-Khandwa, Manmad-Chalisgaon Nagpur-Dadenera, Kurla-Kalyan Khurduwadi-Daund, Daund-Miraj, Pandharpur-Solapur, Jhansi-Bina, Dn. outer of Bhusawal, Nagpur-Dadnera, Kalyan-Kasara and Suburban section.
E.R.	Sealdah-Budge Budge, Bullygunj-Canning, Sealdah-Dum Dum, Howrah-Burdwan, Sealdah-Bangaon, Dum Dum-Ranaghat, Howrah-Bandel, Jamalpur-Bhagalpur, Jhajha-Mugalsarai, Gaya-Mughalsarai, Asansol Dhanbad, Jamalpur-Bhagalpur, Patna-Gaya, Buxar-Danapur, Azimgunj-New Farakka, Bandel-Burdwan.
N.R.	Aligarh-Tundla-Etawah, Mirzapur-Naini, Kanpur-Allahabad, Hapur-Ghaziabad, Kanpur-Etawah, Moradabad-Hapur, Shajahanpur-Bareilly, Aligarh-Tundla, Sahajahanpur-Bareilly, Siwah (Panipat-Jind)
N.E.R.	Allahabad-Varanasi, Deoria-Siwan, Chappra-Balia, Bhatni-Chappra, Saharsa-Purnia-Khagaria, Kasgunj, Farrukhabad, Thave, Siwan, Bhatni, Allahabad-Varanasi, Deoria-Siwan, Chappra-Balia, Bhatni-Chappra, Saharsa-Purnia-Khagaria, Kasgunj, Farrukhabad, Thave, Siwan, Bhatni.
N.F.	Rangiya-New Bongaigaon, New Coochbehar-New Jalpaiguri, Samuktala-Dalgaon, Rangiya-New Bongaigaon, New Alipurduar-New Jalpaiguri, Kumadpur-Malda Town, Siliguri-Katihar MG section, New Jalpaiguri-Maldatown New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town.
S.R.	Perambur, Krukkupet, Avadie, Tambaram and Chennai Egmore, Jolarpet—Erode, Kadambur and Maniyachi sections.
S.C.R.	Guntakal-Raichur, Dharam Varam-Pakla, Nellore-Gudur, Secunderabad-Kazipet, Kazipet-Sirpurkagznagar.
S.E.	Midnapore-Adra, Balasore-Kharagpur, Tata-Kharagpur, Kharagpur-Howrah, Bokaro-Rajabra Mura-Ranchi, Jharsugud-Raipur, Gondia-

1	2
	Nogpur Haiti-Bokarao Adityapur-Garhara, Rourkela-Jharsuguda, Jharsuguda-Raipur.
W.R.	Borivali-Matunga, Navapur-Nandurbar, Sachin-Besthan, Valsad-Dongari, Sanjan-Valsad, Ahmedabad, Nandurbar-Dondecha, Andheri-Vileparle, Borivali-Santrakunz, Virar-Palghar, Godhara-Piplo, Udhna-Bardoli, Udhna-Sachim.

Producing of Foodgrains

5024. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian farms were producing one tonne of foodgrains in per hectare of land when all the investment in terms of irrigation, fertilizers and high yielding variety of seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present challenge was to get another tonne of foodgrains from the same farms while land was shrinking and soil and water quality degraded; and

(d) if so, Government's plans to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The productivity of foodgrain crops have been estimated as follows:

Year	Productivity Kg./Hectare
1996-1997	1614
1997-1998	1552
1998-1999	1627
1999-2000	1697

The foodgrain crops include Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals, Maize and Pulses. The productivity of Rice and Wheat is about 2 tonne and 2.6 per hectare respectively, but the productivity of Coarse Cereals is slightly above than one tonne/hectare because it is largely grown under rainfed conditions. The productivity of pulses is about 0.6 tonnes per hectare because of damage due to insect pests, diseases and largely being grown under rainfed conditions on marginal lands.

(c) and (d) For increasing the production and productivity of foodgrain crops Centrally Sponsored and Centre Sector Schemes on Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals were implemented. Besides, Technology Mission on Pulses is functioning for over all development of pulse crops in India through implementation of Pulses Development Programmes. With a view to provide flexibility to the States schemes on Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals have been sub-summed under Macro-Management Mode to adopt regionally Differentiated technology suited to agro-climatic conditions of different States and Union Territories.

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Launch of geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle (GSLV)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that the first test flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV, was successfully carried out from Sriharikota on April 18, 2001.

GSLV is the most technologically challenging mission undertaken so far by ISRO and its successful launch is a new landmark in our space achievements. GSLV, once commissioned into regular service, will provide us with the capability to launch INSAT type of communication satellites into 36,000 km high orbit.

GSLV represents a confluence of sophisticated technologies with a major proportion developed indigenously by our scientists. It uses solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion stages. The cryogenic stages have been supplied by Russia. The 49 metre tall GSLV, weighing about 400 tonnes, lifted off from Sriharikota at 3.43 p.m. IST, carrying GSAT-1 satellite weighing 1540 kg. After a flawless countdown and 17 minutes of flight, the satellite was successfully placed into its intended orbit.

The first signals acquired from the GSAT-1 satellite indicate normal performance of the satellite. In the next few days, the satellite will be manoeuvred to reach its final geo-stationary orbit. The satellite carries instruments to conduct experiments in digital audio broadcast, internet services and compressed digital TV transmissions.

The successful accomplishment of GSLV mission is the culmination of a decade of efforts of ISRO Centres supported by industries and academic institutions in India.

I request this august House to join me in congratulating ISRO and all others who have been involved in the successful launch of GSLV.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great pride for us all that the GSLV satellite has been successfully launched yesterday. This will place India in the front line of international space technology and open for us a huge opportunity to share fully in the information and communication revolution. The successful launch of the GSLV satellite is the culmination of a comprehensive plan of action drawn up by previous Governments...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it is a fact...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: The first SLV was launched during Indiraji's time and it was followed by the launching of the PSLV. Therefore, it is a matter of great and particular pride to us that this programme stands fulfilled.

On behalf of myself and of the Congress Party, I congratulate the scientists and the technicians whose dedication and commitment have made this possible. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on my own behalf and on behalf of the entire House, I congratulate our scientists who have worked tirelessly for making the launch of GSLV D-1 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 3.43 p.m. yesterday, 18th April, 2001, a success.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up papers to be laid on the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the issue pending. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can take it up after the papers are laid on the Table.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir. The Government is always postponing a decision on this for the last so many days. ...*(Interruptions)* They have now taken a very rigid stand. ...*(Interruptions)* They must now come out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can take it up after the papers are laid on the Table.

12.05½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the table:

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) The Companies (Issue of Share Capital with Differential Voting Rights) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 167 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2001.
- (2) The Companies (Appointment of the Small Shareholders' Director) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 168(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2001.

[Placed in the Library See No. LT 3532/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3533/2001]

12.06½ hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following five Bills passed by the Houses of

Parliament during the current session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 20 February, 2001:—

- (1) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
- (2) The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2001.
- (3) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2001.
- (4) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2001.
- (5) The Appropriation Bill, 2001.

12.06¾ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Fourteenth Report

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.07 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty-First Report

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Design and Development of Pilotless Target Aircraft.

12.07¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Second Report

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on Functioning of the National and State Commissions for Women.

12.07¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Reports

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:—

- (1) Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).
- (2) Nineteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
- (3) Twentieth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).
- (4) Twenty-First Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Food Processing Industries).
- (5) Twenty-Second Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.07³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Eleventh Report

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2001) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2001-2002.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy:—

- (1) Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (2) Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (3) Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Power.
- (4) Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Coal.

12.08¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to presented the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:—

- (1) Twelfth Report on the Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (2) Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- (3) Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers.

12.08½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Reports

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (2001):—

- (1) Eighteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (2) Nineteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (3) Twentieth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

- (2) Seventy-second Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs; and
- (3) Seventy-third Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—*laid**

- (i) **Need to declare Buddhist Stupa near Lala Chhapra Chowk on Kesharia-Sahebganj road in Champaran District, Bihar as a national monument**

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large Buddhist era stupa exists at Lala Chhapra chowk on Keshariasahabganj road, 35 km from headquarters of Eastern Champaran district and around 150 km away from Patna, the capital of Bihar. After excavation by a team of Archaeological Survey of India, Patna, it has been proved that it is the same Buddhist Stupa which has even been mentioned by Chinese travelers Fa-hian and Hsüan Tsang in their travelogue. Col. Mackenzie was the first person to have located it in 1814. Thereafter, Hudson published a report in 1835 and drew a map of his visit to Keshariya. During 1861-62, when Gen. Cunningham saw it, it was 62 feet high and its circumference was around 1400 feet. Its diameter was 68 feet 5 inches and its height was around 51 feet. As per Cunningham, in its original form the stupa may have been around 80 to 96 feet high. There is a detailed reference to this place in Bengal list and Qureshi's List.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to declare this important stupa as a national monument.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

12.08¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Seventy-First, Seventy-Second and Seventy-Third Reports

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:—

- (1) **Seventy-first Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;**

(ii) Need to set up Homoeopathy Department in Sir Sundar Lal Hospital under Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi (UP)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Varanasi is a major town of Eastern Uttar Pradesh which is adjacent border district of Bihar. Sir Sundar Lal Hospital under the Institute of Medical Sciences, which is affiliated to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi is the largest Hospital in this entire area. In this hospital medical facilities are available in both Ayurvedic and Allopathic system of medicine. At present, both these systems have become very costly and patients suffering from even minor disease have to spend lot of money for treatment. Since this entire area is mostly inhabited by low-income group people, therefore, they face great hardship in purchasing medicines.

Homoeopathic treatment is not available in this hospital Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know well that this system is not only cheap but easy also. In addition, there are certain incurable diseases, whose treatment is not easily available under both these systems. Therefore, it is imperative that Homoeopathic Department also be opened in this hospital so that poor people of this area can get cheaper treatment.

(iii) Need to include marble industry in the category of Small Scale Industry in Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): As per industrial policy of the Government name of industries are sort listed and out of that list small scale industries, whose annual sales are below Rs. One crore, are granted concession in excise duty. In acute famine affected Rajasthan, at present marble industry is the only means of livelihood for lakhs of workers employed in thousands of marble units Unfortunately, marble industry of Rajasthan is not treated as small scale industry, whereas Granite Industry enjoys this status and has been granted concession in excise duty. In compassion to marble, granite is costlier, attractive and a luxury item and it fetches more price whereas marble is sold at quite low price. At an arrange marble is sold at Rs. 5 to 40-45 per sq. meter, whereas granite is sold at Rs. 50-70 per sq. meter. Since marble industry is not treated as small scale industry and not provided concession in excise duty, its business is adversely affected.

Therefore, to sustain marble industry, I urge the Union Government to treat it as small scale industry and exempt it from excise duty.

(iv) Need to set up a Marine Museum in Berhampur University at Gopalpur In Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur): Golapur-on-sea is a coastal town in Berhampur Parliamentary Constituency in Orissa. This town has the Berhampur University. Marine Science is one of the subjects taught in the University. Gopalpur in Orissa Coast has the hoary tradition of maritime activities. The shallow coastline has rich flora and fauna. The primitive catamarans are still being used in the sea. The fishing community of this coast has mastered the skills of building, navigation and sea faring. Lagoons, backwaters and creek house, peculiar reptiles, turtles and fish attract the tourists.

All these could be kept in a marine Museum to be seen by tourists and for study by scholars.

It is to request that Government of India may set up a Marine Museum at Golapur-on-sea to give a glimpse into the rich flora and fauna.

The Museum could be located in the Berhampur University.

(v) Need for electrification of villages In Giridih, Bokaro and Dhanbad District, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Several villages of Giridih, Bokaro and Dhanbad districts of Jharkhand State have not been electrified. Though, the Government have launched a scheme for electrification through Solar Energy, but it is not being implemented properly. I have recommended for electrification work from funds out of MPLAD Scheme, but in the absence of proper coordination between Union Government and the State Government, work is not being taken up.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary steps for electrification of said villages in public interest out of funds from my share of MPLAD Scheme.

(vi) Need to strengthen Public Sector Banks in the country

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Our people are the worst sufferers due to mounting unemployment and steep rise in prices of essential commodities. The public sector Banking is a tool in fighting against this menace whereas private banking will further escalate the problems. There can be no parallel to public sector Banking in our country.

Any attempt to disturb the public sector or reduce their role will have an adverse effect on the vast masses of our country. Three decades ago nationalisation of the banks was done for the prosperity of the people of our country. But now unfortunately, privatisation of public sector banks has picked up speed.

In fact, it is the State controlled public sector banks which will have to look after the welfare of our people particularly the middle class and those who are still below the poverty line.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to revoke the concerned Bill and take all other necessary steps for strengthening the Public Sector Banks instead of resorting to privatisation of public sector Banks.

(vii) Need to take action to make M.S.K. Textile Mills in Karnataka viable

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The M.S.K. Mills was an old textile mill operating in the Gulbarga District of Karnataka State. This was one of the most important textile mills under National Textile Corporation of India. This mill was in operation for quite long time and was of great help to the Gulbarga district. In this mill, about 800 regular and 250 casual employees were working. As this mill had been closed for long, and there is no mention in the new textile policy about the fate of the mill, the employees or the mill have become sufferers and about 15 thousand families are affected due to the closure of this mill.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to kindly take immediate action for its revival so that the people and the families depending on this mill are saved from starvation.

(viii) Need to clear the proposal of Karnataka Government seeking relaxation in entry point norms for organisation of New Primary Urban Cooperative Banks

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): The Reserve Bank of India has revised the entry point norms for organisation of New Primary Urban Cooperative Banks w.e.f. 1.4.1998, which is very high in respect of collection of share capital and the minimum membership. The Urban Cooperative Banks in Karnataka are mainly functioning in urban and semi-urban areas, extending financial support to middle class and poorer sections of the society for the purposes like construction of houses, transport, petty business, small scale industries, retail traders, assistance to artisans and professionals. Hence, relaxation of the entry point norms was sought by the State Government of Karnataka. The State Government of Karnataka has also sent reminder in this regard.

So, I urge the Union Government that they should take immediate necessary steps to clear this project at the earliest.

(ix) Need to include Pathiyan, Kalamadi, Kunduvadiyar and Thachandadan Mooppan communities in the list of Scheduled Tribe in Wayanad district of Kerala

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): I would like to invite your kind attention to the problems of the people of the Pathiyan, Kalamadi, Kunduvadiyar and Thachandadan Mooppan Communities in Wayanad District of Kerala State. They are ancient residents of Wayanad and it is believed that they reached Wayanad between 1000-1500 A.D. even before for Kuridina community established their existence in Wayanad during the period of Pazhassi Raja (1773-1805 A.D.). Though Kurichia Community is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, the above communities do not find a place in the list. Now they are getting the educational concessions eligible for S.T. Communities, only treating them as other eligible community as per Government of Kerala order. They submitted memorandum and representation to both the State and the Central Governments. The Government of Kerala in the year 1993 has sent a proposal to the Government of India recommending to include the above communities in the list of Scheduled Tribe. But no decision has yet been taken in the matter. I, therefore, request the Government of India to take necessary steps to include Pathiyan, Kalamadi, Kunduvadiyar and Thachandadan Mooppan communities in Wayanad District in the list of Scheduled Tribe to enable them to enjoy all the benefits of Scheduled Tribe.

(x) Need for all round development of North Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI (Raiganj): The agony of the people of West Bengal is increasing day by day due to lack of a white paper on the problem of North Bengal, ethnic Rajbansi, infrastructural developments, health, education, power, employment both from the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India and particularly so by the Planning Commission. From Cooch-Behar to Malda, no comprehensive flood management programme in three Master Plans has been conceived in spite of my several interventions causing thereby an uncertainty among the people of Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur and part of Cooch Behar. The progress of Teesta Canal is also uncertain and electrification in North Bengal villages is almost at a halt. The Rajbansi community in North Bengal tribals, Gorkha people in the hills of Darjeeling fail to understand the objective of planning and their due share of resource mobilization for the development of North Bengal. Prime Minister's intervention is urgently required at this stage to save North Bengal, failing which I apprehend, the agony might lead to serious public disorder, violence, destabilisation and breeding ground for cross border terrorists to exploit the situation.

(xi) Need to safeguard the interests of handloom workers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): The Handloom workers in the country in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular are in great distress. This is mainly due to the stiff competition posed by the mill sector in textile.

To save the situation, Government of Andhra Pradesh have recently released Rs. 26 crores to clear the stock in the handloom societies. In addition, pensions have been announced for the handloom workers. Pucca houses with a separate shed are being constructed. To further rescue the handloom sector, the Government of India has to come forward with a package—(i) by strictly adhering to the reservation of 22 varieties of textiles earmarked earlier for the handloom sector; (ii) by having dual Textile Policy for handloom and mill sectors separately by subsidising the yanky yarn and the colours in the handloom sector; (iii) by providing Centrally sponsored pension scheme to all the handloom workers beyond 60 years age; (iv) by granting pucca houses with a separate loom shed with a minimum loss of Rs. 30,000 just like IAY scheme; (v) to have a special insurance scheme of Rs. One lakh for

each handloom worker with minimum premium; (vi) to provide institutional finance at 4 per cent rate of interest under DIR scheme for pursuing their profession and also for consumption purpose, and (vii) reviving the 'Janata Cloth Scheme'.

I urge upon the Government to provide all the above concessions at the earliest and save the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh.

(xii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Uttar Pradesh for re-construction of a bridge on Tonse River in Mau district.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards district headquarters Mau under the Parliamentary Constituency Ghosi, U.P. Mau district was formed almost 12 years ago. Being an industrial city, on one side it is surrounded by Tonse river and on other side it is surrounded by railway line/station, railway land. Therefore, in proportion to the area its density of population is very high. Since it is surrounded by river and railway line, easy movement of its inhabitant's from one place to another place, is not possible. There was an old bridge on river Tonse which connected Mau with Gorakhpur and Baliya. Since this bridge was destroyed a year ago, the people of this area are facing lot of difficulties. People of this area have been demanding re-construction of a bridge on Tonse river but in view of the constraint of resources the Government of Uttar Pradesh has not been able to take up reconstruction work.

I, therefore, urge the Government to provide funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for reconstructing old damaged bridge on Tonse river so that people of this city can be provided infrastructure for moving to and fro.

(xiii) Need to open a Sainik School at Dumra Sitamarhi in Bihar

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Sitamarhi is the most backward district of North Bihar and is adjacent to Nepal border. There is only one Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sitamarhi which is situated 30 Km. away from city in rural area at Jharkhand. Girl and Boy students from Sitamarhi and Dumra have to face a lot of difficulties

while going to Kendriya Vidyalaya Jawahar Nagar, especially during rainy season when roads are water logged and bridge-culverts get damaged blocking the roads for months together, which every year adversely affects their studies. In the absence of any Polytechnic college, Paramedical college, Agriculture College poor and brilliant students are deprived of education in these fields.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon'ble Defence Minister to open a Sainik School at district headquarters Dumra/ Sitamarhi during financial year 2001-2002 for the benefit of poor and brilliant students of Sitamarhi district and fulfill the aspiration of the people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want 'Zero Hour'?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on 20th April 2001 at 11.00 a.m.

12.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Friday, April 20, 2001/
Chaitra 30, 1923 (Saka).*

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