

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

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*Thursday April 26, 2001/Vaisakha 6, 1923 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

*[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

*[English]*

## OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of three of our esteemed former colleagues, Sarvashri D.K. Naikar, O. Bharathan and Kunwar Mahmud Ali Khan.

Shri D.K. Naikar was a Member of Seventh to Tenth Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1996 representing Dharwad North Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

Earlier, Shri Naikar was a Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1978. He served as a Minister in Karnataka Government for several years and held various important portfolios.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Naikar served as Chairman, Committee of Privileges during 1985-86. He was also a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1984 to 1986; Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions during 1989; and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Labour and Welfare during 1990.

An advocate by profession, Shri Naikar was a well-known social and political worker. He worked relentlessly for the social and economic development of the poor, downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society.

Shri D.K. Naikar passed away on 31 July, 1999 at Dharwad, Karnataka at the age of 72.

Shri O. Bharathan was a Member of Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing Badagara Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Earlier, Shri Bharathan was a Member of Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 1996.

An active social and political worker, Shri Bharathan was associated with various trade unions.

Shri Bharathan also contributed short stories, poems and articles in various publications in Malayalam and was instrumental in setting up of public libraries and reading rooms.

Shri O. Bharathan passed away on 3 March, 2001 at Kannur, Kerala at the age of 70.

Shri Kunwar Mahmud Ali Khan was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Hapur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Khan was a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1957 to 1962 and served as a member of various Committees in that House.

Shri Khan adomed the office of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 1990 to 1993.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Khan was also a member of the Committee on Government Assurances from 1977 to 1979.

Hailing from an agriculturist family, Shri Khan worked relentlessly for the betterment of the lot of farmers; uplift of the weaker sections of the society and for improving the conditions of the labour class. He took special interest in activities relating to civic amenities including establishing hospitals in rural areas.

A true patriot, Shri Khan worked throughout his life for national integration.

Shri Kunwar Mahmud Ali Khan passed away on 22nd April, 2001 in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 81.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

---

[English]

MR. <sup>+</sup>SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Question Hour. Before that I would like to inform Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy that he may raise his matter during 'Zero Hour.'

11.06 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Fast Track Courts

\*561. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have released funds and guidelines to the State Governments to start fast track courts in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fast track courts started functioning in each of the State, location-wise;

(d) the reasons for not setting up of desired number of fast track courts in each State;

(e) the number of judicial officers appointed in these courts; and

(f) the time by which the remaining courts are likely to be set up in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The State-wise amount allotted and released for fast track courts is given in the Annexure-I attached.

Guidelines issued to the State Governments to start fast track courts are given in Annexure-II attached.

(c) As per the information made available by the State Governments, it is expected that 480 courts are being set up in April-May 2001. The locations of the courts furnished by the State Governments are given in Annexure-III attached.

(d) The creation of these courts require a number of steps, like construction of court building, appointment of judges & supporting staff to be taken by the State Governments and respective High Courts. As such, some of the States are taking more time in completing these requirements.

(e) The exact number of judicial officers appointed in these courts is not available in the Department of Justice.

(f) No time frame can be fixed. However, the Central Government is constantly interacting with the State Governments and High Courts to expedite setting up of these courts.

### Annexure-I

#### State-wise Financial Allocations and the No. of Proposed Courts

(money figures in crores of Rupees)

Sl.No.	States	Recommended by EFC		Released 2000-01	Proposed No. of Courts
		2000-05	2000-01		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	10.06	2.52	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.31	0.53	0.13	5
3.	Assam	5.89	2.37	0.59	20

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	52.96	21.3	5.33	183
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.79	3.54	0.88	31
6.	Goa	1.39	0.56	0.14	5
7.	Gujarat	48.22	19.39	4.85	166
8.	Haryana	10.50	4.22	1.08	36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.70	1.09	0.27	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.34	1.34	0.34	12
11.	Jharkhand	25.77	10.36	2.59	89
12.	Karnataka	27.02	10.87	*2.72	93
13.	Kerala	10.87	4.37	1.09	37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.71	9.94	*2.49	85
15.	Maharashtra	54.08	21.75	*5.44	187
16.	Manipur	1.00	0.40	0.10	3
17.	Meghalaya	1.00	0.40	*0.10	3
18.	Mizoram	1.00	0.40	*0.10	3
19.	Nagaland	0.91	0.37	*0.09	3
20.	Orissa	20.74	8.34	2.09	72
21.	Punjab	8.29	3.33	0.83	29
22.	Rajasthan	24.07	9.88	*2.42	83
23.	Sikkim	1.00	0.40	0.10	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	14.12	5.68	1.42	49
25.	Tripura	0.82	0.33	0.08	3
26.	Uttaranchal	13.04	5.24	1.31	45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70.22	28.24	7.06	242
28.	West Bengal	44.14	17.75	4.44	152
Total		502.90	202.25	50.56	1734

\* Equivalent second instalment has been released in the third week of March, 2001. With this additional amount of Rs. 13.36 crore released, the total amount released so far is Rs. 63.92 crore.

**Annexure-II**

Ministry of Finance  
Department of Expenditure  
(Finance Commission Division)

Guidelines on utilisation of the provisions recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission for Upgradation of standards of administration and tackling the special problems.

The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has recommended Rs. 3843.63 crore grants for the following sectors for Upgradation of standards of administration in 25 States:—

- (i) District administration;
- (ii) Police administration;
- (iii) Prisons administration;
- (iv) Fire services;
- (v) Judicial administration;
- (vi) Fiscal administration;
- (vii) Health services;
- (viii) Elementary education;
- (ix) Computer training for school children;
- (x) Public libraries;
- (xi) Heritage protection; and
- (xii) Augmentation of traditional water sources.

2. Besides grant for upgradation, Commission has recommended grant of Rs. 1129.00 crore for tackling special problems of States. Copy of Chapter VII - 'Upgradation and Special problem Grants' from the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission is enclosed as Annexure-IIA (not enclosed).\*

3. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission relating to grants for upgradation and special problems.

4. In order to give greater responsibility to the States for sanction of the schemes within the guidelines prescribed by them, the power to sanction individual schemes as well as to determine the units costs will vest with the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC). Once a project has been sanctioned by the SLEC, a copy of the

same indicating the time schedule for various stages of the project and for requirement of funds should be submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. For schemes relating to Police and Prisons detailed guidelines will be separately issued by Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau of Police Research and Development, in the interest of standardization of equipments, arms etc. However, any modification etc. departures for specific items will have to be suggested keeping in mind the overall allocation made to the individual States.

5. Physical and financial monitoring of the projects undertaken through the grants should be done by the SLEC. State Governments should also undertake evaluation through professional agencies in order to bring out the strengths and weaknesses of the programme as implemented in the past, which may help in introducing necessary improvements.

6. The plans of action both in physical and financial terms covering the entire award period of the EFC i.e. 2000-2005, formulated by individual administrative Department of the State should be submitted to the SLEC, a copy of the detailed action plan approved by the SLEC indicating the time schedule for various stages of the project and for requirement of funds may be forwarded by the Finance Department of the State Government to the Finance Commission Division, Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Action plan submitted by individual administrative Departments of the State Government will not be accepted. All correspondence on the subject irrespective of the sector (s) involved will be only between Ministry of Finance in the Government of India, and the Department of Finance of the State Government.

7. After the plan of action is approved by the SLEC, the State Government will make suitable expenditure provisions in the Budget (including supplementary demand, necessary) under a suitable Head of Account. While such provision in the expenditure budget of the State Government should be made under the appropriate functional Major Head of Account and approved programme under minor head of Account thereunder, the provision should be made as a distinct and identifiable item of expenditure under a sub head "Upgradation of Standards of Administration recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission." Correspondingly, in its estimates of revenue receipts, the State Government should also assume receipts of equivalent amount of grant-in-aid from the Central Government, such receipts being assumed under the Head of Account "1601 - grants-in-aid from the Central Government—A-Non-Plan grants", grants under provision of Article 275(1) of the Constitution—Grants for Upgrading standards of administration and Special Problem."

\* The Ministry did not consider necessary to enclose a copy of Annexure IIA regarding upgradation and special problem grants. As per them it is available in the published report of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

8. After provision is so made in the State Budget, the competent authority of the State Government will issue formal sanction(s) for expenditure in respect of various schemes/works comprising the approved plan and a copy of each may be endorsed to the Finance Commission Division, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

9. Apart from monitoring the performance in physical terms, as envisaged under para 7.54 in the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the expenditure actually incurred by a State Government, against the approved plans of action, is adjusted in its Budget and Accounts in a manner as would facilitate ready identification, verification and certification by Audit. It is, consequently essential to guard against such expenditure incurred on approved plans of action of upgradation of standards of administration and special problems being mixed up with the State Government's ordinary items of similar expenditure, plan or non-plan. This can be achieved by making, as laid down in paragraph 7 above, identifiable provision in the State Budget, and indicating clearly, in the formal sanction for expenditure, the precise classification against the identifiable provision in the Budget. What is equally important to achieve this objective is to draw, wherever possible, separate bills for expenditures to be incurred against such items of provision for upgradation of standards and invariably indicate thereon the distinct classification in the Budget and Accounts. Where such expenditure on upgrading the standards in particular field is not susceptible of segregation ab-initio from normal expenditure and, consequently, it is not practicable to draw separate bills for the former, the State Government concerned should devise, with the advice of the Accountant General, a suitable form in which the particulars of the upgradation expenditure may be separately maintained, proforma outside the regular accounts. Such proforma accounts, wherever decided upon the advice of the Accountant General, should be maintained scrupulously from month to month and made available for examination and certification by the Accountant General.

10. The plans of action formulated by the concerned administrative Departments of the States for the SLEC's approval should:—

- (a) Conform to the pattern contemplated by the Finance Commission for utilisation of the upgradation grants (for example, the

schemes should be designed to provide facilities at the grass-root level in various sectors and not for improving the facilities at higher administrative formations)

- (b) Lay stress on backward areas and weaker sections of society. Care should be taken to earmark outlays for backward areas and weaker sections of society as per the guidelines issued by the concerned administrative Ministries from time to time.
- (c) Be drawn up both in financial and physical terms in sufficient detail (including the nature of the expenditure proposed, the norms adopted, the latest unit cost, location of the work, plinth area, availability of sites, etc.) so as to be meaningful and give, *inter alia*, the anticipated annual phasing of the expenditure over the five years (2000-2005).
- (d) Display the broad details of the existing facilities, facilities likely to be created on the basis of works already in progress and additional facilities intended to be created so that the goals to be achieved can be identified.

11. The State Government should delegate to the executive agencies requisite administrative and financial powers for the expeditious execution of works. The sanctions issued in the beginning at the time of approval of the work/schemes should be so designed that the need for frequent references for approval of Heads of Department during execution of works is obviated as far as possible.

12. The release of grants-in-aid to States will be in the following manner:—

- (i) 50 per cent of the provision for the year 2000-01 will be released on "on account" basis during the year on receipt of detailed plans of action duly approved by the SLEC.

- (ii) The subsequent release of grants will be made in quarterly instalments depending upon the utilisation of the grants already released and submission of Progress Report to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The State Government should submit the utilisation certificate in the given in Annexure-II-B enclosed proforma on quarterly basis. There will moreover, be a Central Level Review Committee comprising of Ministry of Finance, Government of India, the State Finance Department and the concerned Administrative Departments, which will take an annual review of utilisation of funds.
- (iii) The maximum amount of grants to be released to a State in a particular year would be limited to the total amount

recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission for that year; and

- (iv) 90 per cent of the EFC recommended Upgradation and Special Problem Grant would be released to the State Government on the basis of the progress reports submitted on the utilisation of the grants already released. Balance ten per cent grant will be released only on receipt of completion certificate in the prescribed format given in Annexure-II-C enclosed.
- (v) The grants that remain unutilised as on 31st March, 2005 shall lapse.
- (vi) The grants, released in respect of capital works, which will not be completed by 31st March, 2005, will be recovered from the State Government.

#### ***Annexure-II-B***

*Utilisation of Upgradation and Special Problem Grants recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for the quarter ending \_\_\_\_\_*

Sector/ Scheme	Grants recommended by the EFC		Action Plan as approved by the SLEC		Achievement during the quarter		Progressive achievement including this quarter		Special Remarks, if any, on the progress
	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	

Note.— PT - Physical Target (Quantitative)  
FT - Financial Target (Rs. Lakhs)

Finance Secretary

**Annexure-II-C****Completion Certificate**

This is to certify that the works listed below which were taken up under upgradation of standards of administration and special problems recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) are duly completed in all respects and readily available for use. There is neither physical nor financial deviations from the Action Plan approved by the SLEC and they are fully utilised for the purposes for which they were sanctioned.

Name of Scheme/Sector:

Sl. No.	Name of works with locations	Sanction No. and Date	Physical		Financial		Date of Completion
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	

Signature of Head of Department

Countersigned by  
Finance Secretary  
Govt. of \_\_\_\_\_

**Annexure-III****Number and Locations of Fast Track Courts, being set up in each State, District-wise**

Sl. No.	State	Location	No./Location of Courts being set up in April-May 2001	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	2	
		Ananthapur	4	

1	2	3	4	5
		Chittoor	2	
		Cuddapah	1	
		Rajahmundry	2	
		Kakinada	1	
		Guntur	3	
		Gadwal	1	
		Gudiwada	1	
		Hyderabad	6	
		Karimnagar	1	
		Khammam	2	
		Machilipatnam	1	
		Vijayawada	1	
		Mahabubnagar	1	
		Sangareddy	3	
		Nalgonda	2	
		Nellore	2	
		Ongole	1	
		L.B. Nagar	4	
		Srikakulam	1	
		Visakhapatnam	2	44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai, Lohit Distt.	1	
		Basar, West Siang Distt.	1	
		Yupia, Papum Pare Distt	1	3
3.	Assam	Jorhat	1	
		Tezpur	1	
		Nagaon	1	
		Hojai	1	
		Barpeta	1	
		Kokrajhar	1	
		Karimganj	1	
		Bongaigaon	1	
		Mangaldoi	1	
		Gauhati	2	
		Tinsukia	2	
		Sibsagar	2	15



1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	Haipur	2	
		Katihar	2	
		Patna	3	
		Chapra	1	
		Biharsharif	2	
		Arrah	2	
		Sitamarhi	1	
		Khagaria	1	
		Munger	4	
		Nawadah	1	
		Siwan	1	
		Darbhanga	1	
		Rohtas	1	
		Bhabhua	1	
		Samastipur	1	
		Aurangabad	1	
		Motihari	1	
		Begusarai	1	
		Muzaffarpur	2	
		Gaya	2	
		Gopalganj	1	
		Buxar	1	
		Bhagalpur	1	
		Jehanabad	2	
		Madhubani	1	37
5.	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur	1	
		Raipur	2	
		Sarguja	3	
		Kanker	4	
		Mengeli	3	
		Janjgir	3	
		Korba	3	
		Bilaspur	4	
		Jashpurnagar	2	
		Surajpur	6	31

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	South Goa Distt.	2	
		North Goa Distt.	1	3
7.	Gujarat			
8.	Haryana			
9.	Himachal Pradesh			
10.	Jammu & Kashmir			
11.	Jharkhand			
12.	Karnataka	Kodagu-Madikeri	1	
		Chitradurga	1	
		Gulbarga	1	
		Raichur	1	
		Uttara Kannada-Karwar	1	
		Koppal	1	
		Bellary	1	
		Davanagere	2	
		Gadag	1	
		City Civil Court, B'lore	3	13
13.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	2	Most of the Courts will start functioning by 18th May 2001.
		Killam	2	
		Pathanamthitta	2	
		Alappuzha	2	
		Kottayam	2	
		Thodupuzha	2	
		Ernakulam	2	
		Thrissur	2	
		Palakkad	2	
		Manjeri	2	
		Kozhikode	2	
		Thalassery	2	
		Kasaragod	2	
		Kalpetta	1	27
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Betul	1	
		Bhopal	2	
		Chhindwara	2	
		Datia	1	

1	2	3	4	5
		Dewas	1	
		Dhar	2	
		Gwalior	3	
		Hoshangabad	1	
		Indore	4	
		Jabalpur	6	
		Katni	1	
		Mandsaur	1	
		Raisen	1	
		Ratlam	1	
		Sagar	1	
		Satna	1	
		Seoni	1	
		Shahdol	1	
		Tikamgarh	1	
		Ujjain	1	33
15.	Maharashtra	Pune	5	*Eleven Courts will start functioning from 3rd April 2001. The remaining 76 Courts will start functioning by the end of April 2001. The locations of these 76 Courts have not been given.
		Aurangabad	2	
		Yavatmal	1	
		Parbhani	1	
		Thane	1	
		Kolhapur	1	
				11+76*
16.	Manipur			
17.	Meghalaya			
18.	Mizoram	Aizawl	1	
		Lunglei	1	
		Chemphai	1	3
19.	Nagaland	Dimapur	2	2
20.	Orissa		12	The location of 12 Courts have not been indicated by the State Government.
21.	Punjab			
22.	Rajasthan		15	The locations of 15 Courts have not been indicated by the State Government.

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Sikkim	—	—	
24.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	3	
		Chengalpattu	1	
		Kancheepuram	1	
		Coimbatore	3	
		Tiruppur	1	
		Chidambaram	1	
		Dharmapuri	1	
		Erode	3	
		Gobichetipalayam	1	
		Dharapuram	1	
		Madurai	3	
		Pudukkottai	1	
		Ramanathapuram	1	
		Salem	2	
		Thanjavur	1	
		Pattukkottai	1	
		Thoothukudi	2	
		Tiruchirapalli	1	
		Tirunelveli	2	
		Vellore	1	
		Virudhunagar	1	30
25.	Tripura	Sonamura, West Tripura	1	
		Khowai, West Tripura	1	
		Kailashahar, North Tripura	1	3
26.	Uttaranchal	Almora	2	
		Bageswar	1	
		Chamoli	1	
		Dehradun	16	
		Haridwar	6	
		Roorkee (Haridwar)	3	
		Nainital	7	
		Haldwani (Nainital)	1	
		Pauri	1	
		Pithoragarh	1	
		Rudraprayag	2	

1	2	3	4	5
		Tehri	1	
		Uttarakashi	1	
		Kashipur (Udham Singh Nagar)	1	
		Udham Singh Nagar	1	45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	5	
		Allahabad	5	
		Badaun	5	
		Bulandshahar	5	
		Ghaziabad	5	
		Kanpur	5	
		Lucknow	5	
		Meerut	5	
		Muradabad	5	
		Varanasi	5	
		Aligarh	5	
		Shahjahanpur	5	
		Sitapur	4	64
28.	West Bengal	<i>First Phase</i>		
		North 24 Parganas	1	
		Nadia	4	
		Burdwan	4	
		South 24 Parganas	4	13
Total			480	

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something with reference to the reply of the hon. Minister. It is fortunate for the Government that the hon. Minister of Law is well aware of the functioning legislature and is instrumental in giving us some well formulated laws. But it is unfortunate that corruption is so rampant in District Courts and High Courts that poor are unable to get justice without shelling out considerable amount. The Government has done little for

the speedy dispensation of justice to the poor. I am surprised to note that even in High Courts the Advocates tend to seek fresh dates for their cases as long as the case is not listed on the bench of a Judge who is perceived as favourable. In this regard I want to mention that for the period 2000-2005 the Government has agreed to provide Rs. 70 crore to Uttar Pradesh. Rs. 502.90 crore has been sanctioned for the States in General out of which only Rs. 7.08 crore has been released for Uttar Pradesh. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that he have no information regarding the number of judicial

officers and the resources mobilised. If the monitoring of State Government is not done. I don't think the Government will be able to provide justice to the poor in time. I would like to know from the Government, what it is doing for monitoring things but for the constitution of fast track courts? My second question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask second question later on.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of monitoring is concerned, we have put in place a monitoring system along with the State Governments and concerned High Courts. There is a State level empowered Committee in each State with the task of formulating mechanism for monitoring. Each State was provided 25% of grant before the plan and 25% is being given now and the State is expected to send to us its whole plan. Monitoring at regular intervals is done with regard to the number of such courts required to be constituted and the number of those actually set up. A few States have demanded more time for that and that is the reason why Uttar Pradesh has been provided Rs. 14.12 crore uptil now. The grants are made according to the plan for constituting Courts sent by them. Monitoring is also done about the dates on which the Courts are proposed to become operational and also about the number of cases to be disposed of by these Courts. Since they are expected to be fast, they have also been given guidelines about the minimum number of cases to be disposed of by them. Guidelines to each State has also been given with regard to the type of cases to be dealt with by them and also about the cases which have been dragging for years.

MR. SPEAKER: Chandra Bhushan ji, the question is related to fast track courts. If you ask supplementaries quickly, the reply will also be given quickly.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I will ask questions only about fast track courts. Such courts were established quite a long time back. I am sure that monitoring arrangements, as out lined by the hon. Minister, is there, but what I would like to know from him is that whether, till date, any case has been speedily disposed of as a result of the working of these fast track courts? Further whether cases have been disposed of early or not?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per our plan, each State was given 3 to 4 months time to set up these courts by 1st of April, that is 26 days before the present day. But all the States have not been able to set

up 1734 Courts that were required to be set up. Through the monitoring, we have come to know that by April and May, 480 Courts will start working and as per the information provided by the States, one thousand more courts will start working in the next three months because of the delay caused due to the required infrastructure buildings needed to be constructed, judges needed to be appointed and the old files needed to be transferred. Since these have been newly established, we don't have any information regarding the cases disposed.

*[English]*

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Sir, based on the main Question, I would like to ask a supplementary. I want to know whether the five fast track courts in each district of the country have started functioning from 1st April, 2001, as was envisaged in the scheme regarding opening of these courts. If not, when will such courts in the districts be functional? I also want to know whether all the pending cases for more than two years have been transferred to the fast track courts for disposal within 60 days of the transfer of cases and if not, the reasons thereof.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The total figure of fast track courts to be established in the entire country is 1,734. As against this figure, the direct response which we have got from the State Governments and the High Courts is that 480 courts are being established in the months of April and May 1,001 courts are to be established, as per the assurance given by them, over a period of next three months. With regard to 253 courts, the States have not given any positive response as yet. We are taking it up continuously with those States and trying to establish them.

As far as the cases are concerned, we have indicated to the State Governments and the High Courts that there were two categories of cases, in the first instance, which can be taken over by these fast track courts, namely, all the criminal cases pending before Sessions Courts for more than two years can be taken up before these courts so that they can be disposed of expeditiously.

Secondly, there are cases where under-trials are in custody and have not got bail and who are deprived of their liberty pending trials. There are also cases where first right of audience could be given to them before these courts.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: First of all, I would compliment the hon. Minister for this timely and extremely desirable step. The soliloquy in Shakespeare's Hamlet 'To be or not to be'. Says that one of the reasons why men commit suicide is laws delays.

My question is, have you looked at the procedure which these fast track courts would follow? For instance, there is a possibility or certainty of any party taking innumerable adjournments on some pretext or the other for months and years. Sometimes, the lawyers are not able to attend courts due to their inability. I think my colleague has mentioned about the possibility of a time limit of 60 days in civil cases. A time limit on judges for closing cases is essential.

So, the procedure needs to be looked into. What steps have you taken in that direction? Fast track courts may otherwise turn into slow courts.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There are two different aspects of the question which the hon. Member has asked. As far as the general question about procedure in relation to disposal of trials, both of a civil character and the criminal law, is concerned, the Government is independently looking at shortening the procedure as far as all the courts are concerned, and it is not only in respect of fast track courts. A Bill for the purpose of shortening the procedure in the Civil Procedure Code has already been introduced. It is pending before the Standing Committee. The Government has already appointed an Expert Committee to find out how criminal cases could be expedited by suitably amending the Code of Criminal Procedure. Within this year, we are expecting the Report of that Committee. But as far as these courts are concerned, it is the same procedural laws which will apply but with one difference. One of the reasons for delay in the normal course in the courts is the large pendency of arrears before the courts. For instance, before an average magisterial courts, across the country, the average is about 4000 to 5000 cases which are pending. These are new courts which have been created which do not suffer from the problem of arrears. They are writing on a clean slate. Therefore, instead of adjourning every case for months together for the next date of hearing, they would be in a position to take up these cases on a day-to-day basis and then ensure expeditious disposal.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: The hon. Minister has replied that the allocation for Punjab from 2000-2005 is Rs. 8.29 crore. 83 lakh rupees have been released and 29 courts would be set-up out of this amount. But you have further told in your reply that the courts.

[English]

To be made in Punjab in April-May 2001, are shown as nil against Punjab in your reply, so can you please tell me what are the impediments. Is there any obligation on the part of the State Government which remains to be fulfilled? When are these courts likely to be set up?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As far as Punjab is concerned, we have just been informed by the State Government and the Punjab and Haryana High Court that they have also started approving the State-level plan. We too expect that since the State-level plan is being prepared, it would be disposed of expeditiously.

In the context of Punjab, we had released the instalment to them. The second instalment is also now ready for release. Therefore, funds would also be available to the State for setting up of those courts immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have made arrangements to dispose of these cases quickly, but people are devoid of getting justice when the courts are closed for one month for summer vacations and thus justice is delayed. I wish that such arrangements should be made so that cases could be taken up during summer vacations also and people may get justice in time.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Every court has its own time table which has the details of holidays. It is determined by the High Court itself and the Government do not interfere in this.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, fast track have no meaning when you are providing for a separate court. I want to know as to what provisions are being made by the Government to provide justice to the people who are devoid of that during the month of June, i.e. summer vacations of the courts. It is not proper to ignore it by saying that this matter is determined by the High Court.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The working days of court vis-a-vis its programmes are determined by the Judiciary itself. Appropriate High court would decide regarding the fast track courts or holding of courts during the summer vacations.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: You leave everything, and tell me why should people languish in jails they should also get justice.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am appreciating the Government's initiative to establishing the fast track courts. Even without amending and simplifying the procedure, by establishing these courts, they can achieve the objective of expeditious disposal. Will they actually achieve it? This is my first question. My second question is this. This is a national policy...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no second question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: This is a national policy. So, how many States are implementing the fast track courts?

MR. SPEAKER: You can call it part (b) of the main question!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I think some States are not implementing it. What are the reasons behind it? The House would like to know about it. So, what are the reasons for not implementing it by some States? Is there any objection? Are there any reasons?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There is no State which has taken a position that it is not in a position to implement it. There are certainly some States which have prepared their State-level implementation plan very expeditiously. I must inform the hon. Member that his State, Andhra Pradesh, is one of those States which has expeditiously prepared the plan. Out of the 86 courts sanctioned to his State, 44 have been set up in April. 42 are intended to be set up in the next three months. So, all the courts are being set up.

There are some States where the plans have been prepared but the plans required an appropriate approval and those have also come from 12 States. There are some States which have delayed this exercise. I have spoken to the Heads of those States. They are also sending us their plans expeditiously.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Justice delayed is justice denied. This has been the fate of the people of the country for so many years, particularly those belonging to the poorer sections of the society. The idea of fast track courts is laudable, where the speed is the essence. For instance, in the data that has been supplied to us, on page 10, we can see that a number of States do not find any mention, right from Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur,

Meghalaya, that is, my State, Punjab, and, of course, Sikkim. The very idea of fast track courts is to hasten the speed. There is much delay in the setting up of these courts. In how many States, as per the data, the fast track courts have been operationalised?

MR. SPEAKER: This question has already been answered by the Minister. The courts have recently been started, that, is, from first of April.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I am talking about the North-East. Even the funds have not been cleared. This is my first question.

Secondly, in the earlier years, in a number of States of the country, in order to quicken the process of justice, legal aid system had been patronised by the Government. It was a great deal of help. I do not know as to what has happened to that system.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As far as the North-East is concerned, these courts, upon the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission, have been sanctioned for each of the States in the North-East. In the case of Assam, they have already prepared a plan for 15 courts, out of 20, which was sanctioned. Five courts are in the process of being set up in the next three months. In the case of other States, the number is: Arunachal Pradesh-5 courts; Manipur-3 courts; Meghalaya-3 courts; Mizoram-3 courts; Nagaland-3 courts; and Tripura-3 courts. We have also received the proposal and they are setting them up in the next three months.

As far as the question of granting instalments of funds to them is concerned, Meghalaya has proposed—my learned friend would be interested to know—three courts and two instalments have already been released to Meghalaya.

As far as the legal aid is concerned, now this has almost been made statutorily mandatory. There are Legal Aid Cells which have been set up in almost every court of the country. The National Legal Services Authorities Act has been enacted by this Parliament and even under the Act there is now a provision for both *Lok Adalats* and Legal Aid Centres. These Legal Aid Centres, under the Act, are functioning in almost every State of the country. We continuously monitor them. The Supreme Court also directly monitors them because the Chief Justice is the patron of that Committee at the national level. Therefore, a large number of people take the help of these Legal Aid Cells. The figure is not in lakhs but much more. The legal aid in those clinics is being granted to every State of the country.



[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to the hon. Minister for making substantive efforts for a serious matter but it is my personal view that since this matter is concerned with the rural areas, the Government are paying heed only towards some places, where there is a dearth of judges, who are called Magistrates *vis-a-vis* towards the lack of buildings or employees at local level and the Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended for providing this infrastructure only but I don't agree with it. I do not agree that the number of magistrates should be increased or buildings should be made for disposing off the cases speedily. I feel that being well acquainted with the law, the hon. Minister would also agree with me. Second thing is that there is a lot of difference in the functioning of Supreme court and a district court and what I want to urge is...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to the fast Track courts.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is regarding that, but this fact cannot be conveyed in one line. I request you and also need your protection that nothing will be done unless the Union Government evolve a proper method of functioning. I will give an example of Madhya Pradesh, Lok Adalats were set up there at lower level also, but no fruitful results could be achieved. No court is set up in jails where convicts have attained the age of 60 years. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will not be able to protect you if you do not ask the supplementary properly.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I want to know from the Government as to whether it would make any such rules which would be sent to the State Governments?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The supplementary does not pertain to the main question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question does not directly relate to fast track courts, but I agree to the view point of the hon. Member to a great extent that some Fast Track Courts which are to be set up in every district would solve all our problems, is it possible

no it is not. There are many reasons behind this as the number of litigations is very high in the country, the list is too long and that is why, we shall have to take several steps to resolve this problem. A discussion has also been held earlier in the House in this regard. Our procedural law require to be changed, a question regarding which was asked by the hon. Member earlier also. There are a few procedures which take a lot of time, this time needs to be lessened. Some amendments have been introduced in certain laws and the Government are deliberating upon them. Besides, vacancies should be immediately filled up, wherever they exist right from the Magistrates Courts to the High Court, so that if the number of litigations is more undue delay may not take place because of this reason.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The hon. Minister has just now said that the High Court would decide over the matter of summer vacations. Most unfortunate thing for our country is that we are still following the legacy of British system to run our country. Now this provision of holidays in the summer season was given to us by the Britishers in order to facilitate themselves so that they may rest in the summers and decide the cases in winters, but today the situation has changed altogether. The population of this country is 100 crores and if we leave all the decisions on the High Courts, then what would the Parliament do? I wish to ask the hon. Minister as to whether the Government intend to move such a proposal in the House, wherein the provision of summer vacations may be done away with? Whether the Government propose to take such a step because many countries are like that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to the Fast Track Courts.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is a very pertinent question. Whether the Government are considering upon this aspect that the judges may be given right to go and investigate the place of crime and decide over the case there and then only. There are many such petty cases in other countries where the judges have been given such rights. Whether our Government have any such proposal under consideration?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has asked question on two subjects as to whether the Government have any proposal to enact such a law in this regard, let me say clearly that the Government does not have any proposal on these subjects so far. We do not interfere in the activities of any constitutional institution, be it the Judiciary or the Executive, or the Legislature

and we leave all matters related to their functioning on them only. As you are saying the enactment of laws comes under the purview of the Parliament, but every court makes its own time table in this regard. So far as the system of Investigative judges is concerned, many countries do have this system, but our country does not approve it, which makes the same person witness as well as a judge of the case.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended for Rs. 202.25 crore for the year 2000-2001 but only 63.92 crore rupees have so far been given out of this amount. It is the duty of the Government to go lay the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission but the Government are not doing that I want to know from the Government as to what is the problem now?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Finance Commission had also recommended that 202 crore rupees may be given last year and 63-64 crore rupees had also been given. The Finance Commission had also recommended that 25 per cent of the amount may be given as advance, and thereafter, every State may send its plan, then the next 25 per cent of amount would be given after that. States are making a delay in sending their plans, but no sooner the receive the plans, we would clear them.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fast Track Courts have been set up for providing quick and facilitative decision. Women constitute 50 per cent of population and thousands of cases on women are lying pending in the courts of every State. Through you, I wish to ask the hon. Minister as to whether there is any proposal for setting up Fast Track Courts with regard to the cases relating to the women? If so, then these courts may especially take up the cases of women only and if possible, women judges may be appointed there.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, already there is a provision of the family courts in the plan and the schemes in this regard have been prepared and the instructions have been issued to the State Government to set up the family courts. The Fast track courts have been set up in several States and the process of setting up of the women's Courts has been started in many States. In Women's Court the presiding Officers as well as the staff all are women. All cases, especially the criminal cases related to women are taken up by these courts. Four such women's courts are functioning in Delhi.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Sir, I would like to know about the rural areas where 80 percent cases are related to women.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Such Courts are also constituted in rural areas. The Central Government have no objection in it, rather we will try to encourage such efforts.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Sir, the concept of setting up of fast track court is a commendable one, however the people are reluctant to go to court as the process of the court trial is very lengthy and time consuming and as a result of this poor people are not able to get justice. In this situation I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether instructions will be issued to the respective courts to formulate some law to dispose of cases within stipulated time frame? I am telling this because my constituency is a tribal dominated area. You are a lawyer yourself and you know it well that the dates for the court hearings are continuously postponed. The lawyers try to make the hearing process lengthy so that they may extort hefty fees from their clients. The poor people suffer on this account. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not blaming anyone. The common people think that the dates of the hearing continue to be changed as lawyers are interested only in their fees. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the instructions will be issued to the judges to dispose of cases within stipulated time frame so that the poor people may be saved from unnecessary expenditure like bus fare and hotel expenses. It is on account of these expenses that the poor people stop attending the dates of hearings and the rich people manage to buy the justice. Is there any system by which cheap and easily accessible justice could be provided to the poor people.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the sentiments of the hon'ble Member and keeping in view this problem, last year I had moved an amendment in the House regarding the civil procedure code in which there was a provision of disposal of cases within the stipulated time frame. The provisions have been made in the amendment regarding the time limit of producing witness and evidence and completion of arguments. Regarding the evidence, it has been provided that the evidence must be completed within 60 days by the Court

itself or through some other agency. The amendments in this regard have already been moved in the House. If the hon'ble Members extend their cooperation, then the amendments may be taken up in this session itself.

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Institute of Law was to be established in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh to study the feasibility of simplification in the law process. However, proper progress towards building infrastructure could not be achieved due to paucity of funds. I would like to know whether the Central Government would provide some financial assistance to the project or not?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestions of the hon'ble Member will be kept in view.

[English]

#### **Outstanding Dues of SEBs**

\*563. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an expert group to finalize the modalities of one time settlement of outstanding dues to SEBs;

(b) whether the expert group has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the expert group;

(d) the action taken by the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the expert group; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

#### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir. On 5th March, 2001, the Government have constituted an expert group to recommend measures for one time settlement of outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) towards Central Public Sector Undertakings as also the dues from the CPSUs to State

Power utilities. The expert group will also suggest a strategy for capital restructuring of SEBs including the provision of structural adjustment loans so as to enable them to tide over the present financial crisis, make them operationally viable and improve their credit rating.

(b) to (e) The Expert Group has been given time upto 30th April, 2001 to submit its report.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the hon'ble Minister has given reply, however I would like to know about the reasons responsible for the outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Secondly, I would also like to know the total outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards during the last three years and thirdly, what steps are being taken by the State and the Central Governments for the recovery of the outstanding dues? Also, what are the reasons for constituting this Committee?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards towards the Central Public Sector Undertakings have gone upto Rs. 30 thousand crore. The reason behind this is that the State Electricity Boards are unable to realize the required amounts from its customers. If you go by the figures of the cost of generation of power at the national level then you will find that the cost of supply of power in India comes to Rs. 3 per unit while average tariff charged in the country is only Rs. 2 per unit. Thus the State Electricity Boards have to suffer a loss of Re. 1 per unit at the time of selling the power. Since there is no proper recovery of the tariff, the situation has reached this point. So keeping in view the present situation, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States was called on 3rd March. In that meeting it was decided to constitute an expert Committee to give recommendations regarding the settlement of the outstanding dues. The Committee is working under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Committee have asked for time till 30th April to submit its report. We have not received its report as yet.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the loss of the SEBs is constantly mounting and just ten years ago, it was about Rs. 4000 crore per annum. Now it has reached something like Rs. 24,000 crore per annum. It is a massive amount. The hon. Minister just

said that the overdues have already touched the amount of Rs. 30,000 crore. He has also set up the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee for a one-time settlement and various proposals and issues etc. are under its consideration.

But, Sir, this one-time settlement will take care of a one-time problem. Unless there are systemic changes, this problem is bound to occur again and you will have, 10 years down the line, another Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee to take care of that problem. Therefore, systemic changes are an absolute must. I would like to know what systemic changes the Government proposes to make or proposes to put before the State Electricity Boards. Are you giving them some guidelines or are you giving them a sort of a code of conduct in a way for a better works culture so that these systemic failures that are taking place do not take place in future, and you do not again, after 10 years, have to cope up with the loss of Rs. 40,000 crore or Rs. 50,000 crore? That is part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is this. A lot of confusion still prevails in large private sector participation in the power generation whenever a huge conglomerate comes in. And Enron is a very glaring example of this. This confusion, Sir, in the case of Enron has damaged the interests of the country, the State and the consumer. The Government of India has, of course, said that in this particular Committee that is being set up, they will have one representative, and there may be a PPA, re-negotiation. The Government of India has said that they are having one representative and you seem to be resting on your oars. I think, there is such a massive confusion in this and the consumer and the State Government are so much at the mercy, and there could be certain cases in future which can even put the Government of India in a problem. In fact, your Secretary today, in *The Hindustan Times* has said that the Centre may have to cough up Rs. 2,840 crore if the Enron-promoted Dabhol power project is terminated. This is a massive liability. Therefore, I do not think that your role should be a passive one, just as a single member of a Committee. You must not have a passive role. You must have a very active role because you must really guide the future path that the power generation has to take in this country in a very meaningful manner so that on the one side, there is viability and on the other side, the interests of the consumers are also taken care of. I would like to know as to what is the active role that the Government of India intends to take as far as this Enron tangle is concerned.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the hon. Member has made a very cryptic and a very appropriate comment about the fact that one-time settlement of dues is not a real solution unless this one-time solution becomes the last one and for all times. It should be one-time and all-time settlement. Otherwise, this problem will recur in future. And for that, as you have very correctly pointed out, appropriate systemic changes have to be introduced and those changes have to be institutionalised. Many a time we have seen that those changes are introduced by way of some statement with good laudable objectives. But unless they are really institutionalised, over a period of time, we have seen that an aberration creeps in and then the entire system again collapses. To avoid such an eventuality, for the first time we are working out a package. So far, the power sector reforms were construed to be intended only to settle the dues of the public sector undertakings from the State Governments, disregarding totally the problem that the State Electricity Boards are facing, which, in fact, is giving rise to this massive old dues, which are mounting every year. Therefore, the Committee which has been appointed is looking into two parts — one, of course, liquidation of CPSUs' dues on one-time basis and the second very important part is restructuring of SEBs on a permanent basis. For that, we have initiated a number of steps. The point as to why this problem really recurs is this. As I said earlier while replying to the first supplementary, the difference between the cost of supply of power and the average cost of tariff is the root cause of this problem because every unit of power that you sell is going to suffer a loss of Re. 1 for SEB, and then when you are selling 500 billion units — this year we are targeted to sell 525 billion units — then, obviously, the loss in the next year will be higher than the previous year, and the situation will go on and on. Therefore, we are introducing several changes. All the consumers should be metered. Once the consumers are totally metered, then we are introducing a unique system which is examined by some expert group, which involves that all the distribution feeders in India would be treated as a profit centre, and that centre will feed hardware and software so that whatever power is received into that feeder for onward supply to the consumers, there will be a proper reconciliation.

Thus, we would be able to evaluate all the losses at each of the distribution feeder point itself—which are thousands in number in India—and we will be able to take corrective action. At the same time, we are also working out that all the SEBs, before opting or before we given them an advantage of one time settlement, will have to give us a projected profit and loss account for the next two years wherein they show that they will actually break even at the end of the two years. So, this is a prerequisite for the whole programme to really take on.

I am absolutely in agreement with you that the systemic changes are called for. That is why we have really called for reform. In fact, unfortunately, 'reform' has been a maligned word because people think that reform means necessarily increasing the tariff. But reforms in the long run only means the restructuring of the SEBs which will make them financially and commercially viable and they will be able to stand on their own feet. Then only the power sector's problems will be resolved.

In fact, even today, I am very sorry to say that about 65 per cent of the households in India are going without electricity. There are 80,000 villages which do not have electricity and there are almost four lakh hamlets which are without electricity. So, unless the commercial viability of the SEBs is restored, they will not be able to take the social responsibility, which is very important and which should be at the heart of any reform process. Therefore, you are absolutely right in saying that we have to look at it and we are looking at it.

Part (b) of your question essentially does not emanate from the Question. Even then, I know the concern of the House, which is articulated by a very eminent Member of the House. So, we will definitely take note of that. But I would only like to clarify one point that there is a Power Purchase Agreement between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and the Dhabol Power Company. So, there is a contractual obligation which subsists between the two. The Central Government has a limited role in guaranteeing a default. In fact, if there is a default on the part of the State Government, then we are only the counter guarantor. Therefore, the role is confined to that. Despite the fact that we have a limited role, we have decided to help the Maharashtra Government in participating in the re-negotiation. There is a Standing Committee of Secretaries consisting of the Ministries of Power, Finance and Law. We might even involve the Ministry of Petroleum into that Committee so that this Committee will monitor the negotiation and give direction to the representatives of the Government of India who will participate in this so that we can resolve the problem.

The hon. Member is absolutely right in saying that generation is the key. But unless we bring in systemic changes that he has so aptly pointed out, in the distribution sector, any generation programme will not be a success. So, the thrust now has been restoring the distribution viability.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the loss of State Electricity Boards is between Rs. 24 to Rs. 30 thousands and the loss is all due to mismanagement. Sometime back, the hon. Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of States in Delhi and in the meeting he himself suggested to increase the power tariff in regard to the electricity being supplied to farmers. I would like to know whether the Government intend to increase electricity tariff for farmers? Under REC Scheme Rs. 730 crore was given to States.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what my submission is that the hon. Minister of Power must have been present during the said meeting. The hon. Prime Minister had himself suggested that the cost of electricity to be given to farmers would be increased. Here I would like to know from the Government whether it intends to increase the power tariff in regard to the electricity meant for farmers.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is no supplementary. What is this? How are you asking this question? It must have some relevance to the main Question.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the financial condition of almost all the State Electricity Boards is in shambles. Power sector Public Undertakings of the Government of India, such as NTPC, NHPC, Power Grid Corporation, REC and Power Finance Corporation have dues against State Electricity Boards, but the point is how the lumpsum amount in this regard would be provided. The report of the Expert Committee is expected by 30th April i.e. four days here after. I want to know from the Government whether the said Committee would also find out ways so as to ensure that the dues of the State Electricity Boards which they owe to different undertakings of the Union Government are cleared and whether the Government would also consider to wave off the dues in regard to those States in particular whose financial condition is very poor. Otherwise, this Committee will be reduced only to ensure recovery of the dues like the mughals did.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has said, it is right that unless the power generating companies like NTPC and NHPC and Companies like REC and PFC which provide financial assistance are self-sufficient, the assistance being provided by them to the States will be stopped and unless their dues are recovered their ability to provide further funds will be curtailed and the ultimate losers in this process will be such States which depend on them for assistance. Therefore, it is necessary that the dues of above organisations against the States are recovered and this is precisely the reason why this Committee has been constituted. There are also such States which have dues against different organisations of the Union Government. In order to make arrangement in this regard provisions have been made under the Committee as referred to in Part (b).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constitution of the Expert Committee is chiefly aimed at steering the State Electricity Boards out from financial crisis. The maximum loss suffered by the State Electricity Boards is due to the theft of electricity. Theft of electricity is committed to the tune of 40 to 50 per cent of the total generation. While constituting the Expert Committee whether the Government have issued any guidelines to formulate a scheme so as to reduce such theft of electricity or have given suggestions to the State Governments in this regard?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, this is absolutely right that the losses to the State Electricity Boards due to theft of electricity is nearly to the tune of Rs. 20 thousand crore. The State Governments were informed in this regard and this was also the top important subject during the conference of State Governments. We shall make efforts to minimise such losses to be incurred by State Electricity Boards in future.

### **Levy on Import of Ships**

\*565. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is apprehension of reduction in the Indian Merchant fleet in view of the levy on import of ships;

(b) if so, the reaction of domestic shipping industry in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to ensure growth of Indian fleet companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) and (b) The Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA) have represented to the Government stating that the levy of customs duty on import of ships will place Indian Shipping in a disadvantageous position in international as well as domestic trade and expressed apprehension about reduction in Indian fleet.

(c) The Government have taken various measures for the development of Indian Shipping and to augment the Indian tonnage. These are:

- (i) Most of the categories of ships viz.; crude tanker, Product Tanker, Bulk Carriers etc. have been brought under the Open General licence (OGL), w.e.f. 1.4.1997 to facilitate acquisition at competitive price (As per the current EXIM Policy, import of all category of vessels can now be made without licence on the basis of guidelines issued by Ministry of Shipping).
- (ii) Acquisition through Bare Boat Charter-cum-Demise method;
- (iii) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;
- (iv) The Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government;
- (v) Quarterly Block Allocation scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with;
- (vi) Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods, without any value limit;
- (vii) Freedom to Time Charter out ships by Indian Shipping Companies;
- (viii) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;
- (ix) Section 33 AC of Income Tax Act has been restored in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.

- (x) The provision in EXIM policy for import of vessels has been changed from 1.4.2001 thereby enabling Shipping Companies to acquire more ships.
- (xi) It has been proposed to enhance the depreciation on ships from 20% to 25% w.e.f. 1.4.2001.
- (xii) Ministry of Finance has also been requested by Ministry of Shipping to withdraw the levy of 5% customs duty for import of vessels.
- (xiii) 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Shipping Sector is permitted.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Sir, a lengthy answer has been given to this Question. I am very happy to note that it has been proposed to enhance the depreciation on ships from 20 per cent to 25 per cent with effect from 1.4.2001. Apart from that, I came to know that the hon. Minister of Finance has accepted to withdraw the levy of five per cent customs duty. So, by this, the ship industry people are having some hopes on that.

Apart from this, have any other measures been taken by the Government to improve the Indian shipping industry?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The principal question related to the customs duty of five per cent which had been imposed on the purchase of all new ships. The industry as also the Department of Shipping has represented to the Minister of Finance and I am grateful to the Minister of Finance that yesterday he withdrew that levy, and, therefore, really the main question and the concern of the hon. Member stands responded to.

Additionally, this year, the Minister of Finance has increased the depreciation on shipping from 20 per cent to 25 per cent and also on the EXIM-Policy, the restriction for a SIL licence which was imposed by the earlier policy for ships, more than ten years old, has been removed.

Additionally, there are several steps that the Government has taken in the last few years to give an impetus to the shipping industry. They include facilities like the applicability of Section 33(c)(a) of the Income-tax Act for 100 per cent profits which are ploughed back into the industry itself, which would get a tax exemption. For purchase, OGL facilities have been extended to shipping. There are several steps which have been taken. But the industry has been raising several other demands in order to give an impetus to shipping because international competition is very high. We have been in communication with the Finance Ministry to see that if some of those fiscal measures, at least in future, could further be extended to the shipping industry.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Sir, I do not have a second supplementary.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, one of the ways in which you can strengthen this matter is by strengthening our own shipbuilding yards. In fact, we come to understand that there are a lot of problems with regard to getting permissions from the Ministry, getting approvals from the top for getting a matter done through the shipping yards. For example, for the ship repairs as well as for other matters, the shipyards are finding it a great difficulty to do the work as undertaken. Many of our shipyards are finding this difficulty.

I have also another matter to submit that our own Shipping Corporation of India is not placing orders on our domestic shipyards. They go in for the foreign ones, may be because they want the better ones. So, the only way in which we can do well to strengthen and to modernise is to make easy the ways in which our shipyards can deliver the goods in time, in proper condition. So, what could be done in this regard? I would submit that with a special reference to Cochin Shipyard from where I come, you may give a proper thinking on these lines.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member's question is really designed to make some valuable suggestions. I do concede that we require to strengthen our own shipyards and the suggestions which he has made in the form of his question will certainly be born in mind by us.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for making efforts so that the shipping industry in India has some relief. But that is not all the relief. As you are aware, the Indian flag ships are receding year by year in comparison to the foreign flagships in the Indian coast. The reason is very simple. The acquisition of a ship amounts to a lot of investment. The interest charges thereupon are too much. That is the reason why the importing of the ships was going on for the last so many years. In this context I would like to know from you whether with your initiative something has been done in this regard and will you pursue the Government of India to have the rate of interest at two per cent or three per cent which is prevailing in foreign shipbuilding yards in foreign countries so that the number of Indian flagships goes up.

Our crew are now taking shelter in foreign vessels. Our Indian crew are not getting services in the Indian vessels. In that context, I would like to know whether any effort is being made to reduce the rate of interest for acquisition of ship and if so, what is the position in this regard.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as I mentioned in response to the first supplementary question, the shipping industry is a very competitive industry. Therefore, the fiscal regime under which the industry functions is not merely a domestic competition but you have to compete with your counterparts abroad. Therefore, the fiscal regimes have to be comparative and in most parts of the world,

shipping is almost operating at a zero tax structure. We have, therefore, been pressing with the Department of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance and this year we have been able to get three major concessions as far as the shipping industry is concerned.

There are several other expectations that the industry has in order to become competitive and we have been pressing them on various issues, including the issue of withholding of tax on interest on external commercial borrowing which, probably, has been indicated, and we have been taking up these issues from time to time with the Department of Revenue.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Debenture Redemptions

\*562. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to mandate a reserve for debenture redemptions to protect investors;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take other steps to ensure that investors are given protection when they buy debentures; 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) A new section 117C has been inserted in the Companies Act, 1956 through Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 which makes it mandatory for every company issuing debentures after the commencement of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 to create a debenture redemption reserve to which adequate amount which will be credited out of profits every year until such debentures are redeemed.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. A new section 117B has been inserted in the Companies Act, 1956. According to this every company mandatorily has to appoint one or more debenture trustees before issue of prospectus. The name of such trustee/trustees must find a place on the face of the prospectus alongwith consent.

[Translation]

### Improvement in Cotton Cultivation by C.C.I.

\*564. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has launched an ambitious scheme for improving cotton cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of villages selected under this scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the criteria adopted for the selection of the villages under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), in addition to its primary functions of Commercial and Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, have also taken initiatives of undertaking development/extension programmes for better cotton cultivation in the country supplementing the efforts of other Agencies/Government.

(b) The details of the development/extension programmes are as under:—

- (i) Village Adoption Programme for dissemination of latest technology to farmers; distribution of certified and truthful label seeds and quality pesticides; and arranging field workshops to create awareness on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technology.
- (ii) Funding of R&D Activities/Projects relating to cotton.
- (iii) Encouraging cultivation of cotton in non-traditional areas through creating awareness and educating farmers.

(c) The number of villages adopted State-wise during 2000-2001 are as under:—

State	No. of Villages
Punjab	01
Haryana	16
Rajasthan	29
Gujarat	24
Madhya Pradesh	15
Andhra Pradesh	10
Karnataka	11
Orissa	02
Total	108

(d) Villages are adopted, in consultation with State Government/Local Authority, following the criteria of 'one village one variety concept' in order to help maintain the purity of cotton lint as well as seed, apart from according priority to marginal farmers having lower productivity level of cotton.



*(English)***Tur Dal Board**

\*566. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has recommended to establish a "Tur Dal Board" to cater to the needs of Tur farmers in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for establishment of Tur Board in Karnataka with Head Quarter at Gulbarga for improving and sustaining red gram production and its industry in the country in general and Karnataka in particular.

(b) All the activities suggested under the proposed Tur Board, are already covered under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP). Therefore, there is no need for establishment of the proposed Tur Board. In addition, the Government of India has established Directorate of Pulses Development at Bhopal which monitors the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) which is being implemented in 30 States/UTs including Karnataka. In order to provide remunerative prices to the growers of pulse including Tur (Arhar), the Government of India declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) before every season. For the year 2000-2001, the Minimum Support Price for Tur (Arhar) has been fixed at Rs. 1200 per quintal. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) enters into procurement operation if the prices fall below MSP. The Government is taking all possible measures to protect the interest of Tur (Arhar) growers of the country.

**Development of Tourism**

\*567. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India continues to lag behind in attracting tourists as compared to countries like China and Thailand;

(b) if so, whether a Tourist Seminar was held at New Delhi in which the Home Minister released a book on poverty reduction through tourism in the month of March 2001; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote eco-tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The International Tourist Arrival in China, Thailand and India during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 as indicated in the following table reveals that China and Thailand attract more tourists than India;

Year	Tourist Arrivals (Million)		
	China	Thailand	India
1997	23.8	7.3	2.4
1998	25.1	7.8	2.4
1999	27.0	8.7	2.5

(b) Hon'ble Home Minister released a book titled "Poverty Eradication and Economic Development Through Tourism" in the month of March, 2001 at a function arranged by a leading tourism and travel group.

(c) The Central Department of Tourism promotes Eco-tourism in the country by extending Central Financial Assistance to Eco-friendly tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. Eco tourism attractions are given wide publicity in the country as well as in overseas markets to attract tourists. The Central Department of Tourism has formulated "Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines" for creating awareness among all the stakeholders involved in this activity for achieving sustainable tourism development in the country. Policy and guidelines have been endorsed for implementation by all the State Governments/Union Territories.

**Exploration Blocks Offered Under NELP-II**

\*568. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the exploration blocks offered by the Government under the second round of the NELP-II have failed to generate much response from major international oil and gas companies;

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

(c) the reasons which forced the major foreign oil and gas companies to opt out from the offer of the exploration blocks under NELP-II; and

(d) the details of losses likely to be suffered by the Government due to opt out decision taken by foreign oil and gas companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The basic objective of the Government under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NLP) is to get oil and gas explored in the country, through technically and financially qualified organizations whether Indian or foreign, small or large. As such, bidding companies are required to meet certain technical and financial criteria and size of the company is not a vital criteria for selection. By the bid closing date 31.03.2001 under the second round of NELP (NELP-II), a total of 44 bids for 23 blocks out of 25 blocks offered were received and 6 foreign companies and 7 Indian companies participated in the bidding process.

None of the 6 foreign companies falls under the category of "major" international oil companies. However, decision of participation on bidding for an exploration blocks depends on the business strategy and future plans of each oil company. Internationally many oil companies prefer to acquire interest (farm-in) in acreages only after oil and gas resources have been established which is already provided in the Production Sharing Contracts under NELP.

(d) No loss to the Government is envisaged due to non-participation by "major" international oil and gas companies, since it is expected that all the blocks bid will be awarded for exploration.

#### **Cases of Atrocities against Women**

\*569. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether justice still eludes women who are victims of atrocities like dowry harassment and rape;

(b) if so, whether the Government had set up Mahila Courts to specially deal with such cases;

(c) if so, whether the conviction rate is very poor and the number of atrocity cases being registered are spiralling every year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps, the Government propose to take to expedite the cases of atrocities against women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Mahila Courts have been set up in the NCT of Delhi and State of Karnataka. Delhi has 4 Women Courts and Karnataka has one.

(c) and (d) The number of cases which were registered and in which conviction was awarded, in respect of crimes against women, during the last three years is as under:

Year	Cases Registered	Cases in which Conviction Awarded
1997	121265	24866
1998	131475	24079
1999	135771	27914

(e) The Government has taken various steps to expedite the cases of atrocities against women.

With a view to promoting conciliation and securing speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith, the Government of India has enacted the Family Courts Act, 1994. After the enactment of this Act, 61 Family courts have been set up so far in the States. The Family Courts are essentially Civil Courts. They have jurisdiction over matters relating to matrimonial relief, legitimacy, guardianship and maintenance cases.

Various statutes like the Dowry Prohibition Act, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, Child Marriage Restraint Act have been enacted to prevent atrocities such as rape, dowry deaths, torture, kidnapping & abduction, sexual harassment, etc. These laws are regularly monitored and amendments are carried out, wherever necessary. The responsibility for implementation of these Acts vests with the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations regarding the preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures that need to be taken in connection with atrocities on women.

A National Commission for Women (NCW) was constituted in January, 1992 as a statutory apex level body to monitor the implementation of Constitutional and legal provisions for safeguarding the interests of women. It receives complaints relating to dowry/atrocities cases,

dowry related suicides/deaths/murders. These cases are duly processed in the Commission under the relevant sections of the NCW Act, 1990 and referred to the appropriate authorities such as police, District Magistrates, etc. with the Commission's recommendations for expediting action under the criminal law and bringing the guilty persons to trial in the court.

Various State Governments have set up Special Cells to deal with crimes against women.

### **Seeds Act**

\*570. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive Seeds Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive revision of the Seeds Act, 1966. This is necessitated by far-reaching changes that have taken place in the national economic and agriculture scenario and in the international environmental since the enactment of the existing seeds legislation. Moreover special thrust is proposed to be given to production of good quality seed in order to meet the food production targets of the future.

Salient features of the proposed legislation are given below:—

- Establishment of National Seeds Boards is proposed in the place of Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board.
- Seed of any kind or variety for the purpose of sowing or planting will be sold in the country only if the said kind or variety has been registered by the National Seeds Board as per the criteria prescribed.
- The Government will have the right to exclude certain kind or varieties from registration to protect public order or public morality or human, animal and plant life and health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment.

- National Seeds Board will specify minimum standards on germination, genetic and physical purity with respect to any seed of a registered kind or variety.
- The mark or label on the seed consignment will indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum standards, as specified.
- For regulating sale of seeds, no person or dealer will be allowed to carry on the business of selling or supplying any seed which is not of a registered kind/variety.
- Farmers will be exempted from the requirement to register their kinds of varieties.
- National Seeds Board or the State Government may accredit individuals or organizations to carry out certification, including self-certification on fulfilment of criteria prescribed by the Board.
- All seed processing units will require to be registered and to maintain minimum specifications.
- Import of seed for sale shall be permitted only of registered varieties. Registration of such varieties shall be granted on the basis of trials conducted for minimum period of 3 seasons in India.
- Any person intending to import seed or planting material will declare that such material is, or is not as the case may be, of transgenic character.
- Seed or planting material of transgenic nature will have to carry a declaration on their label to this effect.
- A kind or variety shall not be registered, or imported, if it contains any potentially harmful technology (such as 'terminator technology').

[Translation]

### **Pending Proposals of Gas Based Power Plants**

\*571. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals relating to the gas based power plants pending with the Government;

(b) the stages at which they are pending;

(c) the date on which each proposal was received by the Government; and

(d) the reasons for not according approval to these proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) There are 4 Gas based thermal power projects, which are pending with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for grant of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC). The details regarding date of receipt of Detailed Project Reports, pending inputs are enclosed as statement. Accord of TEC by CEA is dependent on receipt of pending inputs/clearances from the project authorities.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of Pending Proposals of Gas Based Power Projects in Central Electricity Authority (As on 31.3.2001)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project & Location	Capacity (Fuel) (MW)	Date of receipt of DPR	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
1.	Jegurupadu Expn. CCGT in A.P. by M/s. GVK Industries Ltd.	230 (Gas/ Naphtha)	March, 2001	Under examination Certain clarifications are being sought from the IPP regarding capacity, fuel requirement & water requirement
2.	Konaseema CCGT in A.P. by M/s. Konaseema EPS Oakwell Power Ltd.	445 (Gas)	Dec., 2000	Under Examination Pending inputs/clearances are: 1. Fuel linkage for full capacity. 2. Clearance from State Irrigation Deptt. 3. CWC clearance 4. NAA clearance 5. MOE & F clearance.
<b>Karnataka</b>				
3.	LNG based CCPP at Shivapura Konnur in Karnataka by M/s. Wesco Power Generation Ltd.	483 (LNG)	January, 2001	Under Examination Following inputs/clearances are yet to be tied up by Company: 1. Tie-up of LNG Supply 2. Clearance of Water Availability from State Govt. 3. Clearance of Water Availability from Central Govt. (CWC) 4. Clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests.

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Gujarat</b>				
4.	Dhuvaran Gas based Power Project by M/s. Gujarat State Electricity Corpn. Ltd. (GSECL)	107.238 (Gas)	30.3.2000	<p>Following inputs/clearances are pending:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fuel linkage-available subject to retirement of existing GT units of Dhuvaran Project.</li> <li>2. NOC from State Forest &amp; Environment Department.</li> <li>3. Clearance from Central Ground Water Board.</li> <li>4. SPCB clearance in respect of discharge of brackish water effluents into Mahi River.</li> </ol>

**Identification and Development of  
Tourist/Religious Places**

\*572. SHRI RAJO SINGH:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether several important tourist/religious places are lacking in infrastructure facilities and are being neglected from tourism point of view, especially in Adivasi, Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken both by the Union and the State Governments in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the names of tourist/religious places identified for development during each year of the Ninth Five Year Plan and proposed for 2001-2002, State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and sanctioned both by the Union and State Governments for their development during the said period, separately, State-wise and place-wise;

(e) whether the Government have any monitoring agency to look into the proper utilisation of funds and proper maintenance of tourist/religious places in different States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Development of Tourist/Religious Places is mainly undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations in their respective States. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial assistance to them every year in consultation with them to strengthen their efforts to upgrade infrastructure facilities at tourist places including the places falling in Advasi, Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified 21 Travel circuits and 60 pilgrim centres in the country in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourist infrastructure.

(d) A Statement showing Central financial assistance sanctioned by the Department of Tourism, Government of India to the various States and UT Administrations for development of Tourism during first four years of Ninth Plan is attached.

(e) and (f) In order to monitor the progress of the projects, a Monitoring Committee consisting of the Regional Directors/Directors of Government of India Tourist Offices and State Governments has been set up to oversee speedy implementation of the projects. The maintenance of the tourist/religious places is undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

**Statement**

*Project sanctioned, amount sanctioned and released during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (All the Projects including Fairs and Festivals)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	1997-1998		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	10	244.08	14	222.22	13	271.50
2.	Assam	14	288.88	16	457.95	17	357.35	12	338.35
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	6	216.32	11	239.28	7	90.03
4.	Bihar	11	233.07	11	237.29	5	89.71	7	196.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	114.00
6.	Goa	8	144.62	14	319.98	11	279.82	6	48.40
7.	Gujarat	7	111.84	15	449.57	19	327.64	8	325.86
8.	Haryana	6	98.62	12	333.93	9	238.33	3	47.15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	10	318.00	17	691.79	16	321.04
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	293.35	6	192.85	16	334.58	9	304.93
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	205.67
12.	Karnataka	10	130.78	13	407.48	38	856.40	22	514.47
13.	Kerala	11	287.00	13	653.05	19	699.28	12	592.04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9	119.31	18	471.01	16	431.08	16	291.28
15.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	18	496.27	30	1003.69	3	131.88
16.	Manipur	5	186.10	8	140.49	10	229.00	18	782.77
17.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	5	120.48	5	30.72	4	83.46
18.	Mizoram	6	142.45	8	203.34	13	267.23	13	304.19
19.	Nagaland	3	113.90	11	230.54	16	291.80	8	156.53
20.	Orissa	28	552.05	6	178.60	19	301.90	2	81.91
21.	Punjab	6	52.87	7	241.29	8	175.00	5	111.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Rajasthan	14	135.33	22	436.28	12	131.22	4	62.06
23.	Sikkim	11	73.20	15	136.03	13	118.98	32	368.79
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	17	316.20	27	531.95	7	101.10
25.	Tripura	8	126.68	9	169.21	7	340.76	13	333.23
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	41	866.14	36	755.45	7	149.21
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	39.33
28.	West Bengal	7	125.76	12	211.13	6	194.01	16	281.63
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	4	162.50	1	32.37	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	3	54.23	4	69.59	2	114.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2	20.00	1	30.00	1	8.00
32.	Delhi	8	229.86	13	223.89	5	24.50	1	16.28
33.	Daman & Diu	4	60.17	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	1	29.00	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	4	35.64	2	15.00	10	163.89	—	—
Total		255	4696.76	348	8552.13	415	9459.54	279	6786.99

**Ring Railway Service in Delhi***[English]*

\*573. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring some improvement in the Ring Rail service keeping in view the transport problem in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The existing trains running on Delhi Ring Railway are inadequately patronised. Therefore, there is no proposal to introduce additional ring rail services in Delhi, at present.

**Approval of Funds to Projects of NCES**

\*574. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects of Non-Conventional Energy Sources submitted or approved during 2000-2001;

(b) the total amount spent in this sector during the last three years till date; and

(c) the details of future plans for tapping of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The details of various Non-Conventional Energy systems/devices sanctioned/installed during the year 2000-2001, are given in statement-I.

(b) The Ministry spent a total amount of Rs. 947.32 crores during last three years i.e. 1998-1999, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 as financial and promotional incentives for promotion, development and utilization of various non-conventional energy programmes in the country.

(c) The details of programme-wise targets fixed for the country as a whole for the year 2001-2002, are given in statement-II. State-wise targets are not fixed by the Ministry under various non-conventional energy programmes except for biogas, improved chulha and solar photovoltaic programmes. There under finalization in consultation with the States for the year 2001-2002.

**Statement-I**

**Details of Non-Conventional Energy Systems/Devices Sanctioned/Installed during 2000-2001**

Programmes/Schemes	Systems/Devices Sanctioned/Installed during 2000-2001
Biogas Plants	1,80,000 Nos.
Community/Institutional/Night soil based Biogas Plants	400 Nos.
Improved chulha	20,00,000 Nos.
Biomass/Gasifier	10.59 MW
Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme	
SPV Home Light	56,910 Nos.
SPV Lanterns	98,421 Nos.
SPV Street Lighting Systems	4,271 Nos.
SPV Power Plants	287.4 kWp
SPV Pumps	850 Nos.
Solar Thermal Energy	
Solar Water Heating Systems	35,000 sq.m. collector area
Solar Cooker	35000 Nos.
Wind Pumps	99 Nos.
Small Aerogenerators & Hybrid Systems	283 kW
Wind power	173 MW
Small Hydro Power	64.15 MW
Biomass Power	76.60 MW
Solar Photovoltaic Power	1716 kWp
Energy Parks	46 Nos.

kWp = Kilo Watt Peak; sq.m. = square meter; kW= Kilo Watt; MW = Mega Watt.



**Statement-II***Details of Physical Targets fixed under various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes for the year 2001-2002*

Sl.No.	Programme	Physical target 2001-2002
1.	Family Type Biogas Plants	1,80,000 Nos.
2.	Community/Institutional/Night soil based biogas plants	400 Nos.
3.	Improved chulha Programme	20,00,000 nos.
4.	Special Area Demonstration Programme	38 energy parks
5.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme	
	SPV Home Lighting Systems	35,000 Nos.
	SPV Lanterns	85,000 Nos.
	Street Lighting Systems	300 Nos.
	SPV power Plants	220 kWp
6.	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps	800 Nos.
7.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme	
	Solar water heating systems	40,000 m.sq. collector area
	Solar Cookers	25,000 Nos.
8.	Wind Pumps	200 Nos.
9.	Small Aerogenerator & Hybrid Systems	125 kw
10.	Wind power Programme	200 MW
11.	Small Hydro Power	30 MW
12.	Biomass Power	80 MW
13.	Biomass/Gasifier	7 MW
14.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	300 kWp
15.	Urban & Industrial Waste	10 MW

MW= mega watt; kW=kilo watt; kWp=kilo watt peak; m.sq.=meter square.

**Global Image of India**

\*575. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and German experts had a three day meeting in New Delhi from March 12 to 14, 2001 to discuss ways and means to improve respective global images of their countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps and schemes were evolved therein to correct India's image abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A seminar was organized by National Council for Educational Research & Training under Festival of Germany in India 2000-2001 to review "Image of India in Germany and Germany's Image in Indian-Textbooks in High School Education" There was fruitful exchange of view among the experts during the Seminar.

[Translation]

**Financial Crisis in Cotton Textile Industry**

\*576. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite the heavy production of cotton the cotton based textile industries are facing acute financial crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The production of Cotton, Cotton Yarn and Cotton fabrics and exports of Cotton Textiles during the last 5 years have been as follows:

Item	Unit	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-2001 (upto February 2001)
<b>Production</b>						
Raw cotton*	Million kg.	3024	2686	2805	2652	2482
Cotton Yarn	Million kg.	2148	2213	2022	2204	2073
Cotton fabrics	Million sqm.	19841	19992	17948	18989	17874
<b>Exports</b>						
Cotton Textile	Rs. in Crore	7252	7440	7660	7960	5700

\*Cotton Year October-September.

It may be seen from above that production and exports of cotton textiles have been showing a positive growth during the last 5 years. However, the production of cotton and cotton fabrics has declined during 1998-99 as compared to the previous year due to recession in the domestic and international markets.

Government have taken a number of steps for overall growth and development of the Cotton Textile Industry. Some of these are as follows:—

- (i) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has been launched to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton with a view to ensure the availability of good quality cotton at reasonable prices to the textile mills.
- (ii) Encourage modernization of Cotton Textile Industries by providing reimbursement of 5% on interest charged by the lending agencies on projects of Technological Upgradation under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).
- (iii) Import of cotton is under OGL to help industry to import the requisite quality of raw cotton.
- (iv) Reduction of customs duty from 15% to 5% on certain textile machinery.

[English]

**Multi-model Services**

\*577. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India offers multi-model services for domestic as well as international cargo;

(b) if so, the extent of such services being offered by the Container Corporation of India;

(c) whether the CONCOR has not been utilising its full operational capacity presently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to enhance the efficiency of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) offers multimodal services using rail and road transport, both for domestic and international business in containers within the country.

(b) These services are spread over a nation-wide network of CONCOR.

(c) No, Sir. Operational capacity is being utilised efficiently.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Introduction of superior rolling stock, along with customised containers, terminals and warehousing facilities are some steps being taken to enhance further the Company's efficiency.

#### **Power Sector to be Removed from the Concurrent List**

\*578. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power being in the Concurrent List has resulted delays in finalisation and execution of power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign financial institutions have urged the Government to bring the power in the Union List on the lines of Telecommunications for speedy execution and finalization of power sector and to increase investment in this sector;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to bring the power in the Union List;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Conservation of Monuments**

\*579. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched any project for conservation and development of various monuments in the country in collaboration with World Monument Watch;

(b) if so, the salient features of the project along with the names of monuments selected in this regard, location/ State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to conserve the original architecture and restore the erstwhile glory of the forts and to reduce the commercial activities inside the fortification areas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While the World Monument Fund have initiated discussion with the Archaeological Survey of India for the all-round conservation of the fort at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, no final decision has been taken in this regard.

#### **Winding up of NTC**

\*580. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR has recommended to wind up the National Textile Corporation (NTC);

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Non-Enforcement of Provisions of Delivery of Books Act, 1954**

5818. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, National Library, Calcutta, failed to enforce the provisions of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act 1954, resulting in non-receipt of books worth Rs. 29.25 lakhs and foreign journals during 1984-97 for which advance payment of Rs. 8.26 lakhs had been made;

(b) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) All newly published books in the country are receivable in the National Library, Calcutta under the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954. The number of books received in the National Library during last 10 years under the aforesaid Act is indicated in statement enclosed. The primary reason for non-receipt of newly published books are (i) the provision to discourage default under Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act is a fine of Rs. 50/- which is no deterrent. Another reason is that overwhelming number of publications are being brought out by small publishers. With the limited resources available at the National Library it is difficult and time consuming to reach them. However, it will be seen from the Statement that as a result of concerted efforts now being made, the number of books received in 1999-2000 has shown 25% increase over the previous year.

The non-receipt of journals valued at Rs. 8.26 lakhs during 1984-97 is attributable to the following reasons:

- (1) Missing of certain issues in transit.
- (2) Change of titles of journals before the end of the period for which subscription has been paid.
- (3) Sometimes 2 issues are combined together and brought out as a combined issue.
- (4) Cessation of publication.
- (5) Because of a gap between the sum advanced and the amount actually due on account of a change in the conversion rate of a particular foreign exchange.
- (6) Change of title.

(b) This is not warranted in the circumstances explained above.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Statement**

#### *National Library, Calcutta*

#### *Publications received under the Delivery of Books Act, 1954*

Year	
1990-1991	18,065
1991-1992	18,493
1992-1993	18,051
1993-1994	13,824
1994-1995	14,525
1995-1996	14,883
1996-1997	12,504
1997-1998	13,014
1998-1999	15,922
1999-2000	20,012

[Translation]

#### **Corruption in Handloom/Handicraft Sector**

5819. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicraftsmen and handloom weavers are not being benefited from the various programmes run by the Government due to corruption in these sectors;

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

(c) whether the persons who have been issued fake I-Cards by the corrupt officers posted at the Marketing Division by the Development Commissioner, Handicraft and the D.C., Handloom are getting all the benefits meant for the real craftsmen and weavers; and

(d) if so, the number of persons suspended after an enquiry into this matter by the Government and the role of both of these Commissioners in the corrupt practices?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Cold Chain

5820. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to introduce cold chain/carriage system to facilitate the transit/procurement and marketing of fresh vegetables, fruits, milk and other fast perishable food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received from various States in this regard; and

(d) the action 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 through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing, *inter-alia*, the following schemes namely, (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Post Harvest Management since May, 2000; and (ii) the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Modernisation/Expansion of cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce since 1999. Some of the post-harvest components under the scheme mentioned at (i) above include setting up of Refer vans/containers; pre-cooling units and cool stores, etc. Under this scheme, back-ended capital investment subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh tonnes per project is provided. For the North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30.00 lakhs per project. Prior to introduction of this scheme, the NHB had been implementing a scheme named "Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops" under which financial assistance for procuring refrigerated transport vehicle by the eligible beneficiary were also provided. The details of soft loan released, State-wise under the scheme during 1992-1993 to 1999-2000 are given in Statement-I attached

Under the scheme for construction/modernisation/expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, back-ended capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 50.00 lakhs and @ 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs in the case of North-Eastern States is provided by NHB through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in case of projects involving loan. In case of projects fully funded by entrepreneurs from his own resources, subsidy is directly released by NHB. The details of the number of proposals sanctioned (State-wise) under the scheme are given in statement-II attached.

### Statement-I

*State-wise Infrastructure Sanctioned Under Post-Harvest Management Scheme During 1992-93 to 1999-2000 (31.03.2000)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Refrigerated Transport Vehicle (in nos.)	Amount of soft loan released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Gujarat	3	14.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	1	5.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	6	30.00
4.	Punjab	14	55.00
5.	Delhi	4	19.95
6.	Andhra Pradesh	4	20.00
7.	Karnataka	4	17.30
8.	Maharashtra	15	67.85
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	5.00
Total		52	234.10

### Statement-II

*State-wise Projects Sanctioned Under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme on Cold Storages/Onion Godowns-up to 31st March, 2001*

Sl.No.	State	NABARD	NCDC	NHB
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat	24	—	3
2.	Orissa	3	2	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Madhya Pradesh	24	3	—
4.	Andhra Pradesh	18	—	—
5.	Maharashtra	9	1	1
6.	Punjab	24	—	—
7.	Haryana	6	—	2
8.	Tamil Nadu	14	—	—
9.	Assam	1	1	—
10.	Rajasthan	22	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Uttar Pradesh	91	1	4
12.	Karnataka	7	—	1
13.	Tripura	—	1	—
14.	West Bengal	—	6	1
15.	Bihar	—	2	—
16.	Delhi	—	—	1
Total		243	17	13

[Translation]

#### Supply of Petroleum Products to M.P.

5821. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of diesel, petrol and kerosene and natural gas supplied every month to the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the supply is less than the demand; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand?

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) The quantity of sales of Diesel, Petrol and Kerosene through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in the State of Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000 month-wise is given below:—

(Figures in TMT)

Product	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
MS	24.3	24.3	23.3	21.5	21.0	20.4	22.5	24.1	24.1	24.6	25.9	26.0	282.0
Kerosene	56.8	55.2	55.3	55.3	55.4	55.6	55.8	55.6	55.5	55.4	55.8	55.9	667.8
HSD	205.0	211.9	226.0	177.9	155.6	159.5	191.5	221.6	220.9	198.2	193.4	203.9	2365.6

The average current supply of natural gas to the State of Madhya Pradesh is about 3.5 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD).

(b) and (c) While Petrol and Diesel are available in the market under sales through the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and their demand is being met in full. Kerosene for Public Distribution System is an allocated product. Sale of Kerosene under the Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS) is also allowed by the Government to supplement Kerosene supplied under Public Distribution System. With regard to the augmentation of supply of natural gas, it is proposed to import LNG at Dahej through Petronet LNG Limited

(PLL) - (a Joint Venture Company promoted by GAIL, IOCL, BPCL and ONGCL) and to link Dahej with the HBJ System.

[English]

#### Allocation for New Lines

5822. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for each of the new lines under Northeast Frontier Railway, Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the reasons for shortfall of expenditure in the construction of new lines;

(c) the details of new lines which have incurred excess expenditures; and

(d) the sources from which the excess expenditure was met during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for T and D System**

5823. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has released the strategy paper on power in the month of January, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Rs. 500 crore assistance from the World Bank in addition to already proposed \$100 million assistance under APL-II for strengthening of transmission and distribution system in the State;

(d) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government of Andhra Pradesh is likely to be able to strengthen its transmission system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from Government of Andhra Pradesh and APTRANSCO and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

#### **Allotment of Chambers to Advocates**

5824. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of advocates registered with the Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) whether the number of advocates especially those belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes registered with the Supreme Court and the High Courts are working without chambers; and

(c) the criteria followed in allotment of chambers to Advocates?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No separate registration is required for practising in the Supreme Court or High Courts. A person enrolled as an Advocate in a State Bar Council is entitled to practise both in the Supreme Court and High Courts as well as the Subordinate Courts.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### **IRRI**

5825. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Manila International Rice Research Institute and some other Universities have reported to have devised a type of rice with 21 mg iron and 34 mg zinc contents, called IR 68144;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this rice requires no help of biotechnology;

(c) whether iron content in rice rectifies blood and zinc content protects suffering from diarrhoea and safeguards growing from excess collostal in blood;

(d) whether the iron and zinc contents available in the newly devised rice are almost double the contents of Indian rice;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to go in for cultivation of such specific rice; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, Philippines has developed rice variety i.e. IR 68144 having 21 mg Iron and 34 mg Zinc content.

(b) This rice variety has been developed through conventional methods of breeding without the help of biotechnology.

(c) Increased iron content in blood through consumption of this rice has been found to improve hemoglobin level in blood and is likely to help in alleviating iron deficiency anemia (IDA) problem. As regards the role of higher iron and zinc content in rice safe-guarding from increasing cholesterol in blood, experimental evidences are lacking.

(d) The iron and zinc content available in the newly devised rice are almost double the content of normal Indian rice.

(e) and (f) The lines developed at IRRI are generally tested for their response to different biotic and abiotic stresses and their suitability is thoroughly assessed in the agroclimatic conditions of India. Only after their superiority is established in the Indian conditions, such lines may be recommended for cultivation.

#### **Losses Suffered by Power Sector In Gujarat**

5826. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of losses suffered by Departments in Central/State Governments of his Ministry due to recent earthquake in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Government of Gujarat has reported that there has been no major damage to the plants and machinery of the renewable energy projects due to the recent earthquake in Gujarat, except minor damages to the civil structures of one wind power and one biomass gasifier based power plant. The estimated cost of repairs of these damages is about Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

(b) 5,000 solar lanterns, 1,000 community chulhas and 1,000 improved chulhas have been sent by the Ministry to the Government of Gujarat as immediate relief/aid for the earthquake victims. Additional renewable energy devices have also been offered, as required by the Gujarat Government.

As a gesture of goodwill, the staff of Ministry and IREDA have also contributed Rs. 16.91 lakhs to the PM's Relief Fund for the earthquake relief.

[Translation]

#### **National Cattle Breeding Policy**

5827. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate the National Cattle Breeding Policy to promote cattle rearing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed policy include the development of various breeds of cattle;

(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) The Government has launched a National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding under which every participating State is required to formulate and notify its cattle breeding policy keeping in view the resources and requirement of the State and link it with the programme. Since the scheme was approved in October, 2000 only and many of the States are yet to formulate their proposals and notify their cattle breeding policy a clear picture necessary for formulation of a national cattle breeding policy will emerge only after all the States, having breeding tract of indigenous breeds finalize their programme.

(c) to (e) The National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding lays particular emphasis on development of indigenous breeds. The guidelines for the scheme recommend due consideration to the indigenous breeds in the States Breeding Policy.

[English]

#### **Replacing of Obsolete Shuttle Looms**

5828. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to replace the old and obsolete models of shuttle looms with latest models and increase the number of shuttlers looms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government of India has formulated a new scheme known as Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) under which assistance to the extent of 50% of the cost of item restricted to Rs. 2000/- for procurement of new loom, Rs. 1500/- for dobby, Rs. 2000/- for Jacquard and Rs. 1000/- for other accessories is given as grant to weavers. The scheme may cover the replacement of old and obsolete models of shuttle looms with latest models and increase the number of shuttles looms.

[Translation]

#### **Loss for Transportation of Cargo**

5829. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ships upto third category only can anchor on Indian Ports and ships of larger size move towards Sri Lanka or Singapore ports in place of Indian ports for unloading of cargo;

(b) if so, whether one has to bear great loss for transportation of cargo from these ports to Indian ports; and



(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Upto third generation container vessels only can anchor at some of the Indian Ports, although in case of petroleum crude/products and Iron ore, larger vessels can anchor. As it is not possible to anchor even the third generation container vessels at some of the Indian ports, or such vessels are unable to call at the Indian ports, considerable quantity of containerized export/import is transhipped from/to country through the neighbouring foreign ports, including the ports of Colombo and Singapore, causing loss to Indian economy. To reduce transshipment of Indian cargo at foreign ports, Jawaharlal Nehru and Chennai ports are being upgraded as hubs to handle large container ships.

[English]

### Robbery in Trains

5830. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of passengers were drugged and robbed in the long distance trains leaving from Mumbai during last three years and the average detection rate for such offences is merely 18 per cent;

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

(c) the detailed strategy chalked out by railways in consultation with the local police; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Railways to fix the responsibility of passengers safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that a large number of passengers were drugged and robbed in long distance Trains leaving

Mumbai. Since such cases are registered and investigated by State Police, the rate of detection is not available with Railways.

(c) and (d) In addition to the measures taken by the State Police, the Railways have taken following steps to check the cases of poisoning and drugging of Railway passengers:—

1. Announcements through the public address system are made for educating and warning the passengers against accepting articles of food and beverages from unknown persons/co-passengers.
2. Suitable posters have been displayed prominently in Railway Stations.
3. Warnings have been displayed in coaches of trains considered vulnerable.
4. Advertisements have been inserted in newspapers for educating the passengers.
5. Collection of criminal intelligence has been strengthened to work out the gang responsible for commission of such offences.
6. Regular and effective drives have been conducting against unauthorized hawkers on trains and Railway premises.

[Translation]

### Non-Profitable Projects

5831. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Committee of railways have declared some rail projects running in various parts of the country as non-profitable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of these projects;

(d) whether these projects are likely to be reconsidered by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Railway Safety Review Committee in the Second

Part of its Report have identified, by way of example, following Railway projects as unprofitable. The estimated costs of these projects are also given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
(i)	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad : New Line	109.00
(ii)	New Moynaguri-Jogighopa : New Delhi	733.00
(iii)	New Mal Jn.-Changrabandha: Restoration	28.77
(iv)	Barasat-Hasnabad : Doubling	27.00
(v)	Amguri-Tuli : Gauge Conversion	738.54 (for the whole Gauge Conversion project of Lumding-Dibrugarh)
(iv)	Rupsa-Bangripasi: Gauge Conversion	80.00

(d) and (e) Restoration of New Mal Jn.-Changrabandha line has been completed. Other projects mentioned above are in various stages of execution. Review of projects is a continuous process on the Railways and all ongoing Railway projects are progressed as per their relative priority and availability of resources.

[English]

#### **Subsidy on Tractors**

5832. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide subsidy on the purchase of tractors for agriculture purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that farmers are using their vehicles for commercial purposes; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check misuse of tractors by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are providing subsidy @ 30% of the cost limited to Rs. 30,000/- for the purchase of Tractors of

upto 30 Power Take Off (PTO) HP alongwith implements to the farmers, individually or in groups, Registered Cooperative Societies, Multipurpose Agricultural Farming Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Macro-Management of Agriculture-Supplimentation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans'.

(c) and (d) Instances of use of tractors in the areas other than agriculture have been brought to the notice of the Government. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have requested all the State Governments to issue suitable instructions to all concerned directing that no tractor carrying passengers/goods (other than agricultural produce) is allowed on roads unless it possesses a valid permit and other transport vehicle related documents.

#### **Supply of Empty wagons**

5833. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is supplying empty wagons in addition to the number of wagons indented for and the empty passenger coaches are also attached to the trains in excess of their requirement thus causing loss of revenue to the Railways;

(b) if so, the number of excess wagons/coaches were supplied during the last three years and the total loss suffered by the Railways thereby;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Oil Production by Oil & Private Companies**

5834. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited during the last three years alongwith their cost of production separately;

(b) the number of employees working in ONGC and Oil India Limited as on January 31, 2000; and

(c) the efforts made to reduce the costing to effect economy in the market?

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) Production of crude oil during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and cost of production thereof:—

		1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Production (million metric tonne)	ONGC*	28.25	26.39	24.65
	OIL**	3.09	3.28	3.26
Cost of production+ (Rs/metric tonne)	ONGC	3203	3261	4020
	OIL	2340	2347	2793

+ Inclusive of statutory levies.

\* Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

\*\* Oil India Ltd.

(b) The number of employees working in ONGC and OIL as on 31.1.2001.

ONGC	40,021
OIL	10,082

(c) A number of measures have been/are being taken by ONGC and OIL to contain increase in cost of production of oil and gas, which amongst others include:

#### **1. ONGC**

- (i) Improving overall productivity, thereby reducing per unit cost of production.
- (ii) Increasing the utilization of natural gas and output of value added products like LPG, NGL and Kerosene.
- (iii) Introduction of State-of-the-art technologies to increase individual well productivity as well as to improve ultimate recovery.
- (iv) Adopting energy saving and conservation methods.

#### **2. OIL**

- (i) Sharing of common services to the extent possible.
- (ii) Re-siting of equipment from depleting wells or fields of new wells or fields.
- (iii) Redeployment of manpower.
- (iv) Saving on fuel consumption.
- (v) Adoption of new technology.

#### **Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System**

5835. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing a scheme called 'Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System' in various States to increase the productivity of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for the States, particularly Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(c) the results achieved so far; and

(d) the future target fixed for the States, particularly of Andhra Pradesh alongwith the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The year-wise amount allocated for all States and Andhra Pradesh is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Amount allocated to all States (Central Share)	Amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh (Central Share)
1997-1998	2444.07	172.75
1998-1999	2675.07	166.70
1999-2000	2019.76	135.00

(c) Production of sugarcane is given below:

(Production in 000' tonnes)		
Year	All India	Andhra Pradesh
1997-1998	279541.4	13955.0
1998-1999	288722.4	16503.3
1999-2000	299227.3	18667.8

It is evident from the above table that the production is showing an increasing trend.

(d) The target fixed by Planning Commission is 325 million tonnes for the year 2001-2002 at all India level of which Andhra Pradesh is 17.0 million tonnes. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in which more flexibility has been given to the States.

#### Loss Due to Purchase of Onion

5836. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government compensate the State Governments for the loss incurred on purchase of onion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount sanctioned and compensated during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether claim of any State Government is still pending finalisation with the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which those pending claims are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural items of importance including onion, prices of which tend to fall below economic level and the farmers are put to distress sales. Under the scheme, a pre-determined quantity is purchased at the price fixed by the Government of India in consultation with the concerned State Governments. The purchases are made by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as the Central Nodal agency and the State designated agency/agencies on equal basis. Profit/losses incurred under the scheme are shared equally on 50:50 basis between Government of India and the State Governments.

(c) During the last three years i.e. from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, MIS for onion was implemented in Maharashtra only for the quantity of 65,000 MTs for the period from 20th January, 2000 to 29th February, 2000.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Central share of loss of Rs. 487.50 lakhs on the implementation of MIS in Maharashtra is pending with the Government of India. The above pending claims are likely to be released based on availability of funds.

### Termination of Dealerships Made by DSBs

5837. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to terminate all such appointments/selection of dealership/distributorships made by DSBs and oil corporations which could have not been commissioned due to court cases or non-clearance by District authorities/land disputes on the selected sites;

(b) if so, whether the oil corporations/Government propose to rehabilitate them on alternative locations or would keep such cases in pending list; and

(c) if so, the time by which such cases are likely to be commissioned keeping in view the changing scenario or entrance of private entrepreneurs in the trade?

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) and (c) Do not arise.

### Collection Charges by IOCL

5838. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited in gross violation of Government's policy is charging Rs. 7 per thousand as collection charges from such outstationed dealers who make payment through cheques for the supplies of petrol and diesel;

(b) whether the oil corporations are entitled to charge only Rs. 15 and Rs. 37 per Kilo litres for the supplies of Diesel and Petrol respectively from the said category of dealers; and

(c) if so, the time by which such violations are to be stopped and action proposed to be taken in the matter?

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) Indian Oil Corporation is charging Rs. 7 per thousand as collection charges on the value of outstation cheques received from dealers as the similar bank charges are required to be paid by IOC to bankers. There is no specific Government directives in the matter.

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

### Selection of Candidates for different Locations by DSBs of Haryana

5839. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of General Managers and Law Department of IOCL in the matter of complaints against selection of candidates for different locations by earlier DSBs of Haryana, location-wise and candidate-wise;

(b) the authority empowered to finally decide the matter in the event of suspension of such boards before deciding such pending cases;

(c) the time by which the respective oil corporations are likely to be directed to issue LOI to such shortlisted candidates whose candidature had been cleared by the enquiry team; and

(d) the number of Chairmen of suspended earlier boards have been reappointed and the reasons thereof, board-wise and Chairman-wise?

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 complaints against selection of dealers/distributors for different locations by the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards for the dealerships/distributorships of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited at different locations in Haryana were investigated in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government and LOIs were issued to the selected candidates who were cleared after the investigation.

The following guidelines have been laid down by the Government for investigation of complaints against selection of dealers/distributors by the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards.

"Investigation on the complaints already received or further complaints against the recommendations of these Dealer Selection Boards or any other Dealer Selection Board may be made by senior officers not below the rank of General Manager of the concerned Oil Company and necessary recommendation sent by the Director (Marketing) of the concerned Oil company to the Government for necessary decision. In routine and frivolous complaints, decision may be taken at the level of Director (Marketing)."

(d) The information will be laid on the Table of the House

#### Facilities to Domestic/Foreign Tourists

5840. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities being provided at present to domestic and foreign tourists while visiting tourist centres in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to foreign tourists during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (d) Tourist facilities are a part of the infrastructure development projects undertaken by the State Governments. Some of these projects are funded by the Central Ministry of Tourism based on their merits, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. These include construction of Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwases, Sound and Light shows etc.

#### Losses Due to Strikes

5841. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:  
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of material shipped from each port during the last three years, port-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether due to strikes the work of the ports was affected adversely; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the functioning of ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The quantum of cargo shipped through different major ports during the last three years are as under:

(In million tonnes)

Ports	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Calcutta	9.16	10.31	7.16
Haldia	20.22	20.71	22.80
Paradip	13.11	13.64	19.90
Vizag	35.65	39.51	44.69
Chennai	35.20	37.44	41.22
Tuticorin	10.15	9.99	12.28
Cochin	12.67	12.80	13.12
New Mangalore	14.21	17.60	17.89
Mormugao	18.02	18.23	19.63
J.L. Nehru	11.72	14.98	18.58
Mumbai	30.97	30.41	26.95
Kandla	40.64	46.30	36.74
Total	251.72	271.92	280.96

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government appoints two persons as Labour Trustees on each of the Major Port Trust Boards to take care of the interest of the labour employed in the port and help in maintenance of industrial harmony in the ports. With a view to resolving various disputes amicably, the Port authorities also have discussions and negotiations regularly with the registered trade unions.

#### Promotion of Tourism

5842. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to promote tourism in the country during the Tenth Plan, State-wise;

(b) the details of new places proposed to be promoted in the States; and

(c) the names of hotels likely to be closed by the ITDC during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The promotion of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations in their respective State. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India also promotes tourism for the country as a whole through its overseas offices, production of literature and use of information technology tools. Allocation of funds for 10th five year plan are not finalised.

(c) ITDC has no plan, at present, to close any hotel.

### Setting up of Power Plants

5843. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants proposed to be set up in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the details of private participation in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the status of capacity addition (State-wise and sector-wise) during 9th Plan is attached.

### Statement

#### *Capacity Addition during first three years of IX Plan*

(All figs. in MW)

State Sector		1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Northern Region</b>				
i.	Bhatinda (Punjab)	210	210	—
ii.	Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	—	250	250
iii.	Tanda (U.P.)	110	—	—
iv.	Upper Sindh (J.K.)	—	—	35
v.	Sobla (U.P.)	—	6	—
<b>Western Region</b>				
i.	Kutch Lignite (Gujarat)	75	—	—
ii.	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	210	—	—
iii.	Wanakbori (Gujarat)	—	210	—
iv.	Sanjay Gandhi Extn. (M.P.)	—	210	210
v.	Chandrapur (Maha.)	500	—	—
vi.	Kadana (Gujarat)	—	60	—
vii.	Rajghat (M.P.)	—	—	45
viii.	Koyna-IV (Mah.)	—	250	750
ix.	Warna (Maha.)	8	8	—
x.	Dudhaganga (Maha.)	—	—	24

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Southern Region &amp; Island</b>				
i.	Kothagudem-IV (A.P.)	250	—	—
ii.	Raichur (Karnataka)	—	210	210
iii.	Barhampuram (Kerala)	80	20	—
iv.	Kozhikode (Kerala)	—	—	128
v.	Karkkal (Pondicherry)	—	22.9	9.6
vi.	Singur (A.P.)	—	—	15
vii.	Kalinadi-Kodasalli (Karnataka)	50	180	40
viii.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	6	—	—
ix.	Lower Periyar (Karnataka)	120	—	—
x.	Kakkad (Kerala)	—	—	50
xi.	Poringal Kuthu (Kerala)	—	16	—
xii.	Lower Bhawani (T.N.)	8	—	—
xiii.	Sathnur Dam (T.N.)	—	7.5	—
xiv.	Kunda-V Extn. (T.N.)	—	—	30
<b>Eastern Region</b>				
i.	Barkeshwar (W.B.)	—	—	210
ii.	Eastern Gandak (Bihar)	5	—	—
iii.	Upper Indravati (Orissa)	—	—	300
iv.	Teesta Canal (W.B.)	30	15	22.5
<b>North Eastern Region</b>				
i.	Rokhla (Tripura)	8	—	—
ii.	Nuranang (Ar. Pradesh)	6	—	—
<b>Overall State Sector</b>		<b>1676</b>	<b>1675.4</b>	<b>2329.10</b>

*Capacity Addition during balance two years period of IXth Plan*

(All figs. in MW)

		2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
<b>Central Sector</b>			
i.	Faridabad, NTPC	144 (July '00)	—
ii.	Simhadri, NTPC	—	500



1	2	3	4
iii.	Neyveli Extn. NLC	—	210
iv.	Doyang, NEEPCO	75 (Jun. '00)	—
v.	Ranganadi, NEEPCO	—	405
vi.	Tehri HEP, THDC	—	250
vii.	RAPP, NPC	220 (Nov. '00)	—
viii.	Kaiga, NPC	220 (Oct. '00)	—
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>1365</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>			
<b>Western Region</b>			
i.	Dabhol-II (Maha.)	—	1444
ii.	Ratlam DGPP (M.P.)	—	118
<b>Southern Region</b>			
i.	Kondapalli (A.P.) (Liquid Fuel)	112 (Jun. '00) 112 (Sept. '00) 126 (Oct. '00)	—
ii.	Vemagiri (A.P.)	—	132
iii.	BSES (Padapuram) (A.P.)	—	200
iv.	Bellary-DG (Kar.) (Liquid Fuel)	25.2 (Sept. '00)	—
v.	Tanir Bavi-Barage Mounted (Karn.)	—	200
vi.	Eloor (BSES) (Kerala) (Liquid Fuel)	39 (Nov. '00)	—
vii.	Samaynallur DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)	—	106
viii.	Pillariermalnallur (T.N.)	GT-225 (Mar. 01)	ST-105.5
ix.	Samallapati DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)	105 (Mar. 01)	—
x.	Bamboo flat DG (A&N)	—	20
<b>Eastern Region</b>			
i.	Jojobera (Bihar)	120 (Oct. '00)	120
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>864.20</b>	<b>2445.50</b>
		<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>
<b>State Sector</b>			
<b>Northern Region</b>			
i.	Panipat (Haryana)	210 (Mar. 01)	—
ii.	Ghanvi (H.P.)	11.25 (July '00) 11.25 (Dec. '00)	—

1	2	3	4
iii.	Thein Dam (Punjab)	150 (July '00) 150 (July '00) 150 (July '00) 150 (Aug. '00)	
iv.	Pragati CCP (Delhi)	—	104.6
v.	Chennai III (J&K)	7.5 (July '00)	—
vi.	Upper Sindh (J&K)	—	35.0
vii.	Pahalgaoon (J&K)	—	3.0
<b>Western Region</b>			
i.	Khaperkheda (Mah.)	210 (May '00) 210 (Jan. '01)	
ii.	Sardar Sarovar (M.P.)	—	450
iii.	Bansagar Ton (M.P.)	20 (Jan. 01)	20
<b>Southern Region &amp; Island</b>			
i.	LVS DGPP (A.P.)	—	36.8
ii.	Rangat Bay DG (A&N Island)	—	5
iii.	Kovkalappal (T.N.)	107 (Feb/Mar 01)	
iv.	Srisaillam (A.P.)	150 (Mar., 01)	300
v.	Sharavati (Karnataka)	60 July '00)	180
vi.	Kuttlyadi Extn. (Kerala)	—	50
vii.	Kolpaong (A&N Island)	—	5.2
viii.	DG (A&N Island)	5.72 (Nov. '00)	(Nov. '00)
ix.	DG (Lakshadweep)	3.05 (Nov. '00)	
<b>Eastern Region</b>			
i.	Bakreshwar (W.B.)	210 (May '00) 210 (Mar., 01)	
ii.	Upper Indravati (Orissa)	150 (Sept. '00) 150 (Mar., '01)	
iii.	Potteru (Orissa)	—	6
<b>North eastern Region</b>			
i.	Leimkhong DG (Manipur)	—	36
<b>Overall</b>		<b>2325.77</b>	<b>1231.60</b>
<b>Cumulative target</b>		<b>3848.97</b>	<b>5042.10</b>

**Study of Fish**

5844. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ganga fish a health Hazard" as appearing in the 'Time of India' dated March 12, 2001;

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

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

(d) whether the Government propose to ban fishing from River Ganga to avoid fall out of such high concentration of pesticides; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It has been reported that there is high concentration of the pesticides in the Ganga water fish and such contaminated fish may lead to the serious health problems for the consumers.

(c) As per the information available the concentration of pesticides in the Ganga water fish has shown that as against the concentrations in 1987 there has been a reduction in concentrations for the period upto 1996. The overall frequency and the residue levels of the organo phosphorus pesticides have not been of much significance. The Government has already conducted a review of production and use of pesticides and a total ban on the use of DDT has been imposed. For cleansing Ganga a massive "Ganga Action Plan" has been launched which is aimed at reducing the chemical load of Ganga waters in down stream.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Generation of Power from Sugarcane Waste**

\*5845. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power producing capacity in megawatt from sugarcane waste in the country at present;

(b) whether the power generated from sugarcane waste would be cheaper or more costly than hydro-electric and thermal power;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the fields in which the power generated from sugarcane waste are likely to be used;

(e) whether there is any scheme to allow 500 sugar mills of the country to generate power from sugarcane waste; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A total surplus power capacity of 213 MW has been installed through 35 bagasse based co-generation projects in six States. A further surplus power capacity of 263 MW is under implementation.

(b) and (c) The average cost of Power generated from bagasse based co-generation projects varies from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.75 per unit, depending upon various technical, financial and operating parameters. The cost of power from bagasse based co-generation projects compares favourably with the cost of power generated from hydro-electric and thermal power projects.

(d) The power generated from bagasse based co-generation is used in the sugar mills for captive consumption and the surplus power is fed to the grid.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme for promotion of optimum surplus power generation from bagasse in sugar mills. The Programme provides for central financial assistance by way of capital subsidy or interest subsidy for various types of projects in cooperative, public and private sector sugar mills.

The Central and State Governments provide fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. Eight potential States have announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking, third party sale and buy-back of power generated from these projects. Soft loans are provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial projects. Financial assistance is also provided for preparation of detailed project reports, business/interaction meets and training programmes.

*[English]***Length of Inland Waterways**

5846. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the existing length of the inland waterways to reduce pressure on other means of transport;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms), the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms) and the West Coast Canal alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 kms) have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation. Techno Economic Feasibility Studies have been conducted on several other waterways namely river Barak, DVC Canal, Sunderbans waterways, Kakinada-Mercaunum Canal integrated with Godavari and Krishna rivers, East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river system and extension of National Waterway No. 3 towards North and South. These waterways have been found viable for development of inland water transport infrastructure. Their declaration as National Waterways and subsequent development will however depend on availability of resources.

*[Translation]***Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian Label**

5847. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to make it mandatory to indicate vegetarian and non-vegetarian on the labels of the packed canned food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A symbol in brown colour, in case of Non-Vegetarian food, or Green colour in case of Vegetarian food, shall be displayed on the principal display panel just in close proximity to the name or brand of the food.

(c) The Ministry of Health is in the process of issuing the Notification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder to make it mandatory to label the vegetarian/non-vegetarian foods.

*[English]***Promotion of Floriculture in Karnataka**

5848. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the vast scope to promote floriculture in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote floriculture in that State during the last three years; and

(c) the assistance extended to the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation by the Centre during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India launched a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture during Eighth Plan covering all the States including Karnataka. Under the scheme the following activities were taken up in Karnataka to promote floriculture during the last three years:—

- (1) Establishment of Model Floriculture Centre at Nagarur near Bangalore.
- (2) Area expansion in 210 ha. under floriculture.

- (3) Transfer of technology through trainings and floriculture village concept.
- (4) Assistance for setting up of green houses has been provided to flower growers in the State. Besides, Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation has established a Flower Auction Centre at Hebbal. A cold storage unit of 2.5 ton capacity has been established at Bangalore airport.

(c) Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation has been granted a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs by Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) for improvement of facilities at the Flower Auction Centre, Hebbal. APEDA has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 3.75 crores as grant to Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation for setting up of a whole sale market cum auction centre for flowers of International Standard.

#### **Central Food Laboratory**

5849. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up Central Food Laboratory at Madurai in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) 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) and (b) Government, at present do not have any proposal for setting up Central Food Laboratory at Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

(c) Four Central Food Laboratories have already been established which cater to the need for analysing the samples sent by the trial Courts in the country under the PFA Act, 1954.

#### **Mad Cow Disease**

5850. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mad cow disease has surfaced in some countries of the world including India recently;

(b) if so, whether any case of suspected mad cow disease has come to the notice of the Government from any part of the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government are fully equipped to combat the menace of mad cow disease; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to combat the diseases in case of an outbreak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Mad Cow Disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) has been reported in Germany, Denmark and Norway recently. The disease has not so far been reported in India.

(c) and (d) Although the disease is not prevalent in India, the Government to prevent ingress of the disease, has issued a Notification prohibiting import of live cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat; bovine, ovine and caprine embryos/ova/semen; fresh meat, meat products, tissue/organs, meat and bone meal of ruminant origin from countries where incidence of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy group of diseases has been reported.

Surveillance and monitoring for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy has been introduced in Central and Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories of the Department.

[Translation]

#### **LPG Agencies in Chhattisgarh State**

5851. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributors in Chhattisgarh State and the oil companies to which these belongs;

(b) whether the Union Government have set up LPG agencies as per the requirement of the State;

(c) if so, the number of LPG agencies targetted to be opened in the State during the current year; and

(d) the number of applications for setting up of LPG Agencies in the State received since the formation of the State or disposed of out of them so far?

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, 77 LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are operating in the State of Chattisgarh.

(b) to (d) LPG distributorships are set up at locations offering commercial viability for an independent LPG distributorship. Apart from the locations pending from previous marketing plans, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have included 28 locations in the Marketing Plan 1999-2000 in the State of Chattisgarh. It normally takes 6-12 months from the date of interview till the date of commissioning of dealership.

### Krishi Vigyan Kendras

5852. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent a proposal to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in 22 districts of the State and also to provide basic infrastructure to 8 newly set up Kendras there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has not received any such proposal from the Government of Bihar.

(b) The Council has already established 15 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the State, besides strengthening the Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in two districts. A proposal has also been worked out by the Council for establishment of new KVKs in five districts of the State.

### ONGC Investment in Sakhalin Oil Field of Russia

5853. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited, a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has sought permission to invest in the project of Sakhalin oilfield of Russia;

(b) if so, the amount decided to be invested;

(c) the total investment made by the ONGC Videsh Limited in foreign projects;

(d) the average annual income earned by the said company; and

(e) the amount of investment made by the said company in various countries alongwith the names of those countries?

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 has approved the proposal of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) to invest upto US\$ 1.7 billion for participation in the Sakhalin-I Project in Russia.

(c) and (e) The total investment made by OVL in various countries since inception till 31.3.2001, is Rs. 188 crores. The details of the investments are given below:

Country	Investment (Rs. crores)
Egypt	20
Tunisia	8
Vietnam	120
Yemen	40
Total	188

(d) During the last three years, (1998-1999 to 2000-2001), OVL has earned an average income of Rs. 12 crores per annum.

[English]

### Doubling of Bangalore-Whitefield Rail Line

5854. SHRI R.S. PATIL:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of railway line between Bangalore and Whitefield has been pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which this work would be completed; and

(c) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the section from Bangalore to Whitefield is a double line. However, the quadrupling of Bangalore-Krishnarajpuram section has been included in the Railway Budget. Work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances, action for which has been initiated. The work would be completed in the coming years depending upon relative priority and availability of resources.

(c) The funds allocated during 2001-2002 for this work are Rs. 10 lakhs.

#### Setting up of Fodder Bank

5855. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up fodder bank in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to the Government of Maharashtra for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the fodder Bank is likely to be set up?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs was granted to the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a fodder bank at Cattle Breeding Farm, Hingoli (Maharashtra) during 2000-2001.

(c) The time frame for setting up the fodder bank is to be decided by the State Government.

#### Purchase of Chillies by NAFED

5856. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to purchase Chillies to protect the Chilli Producing Farmers; and

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

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

(b) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for red Chillies in Andhra Pradesh for a quantity of 15,000 MTs has been sanctioned by the Government of India.

[Translation]

#### Decline in sale of Petroleum Products

5857. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the sale of petroleum products in the country has come down in comparison to the last year;

(b) if not, the quantity of petrol, diesel, Naphtha, Kerosene sold during 2000-2001; and

(c) the reasons for downfall in the sale of petroleum products?

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) While there has been an increase in the sale of Petrol and Naphtha, there was some reduction in the sales of Kerosene and Diesel in the previous year. The quantity of petroleum products sold, including Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS)/private imports for domestic consumption during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is indicated below product-wise:

(Figures in TMT)

Products	1999-2000	2000-2001	Growth (%)
Petrol	5909	6620	+12.0
Naphtha	10898	11753	+7.9
Kerosene	11898	11265	-5.3
Diesel (HSD)	39295	38227	-2.7

(c) The reasons for reduction in sales volume of Kerosene as compared to the previous year are that Kerosene through Public Distribution System is an allocated product. However, due to release of a large number of new LPG connections, demand for the product was lower as compared to the previous year. There was also a reduction in sale of kerosene through PMS compared to the previous year, and is primarily attributed

to the levy of high import duty to curb malpractices. In case of High Speed Diesel (HSD), the major reasons for the shortfall *inter-alia* were severe drought conditions in Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat and Rajasthan, shift in goods movement pattern from road to rail and general recession in the economy.

#### **Black Marketing of Tickets**

5858. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the train passengers are facing a lot of difficulties in purchasing of tickets from railway reservation counters at Delhi, New Delhi, Nizamuddin and Kalyan railway stations on account of black marketing of tickets by touts in connivance with the railway officials; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the black marketing of railway tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the checks conducted by the Railways, some cases of black-marketing of tickets have come to notice. In order to curb the menace of unauthorised sale of tickets, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments both in and around reservation offices at all important stations. Police is also involved in

the drives against touts. Strict disciplinary action is taken against any railway staff found conniving in malpractices under the Disciplinary & Appeal Rules. Besides, during peak rush periods, monitoring at important locations is stepped up.

#### **Development of Buddhist Places**

5859. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL.  
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) the names of Buddhist places identified for development in different States, location-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002 for the said purpose, place-wise; and

(c) the details of assistance provided by the foreign countries for the said purpose during the said period, place-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Department of Tourism had constituted two Task Forces in 1986 & 1987 which identified 62 Buddhist centres for development as follows:

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Uttar Pradesh:	Samath, Kushinagar, Piprahwa, Sravasti and Sankasia.
Bihar:	Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.
Andhra Pradesh:	Nagarjunakonda, Amarvati, Chandavaram, Guntupalli, Sankaram, Salihundam, Jaggayyapeta, Bhattiprolu, Ramatirtham, Ghantasala, Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli, Bavikonda, Mangamaripeta.
Arunachal Pradesh:	Tawang.
Himachal Pradesh:	Rawalsar, Tobo, Tashijong, Kye, Kardang, Guru Ghantal, Mcleodganj, Bir, Triloknath, Chango.
Jammu & Kashmir:	Hemis, Lamayuru, Mullbek, Alchi, Sani, Rangdum, Phugtal, Karsha.
Madhya Pradesh:	Sanchi.
Maharashtra:	Kanheri, Bedsa, Karla, Bhaja, Ellora, Ajanta, Aurangabad, Pitalkhora.
Orissa:	Udaigiri, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Dhuli.
Punjab:	Sanghol.
Rajasthan:	Kolvi, Binnayaga
Sikkim:	Pemayangtse, Rumetk, Phodong.
Tamil Nadu:	Kaveripattinam.

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(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations every year. Prioritisation of projects starts in first quarter of each financial year for that year. The details of financial assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for development of Buddhist places are as per statement enclosed. The schemes for 2001-2002 are generally prioritised in June/July in consultation with the State Governments.

(c) The Government entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund assistance is to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of airport facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening and improvement of roads, augmentation of water supply and sewage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitors management facilities. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2002. The reported expenditure on the project is Rs. 86.83 crores approximately so far.

The Government had also entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infrastructure facilities along with identified Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was agreed that Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund would extend financial assistance to the tune of 7.7. billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project were strengthening of National Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply, provision of wayside amenities etc. The places covered under this project are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project has been completed at the cost of Rs. 251.050 crores in December, 1998 as under:

- Expenditure on Uttar Pradesh Component Rs. 78.19 crores.
- Expenditure on Bihar Component Rs. 113.00 crores.
- Expenditure on central component Rs. 59.86 crores.

#### **Statement**

*The details of financial assistance provided to the State Governments for development of Buddhist Centres during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Place	Amount released during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Kushinagar, Sravasti	23.10
2.	Bihar	Rajgir, Nalanda, Vaishali and Patna	33.18
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunasagar	10.84
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang	56.60
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Mcleodganj	53.90
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Sanchi	4.50
7.	Maharashtra	Karla, Ajanta	47.55
8.	Sikkim	Rumtek, Phodong	10.09

*(English)***Integrated Dairy Development Project**

5860. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government approved an outlay of Rs. 1941.55 lakh in respect of Integrated Dairy Development Project, Phase-II of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only Rs. 475.26 lakh has been released upto March 31, 2000 out of the total outlay;

(c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the full amount; and

(d) the time by which remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Government of India had approved an Integrated Dairy Development Project-II, for Maharashtra State during the year 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 1941.55 lakh. An amount of Rs. 475.26 lakh was released upto March 31, 2000. Another Rs. 645.49 lakh was released during 2000-2001.

Releases of funds are made on the basis of Utilisation Certificate, demand for further funds received from the State Government and physical progress of the project.

**Change of Registered Office**

5861. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have amended the General Rules and Forms in regard to change of registered office within State through notification;

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

(c) whether the Government have assessed the impact of changed rules on the investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government have amended the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms, 1956 vide Notification G.S.R. 51(E) dated 1.2.2001 pursuant to the insertion of a new section 17A in the Companies Act, 1956. No company can change its registered office from the jurisdiction of one Registrar of Companies to the other within the State without the prior confirmation of the Regional Director, Department of Company Affairs. The companies seeking such change will be required to make an application with a fee of Rs. 500/- in the prescribed form 1AD to the Regional Director, Department of Company Affairs. The Central Government had observed that frequent shifting of registered offices by the companies was to confuse the process of prosecution for violation of Companies Act and also to mislead the investors.

(c) and (d) The amendment has been made to protect the interest of investors.

**Loss Due to Theft of Stores**

5862. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have suffered a huge loss of Rs. 86.44 crore during 1997-98 on account of theft of stores as against similar loss of Rs. 58.75 crore during 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Merging of Cotton Organisations**

5863. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to merge the Directorate of Cotton Development (DCD), Indian Cotton Development Council (ICDC) and Cotton Advisory Board (CAB); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The term of Indian Cotton Development Council (ICDC) expired during 1998-99 and Government has decided that there is no need to reconstitute the council. There is no proposal for merger of Directorate of Cotton Development (DCD) and the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB).

(b) Does not arise.

**Decontrolled Prices of ATF**

5864. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently decontrolled the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel and permitted oil companies to fix their prices;

(b) if so, whether the prices of other petroleum products would also be decontrolled;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; 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) The prices of aviation turbine fuel have been decontrolled with effect from 1-4-2001.

(b) to (e) At present the prices of all petroleum products except diesel, motor spirit, domestic LPG and kerosene for public distribution are decontrolled. Pursuant to Government decision taken in November, 1997 on the phased programme of dismantling of administered pricing mechanism, the subsidy level on domestic LPG are required to be reduced to 15% of import parity and that on PDS Kerosene to 33.33% of import parity by 2001-2002. On full de-regulation, 2002 onwards, these subsidies will be transferred to the fiscal budget of the Government.

**Coastal Regulation Zone**

5865. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) if so, the guidelines framed in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested for relaxation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification lists various activities that are to be regulated and prohibited and also categories the Coastal Regulation Zone area into CRZ-I, II, III and IV and lays down norms for development in these categories.

(c) The Government of Gujarat has requested the Ministry of Environment and Forest to permit Salt Pan Activities in intertidal areas also.

(d) The proposal of Government of Gujarat was considered and included in the draft Notification dated 5.8.1999. However, in the final notification dated 4.8.2000, the same was not included.

[Translation]

**Gas to Power Plants by ONGC**

5866. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has been supplying gas to private sector power projects in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of State Governments have urged the Union Government not to allot Gas to private power projects without their recommendations; and

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

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 natural gas produced by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), after meeting their internal requirement, is handed over to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) for supply to various consumers including the power sector in the country. In Maharashtra, GAIL is currently supplying natural gas to Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Uran at an average of 2.47 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) and around 0.78 MMSCMD to Tata Electric Company, Trombay. However, an allocation of 4000 SCMD of natural gas has been made for supply in Gujarat under direct marketing scheme by ONGCL to M/s. Gujarat State Energy Generation Ltd. for power generation.

(c) and (d) The gas allocations to consumers in various sectors including private power projects are made on the recommendations of an *inter-ministerial* Committee, namely, Gas Linkage Committee.

#### Allotment of LPG Agencies in Jharkhand

5867. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of constitution of Oil Selection Board for Jharkhand; and

(b) the details of places identified so far for opening of new LPG Agencies in Jharkhand?

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) There are two Dealer Selection Boards, viz., DSB, Jamshedpur and DSB, Dhanabad, in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) To meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 3 locations for setting up LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1999-2000 for the State of Jharkhand.

#### Doubling of Rail Lines

5868. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for doubling of railway lines during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the target fixed for has been achieved during the said period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of railway lines doubled during the said period; and

(e) the amount spent so far for achieving the aforesaid target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The target of doubling of 2500 km was fixed for the 9th five year plan.

(b) The progress achieved so far in first four years of the 9th plan is 840 km. During the last year (2001-2002) of 9th plan, 300 km of doubling is targeted for completion.

(c) The performance during IXth Plan is expected to be less as compared to the target fixed for the Plan due to constraint of resources and technical constraints, contractor failures etc.

(d) The details of railway lines doubled during the first four years of the 9th Plan are given as under:—

Railway	Section	KM
1	2	3
Central	Diva-Panvel	26
Central	Diva-Vasai (Vasai-Bhiwandi)	28
Central	Hetampur-Gher	1
Central	Katni-Katni 'A' Cabin	3
Central	Daund-Bigwan	28
Central	Nishatpura 'A' & 'D' Cabins	1
Central	Sevagram-Chitoda	4
Eastern	Khana-Sainthia (Ph. I) (Khana-Jhaptardal)	6
Eastern	Khana-Sainthia Phase-II (Jhaptardhal Guskara)	16
Eastern	3rd line Dehri-on-Sone-Mughal Sarai	94
Eastern	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda Town	37

1	2	3
Eastern	Khana-Sainthia (Phase-III) (Bolpur-Bedia)	20
Eastern	Chandanpur-Belmuri	5
Eastern	Patna-Parsa Bazar	7
N.E. Railway	Gonda-Maizapur	11
N.E. Railway	Kanki-Dalkola	14
Northern	Ghaziabad-Hapur	43
Northern	Moradnagar-Meerut	30
South Central	Rukmapur-Vikarabad (Wadi-Vikarabad section)	30
South Central	Solapur-Hottgi	15
South Eastern	Saragbundia-Korba	20
South Eastern	3rd line of Akaltara-Naila-Hasdeo (Part of Akaltara-Champa)	39
South Eastern	Gajapatinagaram-Vizainagaram	22
South Eastern	Rajathgarh-Selegaon (partly)	4
South Eastern	Raghunathpur-Rahama (part)	16
Western	Kota-Gurla Chambal Bridge	1
South Eastern	Balpur-Kothari Rd.-Saragbundia	15
South	Eastern Raipur-Sarona	11
South	Eastern Sarona-Bhilai	11
Southern	Shoranur-Mangalore	185
Southern	Quilon-Trivandrum	50
Southern	Malur-Bangarapet	27
Western	Bolai-Kalisindh	8
Western	Bercha-Kalisindh	12
		<b>Total 840 Km.</b>

(e) The amount spent on doubling works during first 3 years of the IX th plan is Rs. 1292.53 crores. For the fourth year (2000-2001), the actual expenditure would be known after finalisation of accounts by June '2001.

#### **Income Details Submitted by Political Parties**

5869. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of political parties which have sent the details of their income and expenditure and also of those which have not done so, during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve consensus over the proposal of making these details public in order to bring transparency in the public life;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding donations received by the Political parties from the foreign sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Research Institution

5870. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research and Development work has been undertaken in the Agricultural Research Institutions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent by these Research Institutions in the States during each of the last three years; and

(d) the contribution/outcome of research during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) At present the National Agricultural Research System comprising of 47 Central Institutes, 5 National Bureaux, 30 National Research Centres, 11 Project Directorates, 80 All India Coordinated Research Projects, 30 State Agricultural Universities and 1 Central Agricultural University for North Eastern Region is engaged in research in Crops, Horticulture Crops, Animal Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Engineering and Fisheries. For development activities, agriculture being the State subject the respective Departments in each State undertake the developmental activities in agricultural sector. Central Government also provides support for the agricultural development programmes keeping in view the national priorities.

(c) Since the State-wise allocations are not made by this Department, the total expenditure incurred by research establishments during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	AP Cess	Total
1997-1998	323.01	351.04	21.32	695.37
1998-1999	427.72	516.54	28.22	972.48
1999-2000	455.00	790.63	30.22	1275.85

(d) The contribution/outcome of research during Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the attached statement.

#### Statement

##### Contribution/Outcome of Agricultural Research during Eighth and ongoing Ninth Five Year Plan

##### Crop Science

- 452 high yielding varieties and hybrids of various field crops were released during 8th plan. They comprised 222 varieties of cereals, 92 of pulses, 75 of oilseeds, 41 of fibre crops (cotton and jute), 12 of sugarcane and 10 of tobacco.
- During 9th plan period, so far 173 varieties/hybrids of cereals, 95 varieties of pulses and oilseeds and 38 of commercial crops were released for cultivation.

- Continued efforts to develop productive technology for risk prone rainfed areas led to the evolution of well adapted high yielding varieties of rice, pulses and oilseeds.
- High yielding varieties of basmati rice (Pusa basmati 1), durum wheat (PDW 223, PDW 215) and dicoccum wheat (DDK 1001), malt barley BCU 73 and confectionery grade groundnut (BAU 13, TKG 19-A) were developed and released which helped in strengthening and sustaining the quantum of export.
- One of the significant achievement during the last one decade is the development and release of hybrids in rice. At present a total of 15 hybrids of rice have been released for cultivation. These hybrids have yield advantage of about 1.5 tonnes/ha.

- Tagging of two of the gall midge resistance genes, which would facilitate marker aided selection and near perfection achieved in the development of transformation protocols are some of the major achievements in the area of biotechnology.
- Region specific IPM modules have been developed for various pest intensive crops. Reproducible protocols developed for mass multiplication and release of the parasite *Trichogramma* and the predator *Chrysoperla* are some of the achievements of practical value. The successful IPM packages already developed for rice, cotton, sugarcane and pulses are being widely adopted.
- Many varieties of cereals and other crop varieties have resistance to important diseases and pests like resistance to leaf curl virus in cotton, blight resistance in rice, powdery mildew resistance in pulses.
- Breeder seed of different crops to the tune of 119460.91 q and 73561.43 were produced during 8th and 9th plan respectively.

#### *Horticulture*

- In mango, the variety Mutwar Pasand recorded the highest weight. Catalogue preparation has been started after evaluating the genetic resources of mango. In biological control of guava wilt, Pusa Mrida has been found promising for the control of disease as well as growth of plants. Microbudding technique has been standardized in Citrus for multiplication of healthy plants throughout the year.
- Six accessions tolerant to Sigatoka leaf spot have been identified in banana. A spacing of 1.6x1.6 m (3900 plants/ha) was found economical for CO 6 papaya to obtain high papain yield. A computer software has been developed for forecasting of grape diseases. A variety of pomegranate has been released for anardana purpose with the name 'Amlidana'. Banana biscuits were prepared using Poovan banana pure. Powder from Monthan and Nendran banana was prepared and stored for usage as base material for other products. Trichoderma treated grape bunches remained fresh for a longer period than fungicide treated bunches.
- In vegetable crops two varieties of each of okra and tomato and one hybrid each of tomato, chilli and brinjal have been developed and included under AICVIP for multi-locational trials. In vitro propagation methods for the multiplication of pointed gourd have been standardized. Agro-techniques like spacing, nutritional requirements in cabbage, pea and okra have been developed. Integrated management of tomato fruit borer and a technique to get discrete symptoms of *Alternaria* blight have been developed.
- In mushroom two new strains of temperature tolerant white button mushroom have been released for commercial cultivation. The cultivation technology for two new mushroom have been developed.
- In potato, nine Bt transgenic lines were found to be resistant to Potato Tuber Moth (PTM). DNA fingerprints of all the commercial and 14 old indigenous varieties have been generated. Cropping systems for North Western hills of Shimla, Modipuram and Shillong have been developed. A three row sub soiler was designed and developed. Forecasting model have been developed for predicting the late blight disease appearance within 10 days of forecasting in western plains. Plant protection techniques for the control of black scurf, soft rot, dry rot have been developed.
- Two cassava hybrids have been recommended for release. In floriculture, 8 varieties of rose, 2 of gladiolus and 7 of chrysanthemum were released for commercial cultivation.
- In tissue culture studies for rapid multiplication of elite genotypes in coconut MYD and MOD gave good callus percentage (16.6 and 20.6 respectively) under 0.1 M concentration of 2,4-D. Survey on the incidence of eriophyid mite in Kerala indicated highest incidence in Trichur (77%) and Ernakulam (61%) districts while in Kottayam and Alapuzha districts it was 58 and 56% respectively. The process for making snowball tender nut has been developed. In varietal evaluation trials in oilpalm the pooled FFB yield varied from 7.81 to 11.61 ton of FFB/ha/yr and the maximum FFB yield was recorded in the cross combinations 18C x 2501 from Ivory Coast.

- A new variety of cashew Balli-2 from Goa was recommended for release. Micro-grafting technique has been standardized using *in vitro* raised seedlings as rootstock and aseptic nodal shoot tip cultures from mature tree source as micro scion. Panniyur-6 and Panniyur-7 in black pepper, RR-1 in cardamom, RCr-684, RCr-436, RCr-435 in Coriander, Guj Meth-1, RMT-303 in fenugreek, Guj, cumin-3 in cumin and RF-101 in fennel and two varieties of seed spices viz., RCr-20 in coriander, Co-2 in fenugreek, were released.
- A quick method of clonal multiplication of cardamom suckers was standardized. It involves close planting of suckers (0.9 x 0.9cm) in trenches and fertilizer application of 75:75:150 kg NPK/3000 plants in two equal splits, regular plant protection measures, weeding, irrigation and mulching operations which yield 4-5 planting clonal units/tiller/year.
- In Isabgol one spray of Metalaxyl+two sprays of Mancozeb was found significantly superior in controlling mildew. Superiority of the treatment, organic manure either in the form of oilcake or FYM or vermicompost plus urea (1:1) in increasing leaf yield was observed.

#### *Natural Resource Management*

- Natural resources—their inventory and monitoring
- Sustainable—land use plans for agro-ecological sub regions
- Improvement in fertiliser use efficiency
- Use of bio-fertiliser through integrated plant nutrient systems
- Management and monitoring for sustainable productivity
- Water use efficiency and irrigation system management.
- Drainage technology for saline and waterlogged soils
- Utilisation of poor quality irrigation water
- Model Watershed Development
- Agromet advisory services—weather based expert system
- Improvement in cropping intensity

- Development of agro-eco zone specific farming systems
- Development of agro-forestry system
- Climate change—its monitoring and management
- Cost effective methods for resource conservation

#### *Agricultural Engineering*

- A tractor mounted multi crop planter suitable for bold, medium and small seeds has been developed. The field capacity is 3.15 ha/day. A tractor mounted till planter which, is basically a seed-cum-fertilizer drill mounted on a rotavator has also been developed. It saves 20% cost of operation as compared to conventional method.
- A self propelled sprayer, tractor mounted sugarcane trash shredder, high capacity pigeon pea thresher and self propelled safflower harvester have been developed.
- Refinement of pneumatic planter, paddy thresher (IEP-3 model), high capacity multi-crop thresher, tractor front mounted reaper and bullock drawn seed-cum-fertilizer drill were undertaken at CIAE, Bhopal to improve their efficiency and reduce cost of manufacturing.
- Eight centres with prototype manufacturing workshop, manufactured 4730 manually operated, 344 animal drawn and 53 power operated equipment were manufactured by the Eight Prototype Manufacturing Workshops and over 5000 units were got fabricated through local manufacturers for Front Line Demonstration in farmers' fields.
- Large scale demonstrations of improved farm equipment namely Low Land Paddy Seeder, Tractor Mounted Sugarcane set cutter, Tractor Mounted Cultivator for interculture in cotton crop Tractor Mounted Multi-crop Planter and Self Propelled Riding type Rice Transplanter were conducted in farmers' fields.
- Studies were undertaken on soyflour, to identify texture and soyabean groundnut and sunflower oils to see the solubility and effect of solvents on oil recovery. Process formulation for soymilk, ice-cream and soy-fortified salted biscuits were standardized.



- Refinements of power operated groundnut decorticator, grain pearler and integrated dal mill were undertaken.
- MERADO Oil expeller (1 t/day capacity) was used with bio-chemical treatments for higher oil recovery. Pre-treatment machines such as pre-ginder and blender-cum mixture and cooker with boiler were also designed and developed.
- An agro-processing centre has been established at CIPHET, Ludhiana with a mission to popularize available post harvest technology for food grains and oilseeds among the farmers, manufacturers etc. About 10 machines have been installed and demonstrated to visitors including, entrepreneurs/students, farmers etc.
- Designed and commissioned a 100-125 kg/h capacity fully indigenous prawn and fish feed manufacturing pilot plant.
- Round the year studies on vegetable production using greenhouse technology; design and development of green house structure and evaluation for off season vegetable production; construction of low tunnels using bamboo and its evaluation for nursery raisings; development of open enclosure breeding system for carps, development of fish feeders and development and testing of plastic thermocole bee-hives under the Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh were undertaken.
- Technologies for production of jaggery chocolate, jaggery *patti*, jaggery wheat flour extruded snacks and jaggery-*besan* snacks were developed and standardised. Technology for manufacturing of granular jaggery and liquid jaggery has also been standardised and brought under multi-location testing. Technology was developed to manufacture these products from immature and over matured sugarcane. Bucket shaped jaggery of 13-15 kg weight lumps stored in jaggery godown, using fresh burnt lime as desiccant remained good from March to August with little physio-chemical changes.
- Annual cotton quality update 2000 was brought out incorporating data of more than 1200 cotton samples along with statistical interpretations. Improvement of double roller gin was made by optimising roller and beater speeds for improvement of lint quality and ginning out-turn. A tractor operated cotton stalk puller developed is being evaluated. CIRCOT Mumbai continued its participation in the AICCIP programmes by providing technological inputs on fibre and yarn quality. Technological Report on Major Trade Varieties of Cotton and standard cottons was brought out by collection, testing, and compilation of data and printing.
- CIRCOT Mumbai prepared thirteen new eco-friendly azo dyes using suitable safe intermediates and different couplers. Good quality binderless fibreboards were prepared from cotton stalk pulp. Eight samples of CIRCOT calibration cotton are being exported to Iran.
- With a view to develop eco-friendly technologies for boosting lac production, parasitising efficiency of exotic parasitoids at different doses was determined successfully for management of lac predators. Integration of lac culture with agricultural crops under lac based agro-forestry system as well as proper plant density for raising *akashmani* under lac cultivation has been determined at ILRI, Ranchi. Based on various productivity-linked attributes, six productive stocks of lac insects have been identified for different host plants.
- ORP studies and front line demonstration of various bullock drawn matching equipment, improved yokes and harnesses and hardened hoof shoes. Standardization of two-wheel bullock cart was done at CIAE Bhopal. Optimum draft requirement at varying payloads and surface conditions was also worked out.
- Studies on surge irrigation initiated. Designing of automated system for testing of pump and drippers and subsurface drainage system for CIAE Farm was undertaken and completed.
- The rice productivity in coastal saline and sodic clay soils of Andhra Pradesh was enhanced to more than 4 t/ha in a span of 4 years due to leaching out of excess salts by subsurface drainage system.
- Suitable surface drainage at Zonal Agricultural Research Station at Powerkheda under Tawa Command has been commissioned and study of their impact is under progress.
- In low-lands which are under the threat of runoff accumulation every year due to

absence and infeasibility of creating a conventional drainage facility, a raised bed-Pond system of land configuration was studied and was provided to be successful for three successive years. The system permitted *kharif* cultivation, which was not possible earlier, and also provided water for supplemental irrigation in the *rabi*, which resulted in increased *rabi* yield.

#### *Animal Science*

- *Census Data:* Livestock census data bank integrated with the information system on Animal Genetic Resources of India (AGRI-IS). Systematic field surveys undertaken to assess the population status of the breeds, socio-economic condition of the farmers, production performance and interaction of the local ecology with the breeds. The *in-situ* conservation models for different species developed for implementation in respect of Spiti horses, Beetal goats, Nili Ravi buffalo, Sahiwal cattle and Kodu Adu Goats.
- *Cattle:* Genetic characterization of Sahiwal breed of cattle carried out using 20 highly polymorphic FAO recommended primers. Conservation and genetic improvement of 4 important Indigenous breeds of cattle (Hariana, Ongole, Gir and Tharparkar) undertaken in their native tract through Associated Herd Progeny Testing Programme. First lactation milk yield in 300 days and less, total yield, peak yield and lactation length in Frieswal cows averaged 2837.4 kg, 3013.2 kg, 14.2 kg and 318.6 days respectively.
- *Buffalo:* Molecular marker in buffaloes, heterologous (cattle) microsatellite primers on a panel of 20 buffaloes from Murrah, Mehsana, Nili-Ravi and Jaffarbadi breeds evaluated. First three top ranking sires of Murrah buffalo bulls identified. Semen of proven bulls to be used for nominated matings and also available for sale to breeding agencies.
- *Goat:* Characterization of Barbari goat done in its native tract. Breed descriptors defined and information on growth, reproduction and milk yield described.
- *DNA Fingerprinting:* Genetic fingerprinting profiles successfully used for establishing biological relationships, linkage analysis and phylogenetic relationship among related species. DNA finger printing analysis carried out on Barbari and Jamunapari goat.
- *Poultry:* Two native chicken breeds (Aseel and Kadaknath) and two exotic breeds (White Leghorn and Dahlem Red) and their crosses evaluated for immunocompetence traits. Selected and control lines of White Leghorn chicken were evaluated for their genetic biodiversity with the help of DNA methods.
- *Camel:* Biochemical polymorphism studied in double humped camel for haemoglobin transferrin, albumin, amylase, phospho-hexose-isomerase, glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase and acid-phosphatase.
- *Mithun:* Major emphasis given on collection, evaluation and documentation of available mithun germplasm in the country. Physiological behaviour of the two rare animal of North eastern region Yak and Mithun were studied. Initial indications are such that these two animals perform better if they are given protection against environmental stress and nutritional supplement.
- *Sheep:* Madras Red sheep improved through selection for mutton production. Madras Red sheep is one of the important breed of Tamil Nadu. Sheep skins are preferred in tanning due to better grains in finished leather.
- Commercial test cross (KRISHIBRO) from coloured pure line attained body weight of 1339g without any finisher ration with a feed conversion ratio of 1.96 and mortality of 2.62 percent at six weeks of age.
- *Animal Health:* In high producing animal, there is need to protection of fat supplement for better performance. Area specific mineral supplements were suggested for the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to avoid the excretion of excess nutrients, which cause environmental problems. Measures to overcome problems of disorders were suggested as per the research information emerged from the Network Programme on Embryo Transfer Technology and Micronutrients.
- *Semen freezing:* Semen freezing protocol for higher post thaw motility and fertility developed in goats and a technique of semen preservation for field condition have been evolved which has a potential of commercial exploitation.
- Technologies for various value added milk and meat products have been developed with

efficient processes and utilization of by-products from meat and milk.

- **Animal Disease:** The protective antibody status following vaccination in *Liquid Phase Blocking ELISA (LPBE)* was further evaluated and standardized for screening large number of serum samples. ELISA based IBR Kit and Brucella kits developed and released, showed significant results when used in the field and found superior than the conventional diagnostic methods.
- An exclusive hybridoma laboratory for the production of N and H protein based monoclonal antibodies to RPV and PPRV have been developed for use in the ELISA kits for national sero monitoring and sero surveillance programmes.
- The prevalence of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea affecting cattle and buffaloes of Indian population has been confirmed based on genomic detection, sequencing and sero-prevalence by ELISA. Similarly, viral genome of Bovine Immuno-deficiency Virus (BIV) has been detected in cattle. Aujeszky's disease in swine was also identified by genome detection (gII region) in tonsillar epithelium of latently infected pigs. Sero-prevalence of the disease is evident as tested by blocking ELISA.
- Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis (CAE) virus primers were designed & synthesized. Synovial membrane cultures were standardized for virus isolation.
- Complement fixation test based diagnostic kit COMPLEMENT FIXATION FOR EQUINE BABESIOSIS (COFEB) has been developed.
- A milk based bovine brucellosis ELISA kit has been indigenously developed for screening the milk samples.
- A powerful veterinary epidemiology software India.admas EpiTrak in two Modules developed.

#### Fisheries

- The marine fish production in India during 1999 has been estimated by CMFRI at 2.44 million tonnes which is 8.6% (2,30,000 t) less compared to 1998. The pelagic group formed 52.7% of the total landings and demersal finfish, crustaceans and molluscs together 47.3%.

- A comprehensive survey and assessment of ornamental fish resources of the Lakshadweep was conducted, for the first time, in nine inhabited Islands, Amini, Agatti, Bitra, Chelat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy based on large samples collected by actually fishing in the lagoons. The results suggested that there is a vast scope for developing an ornamental fishery industry in the Lakshadweep Islands for initiating the export market.
- Environmental perturbations and its impact on ecology of river Ganges, Yamuna, Hooghly, Haldi, and Tapti at various points were assessed and studies were made on hydro-biological, bio-chemical, micro-biological parameters to suggest minimal standards permissible for industrial wastes discharge into aquatic system to safeguard aquatic resources of riverine system.
- Valuable database on fish bio-diversity in some important river system in Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Central Himalayan, which has been linked with ecological indices have been collected. Potential seed collection sites of snow-trout have been pinpointed and quantify.
- Multiple cropping of carps with 10,000 fingerlings/ha stocking and 6 Species combination (catla, rohu, mrigal, silver carp, grass, carp & common carp) yielded 46.1% higher production than three species combination with same density and 103% higher than three species combination at 5000 nos./ha stocking density.
- Standardization of seed production technology and domestication of important marine fin-fish, the Asian seabass has opened up a new horizon in coastal aquaculture.
- Success has been achieved in artificially breeding snow-trout, a coldwater fish species after raising the broodstock in farm itself. It is the first attempt in the country as previously all breeding experiments were conducted with brooder collected from the nature.
- An average of 22% selection response per generation was observed after two generation of selective breeding in first line population of rohu, while 47.5% selection response was observed in second line base population after first generation of selective breeding. A total of 1.14 million of CIFA-IR1 spawn was produced and reared in nursery ponds.

- 'Sagar Kripa' a fuel efficient fishing vessel designed by CIFT was handed over for commercial trials to Fishing Boat Owners' Association (co-operative society, Munambam (and the data received established a fuel saving of 13 to 15% which confirmed the success of the design.
- A total of 83 students successfully completed the various Post-graduate and certificate programmes of CIFE during the year under report in the fields of Fisheries Resource Management, Inland Aquaculture, Mariculture, Freshwater Aquaculture, Post-Harvest Technology. A total of 89 students have been admitted during the year 2000-2001 for various Post-graduates and certificate courses offered by the CIFE.

#### ***Agricultural Economics and Policy Research Agricultural Economics***

- The National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) was established by ICAR in 1991.
- The Centre is guided in its policies by a high-level Research Advisory Committee comprising eminent professionals, a Management Committee and number of internal Committees. Mandate of the Centre includes;
- Policy oriented research on: (i) technology generation, diffusion and impact; (ii) sustainable agricultural production system; (iii) interaction between technology and other policy instruments like incentives, investments, institutions, trade, etc; and (iv) agricultural growth and adjustments.
- Strengthening agricultural economics research and teaching capability in State Agricultural universities and ICAR institutes.
- Enhancing ICAR participation in agricultural policy decisions through policy-oriented research and professional interactions.

#### ***Agricultural Statistics***

- The Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute of the ICAR is involved in Agricultural Statistics activities. The institute has completed following 5 projects and 35 research projects are in operation including 11 externally aided projects.
- Use of Remote Sensing Satellite Data in Crop Survey.

- Fertilizer Response Ratio for different Crops in India.
- Use of discriminant function of weather parameters for developing forecast model of rice crop.
- Pilot study for developing Bayesian probability forecast model based on farmers appraisal data on wheat crop.
- Estimation of flow and change in dynamic population.
- Institute has made a remarkable progress in the direction of obtaining external funds for the research projects funded by AP Cess, NATP Revolving Fund, etc. Two externally funded projects have been completed entitled. A number of software packages released are : Statistical Packages for Agriculture Research (SPARI), Agriculture Research Data Information System (ARDIS), Software for Mixed Models Analysis for animal breeding data (SMMA), Statistical Packages for Balanced Incomplete Block Design (SPBIBD Release 1.0) and Statistical Package for Factorial Experiments (SPFE). A National Information System for Agriculture Research Education (NISAGE) for State Agricultural University and Deemed Universities of ICAR is in the final stages of development.
- Short-term courses on various topics in the field of Agricultural Statistics and Computer applications are organised by the Institute. The purpose is to be enhance the research skills of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) scientists in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications. These training(s) also helps in increasing the productivity of technical and administrative staff.

#### **Mid Term Appraisal**

5871. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its mid term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan have *inter-alia* observed that "Natural growth of Khandsari has been blocked by unimaginative and unfavourable production policies which are neither in the interest of farmers nor even consumers";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

#### **Review of Prices of Agricultural Commodities**

5872. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether review undertaken for prices of agricultural commodities has since been completed;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures to relieve suffering and distress of farmers community;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) The prices of agricultural commodities are constantly reviewed and necessary corrective steps are taken whenever required.

In order to relieve suffering and distress of farmers community due to recent fall in prices of agricultural commodities, the Government has taken several steps, which include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof through public and cooperative agencies, implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) covering horticulture and minor items of produce at the request of the State Governments and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports.

#### **Establishment of National Centres for Music and Dance**

5873. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government lends support for the establishment of National Centre for Specialised Training in Music and Dance;

(b) if so, the details and the purpose therefor;

(c) whether there is a long pending demand from Dakshin Kannada for the establishment of a Central Training Institute for Folk Arts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The effort of the Department in these areas is facilitative, achieved in terms of its schemes which offer assistance to the existing NGOs for eligible projects/activities. However, the Sangeet Natak Akademi has informed that it implements a plan scheme "Establishment of National Centres for Specialised Training in Music and Dance". The purpose of the scheme is to support the existing training centres of artistic traditions that appear to be threatened. Presently, under the Scheme, the Akademi is lending support to Kutiyattam, Chhau dances of Seraikella, Mayurbhanj and Purulia and the Sattriya Dance of Assam.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of Department of Culture.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Disqualification from Contesting Election**

5874. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item titled "SC ruling music to politicians ears" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 26, 2001;

(b) if so, the main features of the said judgement; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Rate of Return for Power Sector**

5875. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to withdraw a cap of 15 per cent on the rate of return for power projects;

(b) if so, whether this will completely change the existing scenario and the effect of this decision on power sector;

(c) if so, whether all those major power companies including private and public sector companies are likely to be among the beneficiaries of the new system; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this decision is likely to meet the power requirement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The notification issued by the Government of India on 30.3.1992 in exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (2) of Section 43 A of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 allows a return of upto 16% (and not 15%) on equity (paid up and subscribed capital) at normative levels of operation i.e. 68.5% Plan Load Factor (PLF) to generating companies in the private sector for power projects set up by them. Similarly, the existing central generating stations of NTPC have also been allowed rate of return of 16% on equity with effect from 1.11.1998. Consequent on the enactment of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) Act, 1998 and setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), tariff fixation powers have been transferred to the CERC by omitting the said sub section (2) of Section 43 A of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Generation of Power from Plastic Waste**

5876. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to generate power from the plastic wastage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is not considering to generate power exclusively from plastic wastage. However, under a National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes, Ministry is promoting projects to generate power from Municipal Solid Waste, which may contain small fractions (usually less than 2-3%) of plastic wastage.

#### **Upgradation of Powerloom Sector**

5877. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the powerloom sector constitutes 70 percent of the total textile industry;

(b) whether the Sathyam Committee has recommended for upgradation of powerlooms of more than 140 cm. width to semi-automatic looms and scrapping and replacement of powerlooms less than 140 cm. with new semi-automatic looms; and

(c) 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) The powerloom sector contributes approximately 59% of total fabric production in the country;

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Government have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for modernisation of textile industry including the power loom segment. Under this scheme, replacement of an ordinary loom less than 140 cms. width by new semi-automatic loom of a minimum width of 165 cms, and *in situ* upgradation of an ordinary loom more than 140 cms. width is allowed. In this year, a programme for modernisation of 2.50 lakh plain looms into semi-automatic looms/automatic looms has also been announced.

#### **Funds for Fish Industry**

5878. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal for financial assistance to promote fish industry; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No specific request from Government of West Bengal seeking financial assistance to promote fish processing industry has been received by this Department recently. The Government of West Bengal have forwarded a proposal from the Department of Food Technology and

Bio-chemical Engineering, Jadavpur University for setting up demonstration unit to use low value fish to make value added products and the proposal is under consideration with the Department of Food Processing Industries under this Ministry.

#### **Regional Directors of Company Law Board**

5879. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Regional Directors of the Company Law Board in approving the Articles of Association and amendments of the companies under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) whether Regional Directors are bound to see that the proposed Articles or their amendments are in consonance with the provision of the Act; and

(c) the remedy available to the Department of Company Affairs or to the members in respect of Section 25 of Companies Act where amendments are approved by the Regional Director in the Article are patently against the written provisions of the Law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Amendment of any provision in the Articles of Association is subject to passing of a Special Resolution by members for such amendments in terms of Section 31 of the Companies Act, 1956. The powers are delegated to the respective Regional Directors by the Department of Company Affairs and the Regional Directors approve Articles of Association before registration and also amendments thereto after the grant of licence under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. Further, Section 9 of the Act *inter-alia* provides that the provisions of the Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the memorandum or articles of a company. The licence granted under Section 25 of the Act can be revoked in terms of sub-section (7) of Section 25 of the Act. The remedy also lies in moving the competent Court.

[*Translation*]

#### **Setting up of Barsinghsar Palana Thermal Power Project**

5880. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Barsinghsar Palana Thermal Power Project was started by Neyveli Lignite Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) whether a sum of Rs. 60 crore was spent on this project by the said Corporation;

(c) if so, whether the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Power Corporation is considering to restart the said project;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) had started Barsinghsar Palana Thermal Power Project and had incurred an initial capital expenditure of around Rs. 43.09 crores. NLC may consider restarting the project in the event of the Rajasthan Government reallocating the project to NLC. In that case, NLC will be able to take up the project after obtaining the approval of the Government and other statutory clearances.

[*English*]

#### **Status of Aaganoor Hydro Power Project**

5881. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Aaganoor Hydro Power Project in Jahanabad district, Bihar;

(b) whether the work has been stopped on this project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to restart the project by the Government; and

(e) the details of funds allocated for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Aaganoor Hydro Power Project (1 MW) is being implemented by the Bihar State Hydro Power Corporation (BHPC). After competitive bidding, the turnkey contract for the project was awarded to M/s. Nippon Power Ltd. Calcutta in 1999. The order for E&M equipment was in turn placed by M/s. Nippon Power Ltd. However, there was some contractual dispute between M/s. Nippon Power Ltd. and the equipment supplier resulting in loss of some time.

(d) It has now been decided to procure the E&M equipment from a different supplier. Some minor modifications in the civil works are accordingly being done.

(e) BHPC is meeting the financial requirements from internal resources and is also seeking loan from NABARD.

[Translation]

### **Agricultural Forestry and Orchard**

5882. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote agricultural forestry and orchard in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Land Resources is

implementing a Central Sector Scheme since 1993-94 on Technology Development Extension and Training for Development of Non-Forest Wastelands. Under this Scheme, pilot projects are sanctioned to various State Agricultural Universities/ICAR Institutes for testing Agro-Forestry models in different Agro-climatic regions of the country. The Allahabad Agricultural Deemed University, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh has been covered under this Scheme. The Statewise details of projects sanctioned and funds released are given in the attached statement-I. Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing an All India Coordinated Research Project on Agro-Forestry in the country through the National Research Center in Agroforestry located at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans assistance is being extended to all the State Governments including Uttar Pradesh to take up diversified farming systems in the arable and non-arable lands in the identified watersheds in the Rainfed Areas as well as in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers. Under this scheme assistance is also being extended for the development of fruits in country. An amount of Rs. 62.88 crores was released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme during 2000-2001. The Statewise details of funds released under the scheme are given in the attached statement-II.

### **Statement-I**

#### **Statewise Details of Agro Forestry Projects Sanctioned by Department of Land Resources**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Implementing Agency	Funds Released (1993-94 to 2000-2001)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad	8.30
2.	Bihar	Bihar State Forest Development Corporation	6.22
3.	Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur (4 projects)	54.81
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat Agricultural University, Ahmedabad Gujarat Agricultural University, Banaskantha (2 projects)	3.64 6.72
5.	Haryana	Research & Training Division, Deptt. of Forests, Government of Haryana	5.49



1	2	3	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	H.P. Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur	3.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (2 projects)	28.39
8.	Maharashtra	Mahatama Phule Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Rahuri (2 projects)	21.21
		Maharashtra Agricultural University, Parbhani	6.03
9.	Meghalaya	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	2.15
		Agro-forestry Division, ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Umiam	7.20
10.	Nagaland	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Jhamapani	3.44
11.	Orissa	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar	54.31
12.	Rajasthan	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur (2 projects)	10.85
13.	Uttaranchal	NHB Garhwal University, Srinagar	34.64
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Agricultural Deemed University, Allahabad	25.23
15.	West Bengal	Bidhan Chander Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Nadia	4.20
Total			285.82

**Statement-II**

*State-wise funds released under Macro Management Scheme During 2000-2001 (Part b of Lok Sabha Question No. 5882 for 26.4.2001)*

(Rupees in lakh)

State	Amount released
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1995.95
Arunachal Pradesh	534.00
Assam	492.06
Bihar	352.56

1	2
Jharkhand	19.47
Goa	29.42
Gujarat	3000.00
Haryana	1233.39
Himachal Pradesh	1241.29
Jammu & Kashmir	848.32
Karnataka	6060.38
Kerala	3026.70
Madhya Pradesh	3920.42
Chhattisgarh	963.00

1	2
Maharashtra	8935.09
Manipur	479.13
Meghalaya	542.32
Mizoram	553.16
Nagaland	1170.67
Orissa	614.89
Punjab	714.65
Rajasthan	6575.15
Sikkim	737.86
Tamil Nadu	4441.27
Tripura	476.40
Uttar Pradesh	6287.95
Uttaranchal	920.00
West Bengal	1077.83
Andaman & Nicobar	38.87
Chandigarh	0.65
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.61
Delhi	61.03
Daman and Diu	4.34
Pondicherry	15.14
Lakshdweep	10.18
Total	57395.15

**WTO**

5883. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have called upon for the development of "Biovision" to face the import of food items on account of the implementation of the provisions of World Trade Organisation from April;

(b) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to encourage the Agriculture Scientists to meet the target of Biovision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Mango Research Institute**

5884. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Mango Research Institute in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the site identified for the purpose?

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

(b) Land belonging to the District Seed Farm of the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal at Malda has been identified for establishment of a regional station of Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture, Lucknow. The Government of West Bengal has agreed to relinquish the land in favour of the ICAR.

**Conservation of Monuments/Museums in Orissa**

5885. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of historical monuments/museums being preserved in Orissa by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) whether the maintenance being provided in those monuments/museums are sufficient;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the maintenance work of these monuments/museums are likely to be completed; and

(e) the amount spent on the preservation of each monument/museum during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has 73 centrally protected monuments in Orissa. A list is available in the Central Parliament Library. The Archaeological Survey of India has an archaeological museum at Ratnagiri and Konark in Orissa;

(b) and (c) Allocation are being made on the basis of the actual requirement of the monuments and museums subject to the overall availability of funds.

(d) The maintenance of these monuments/museums is a continuous process.

(e) The expenditure incurred in this regard in respect of the monuments and museums during the last three years is as per given in the statement attached. The tentative allocation for these monuments/museums for the current financial year is Rs. 75.00 lakh and 15.00 lakhs respectively.

**Statement**

*"Conservation of Monuments/Museums in Orissa"*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument	Locality	District	Expenditure—Rs.		
				1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Rock Cut Vishnu	Rasol	Angul	25,812	38,122	4,057
2.	Bringeshwar Mahadev Temple	Bajrakote	Angul	24,124	1,72,799	1,44,947
3.	64 Yogini Temple	Ranipur	Bolangir	60,422	54,046	13,960
4.	Nilamadav & Siddheswar Temple	Gandhradi	Boudh	47,707	76,374	18,035
5.	Paschim Somnath Temple	Boudh	Boudh	22,426	34,609	—
6.	Kodareswar Temple	Chouddwar	Cuttack	3,57,949	—	—
7.	Barabati Fort	Cuttack	Cuttack	3,58,707	5,15,779	1,83,360
8.	Buddhist Site	Lalitgiri	Cuttack	1,07,785	35,756	51,638
9.	Panchapandav Temple	Ganeshwarpur	Cuttack	23,651	34,006	52,401
10.	Mahimani Temple	Ragadi	Cuttack	24,596	5,390	1,84,708
11.	Singhanath Temple	Gopinathpur	Cuttack	23,313	32,901	33,043
12.	Ancient Site	Baneswamast	Cuttack	25,149	46,576	—
13.	Group of Temples	Mahendragiri	Gajapati	32,265	—	4,300
14.	Ashokan Rock Edict	Jaugada	Ganjam	8,961	33,729	—
15.	Mahadev Temple	Bhawanipur	Jagatsinghpur	25,166	42,449	—
16.	Group of Temples	Jaipur	Jaipur	1,00,303	1,67,993	46,541
17.	Buddhist Site	Ratnagiri	Jaipur	54,149	96,793	1,01,134

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Buddhist Site	Udaigiri	Jajpur	1,90,466	3,71,912	—
19.	Asuragarh Fort	Asuragarh	Kalahandi	18,638	47,081	—
20.	Rock Paintings	Sitabhanji	Keonjhar	48,787	82,240	—
21.	Jain caves at Khandagiri and Udaigiri	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	2,03,002	2,73,416	—
22.	Mukteswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	18,002	3,37,748	1,59,162
23.	Dakshya Prajapati Temple	Banapur	Khurda	66,272	49,149	39,115
24.	Bakreswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	1,78,896	—	—
25.	Lord Lingaraj Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	3,78,212	3,41,873	1,11,367
26.	Jambeswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	2,04,445	65,000	—
27.	Rameswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	4,20,938	77,588	8,926
28.	Raja Rani Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	36,230	1,10,485	1,67,596
29.	Ashokan Rock Edict	Dhauri	Khurda	31,801	8,57,145	2,53,881
30.	Papanasini Tank	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	1,975	30,000	1,34,228
31.	Navakishore Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	2,62,363	—	—
32.	Ancient Site	Hassripurgarh	Mayurbhanj	1,79,180	2,06,856	10,973
33.	Lord Jagannath Temple	Puri	Puri	9,31,918	8,71,967	8,67,041
34.	Sun Temple	Konark	Puri	9,13,314	9,18,171	20,68,450
35.	Varahi Temple	Chourasi	Puri	—	2,154	70,582
36.	Vaital Deul	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	—	69,315	4,973
37.	Ancient Site	Kirepur	Khurda	—	54,850	—
38.	Group of Temple	Choulwar	Cuttack	—	1,05,430	—
39.	Magheswar Temple	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	—	37,649	—
40.	Sahastraling Tank	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	—	17,348	—
41.	Sari Deul	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	—	1,02,277	—
Total				54,06,934	64,16,976	47,36,345

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Museums</b>						
1.	Archaeological Museum	Konark	Puri	8,25,000	4,80,000	5,01,493
2.	Archaeological Museum	Ratnagiri	Jaipur	2,00,000	2,00,000	4,00,000
Total				10,25,000	6,80,000	9,01,493

*[Translation]*

**Construction of Over-Bridge near Meghnagar on  
Ahmedabad Highway**

5886. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an over-bridge near Meghnagar Railway station on Ahmedabad highway of Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to construct over-bridge at the said level crossing?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways consider provision of Road Over/Under Bridge, on cost sharing basis, only in lieu of existing busy level crossing having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU - a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of Trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours). Replacement of other level crossing by Road Over/Under Bridge is considered on 'deposit' terms i.e. the authority sponsoring the proposal has to bear the initial capital as well as annual recurring cost of maintenance. Traffic density at Level Crossing No. 60 at Km. 574/25-27 in Meghnagar yard is 33,426 TVUs only. Therefore, Railway can consider construction of a Road Over Bridge at this Level Crossing on 'deposit' terms. No such proposal has been sponsored by State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

*[English]*

**Export Oriented Agricultural Policy**

5887. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make its agricultural policy more export oriented in view of the opening of the Indian agriculture market for agricultural products of other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States identified where agricultural export Centres are likely to be set up; and

(d) the criteria adopted while setting up of such centers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The National Agriculture Policy lays stress on the promotion of the exports of agricultural products. It envisages the evolution of a two-fold long-term strategy of diversification of agricultural produce and value addition; thereby enabling the production system to respond to external environment and creating export demand for commodities.

(c) and (d) The States have been requested to identify product specific Agri export zone for end to end development for export of specific products from a geographically contiguous area.

*[Translation]*

**Generation of Non-Conventional Sources  
in Tribal Areas**

5888. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects are being implemented on Government and non-Governmental level for generation of non-conventional energy like wind energy, Sulabha energy, solar energy, bio-mass etc. in Scheduled Tribe dominated areas of the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of rural electrification by implementing these projects at a large-scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing various programmes for generation of energy from different

sources of Non-Conventional Energy such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro power throughout the country. The Ministry has identified high focus areas predominantly covering Scheduled Tribe areas such as North Eastern States, Hilly areas and Islands to provide a special thrust for implementation of these programmes/schemes through Government agencies and NGOs. The State-wise details of projects taken up for meeting energy needs and electricity demand in tribal dominated areas are given in the attached statement.

(d) The Ministry is formulating a specific scheme for electrification of 18,000 remote villages, mainly located in tribal and rural areas of the country from the year 2001-2002 through solar, biomass and small hydro sources. Higher rates of financial incentives are being provided for major non-conventional energy programmes in these areas. This would also be considered for the planned village electrification programme.

### **Statement**

#### *State-wise Details of Projects for Meeting Electricity Demands Taken up in Tribal Dominated Areas*

Sl No.	States	Location	Number of villages covered	Projets details
1	2	3	4	5
<b>I. Projects under Biomass Gasifier Programme</b>				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit District	3	3 x 10 kW
		East Kameng, District	1	1 x 20 kW
		Upper Saing District	1	1 x 20 kW
2	Mizoram	Aizawl District	7	2 x 100 kW
3.	Nagaland	Zunheboto District	4	2 x 100 kW
		Mon, District	2	2 x 100 kW
4.	Tripura	Dhalai District	11	4 x 250 kW
5	West Bengal	Chhotamullakhali Islands, Sunderbans	4	5 x 100 kW
		Gasaba Islands, Sunderbans	5	5 x 100 kW
		Purulia District	2	2 50 kW
		Darjeeling District	1	1 x 30 kW

1	2	3	4	5
<b>II. Projects under Solar Photovoltaic Programme</b>				
1.	Assam	Cachar District	36	HLS-850 nos.
		Sonitpur District	1 block	HLS-400 nos.
		North Cachar Hills District	11	HLS-357 nos.
				SL-11 nos.
				SLS-11 nos.
				PP-1.5 kWp
2.	Kerala	SC/ST Colonies	135 Colonies	HLS-5, 110
				PP-12 nos./42 kWp
3.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar District	90	HLS-3,500 nos.
				SLS-1171 nos.
				SL-2921 nos.
				S TV-183 nos.
4.	Meghalaya	South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Rabhoi, Jayantia Hills etc.	14	PP-35.5 kWp

HLS=Home Lighting Systems, SLS=Street Lighting Systems, SL=Solar Lanterns  
 PP=Power Plants, kWp=Kilowatt peak, KW=Kilowatt STV=Solar Television

### **Administrative Reforms**

5889. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring administrative reforms in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the departments having almost common objectives are likely to be merged and vacant post abolished;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a limit of electricity and telephone Bills is likely to be fixed for offices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Ministry of Railways has a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvements in Railway functioning and bring about administrative reforms wherever necessary. Railways also make constant efforts to review all expenditure for keeping them at the minimum. Control over costs is achieved through Annual Plan and Budgeting exercises.

### **Production of Betel**

5890. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of main betel growing States in the country;

(b) whether any scheme to improve the condition of betel growers is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Insurance Scheme to insure betel crop is proposed to be formulated;

(e) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be formulated; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The major betel growing States in the country are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The Department is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-supplementation/complementation of States efforts through Work Plans, from 2000-2001 where-in assistance can be availed for the establishment of demonstration plots with high yielding varieties and encouragement of bio-control agents against pest and diseases as per the needs of the States.

(d) to (f) The existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) covers only food crops, pulses and those commercial and horticultural crops in respect of which the yield data of the past years are available. Betel crops is not covered under the scheme. However, subsidiary companies of General Insurance Corporation of India are implementing the insurance schemes for horticultural crops including betelvine on commercial basis.

[English]

#### **Customs Duty on Kerosene**

5891. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed 5 percent custom duty on import of Kerosene; and

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing custom duty on import of Kerosene when the private sector companies are exporting Kerosene?

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) In Union budget for 2001-2002, customs duty of 5% has been levied on import of PDS Kerosene.

(b) Kerosene (SKO) has not been decanalised for export as per EXIM policy. No export of SKO has been made during 2000-2001.

#### **Production of Mushroom**

5892. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to implement some new schemes to increase the production of mushroom during the remaining period of Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complimentation of States efforts through Work Plans, from 2000-2001, under which activities such as: pasteurized compost units, spawn production lab, processing unit and Training Unit are included and can be availed as per the needs of the States. The details of funds released to different States during 2000-2001 under the schemes is given in statement attached.

National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry is implementing a programme on commercial horticulture including Mushroom. The Scheme provides a financial assistance of 20% of the cost of project to the extent of Rs. 25 lakh as back ended subsidy.

Besides, Department of Food Processing Industries is also providing financial assistance to public sector undertakings, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations and co-operatives for creation of infrastructure facilities under its Plan Schemes for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for mushroom cultivation and processing.

#### **Statement**

*Details of funds released during 2000-2001 under Macro Management Scheme*

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Funds released in 2000-2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1995.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	534.00



1	2	3
3.	Assam	492.06
4.	Bihar	352.56
5.	Jharkhand	19.47
6.	Goa	29.42
7.	Gujarat	3000.00
8.	Haryana	1233.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1241.29
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	848.32
11.	Karnataka	6060.38
12.	Kerala	3026.70
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3920.42
14.	Chhattisgarh	963.00
15.	Maharashtra	8935.09
16.	Manipur	479.13
17.	Mizoram	553.16
18.	Meghalaya	542.32
19.	Nagaland	1170.67
20.	Orissa	614.89
21.	Punjab	714.65
22.	Rajasthan	6575.15
23.	Sikkim	737.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	4441.27
25.	Tripura	476.40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6287.95
27.	Uttaranchal	920.00
28.	West Bengal	1077.83
29.	Chandigarh	0.65
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.61
31.	Delhi	61.03
32.	Lakshadweep	10.18
33.	Pondicherry	15.14
34.	Daman and Diu	4.34
35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	38.87
Total		57395.15

**Processed Food Industry**

**5893. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the processed food industry more competitive;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify the languishing units; and

(c) the financial packages introduced for the revival and growth of these languishing food processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of the processed food sector in the country. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), financial assistance is extended to Non-Government organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector, including setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units. However, DFPI does not set up any units on its own. It has been proposed in the Budget 2001-2002 to bring down the current Excise Duty of 16% to zero level for processed fruits and vegetables. The proposed National Food Processing Policy envisages creation of enabling environment for developing this sector and infrastructural facilities etc.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Private Sector Power Projects**

**5894. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where private sector power projects are likely to be set up and the quantum of power likely to be generated therefrom; and

(b) the details of estimated cost of these projects along with the name of States likely to be benefitted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Out of a total of 57 private sector power projects accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 55 projects are presently in the pipeline (1 project has recently been transferred to State Sector and the authorization given to another has recently been

revoked, both by the Government of West Bengal). Out of the 55 projects still in the pipeline, 45 projects are yet to be commissioned. A State-wise list indicating details of estimated cost and the proposed installed capacity, etc. in respect of these 45 projects is enclosed in the attached statement.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	COST (Rs./Crores)
1	2	3	4
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	4628.11
2.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group)	520	2384.57
3.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	2221.329
4.	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)	492	1679.907
<b>Bihar</b>			
5@	Jojobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	1025.19
<b>Gujarat</b>			
6.	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.00	2550.741
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>			
7.	Baspa Stage-II HEP (M/s. JPIL)	300	949.23
8.	Malana HEP (M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.)	86	341.911
<b>Karnataka</b>			
9.	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentrix)	1013.2	4253.399
10.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015	5495.99
11.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6	390.593
<b>Kerala</b>			
12.	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	1964.3
13.	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	1470

1	2	3	4
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
14.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	1500
15.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070	4690.00
16.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	2443
17.	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s. GBL Power)	166	531.24
18.	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. ITPL)	420	1766.78
19.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	1079.39
20.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	2183.50
21.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	2489.71
22.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	2411.80
23.	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd.)	342	1048.072
24.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	442.096
25.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	451.294
26.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	550.667
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
27&	Dabhol CCGT (Dabhol Power Company)- Phase-I	740	9051.27
	Phase II	1444	
28.	Bhadravati TPS (Ms. Central India Power)	1072	4630.90
29.	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1	1379.181
<b>Orissa</b>			
30.	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES Ib Valley Cor.)	550	2369.48
31.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	2191.534
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
32.	Dholpur CCGT (M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.)	702.7	2294.078
33.	Barsingsar TPP (M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	500	2106.635
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
34.	Neyveli TPS - Zero Unit (Ms. ST-CMS)	250	1200
35@.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5	1121.70
36.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050	4423.80

1	2	3	4
37.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525	2324.10
38.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.)	106	384.221
39.	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	2246.77
40.	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company)	1320	6379.157
41.	Vembar CCGT (M/s. Indian Power Projects Limited)	1873	5060.165
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
42.	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. JPIL)	400	1614.6
43.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	2432.10
44.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	1699.12
<b>West Bengal</b>			
45.	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500	2234.69

@-Partially commissioned.

&-Phase-I fully commissioned.

[English]

#### Promotion of Horticulture

5895. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote horticulture in the country particularly in backward States during Ninth Five Year Plan period;

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

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) For development of horticulture in backward

areas, Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas is being implemented during 9th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 15.00 crore on pilot basis in five tribal districts of Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh), Panchmahal (Gujarat), Keonjhar (Orissa), Bastar (Chhattisgarh), Ranchi (Jharkhand) and one hilly district of Almora (Uttaranchal). For each district project maximum outlay of Rs. 2.35 crore has been allocated for the period.

In addition, various schemes prepared for development of horticulture in the country including backward States during 9th Plan, have been merged with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro-Management in Agriculture-Complementing & Supplementing the States Efforts through Work Plans" wherein promotion of horticulture has been taken up, as per the needs of the State. The State-wise funds released under the Macro-Management Scheme during 2000-2001 is given in statement attached. Besides, Government of India has also approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim.

**Statement****State-wise funds released under Macro Management Scheme During 2000-2001**

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Amount released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1995.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	534.00
3.	Assam	492.06
4.	Bihar	352.56
5.	Jharkhand	19.47
6.	Goa	29.42
7.	Gujarat	3000.00
8.	Haryana	1233.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1241.29
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	848.32
11.	Karnataka	6060.38
12.	Kerala	3026.70
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3920.42
14.	Chhattisgarh	963.00
15.	Maharashtra	8935.09
16.	Manipur	479.13
17.	Meghalaya	542.32
18.	Mizoram	553.16
19.	Nagaland	1170.67
20.	Orissa	614.89
21.	Punjab	714.65
22.	Rajasthan	6575.15
23.	Sikkim	737.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	4441.27
25.	Tripura	476.40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6287.95
27.	Uttaranchal	920.00

1	2	3
28.	West Bengal	1077.83
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	38.87
30.	Chandigarh	0.65
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.61
32.	Delhi	61.03
33.	Daman & Diu	4.34
34.	Pondicherry	15.14
35.	Lakshadweep	10.18
Total		57395.15

**Agricultural Projects**

5896. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural projects funded/being funded by European countries in each State;

(b) the present position of these projects;

(c) whether any fresh project seeking external assistance has been received from any State Government including Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

**Setting up of Power Projects in Karnataka**

5897. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up two power projects at Madhya and Mysore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details if indicating the capacity of these projects;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Centre's assistance for power projects in the State including a 2000 MW capacity NTPC Thermal Project and distribution network; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the action the Union Government has taken on their requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No proposal for setting up of power project in Central

Sector in Mandya and Mysore in Karnataka has been received in CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance (TEC) However, details of the proposals to set up power projects in State/Private Sector in Mandya and Mysore in Karnataka received in CEA for accord of TEC are given below:

Name of the Project	Capacity	Status
Brindavan HEP (Mandya) State Sector	2x6 MW	Cleared by CEA in 1989. Implementation held up due to Inter-State aspect.
Kabini Dam HEP (Mysore) State Sector	1x20 MW	Returned due to Inter-State aspect.
Shivasamudram HEP Seasonal Power (Mysore) State Sector	2x135 MW	Returned due to Inter-State aspect.
Mandya CCPP (Mandya) Private Sector	164.37 MW	Returned as essential inputs/clearance were not tied up.
Mysore TPP (Mysore) Private Sector	4x250 MW	Returned as essential inputs/clearance were not tied up.

(c) and (d) There was a proposal from Government of Karnataka for setting up of a 2000 MW gas based power project in the State by NTPC. The Government of India had informed Government of Karnataka in November, 2000 that due to hike in the international crude oil prices, which in turn has increased the LNG prices, the tariff for a gas based plant would be unaffordable. The NTPC has been advised to discuss the matter with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Petronet LNG regarding the rate at which LNG is likely to be obtained over a period of 20-25 years.

[Translation]

#### High Fee Charging in Craft Fairs

5898. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether hefty sums have been charged from the craftsmen in Surajkund, Gwalior, Agra and Delhi fairs and the employees responsible enjoy the patronage of higher officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### New Technique to Women in Rural Areas

5899. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to education/training imparted for adopting new techniques in agriculture to the women in rural areas of Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) the agencies through which the said training is imparted; and

(c) the extent of support this scheme has received from the said States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) (i) The World Bank Aided National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) is under implementation in 3 districts of Bihar namely Muzaffarpur, Munger and Madhubani and one district of Jharkhand, namely, Dumka. Under this project emphasis is given to organize the

Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) preferably of farm women. Training and Exposure Visits are organized for farmers/farm women to acquaint them with new technologies/skills.

(ii) A Central Sector Scheme of Agricultural Extension through Voluntary Organisation (NGOs) is in operation in 3 district of Bihar namely Nawada, Nalanda, Muzaffarpur and one district of Jharkhand namely Ranchi. The main objective of the Scheme is to involve the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the process of transfer of new technology to farmers/women farmers.

(iii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 15 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Bihar and 5 KVKs in Jharkhand. During last year 4371 farm women participated in various training programmes in new technologies.

(b) (i) The district level Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is the Nodal Agency for the implementation of the National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP).

(ii) Non-Governmental Organisations implementing the Scheme in Bihar are:

1. Gram Nirman Mandal, Nawada, Bihar.
2. Gramin Vikas Kendra, District Nalanda, Bihar.
3. Muzaffarpur Janhit Pratisthan, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

#### *Jharkhand*

1. Ramakrishna Ashram, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

(iii) 15 Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Bihar & 5 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Jharkhand are implementing the Scheme.

(c) All these programmes/projects/schemes are 100% Grant-in-Aid from Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

#### **Rail Bus Service between Tumsar and Tirodi**

5900. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have postponed the implementation of "rail bus" service between Tumsar road and Tirodi;

(b) if so, the reasons for delaying the implementation of this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Tumsar Road-Tirodi section has been identified for running 'Rail Bus' service. The Rail Bus service will be introduced after completion of manufacture and necessary clearances are taken.

#### **Decreasing of Traffic Handling Capacity of Ports**

5901. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of berths in Indian Ports especially the Mumbai Port whose occupancy is above 80%;

(b) whether the existing traffic capacity of the ports is diverted to the private sector with a view to increase the traffic capacity of the private sector ports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the profit on account of traffic handling capacity of the ports is declining continuously; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make this sector profitable/viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As on 31.3.2000, there were 209 berths at the major ports. Berth No. G and berth No. P/Q in Princess dock in Mumbai Port had occupancy level of more than 80% during 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The objectives of private Sector participation in major ports *inter-alia* are mobilization of additional funds for capacity creation, improvement in efficiency, productivity and quality of services.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The net profits of all the major ports have declined. During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, because of steep rise in expenditure. Various measures have been taken to control the non-productive expenditure and reduce work force various major ports.

[English]

#### **Railway Claim Tribunals**

5902. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway claim tribunals in Western Railways particularly in Mumbai;

(b) the expenditure incurred on railway claims tribunals in Mumbai during the last three years;

(c) the number of claim cases decided in Mumbai by claim tribunals during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total amount of rent paid by the Railways for the offices of claim tribunals during the last three years;

(f) whether there is any plan to construct its own building by Railways;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are three Claims Tribunal Benches over Western Railways i.e. Ahmedabad, Jaipur & Mumbai. In Mumbai there is only one Bench of Claims Tribunal.

(b) Total expenditure incurred during the last three years in Mumbai Bench of Claims Tribunal is as follows:—

(Figure in thousand rupees)

1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
3335	3326	3330

(c) and (d) Total claim cases decided during the last three years:—

1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
341	498	281

(e) Railway Claims Tribunal, Mumbai is paying no rent. The Tribunal is located in the Railway building.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Scheme for Tehri Dam**

5903. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to defer the scheme to store the water of Ganges for Tehri dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of dam is likely to be recommended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW) is a sanctioned and ongoing project being implemented by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC). The construction activities at the project site are going on. However, the closure of diversion tunnels required for construction of civil works of stilling basin which was earlier planned by March, 2001, has been deferred for the time being.

[English]

#### **Treatment of Livestock**

5904. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homeopathic/Ayurvedic medicines are also being found useful for the treatment of livestock;

(b) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any plan in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to make it a part of curriculum for veterinarian;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No established scientific information on the usefulness of Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic drugs for veterinary use is available. Indigenous drugs, however, figure in veterinary curriculum.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **National Training Camp**

5905. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national training camp recently organised in Rajasthan on agriculture techniques;



(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether women farmers also permitted to participate in the said training programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which such camps are expected to benefit the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five National Level Training Courses have been organised in Rajasthan. Details of these five National Training Courses are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) National Training Course are sponsored by Govt. of India for Extension personnel only, including women. Training of farmers is the responsibility of the respective State Government.

(d) Out of the five National Training Courses, one training course was organised specifically for women functionaries. In this Training Course 14 women extension functionaries participated.

(e) All these training courses are organised to improve the knowledge & skill, to bring about changes in behaviour & performance of extension functionaries. The knowledge & skills acquired by extension functionaries are then disseminated to the farmers at grass root level. In this way the farmers are benefitted by the knowledge of new technologies for application in real field situations.

#### **Statement**

*During 2000-2001 five National Level Training Courses have been sponsored by Directorate of Extension, to the State of Rajasthan for SMSs/Middle Level Extension Functionaries.*

The details of National Training Courses are as under:—

Sl. No.	Course	Venue & Date	No. of Ext. Functionaries Participated
1.	Post Harvest Technology for Food Grains	RAU, Udaipur, 01-08th Dec, 2000	24
2.	Arid Agriculture	CAZRI, Jodhpur, 03-12th Jan., 2001	10
3.	Agriculture Technology for Women, Extension Functionaries	RAU, Udaipur, 17-24th Jan., 2001	14 Women Ext. Functionaries
4.	Sheep & Wool Production Technology	CSWRI, Avikanagar, 07-14th Feb., 2001	14
5.	Arid Horticulture	RAU, Bikaner, 13-20th Feb., 2001	16
Total			78

Out of aforesaid training courses one National Training Course on "Agriculture Technology for Women Extension Functionaries" was exclusively organized for women extension functionaries. Altogether 78 SMSs/Middle Level Extension Functionaries were trained who in turn disseminate the technology on agriculture to farming community.

[English]

#### **Land Rent and Maintenance Charges for Bridges**

5906. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have failed to realise land rent and maintenance charges for constructed bridges during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount to be realised due to this;

(c) whether any accountability of staff has been fixed into the matter;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to fix the responsibility and accountability now; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Loss Due to Inadmissible Concessional Tariff**

5907. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have suffered a loss of Rs. 17.14 crore due to application of inadmissible concessional tariff on export consignments during 1994 to 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measures the Government propose to take for recovery of that amount and to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future;

(d) whether the Railway had also suffered a loss of Rs. 65.82 crore during 1992 due to non-provision of higher classification for rock phosphate transported for use other than fertilizer;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken for recovery of the amount;

(f) whether any responsibility and accountability has been fixed in the matter; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No Sir, the alleged loss which was also pointed out by Audit in their report No. 9 of 1998, was not actual but based on hypothetical ground that export consignment should be charged at higher freight rate. However, the suggestion

that a commodity meant for export should be charged at a higher freight rate has not been accepted by the Ministry of Railways as such discrimination would act as a disincentive for export and be difficult to administer.

(d) to (g) No Sir, the alleged loss which was also pointed out by Audit in their report No. 9 of 1998 was not actual and based on the ground that a commodity being used for industrial use should be charged at higher class and when used for agricultural purposes at lower class. The Central Government's decision to keep the freight rates for rock phosphate low was that it constitutes the basic raw material for manufacture of fertilizer and it was necessary to help agriculture by keeping the overall price of Rock Phosphate low. Rock Phosphate is used directly as manure as well as for manufacture of complex fertilizers. It is a low rated commodity and cannot bear higher freight rate even if used for industrial purposes. Dual classification of a commodity is also difficult to administer, as there are chances of mis-declaration by unscrupulous consignors to avail of the benefit of lower classification.

#### **Cheating of Foreign Tourists**

5908. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fate of tourists coming to Delhi who are fleeced and cheated even though they have been booked at the prestigious five star Hotels as appeared in the 'Delhi Times' dated February 26, 2001;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken against the culprits; and

(c) the further remedial measures taken to avoid such incidents in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Government of India looks into the complaints received by it from any agency or individual through the State Governments and other appropriate authorities for redressal.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism has already requested the State Governments including NCR of Delhi to have preventive legislation and tourist police. Some of the State Governments have already enacted such legislation and set up tourist police to deal with this menace.

### **Vessels for Trial Run of National Waterways System**

5909. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has any vessels which undertake trial runs of the national waterways system;

(b) if so, the number of such vessels with them and the annual cost of maintaining such vessels;

(c) whether there is any proposal to scrap such vessels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There are no specific vessels earmarked for trial run. However, on any route, first trial run is carried out by any commercial vessel.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

### **Functioning of National Museum**

5910. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Museum has embarked on a programme of modernization and started an interactive and cyber-friendly initiative to form more galleries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the National Museum does not rank high in stature;

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of the National Museum and other important museums along with the funds allocated therefor during each of the last three years and the current year?

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

(b) The Harappan Gallery has been modernized; action is on to modernize the Indian Miniature, Numismatics, Manuscripts and Central Asian Galleries. New Information Technologies have been applied in the modernization process. A computerized documentation of "AA" & "A" category objects in the collection of National Museum had been completed and a web-site opened.

(c) and (d) National Museum has an excellent collection of cultural objects and draws a number of visitors.

(e) All the museums are engaged in modernization of galleries, organisation of exhibitions, improved conservation and documentation. The details of funds allocated year-wise are given below:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
National Museum New Delhi	638.00	805.00	900.00	1050.00
Indian Museum Calcutta	449.00	585.00	677.51	780.00
Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad	541.00	477.10	635.00	740.00
Allahabad Museum, Allahabad	96.05	87.00	120.00	178.00

### **Duties of Enforcement Wing Created by OCC**

5911. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the duties, authorities and responsibilities of the newly created enforcement wing created/developed in Oil Coordination Committee or Petroleum Regulatory Authority to check malpractices, irregularities on petrol pumps, oil corporations terminals and offices;

(b) the details of model code of conduct for this wing/department to avoid the misuse of powers;

(c) the mode of appeal against the decisions of this wing/department or against the decisions of General Managers of the Oil PSUs;

(d) whether the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code are applicable on their working; and

(e) if not, the reasons for such exemptions?

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 (e) The Government have created Anti-Adulteration/Vigilance Cell in Oil Coordination Committee under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to carry out inspections of retail outlets and LPG distributorships to check adulteration of petroleum products and other irregularities. It is proposed to empower the Cell by promulgating special orders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with powers to seek records, enter premises and check diversion of naphtha, solvents and kerosene, take samples of the products and seizure, to gather information from oil companies/refineries (including joint sector, private sector and PSUs) on production and sales of decontrolled products etc. The Anti-Adulteration Cell will function under the direct supervision and control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

#### **Bivoltine Sericulture Technology Project**

5912. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bivoltine Sericulture Technology Project is under implementation in Karnataka and other States with assistance of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA);

(b) if so, the amount spent on the said project in each State;

(c) the names of districts covered and the number of farmers benefited under the said project, so far, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production Bivoltine Silk under the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Central Silk Board has been implementing a project for Promotion of Popularizing the Practical Bivoltine Sericulture Technology (PPPBST) with the cooperation and assistance of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop and introduce hardier and productive bivoltine silkworm races and appropriate package of practices for mulberry garden and silkworm rearing technology under tropical condition in the State of Karnataka since 1997 and the project has been extended to the States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh from 1999. The JICA provides only sericulture experts from Japan, training of Indian counterparts in Japan and also necessary equipments for the project and does not provide any direct financial assistance to the Central Silk Board. It is therefore not possible to give State-wise figures of amount spent. However, the CSB has incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 223.04 lakhs from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 (upto June, 2000) on the project.

(c) The project has covered Mandya, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Bangalore districts in Karnataka, Erode districts in Tamil Nadu and Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh and has directly benefited 103 farmers in Karnataka and 19 each in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The Central Silk Board is engaged in transferring the bivoltine sericulture technology to the field, adopting it to Indian conditions and finding the correct set of extension practices. The Department of Sericulture of Govt. of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have drawn up a comprehensive plan for promotion and expansion of bivoltine sericulture in their respective States. The commercial exploitation of bivoltine races is expected to result in production of raw silk of international standard in the country.

*[Translation]*

#### **Subsidy to Kedarnath Pilgrims**

5913. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide some kind of subsidy to pilgrims of Kedarnath as is being enjoyed by the Haj pilgrims;

(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, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Development of pilgrim centres including provision of facilities to the pilgrims within India is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UTs Administration concerned. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructural facilities at pilgrim centres to the State Government/UTs Administration concerned for the specific project proposals prioritized in consultation with them based on *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

[English]

#### **Divorce Cases**

5914. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the number of cases of divorce under different personal laws, filed in various courts in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether rampant cases of divorce are attributable to inadequate provisions relating to maintenance of divorced and deserted wives; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to update and make the law effective enough?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No such information is maintained in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Various legislations concerning women are regularly monitored and amendments are carried out wherever necessary. There is a proposal under consideration of the Government to make suitable amendments in Chapter IX of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to remove the ceiling of maintenance and to provide for interim maintenance and expenses for proceedings and for disposal of the application for interim maintenance and expenses for proceedings, as far as possible, within sixty days from the date of service of notice. Legislative Department has also introduced a Bill namely, the Indian Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 2000 for

removing gender bias in the grounds of divorce (Section 10 of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869). The same is pending before the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and report.

[Translation]

#### **Calamity Relief Funds**

5915. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds to the State Government of Maharashtra during the year 2000-2001 under Calamity Relief Fund;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government to release funds to the States under Calamity Relief Funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 117.90 crore has been released to Maharashtra.

(c) Yearly allocation to the States under CRF for 2000-2005 has been made in accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, to be contributed by the Centre and the States concerned in the ratio of 3:1.

[English]

#### **Report of Rakesh Mohan Committee**

5916. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to revive Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee report on railway restructuring and also decided to have a thorough examination of the interim report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether finances are the main hurdle in the timely completion of various railway projects;

(d) if so, whether the Minister has recently decided to formulate new policies to generate funds for the timely completion of railway projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Dr. Rakesh Mohan is yet to submit the report. The various recommendations submitted by Rakesh Mohan Committee in the Interim Executive Summary are under examination in this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Availability of finances is one of the major factors affecting the progress of Railway projects. Railways have taken the following steps:—

- (i) Obtain increased Budgetary Support from the General Exchequer.
- (ii) Tap non-traditional sources of revenue, e.g. commercial utilisation of land, leasing of right of way for laying Optical Fibre Cables, commercial publicity, etc.
- (iii) Arrange financial participation of State Governments/Private Sector organizations for implementation of specific projects.

[Translation]

#### **Procedure for Advertisement for Petrol and Gas Agency**

5917. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Policy has been formulated regarding the procedure for the publication of advertisement for petrol pump outlet and LPG agency in the country; and

(b) 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) The Government have laid down the following guidelines for issuing advertisements for selection of dealers/distributors for petroleum products:—

"Locations included in the Marketing Plan will be advertised under appropriate category in two newspapers, one English daily and one Regional Vernacular daily, having maximum circulation in the district(s) in which the dealership/distributorship is located.

A minimum notice period of 45 days would be given to the applicant(s) to submit their applications and the last date for receipt of applications should be a working day.

A copy of the advertisement will be circulated to all Depots/Installations/Zonal/Divisional Offices of all the Oil Companies located in the concerned area to be displayed by them on their Notice Boards. These will also be forwarded to the District Magistrate/Collector/Member of Parliament residing in the District, Rajya Sainik Board (RSB) of the concerned State and DGR for 'Defence Personnel (DC)' category. Efforts will also be made to publish the advertisement in the 'Employment News' and broadcast it through AIR/Doordarshan."

[English]

#### **Collapse of NTPC Tower**

5918. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons have died and injured due to collapse of a coolant tower of NTPC at Parvada near Vishakhapatnam as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated March 30, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the losses suffered by NTPC as a result thereof; and

(e) the compensation paid to the victims by NTPC and the steps taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The construction work of Cooling Towers at Simhadri Thermal Power Project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is being executed by M/s. National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), a Government of India Undertaking, under a turnkey contract. The temporary access to facilitate transport of material was made of scaffolding pipes to the height of 165 meters. This temporary access scaffolding collapsed at about 10.30 PM on 28.3.2001 due to which six persons of sub-contractor of M/s. NBCC succumbed to injuries and one person being treated at King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam, is progressing well.

(b) and (c) A high level Enquiry Committee has been constituted by NTPC to enquire into the accident which is required to submit its findings by 15th May, 2001.

(d) NTPC has not suffered any financial loss as a result of this accident.

(e) An ex-gratia of Rs. 2.50 lakhs to each family of those killed in the accident is being paid by the contracting agency, M/s. NBCC apart from the statutory payment of compensation under the Workmen Compensation Act which may come around Rs. 2 lakhs. In addition, Rs. 25,000/- was paid as cremation expenses. Further, the treatment charges of the injured person are also being met by M/s. NBCC.

Since the accident is unique and the first of its kind occurred in NTPC project sites and involves various issues of technology, the Enquiry Committee as well as M/s. NBCC are interacting with various consultants, experts etc., and also going through literature/data relevant to similar structures to finalize the findings. NTPC has been advised to take all necessary precautions to prevent recurrence of such accidents in future.

#### **Volume Discount Scheme for Freight**

5919. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are offering the early mover to cash in on the grains of its ambitious freight marketing initiative under the volume discount scheme;

(b) whether any guidelines have been prepared to be followed during 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it would help to meet the freight target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. As a marketing strategy, Volume Discount Scheme for the year 2001-2002 has already been launched for committed incremental traffic in specified commodities offered by rail users.

The Scheme will operate separately for each half yearly period of 2001-2002. The commodities covered under the scheme are:

Group I Cement, Cement Clinker, Iron or Steel, Pig Iron, Iron or Steel Scrap, Sponge Iron, Soda Ash Light, Soda Bi-carbonate and Sugar.

Group-II Limestone, Manganese Ore, Felspar, Gypsum in Lumps and Gypsum in Powder-when booked from indigenous sources.

The benchmark for each half-yearly period will be fixed based on the peak loading done during the corresponding periods of last three years. Parties (other than premier customers) offering minimum 5% incremental traffic above the benchmark level will only qualify for Volume Discount which will be payable for the entire incremental traffic offered. The Discount is payable immediately on achieving the qualifying criteria. The Discount ranges from 8% to 12% for Group-I commodities and from 6% to 8% for Group-II commodities. Special relaxation have been given to new parties as well as to premier customers who offer 70% of their total despatches by rail.

No specific estimate can be made at this stage. This scheme will help in augmentation in loading to achieve the target for 2001-2002.

#### **Human Resource Development**

5920. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme called Human Resource Development in Horticulture has been launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided to the Government of Maharashtra for implementation of the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture was launched during the Ninth Plan with effect from 1999-2000 with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores for the Plan period.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs was provided to the Government of Maharashtra during 2000-2001 for conducting four training courses for the benefit of the Inservice Personnel of the State Horticulture Department. Besides, during 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 14.00 lakhs was provided to the Mahatma Phule Krishi

Vidyapeeth, Rahuri for conducting training courses for Supervisors and Entrepreneurs and Rs. 13.52 lakhs was provided to Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth for conducting training courses to Gardeners.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **LPG Agencies/Petrol/Diesel Pumps in Gujarat**

5921. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new diesel/petrol pumps and LPG agencies proposed to set up in Gujarat during 2000-2001, district-wise; and

(b) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps functioning in Gujarat at present?

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 meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, one location for retail outlet dealership and none for LPG distributorship have been included in the Marketing Plans for 1999-2000 for the State of Gujarat.

(b) As on 31.1.2001, there were 1129 retail outlets and 437 LPG distributorships in operation in the State of Gujarat.

*[English]*

#### **Sperm Banks**

5922. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of locations of sperm stations/frozen semen banks set up under National projects for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a sperm station of frozen semen bank in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding was approved in October, 2000. The scheme envisage strengthening of existing sperm stations in the States on the basis of a critical analysis of their functioning. The States of Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have been provided funds under the Project who will strengthen their semen stations after doing the required analysis.

(b) to (d) The State of Maharashtra has three sperm stations under the Department of Animal Husbandry, one under Cooperative Sector and another two operated by the Non-Government Organizations. With appropriate strengthening and restructuring of these six sperm stations it may be possible to meet the frozen semen requirement of the State and there may not be any need to set up any new sperm station. However, the requirement and micro level planning in this regard will have to be done by the State Government. A proposal of the State Government under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding was received in February, 2001 and the State has been requested to revise the proposal in conformity with guidelines of the scheme.

*[Translation]*

#### **Accidents at Level Crossings**

5923. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings in the country, separately, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of accidents occurred at these level crossings alongwith the number of persons killed and injured in these accidents during the last one year, till date, zone-wise;

(c) the number of ummanned level crossings which have been manned during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to man the remaining unmanned level crossings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are 16313 manned and 22346 unmanned level crossings in the country. State-wise and zone-wise are as under:

States	Manned	Unmanned
1	2	3
Assam	431	711
Andhra Pradesh	1214	1516
Bihar	1354	1864
Delhi	55	02
Gujarat	1491	2862
Haryana	550	378
Himachal Pradesh	40	290
Jammu & Kashmir	17	34
Karnataka	632	947
Kerala	409	313
Madhya Pradesh	1323	1694

#### Zone-wise Details

Railway	Manned	Unmanned
1	2	3
Central	1857	1601
Eastern	1282	1008
Northern	3261	4020
North Eastern	1471	2657

(b) Statistics of accidents occurred at manned and unmanned level crossings during

1	2	3
Maharashtra	1159	1476
Manipur	1	1
Mizoram	—	1
Orissa	302	1157
Punjab	763	1019
Rajasthan	1410	2115
Tamil Nadu	1227	1305
Tripura	—	19
Uttar Pradesh	2819	3138
West Bengal	1086	1491
Chandigarh	6	1
Pondicherry	9	9
Goa	14	2
Nagaland	1	1

1	2	3
Northeast	694	1334
Frontier		
Southern	2131	2272
South Central	1506	1944
South Eastern	1134	3504
Western	2977	4006

the last one year, till date, zone-wise are as under:

Railways	Number of Accidents Crossings		Consequential on Level		Casualties			
	During 2000-2001		01.04.2001 to 15.04.2001		During 2000-2001		01.04.2001 to 15.04.2001	
	M*	UM**	M*	UM**	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central	1	5	—	—	6	13	—	—
Eastern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern	6	25	—	—	51	56	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North Eastern	1	13	—	—	18	15	—	—
North East Frontier	—	5	—	1	15	9	3	
Southern	1	6	—	—	5	22	—	—
South Central	1	12	—	1	24	18	4	—
South Eastern	—	5	—	—	12	19	—	—
Western	1	1	—	1	2	5	1	8
Total	11	72	Nil	3	133	157	5	11

(\*) M=Manned. (\*\*) UM-Unmanned. All figures are provisional.

(c) Number of unmanned level crossings manned during last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of Level Crossing Manned
1998-1999	47
1999-2000	53
2000-2001	165

(d) and (e) As per rules, the initial cost of manning of unmanned Level Crossings, has to be borne by the State Government/Road authority concerned and annual operating & maintenance cost is to be borne by the Railway. Considering the serious consequences of the accidents at unmanned Level Crossings, Railway has decided to man hazardous level crossings at its own cost. 4449 such unmanned Level Crossings have been planned to be manned in a period of 5 years. Manning of 686, 787 and 337 unmanned Level Crossings has been sanctioned during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively.

Railways have also decided to man equal number of Level Crossing at its own cost as are manned through funds from MPLADS as per the recommendations of Hon'ble MPs.

[English]

#### Effect of Earthquake on Textile Industry of Gujarat

5924. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which damage has been caused to the textile mills as a result of recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) the number of workers affected thereby;;

(c) whether rehabilitation of affected mills has been taken up;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to the National Textile Corporation (NTC) their mills in Gujarat suffered a damage to the tune of Rs. 34.60 lakh because of the earthquake. The number of workers involved was 886. It is reported that the damage suffered by private sector mills has not been substantial.

(c) to (e) No specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of Textiles from any of the affected mills for rehabilitation assistance on account of earthquake damage.

[Translation]

#### Support Price of Soyabean

5925. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices have considered the proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding Minimum Support Price;

(b) whether the support price of Soyabean is likely to be declared as per the proposal made by the State Government this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh suggested that the support price for soyabean be fixed for the year 2001-2002 as Rs. 850 per quintal for soyabean (black) and Rs. 1025 per quintal for soyabean (yellow).

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) has considered the proposal of the State Government and a view on this will be taken in the kharif report for 2001-2002, which is due shortly.

[English]

#### **National Co-operative Development Corporation**

5926. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented under National Co-operative Development Corporation; and

(b) the details of loans sanctioned/released for various agro-processing projects in co-operative sector during each of the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Schemes implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) are given in the statement-I attached.

(b) The details of loans sanctioned/released for various agro-processing projects in cooperative sector during each of the last three years till date, State-wise are given in statements in the statement-II-III attached.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Statement Showing Details of Schemes Implemented by NCDC*

#### **A. Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1. Assistance to Cooperative Marketing, Processing and Storage Programmed in Cooperatively Under Developed States/Union Territories.

2. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Sugar Mills.
3. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Spinning Mills (Growers)
4. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Spinning Mills (Weavers)
5. EEC assisted Development of Rural Growth Centres in Bihar.
6. EEC assisted Coconut Development Project in Kerala.
7. Assistance for strengthening of NAFED.
8. Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in selected Districts (ICDP) (Subsidy)
9. Sugar Development Fund.

#### **B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes**

1. Margin money to MARKFEDs.
2. Strengthening of Share Capital Base of primary/district marketing Societies.
3. Assistance to sugar, spinning mills, powerloom and other cooperative processing units.
4. Assistance to Cooperative Storage/Cold Storage.
5. Assistance for distribution of consumer articles in Rural Areas and Student Consumer Stores.
6. Assistance for Agricultural Services.
7. ICDP (Subsidy).
8. Assistance for Weaker Sections in fisheries, dairy, poultry, tribal cooperatives, Scheduled Caste cooperatives, handloom, coir and sericulture.
9. Assistance for Computers and Equipment Financing.
10. Assistance for promotional and development programmes.

**Statement-II***State-wise sanctions made by NCDC from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 for Agro-Processing Projects*

(Rs. in lakhs)			
State	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Andhra Pradesh	—	833.00	—
Assam	—	11.300	—
Bihar	—	43.730	20.000
Gujarat	1799.600	790.000	45.500
Himachal Pradesh	3.000	28.750	—
Karnataka	1947.425	6448.380	4730.180
Kerala	1588.480	630.910	2602.900
Madhya Pradesh	899.125	1402.290	695.200
Maharashtra	5802.650	10583.810	24074.500
Manipur	4.500	6.230	—
Nagaland	9.605	2.500	—
Tamil Nadu	423.00	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	4562.900	—	—
West Bengal	10.545	100.000	397.600
Total	17050.830	20881.900	32565.880

**Statement-III***State-wise Releases made by NCDC from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 for Agro-Processing Projects*

(Rs. in lakhs)			
State	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	• 391.525
Gujarat	119.280	34.250	366.725
Himachal Pradesh	—	5.000	—
Karnataka	1300.734	2590.255	5661.425
Kerala	910.779	1074.525	2743.970
Madhya Pradesh	988.445	915.915	880.375

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	7485.593	11031.880	21570.342
Nagaland	22.560	—	43.180
Rajasthan	1000.000	—	—
Tamil Nadu	58.254	65.040	8.089
Uttar Pradesh	10760.980	3010.520	781.900
West Bengal	168.400	21.219	392.489
Total:	22815.025	18748.604	32840.020

**Intensive Cotton Development Programme**

5927. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of implementation during the last two years and the achievements made therefrom; and

(c) the future plans of this programme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cotton, the Government of India is implementing a

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton in cotton growing States including Andhra Pradesh through the State Government. The funding pattern under the Scheme is mostly on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and the implementing States. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for the transfer of technology through field demonstration, Integrated pest Management (IPM) demonstration and training of farmers and extension workers. Besides this, assistance is given for the use of critical inputs such as delinted seeds of newer varieties sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents, sprinkler/drip irrigation systems etc. the physical progress of important components under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under.

Component	1999-2000		2000-2001 (Upto February) 2001)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Field Demonstration (Ha)	5640	5584	3360	3968
Training of Farmers (Nos.)	200	166	460	277
IPM Demonstration cum Training (Nos.)	126	120	125	106
Supply of Sprayers/Duster (Nos.)	2500	2386	2736	299
Distribution of Bio-Agents (ha.)	—	—	3000	281
Distribution of Certified Seeds (Qtl.)	—	—	300	Nil

The future programme of the scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh is that the existing Scheme is to continue during 2001-2002 as well. An amount of Rs. 452.91 lakh has been allocated consisting of Rs. 347.18 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 105.73 lakh as State Share.

**Farming Techniques**

5928. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote extensive farming techniques to produce more paddy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent by each State during each of the last two years;

(d) whether the area under paddy cultivation is shrinking in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of paddy cultivable land available and being utilised in the country, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government propose to implement new scientific methods to enhance high yielding paddy seeds; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, new farming techniques are developed for different ecological conditions of the country and are being transferred to the farmers field through various Crop development programmes which include Production Technology Demonstrations, Minikit Programmes and Frontline Demonstrations for their adoption by farmers.

(c) The funds allocated under rice technology development by ICAR and Minikit Programme for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as follow:

(Rs. in lakh)

		<i>Year</i>	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Technology Development by ICAR	2387.00	2254.00
2.	Minikit Programmes	195.84	281.76
3.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme-Rice	3290.11	771.40 (without Macro Management)

Besides, the funds allocated to different States under Integrated Cereals Development Programme-Rice, Wheat & Coarse Cereals is enclosed as statement.

(d) to (f) No, Sir area under paddy since last four years in as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Area (Million ha.)</i>
1996-1997	43.433
1997-1998	43.446
1998-1999	44.802
1999-2K	44.972

Paddy is being grown throughout the country according to the suitability of land and water resources available. Area under paddy is showing an increasing trend.

(g) and (h) DAC-ICAR interface is held every year before the crop season to discuss the technology developed by ICAR relating to the problems of the farmers and decisions are taken regarding the new varieties and technologies to be adopted. The recommendations of this interface is communicated to all the States for their adoption. Besides, National Conferences before kharif & rabi seasons are organised by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation which is attended by Agricultural Production Commissioners & Secretaries (Agri.) along with technical officers to discuss the strategy and programme for crop production. From 4th October, 2000 the crop development schemes have been sub-sumed with a view to provide more flexibility to States and to adopt most suited components and crop production programmes depending upon their Agro-climatic conditions.

**Statement**

*State-wise Allocation of Funds (GOI) Share during the last two years in Respect of ICDP-Wheat, ICDP-Rice and ICDP-Coarse Cereals.*

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State	Allocation of Funds (GOI share)	
		1998-1999	1999-2000

1	2	3	4
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**A. ICDP-Wheat:**

1.	Haryana	507.93	595.35
2.	Himachal Pradesh	125.25	145.88
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	76.66	80.55
4.	Punjab	422.33	557.33
5.	Northern Rajasthan	73.35	87.74
6.	Western (U.P.)	955.58	965.70
Total		2,161.09	2,432.55

**B. ICDP-Rice**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	760.20	700.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.00	70.00
3.	Assam	141.53	250.00
4.	Bihar	471.00	350.00
5.	Goa	24.71	25.00
6.	Kerala	134.78	130.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	345.75	300.00
8.	Manipur	52.50	120.00
9.	Meghalaya	37.50	70.00
10.	Mizoram	30.01	60.00
11.	Nagaland	60.00	100.00
12.	Orissa	893.33	750.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	596.72	600.00
14.	Tripura	52.50	130.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1031.91	1000.00
16.	West Bengal	298.20	300.00
17.	Pondicherry	33.10	25.00
Total		5003.73	4980.00

1	2	3	4
<b>C. ICDP-Coarse Cereals:</b>			
1.	Gujarat	266.48	271.35
2.	Karnataka	248.71	299.52
3.	Madhya Pradesh	673.92	723.72
4.	Maharashtra	760.65	722.30
5.	Rajasthan	722.39	1159.85
6.	Sikkim	22.55	22.26
Total		2244.70	3145.00

*[Translation]***Irregularities by DSBs**

5929. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has stayed working of DSBs following allegations of irregularities in selection of candidates for allocation of retail outlets for Petrol and Diesel/LPG agencies and Kerosene outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring officials;

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to check the functioning of DSBs; and

(d) whether the Government propose to bring transparency in the functioning of DSBs and 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) On receipt of complaints against selection

of dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO/LDO dealerships, the Government has stayed the interviews by the following Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs):

1. DSB, Patna-IV.
2. DSB, Himachal Pradesh.
3. DSB, Goa.
4. DSB, Jammu & Kashmir
5. DSB, Jabalpur-I
6. DSB, Jabalpur-II
7. DSB, Raipur.
8. DSB, Bhopal-I
9. DSB, Bhopal-II.
10. DSB, Allahabad-I.
11. DSB, Agra-I
12. DSB, Agra-II
13. DSB, Lucknow-I.

Complaints against selection of dealers/distributors 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.

### **Construction of Over-Bridges**

5930. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the construction of over-bridges on the important and busy railway level crossings in Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of those places where over-bridges are to be constructed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Planning of replacement of busy level crossing by road over/under bridges is done by the State Govt. Railways consider replacement of busy level crossings having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU-a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of Trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) by Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis, according to priority set by the State Government.

(b) and (c) A Statement is attached.

### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Description of the Proposal	Present Status
1	2	3
1.	Road Under Bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 156-B at Km. 8/14-16 on Delhi Ghaziabad section near Vivek Vihar	The proposal is in planning stage. Railways had furnished details to the Municipal Corporation, Delhi (MCD). After the pre-requisites i.e. estimate for the approaches, undertaking for closing of the Level Crossing, provision in the State Budget etc., are completed by MCD, action will be taken to include this work in Railway's Budget on cost sharing basis.



1	2	3
2.	Road Over Bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 13-A on Delhi-Rewari section at Pankha Road, Delhi.	The work has been sanctioned in the Railways supplementary budget-2000-2001. Profile sketch and abstract estimate have been accepted by DDA.
3.	Road Over Bridge on road No. 63 at Railway crossing No. 3 at Delhi-Saharanpur line at Delhi.	This is a deposit work as State Govt. has not agreed to close the level crossing. Profile sketch for six lane Road Over Bridge has been approved and abstract estimate has been sent to State Government for acceptance. After the estimate is accepted and the balance amount, State Govt. has deposited Rs. 1.88 crores, is deposited by State Govt., Railway will initiate action for execution of the work.
4.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 15-C at Km. 18.02 on Delhi-Rewari section near Palam Railway station	The proposal of this work was initially sponsored by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in 1994 on cost sharing basis, but was kept in abeyance. DDA has informed in July 2000 that the project been revived. Railways had furnished the updated information to the DDA. in February, 2001. DDA has modified the proposal to execute the work on 'deposit' terms and to keep the existing level crossing open. The revised abstract estimate has been prepared and the State Government has been requested to deposit centage charges which has not been deposited so far.

#### Procurement of Cotton by C.C.I.

5931. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton procured by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) during the year 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the dues paid by CCI and the amount outstanding in this regard;

(c) whether the Cotton Corporation of India have earned profits or incurred losses in regard to these procurements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for losses, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) State-wise quantity of cotton procured by Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) during the current season 2000-2001 (upto 31.3.2001) is as under:—

State	Quantity in Bales of 170 Kg. Each
1	2
Punjab	62,084
Haryana	34,409

1	2
Rajasthan	1,21,961
Gujarat	1,49,130
Madhya Pradesh	62,504
Andhra Pradesh	1,88,622
Karnataka	22,629
Tamil Nadu	2,780
Maharashtra*	22,292
Others	5,240
Total	6,71,751

\*The CCI does not operate in Maharashtra due to the existence of the State Government's Monopoly Procurement Scheme of cotton in the State. However, the CCI has purchased 22,292 ready bales from Maharashtra State Co-Operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation.

(b) The CCI has paid Rs. 737.51 crore towards procurement of cotton (mentioned above) and there is no outstanding dues in this regard.

(c) and (d) The CCI has made a trading profit of Rs. 15 crore (Provisional) in this regard.

### **Election Petitions Pending in the Supreme Court**

5932. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions pending in the Supreme Court;

(b) the number of petitions among them pending for more than one year; and

(c) the steps taken for speedy disposal of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) There are 28 election petitions/appeals pending in the Supreme Court of India. Out of them, three are pending for more than one year.

(c) Election appeal is listed before the Court expeditiously and Court also accords due priority to such matters.

[English]

### **Development of Heritage Sites by I.O.C.**

5933. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Oil Corporation to develop five heritage sites as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 31, 2001;

(b) if so, the names thereof, location/State-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed for selecting the heritage sites for development;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each of the selected heritage sites during 2001-2002;

(e) whether any instructions have been issued the developing authorities to uplift the site without causing any obstruction to beautify the monuments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of other heritage sites proposed to be adopted by I.O.C. for development in future, location/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Indian Oil Foundation, National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India to develop the following five sites:

- (i) Qutab Minar, New Delhi.
- (ii) Sun Temple, Konark, Orissa.
- (iii) Rock-cut caves Kanheri, Maharashtra
- (iv) Group of Monuments, Hampi, Bellary, Karnataka.
- (v) Group of temples, Khajuraho, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Important monuments which attract a large number of tourist and which are in need of essential tourist amenities have been identified for overall development.

(d) An amount of Rs. 3.5 crores has been earmarked for the overall development of the five selected sites during 2001-2002.

(e) and (f) The activities involved in upgrading the sites will not compromise the historic integrity of the sites in any manner.

(g) Further proposals have not been finalised.

### **Austerity Drive of the Government**

5934. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited and other PSUs under his Ministry have followed the instruction of the Government to cut expenditure under austerity drive of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved during 2000-2001; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the profitability of the PSUs?

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. Oil sector PSUs have allowed the austerity measures issued by the Govt. from time to time and endeavoured to maximise savings. Majority of cost pertains to raw material cost (price of crude oil and natural gas) and elements such as duty and taxes, depreciation, financing cost, etc., over which they have very little control. The controllable costs constitute only about 4 to 5 per cent of total cost.

The adoption of the various austerity measures have resulted in their taking up measures for reduction in non-plan expenditure, generation of resources for modernisation and upgradation of technology, energy conservation, reduction in input cost, improvement in production and productivity etc.

Govt. have taken number of measures to improve the profitability of PSUs. These, inter alia, include adoption of various cost cutting measures, reducing cost of borrowings, repair and maintenance, etc.

#### **Instant Reservation to Patients**

5935. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide instant reservation to patients with two attendants or relatives from far flung areas required immediate high-tech health care in hospitals in big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of supporting documents required thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Instructions exist that whenever requests are received from the patients who are required to undertake journey for checkup, like cancer treatment and other dangerous ailments which cannot be postponed due to compelling circumstances, the emergency quota controlling authority should consider these requests and accommodate them

to the extent feasible after satisfying themselves of the genuineness of the travel. Besides, the passengers who have to travel at short notice due to any exigency, can avail reservation under Tatkal scheme which is available in around 100 important Mail/Express trains all over Indian Railways.

#### **Agricultural Adjustment Fund**

5936. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has asked the Union Government to provide Rs. 550 crores for setting up an Agricultural Adjustment Fund to face global competition of the World Trade Organisation;

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

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken to respond to the global mandate to the competitive and quality conscious?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any proposal from the Government of Punjab for Rs. 550 crore for setting up an Agricultural Adjustment Fund (AAF).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **National Policy on Shipping**

5937. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national policy on shipping and shipbuilding;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study in regard to problems being faced by the shipping industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a National Shipping Policy Committee in 1997. The Committee made

31 recommendations in all which were examined by an Empowered Committee, constituted by the Ministry. The Empowered Committee recommended acceptance of 26 recommendations and of these, action for implementation of 18 recommendations have already been taken. The remaining recommendations mainly pertain to fiscal and financial incentives to shipping industry and presently the following proposals are being pursued in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

- (i) Tax relief to Indian seafarers.
- (ii) Infrastructure status to Coastal Shipping.
- (iii) Introduction of Tonnage Tax in lieu of corporate Tax.

There is no proposal to formulate a National Policy on Shipbuilding. However, an Apex Committee on shipbuilding constituted by the Government has submitted its report. The recommendations made by the Committee have been examined and appropriate action initiated.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Loss due to Earthquake in Gujarat**

5938. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of loss suffered in Kandla Port due to recent earthquake in Gujarat; and
- (b) the relief/aid sent for reconstruction of all the damaged assets of the port to their original condition as well as for earthquake victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Kandla Port Trust has suffered the loss to the tune of Rs. 50 crores during the recent Earthquake in Gujarat on 26th January, 2001.

(b) A Trust has been formed to undertake relief and restoration works in earthquake affected Kandla, Gandhidham and Adipur areas, with financial contributions from all major ports, including Kandla Port Trust, Shipping Lines and port users.

#### **Agricultural Reforms**

5939. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove all control on movement, stock holding, forward trading, export and processing of agricultural goods across the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which agricultural reforms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to remove all controls on forward trading in agricultural goods. The Government proposes to review the operation of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and remove many of the restrictions that have been imposed on the free inter-state movement of foodgrains and agricultural produce and also on storage and stocking of such commodities. It will review the list of commodities declared essential under the said Act and bring their number down to the minimum required. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution will issue necessary instructions in consultation with State Governments.

[Translation]

#### **Tobacco Farmers**

5940. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:  
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many tobacco growing farmers have been rendered jobless owing to the tobacco policy;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any scheme for the said farmers to grow any alternative crop; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The area of tobacco remains almost stable for many years which is evident from the following table:

Year	Area coverage (million ha.)
1970-1971	0.45
1980-1981	0.45
1990-1991	0.41
1996-1997	0.43
1997-1998	0.46
1998-1999	0.46

Thus it is evident that the tobacco farmers are engaged in tobacco cultivation.

(b) and (c) The alternate crops suggested by research system of ICAR replacing tobacco crop in irrigated as well as unirrigated areas are as follows:

- (i) *Irrigated Areas:* Oilpalm, sugarcane, groundnut, cotton, chillies, maize, onion, cucumber, vegetables, blackgram, greengram, mustard, ragi, castor-groundnut, cotton-groundnut, pigeonpea-groundnut, paddy-mustard, potato, ginger-wheat, tomato, bhindi, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, tomato, brinjal and pulses, redgram, turmeric.
- (ii) *Unirrigated Areas:* Sorghum, mustard, greengram, coriander, cotton, bengalgram, blackgram, greengram, soyabean, redgram, sunflower, safflower, groundnut, maize, bajra, castor, etc.

Due to agro-ecological suitability as well as cost economic return to the farmers, shift from tobacco cultivation is not being adopted by the farmers.

[English]

#### Power Plants in Chhattisgarh

5941. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give priority to establish power plants in those areas which are lagging behind in development;

(b) if so, the criteria therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any new power plant in newly formed Chhattisgarh State during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate power supply to that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The location and type of the power plants are decided based on power demand, least cost option studies, fuel availability, availability of infrastructural facilities, water availability, power absorption capability etc.

(c) to (e) The details of power plants cleared by CEA in the recent past in the newly formed State Chhattisgarh are as under:

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of Techno-Economic Clearance	Commercial Operation date
<b>Private Sector</b>			
Korba (East) TPS, Dist. Bilaspur	2x535	30.12.1996	U-1 41 Months from financial closure U-2 47 Months from financial closure
Korba (West) TPP, Dist. Bilaspur	2x210	12.9.1997	U-1 33 Months from financial closure U-2 36 Months from financial closure
Bhilai TPS, Dist. Durg	2x287	3.10.1997	U-1 36 Months from financial closure U-2 39 Months from financial closure
Raigarh TPP Dist. Raigarh	2x275	17.11.1997	U-1 36 Months from financial closure U-2 39 Months from financial closure
<b>Central Sector</b>			
Sipat STPP St. I NTPC, Dist. Bilaspur	3x660	17.1.2000	U-1 62 Months from financial closure U-2 74 Months from financial closure U-3 86 Months from financial closure

The projects are yet to be taken up for construction.

In addition, Chhattisgarh has been allocated 498 MW from the Central Sector Stations located in the Western Region.

[Translation]

**Cattle Census in Jharkhand**

5942. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cattle census has been undertaken recently in Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the number of cattle especially the milking cattle, at present in the State;
- (c) the position of cross breed cattle in the State; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union and State Governments to increase the number of cattle and improvement in their breeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The State of Jharkhand was earlier a part of the State of Bihar. No Livestock census has been undertaken by the State Government of Bihar since 1987. Accordingly, information about milking cattle and cross-breed cattle based on Livestock Census is not available.

(d) The policy of the Government has been not only to improve the productivity of the animals so that the output per animal is increased but also to see that increased production is achieved with lesser number of animals as the carrying capacity of the land is not sufficient to sustain more number of cattle. The Government recently have approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. The National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding which aims at both delivery of quality breeding inputs at the door steps of the farmer and genetic improvement of cattle and buffaloes in the country over a period of ten years.

[English]

**Losses Due to Wastage of Petrol and Diesel**

5943. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have assessed annual losses due to wastage of petrol and diesel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard.

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of petrol and diesel?

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) An Inter Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) headed by Dr. Madhav Godbole, the then Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was set up in the year 1990 to restrain the growth in the import bill of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products. The Group had assessed a potential of Oil Conservation in all Sectors to be of the order of 20-30% of the total consumption of Petroleum products in the country, including the consumption of Petrol and Diesel.

(e) The following steps have been taken to check the wastage of petrol and diesel:—

- (i) Regular activities including driver training programmes, model depot projects, emission check and mass awareness programmes and promotion of high performance lube oil etc., are undertaken by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) in the Transport Sector for curbing the wastage of Petrol and Diesel.
- (ii) Soft loan schemes for replacement of inefficient heavy vehicle engines with efficient ones and for purchase of instruments & maintenance equipment for upgrading transport garages were instituted.
- (iii) Research & Development projects were undertaken with a view to improving the efficiency of fuel consumption in the transport sector.
- (iv) Extensive campaigns such as Mass Awareness and Oil Conservation Fortnight (OCF) were undertaken throughout the country.

**Export Target of Textiles**

5944. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed both in quantity and value for the export of different textiles during 2001-2002, country-wise and item-wise;

(b) whether any area in the textile sector has been identified to increase export; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to achieve the export target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The annual export targets are fixed in value terms. Targets fixed for the export of textiles during the year 2000-2001 *vis-a-vis* 2001-2002 are given below:—

(US Million dollars)

Sl.No.	Item	Target	
		2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Readymade Garments	6500	7125
2.	Cotton Textiles (a+b)	4750	4800
	(a) Cotton fabrics & made-ups (Mill-made/Powerloom) and Cotton Yarn	4100	4250
	(b) Cotton fabrics & made-ups (Handlooms)	650	550
3.	Man-made textiles	1150	1500
4.	Wool & Woollens	315	350
5.	Silk	330	430
6.	Handicrafts (a+b)	2240	2525
	(a) Carpet and other floor coverings	580	625
	(b) Other Handicrafts	1660	1900
7.	Coir	77	85
8.	Jute	170	185
Total		15532	17000

(c) The Government has been taking several steps from time to time to achieve the export target. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

- (1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (2) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- (3) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.

- (4) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- (5) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.
- (6) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (7) The New Exporter's Entitlement (Quota) Policies announced for the period 2000-2004 to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

- (8) The National Textile Policy 2000 has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.
- (9) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of ready-made garment from the SSI sector.
- (10) A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries incharge of Textiles held on 10.4.2001 resolved to promote investment in the textile sector including weaving.
- (11) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-2002 for creating clusters of excellence, i.e., apparel parks for production and export of garments.
- (12) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.

#### **Seminar on Coconut**

5945. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a one-day seminar of coconut farmers was held in March 2001;
- (b) if so, whether the delegates from Lakshadweep Islands, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have taken part in the seminar;
- (c) the main points discussed in the seminar; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to help the coconut farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture organised two seminars on 5th March in Karnataka and on 17th March in Goa on coconut, which were largely attended by representatives of Karnataka and Goa respectively. The Board also sponsored a seminar organised by Kera Karshaka Sangham at Cochin on 31st March, 2001. This was largely attended by farmers' representatives from Kerala besides Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Lakshdweep.

(c) In the seminar mainly strategies for increasing production and productivity of coconuts were discussed so as to make coconut cultivation remunerative to farmers.

(d) The Coconut Development Board is implementing following programmes for increasing production and productivity of coconuts, product diversification and by-product utilisation during 9th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 105.00 crore. The programmes being implemented are:

- (i) Production & distribution of planting material;
- (ii) Expansion of area under coconut;
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;
- (iv) Technology Demonstration;
- (v) Marketing promotion and statistics;
- (vi) Information technology;
- (vii) Grant-in-aid to fabrication and development of machineries for coconut processing/cultivation/plant protection;
- (viii) Human Resources Development and Contingency Fund;

During 2000-2001, an additional amount of Rs. 50.00 crore was provided for control of eriophyid mite of coconut in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and for rehabilitation of coconut plantations affected by cyclone in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Ball copra (Fair Average Quality) at Rs. 3550/Qtl. and Milling Copra (Fair Average Quality) at Rs. 3300/Qtl. for 2001 season. The procurement of copra is undertaken by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).

#### **Challenge to Handloom Sector from Powerloom Sector**

5946. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that Handloom Industry is facing serious challenges from powerloom sector;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to assist the Handloom Industry;
- (c) whether the Government have received any representation from the Handloom weavers of Rajasthan about the problems/challenges faced by them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and



(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to assist the Handloom Industry are as under:—

- Training to handloom weavers to upgrade their skills to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;
- Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented for better working environment and social security of the weavers;
- Effective support systems in R&D, design input, skill up-gradation and market linkages;
- Implement the Hank Yarn Obligation Orders;
- Implement the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and
- Revamp of Weavers Service Centres in consonance with contemporary trends, and using information technology and their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of NIFT and NID.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Watershed Development Fund**

5947. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 under the Watershed Development Fund;

(b) the districts of Andhra Pradesh covered by this scheme;

(c) whether any more districts of the State are proposed to be covered by this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the role of the Central Government in implementation of this scheme and the results achieved so far in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Presently an amount of Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 by the Central Steering Committee of Watershed Development Fund and no amount for the year 2001-2002. This amount will be utilised over a period of 4-5 years.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified the following districts: (1) Chittoor (2) Medak (3) Warangal (4) Rangareddy (5) Srikakulam and (6) Karimnagar.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Watershed Development Fund (WDF) has been established at NABARD with a total corpus of Rs. 200 crores of which Rs. 100 crores has been contributed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the remaining by NABARD. The Central Steering Committee (CSC) is the policy making body of the WDF and is chaired by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Other members of the CSC include representative from the Central Ministries of Rural Development, Environment and Forest, Finance as well as some State Representatives.

In Andhra Pradesh, NABARD has so far sanctioned three capacity building phase projects in two districts. Seven more capacity building projects are in the pipeline.

#### **Delhi High Court Bar Association**

5948. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Delhi High Court Bar Association has closed its ranks and barred members of other State or regional bar associations from practising at their bar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **LPG Bottling Plants**

5949. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of LPG bottling plants is less in tribal and dalit majority areas in comparison to the general population areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies assess the potential packed LPG demand for various markets and thereafter, the need for setting up additional LPG bottling capacity is identified. LPG bottling plants are located closer to the consumption centres with a view to achieving transportation economies.

In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by Oil Industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity in the country from 5341 TMTA as on 1.2.2001 to 8070 TMTA by the end of 9th Plan (2001-2002).

[English]

#### Unremunerative Rail Routes

5950. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have to run trains on various unremunerative routes too;

(b) if so, the total number of such unremunerative routes;

(c) the losses incurred on the said routes till the end of March, 2001 by running trains on them;

(d) whether the Government have made any efforts in the recent past to convert unremunerative routes into remunerative ones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Railways run trains on various unremunerative lines on social consideration.

(b) As per the financial results of 1999-2000, 110 branch lines were assessed to be unremunerative.

(c) Railways suffered a loss of Rs. 348 Crore on the working of these lines during 1999-2000. The figures for the year 2000-2001 are not yet available.

(d) and (e) In addition to the Commercial aspects of its operations, Railways also have to carry out social service obligations. The Commercial aspects do not always dictate the continuation of operations on a particular sector. In such unremunerative sectors, the Railways are taking a number of economy measures which include curtailment in staff, number of train services and reduction in infrastructure. These measures are taken to contain losses to the extent possible.

[Translation]

#### Export of Textiles

5951. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of "Apparel" industry along with area-wise production and the number of registered units;

(b) the share of India in the global clothing trade;

(c) the percentage of India's exports as against the total global trade; and

(d) the major items of Apparel exported during the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The details of area-wise production of "Apparel" industry are not available. However, as on 31st March, 2001, the total number of registered and member exporters of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) was 27,432. Details of export certifications given by the Council during 1999 to such registered units at different centres are as follows:—

Quantity (in lakh pcs)	
1	2
Delhi	3503
Mumbai	3944

1	2
Calcutta	297
Chennai	1244
Bangalore	624
Jaipur	252
Tripura	3764
Ludhiana	321
Cochin	95

(b) and (c) As per WTO Annual Report 2000, the total global clothing trade during 1999 was US\$186 billion, out of which the share of India is US\$ 5.3 billion or 2.86%.

(d) The major items of apparel exported during the last three years are T-shirts, Ladies Blouse, Ladies Dresses, Ladies Skirts, Shorts etc. Main countries of exports are USA, EU Member States, UAE, CIS countries, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland etc.

#### Train Service on Patna-Deegha Line

5952. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no train service is existing on the Patna-Deegha line for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways is incurring a loss of Rs. two and a half crore every month due to non-operation of trains on the said line;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received letters from Members of Parliament and Ministers for operating the said railway line; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to operate the said railway line again?

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

(b) The Railway administration incurred heavy financial loss by running Passenger Services on Patna-Deegha Ghat section, as a result of which the Railway had no alternative but to close the Passenger services on this section from 1.4.1967.

(c) Since the line was closed as being unremunerative, the question of losses does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The feasibility of running Passenger trains on Patna-Deegha Ghat section was examined in detail. Besides the financial loss which will be incurred by the Railway, there are a large number of encroachments along side the track between Patna Jn. and Deegha Ghat making it impossible to run trains on this section.

[English]

#### Setting up of Venture Capital Fund

5953. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Venture Capital Fund;

(b) if so, the main features and purpose of setting up of the said fund; and

(c) the time by which the said fund is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government in November, 2000 have approved the National Textile Policy-2000, which *inter alia* envisages the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund in consultation with and involvement of Financial Institutions for the promotion of talented Indian Designers, Technologists, innovative market leaders and e-commerce ventures. The scheme is being worked out and is expected to be included in the Xth Five Year Plan.

#### Missing of Cast Iron Water Pipeline

5954. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of cast iron water pipeline at the Central Railway's Thakurli power house was found missing in November, 1999 as reported in the, 'Indian Express', dated February 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an enquiry Committee was set up to investigate the disappearance of the water pipeline;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the report of the inquiry Committee has since been received and if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and

(g) if not, the time by which the enquiry report is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 928 metric tonnes of cast iron water pipeline was reported missing in November 1999 at the Central Railway's Thakurli Power House. There was an auction sale of scrap cast iron pipeline at the Central Railway's Thakurli Power House in the month of March 1999. One M/s. Hassan & Co. was awarded the sale on "as is, where is basis". The material collected by dismantling the pipeline was kept in the Power House premises under guard by the buyer. However, when the delivery was effected, the buyer demanded refund on account of short delivery.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An enquiry Committee consisting of three Junior Administrative Grade Officers was ordered on 8.8.2000.

(e) to (g) The enquiry Committee found that the stock holder and the delivery team failed to account for the material properly and that they did not exercise requisite caution. The case is now under investigation by the Vigilance Branch of the Central Railway.

#### **National Judicial Pay Commission**

5955. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of National Judicial Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations;

(d) whether District and Session Judges particularly the direct recruits have expressed their displeasure on the recommendations;

(e) if so, whether they have submitted a fresh memorandum to enhance their pay scale and other allowances; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Report of First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) relating to judicial officers including their conditions of service, is primarily the concern of the State Governments/High Courts. The Commission has sent its recommendations to the Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations and High Courts. The recommendations are under examination in so far as they relate to the Central Government, i.e. in regard to the Union territories only. The recommendations which relate to the State Governments are being examined by the State Governments.

(d) to (f) The All India Direct Recruits Higher Judicial Services Association (Regd.) submitted a representation in September, 2000. The Association have expressed their displeasure on the recommendations of FNJPC with regard to their pay scales, quota of direct recruitment, seniority, etc.

However, the Commission had given ample opportunity to various associations to place their demands/grievances before the Commission, before finalising and submitting the report. The All India Direct Recruits Higher Judicial Services Association (Regd.) were also, *inter-alia*, given a personal hearing before the Commission on 12.1.1999.

As per the matter relating to judicial officers including their conditions of service is primarily the concern of the State Governments/High Courts, the recommendations of FNJPC are under examination by the Central Government in regard to the Union territories only. The Supreme Court is also monitoring the implementation of the Report of FNJPC in W.P. No. 1022/1989 - All India Judges Association vs. UOI.

#### **Technology Mission on Oilseed**

5956. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize is under operation;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the targets set under the Technology Mission have been achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set up in 1986 in order to make the country self sufficient in the production of oilseeds/edible oils. Subsequently in 1990 Pulses and in 1995 Maize were brought under the Technology Mission to adopt Technology Mission's approach to boost the production of these crops.

(c) and (d) The targets set for these crops by the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-2002 are as under:

In Million Tonnes	
Crop	Target
Oilseeds	30.00
Pulses	16.50
Maize	11.44

1998-99 was the best year to achieve the highest ever record production of these crops. During that year, the production of oilseeds was 24.75 million tonnes, Pulses 14.91 million tonnes and Maize, it was 11.15 million tonnes. The weather conditions in the last 2 years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were not favourable because of drought in some of the States due to which the production suffered some decline below the level of achievement during 1998-1999. However, all out efforts are being made to achieve the targets set for the terminal year of 9th Plan through the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP). Under these programmes, financial assistance by way of subsidies on various inputs are being provided to the growers of these crops in order to motivate them to take up the cultivation of these crops on a large scale.

#### Growth Rate

5957. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of Macro-Management Scheme which is an integration of 27 schemes into one scheme on supplementation/complementation of States towards the specific problems faced by them during the year 2000-2001; and

(b) if so, the extent of growth rate achieved during 2000-2001 in comparison to the last year growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) It has been decided to switchover from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States for development of agriculture. The Scheme envisages integration of 27

Schemes into one Scheme for Supplementation/ complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans, which will give the flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them and avoid overlapping in the context of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture. Apart from better targeting of scarce financial resources, the benefits of the Macro Management Scheme will include:

- (i) Reflection of local needs/priorities in planning for agricultural development.
- (ii) Optimal utilization of scarce resources.
- (iii) Maximization of returns.
- (iv) Removal of regional imbalances.

During the year 2000-2001, Central assistance of Rs. 378.88 crore was provided to States for the implementation of their Work Plans under the Macro Management Scheme.

(b) Since implementation of Macro Management Scheme was started only in November, 2000, it is too early to analyse the impact of Scheme on Growth rate.

#### Closing of Original Contract

5958. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG had pointed out in its report for the year 1982-83 vide para 15(1)(vii) that due to non-availability of land, the original contract had to be closed and a fresh contract entered into at higher rates subsequently and the Railway Board issued instructions emphasising the need to foresee all delays and yet the Northeast Frontier Railway entered into a contract resulting into avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 1.03 crore as has been brought out by the CAG in their Report 9 of 1999 (Railways) in Chapter 3: Works and Contract Management; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the erring officials of North-East Frontier Railway and the other points taken up by the CAG in the said Chapter and the reaction of the Government thereon, point-wise?

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

(b) A Statement is attached.

#### Statement

(b)

Para No.	Particulars	Position and Action Taken
1	2	3
3.3.8	Loss due to inefficient contract management.	There is no failure of any individual. However, N.F. Railway vide their circular dated 16.10.98 have advised all the field units about the procedure to be followed for issuing the Railway materials to the contractors.

1

2

3

Proper monitoring is being done at Head Quarters' level of zonal Railway to recover the amount from outstanding dues of the contractors wherever recovery is due.

Apart from Para 3.3.8, there are 32 paras included in Chapter-3 of C&AG's Report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways). As per laid down procedure, Action Taken Notes on paras included in C&AG's Report, duly vetted by Audit, are submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Lower Courts at Panchayat Level**

5959. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up lower courts at the panchayat level or to ensure regular sitting of judges of district courts at the panchayat level for prompt settlement of petty disputes;

(b) if so, the time by which such courts are likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the alternative arrangements made by the Government for the speedy settlement of village level disputes at less expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Law Commission in its 154th Report has recommended that the States should enact legislation on Nyaya Panchayats to suit their local needs and conditions. The Andhra Pradesh Mandala Nyaya Panchayats Bill, 1995 may be adopted as a model on the composition, powers and jurisdiction of the Nyaya Panchayats. The recommendation of the Law Commission has been forwarded to all the State Governments/U.T. administrations for taking appropriate action.

[English]

#### **Supply of Sick Tank Wagons**

5960. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have suffered loss due to supply of sick tank wagons to oil companies;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the supply of sick tank wagons;

(c) if so, the official held responsible therefor and the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(d) the total loss suffered by the Railways during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Railways normally supply pre-examined tank wagon rakes to the Oil Companies for loading. However, tank wagons can be marked sick at the loading gantry for various reasons. The percentage of such cases is negligible.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The loss suffered by Railways is notional and forms a very small percentage of the overall loading.

[Translation]

#### **Indo-Oman Refinery in Bina, M.P.**

5961. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been given to set up a refinery by the Indian-Oman Refinery Limited in Bina Madhya Pradesh to collaborate and function with some other partner instead of Oman;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the production in the refinery is likely to be started?

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) In view of the decision of Oman Oil Company (OOC) to limit their investment in Central India Refinery Project at Bina (Madhya Pradesh), a proposal is under consideration to permit Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to execute the project, through Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL), with reduced equity contribution by OOC and with an enhanced equity contribution of BPCL, upto a maximum of 50% of the total equity of BORL. BPCL would, in parallel, make efforts to identify additional joint venture partner into the project.

(c) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months from the date of commencement of project execution.

[English]

#### **Task Force on Promotion of Tourism in Orissa**

5962. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Task Force for promoting tourism in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments and other relevant bodies would be involved in the Task Force;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the various sectors identified for the growth of tourism in that State?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Production of Cash Crops**

5963. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cash crops in the country is declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The production of cash crops such as oilseeds, cotton, jute & mesta and sugarcane during last four years is given as under:

(Million tonnes)				
Crop /Group of crops	2000-01*	1999-2000	1998-1999	1997-1998
Nine oilseeds\$	18.70	20.87	24.75	21.32
Cotton@	11.48	11.64	12.29	10.85
Jute & Mesta#	10.35	10.53	9.81	11.02
Sugarcane	301.44	299.23	288.72	279.54

\* Advance estimates as on 12.04.2001

\$ Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed, & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soybean.

@ Million bales of 170 kgs. each

# Million bales of 180 kgs. each.

The estimates for 2000-2001 are advance estimates and are subject to revision as more precise information flows after the agriculture year 2000-2001 is over. The production of above crops/group of crops except oilseeds have generally registered an upward trend, albeit with fluctuations.

However, fluctuations in case of oilseeds are more pronounced because these are sown more under rainfed conditions and thus their production depends to a great extent on behaviour of monsoon.

[Translation]

### **Setting up of Ravindra Munch in Bikaner**

5964. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had to provide 50 percent of expenditure on setting up of Ravindra Munch in Bikaner, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been made available so far; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said fund is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Tourism and Culture have not received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for construction of a Ravindra Munch in Bikaner, Rajasthan and for providing 50% towards its expenditure.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

[English]

### **Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme**

5965. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released the sanctioned/required funds for the implementation of massive cattle and buffalo breeding programme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of artificial insemination provided to the breedable animals in Andhra Pradesh so far; and

(d) the number of villages still not covered for artificial insemination in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking central grants to the tune of Rs. 39.39 crore during 2000-2001 was received in January, 2001. Against a total allocation 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 cattle and buffalo breeding programmes.

(c) Percentage of artificial insemination provided to the breedable animals in Andhra Pradesh so far is 23.46%.

(d) Out of a total number of 28245 villages a total of 13907 villages are not covered by artificial insemination.

### **Amendment in Companies Act, 1956**

5966. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend certain provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 imposing restrictions on payment of salaries, perks and fees paid by the companies to its employees;

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

(c) the likely impact on the loss making or profit making companies; and

(d) the type of perks which do not form part of taxable income?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) As per section 17(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Rule 3 of the Income Tax Rules, 1962, perquisite includes — rent free/concessional accommodation, medical treatment, transport, specified securities, insurance premium etc. or any other benefit or amenity paid for by the employer, subject to prescribed exceptions.

### **Milking Process**

5967. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milking process in India is not totally germ free;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to procure germ free milk from cattle?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The dairy farming in the country is done largely by small and marginal farmers and landless labourers who own one or two milch animals only. The farmers follow traditional practices which entail manual handling during milking.

(c) To overcome the problem of hygienic and sanitation, while milking, the milk unions/federations of various States have undertaken training and education in the production of clean milk by adopting the following measures:—

- (i) milk the animals in neat and clean environment.
- (ii) pre milking routine such as washing of cows, feeding concentrates, bringing in milk pails be done at regular intervals.
- (iii) wash the udders and teats with mild antiseptic solutions and dry before milking.
- (iv) wipe the teats and udder with a detergent dipped cloths after each milking.
- (v) wash the hands with antiseptic solution before each milking by the milkers.
- (vi) to keep sick milch animals in a separate stable to avoid infection to other milch animals.
- (vii) use of clean utensils.

#### Loss due to Cyclonic Storm

5968. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cyclonic storm with heavy rains lashed the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the last week of November, 2000;

(b) if so, the estimated loss and damage caused, State-wise;

(c) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from these States for relief; and

(d) if so, the quantum of relief provided to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per available information, a cyclonic storm on 29th November, 2000 hit coastal areas of Tamil Nadu resulting in loss of seven human lives, uprooting of trees and damage to telecom/power lines and houses/huts. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported damage to life and property due to the cyclone.

(c) No Memorandum seeking Central assistance in the wake of cyclone has been received from the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Ready availability of Funds exists with the State Governments under Calamity Relief Funds (CRF) for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities like cyclone. Central share of CRF for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 148.54 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 76.98 crore to Tamil Nadu have been released.

#### Production of Rice, Wheat and Onion

5969. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of rice, wheat and onion in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase production of these commodities;

(c) whether the said crops are being procured of the lower rate than the rates fixed by the Government;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to safeguard the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The State-wise production of rice, wheat and onion during last three years viz. 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given in Statements I to III respectively.

(b) To increase production of various agricultural commodities including rice, wheat and onion and also 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-round development of agriculture.

(c) and (d) Rice and wheat are covered under Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme of the Government and all efforts are made to ensure procurement of these commodities of FAQ (Fair Average Quality) standards through Central and State nodal agencies at prices notified under MSP Scheme. Complaints, if any, relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with the FCI (Food

Corporation of India) and the State Governments. Onion being a perishable commodity, is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and in situation of glut, at the request of the State Governments, at pre-determined prices are undertaken.

(e) Interest of the farmers is uppermost with the Government and all steps are being taken to safeguard their interests. These include, among others, implementation of the MSP Scheme and MIS Scheme, procurements by public agencies and use of instruments of trade, whenever needed.

**Statement-I**

*Production of Rice during 1997-98 to 1999-2000*

('000 Tonnes)

State	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	8510.0	11878.0	10489.6
Assam	3382.9	3254.8	3860.7
Bihar	7133.2	6769.4	7741.6
Gujarat	1042.3	1015.8	984.9
Haryana	2556.0	2425.0	2594.0
Himachal Pradesh	120.4	117.8	120.4
Jammu & Kashmir	549.3	589.1	391.1
Karnataka	3212.7	3656.9	3635.0
Kerala	764.6	726.7	770.8
Madhya Pradesh	4528.2	5060.6	6376.5
Maharashtra	2394.6	2467.7	2535.9
Orissa	6204.6	5391.5	5187.0
Punjab	7904.0	7940.0	8716.0
Rajasthan	190.3	205.5	252.6
Tamil Nadu	6893.7	8141.4	7225.3
Uttar Pradesh	12165.4	11386.6	12912.0
West Bengal	13236.6	13316.5	13951.0
Others	1745.7	1733.5	1730.7
All India	82534.5	86076.7	89475.1

**Statement II***Production of Wheat during 1997-98 to 1999-2000*

(‘000 Tonnes)			
State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	6.0	6.0	6.2
Assam	110.1	90.5	97.6
Bihar	4848.7	4403.7	4367.0
Gujarat	1647.0	1702.6	1020.0
Haryana	7554.0	8568.0	9642.0
Himachal Pradesh	641.3	641.4	481.0
Jammu & Kashmir	396.5	368.4	365.0
Karnataka	118.5	291.4	211.2
Madhya Pradesh	7220.2	8333.4	8458.1
Maharashtra	671.0	1308.5	1436.1
Orissa	6.6	4.4	7.7
Punjab	12715.0	14460.0	15910.0
Rajasthan	6701.0	6879.8	6731.9
Uttar Pradesh	22833.9	23465.2	25976.4
West Bengal	810.5	778.1	796.0
Others	64.7	58.1	67.8
All India	66345.0	71287.5	75574.0

**Statement III***Production of Onion during 1997-98 to 1999-2000*

(Thousand Tonnes)			
State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	328	478.3	522.7
Assam	17.9	18	17.2
Bihar	137.9	193	212.3
Gujarat	619	1462.1	450.7
Haryana	26.9	44.1	60.1

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	2.9	2.9	2.9
Karnataka	517.4	508.4	594.7
Madhya Pradesh	218.8	337.6	366.3
Maharashtra	907.7	1183.6	1392.6
Nagaland	—	11.8	11.8
Orissa	165.4	360	368.4
Punjab	48.2	18.1	18.1
Rajasthan	113.5	120.7	173.3
Tamil Nadu	187.7	289.7	315.7
Tripura	0.2	0.2	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	262.8	303	392.3
Pondicherry	0.1	0.4	0.4
All India	3617.4	5331.9	4899.5

### Hospitals and Dispensaries

5970. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals and dispensaries under Western Railways for the railway employees in Maharashtra at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that these dispensaries/hospitals are not able to cope up with the requirement of the large number of railway employees in Western Railway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) At present there is one Zonal Railway Hospital and 9 Health Units in Maharashtra area of Western Railway where preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care services are provided to the employees and their family dependants. Specialised services in gastroenterology are available at the Zonal Hospital (Jagjivan Ram Hospital), Mumbai. Zonal Hospital, Sub-Divisional Hospital and Health Units are manned by adequate number of Doctors and paramedical staff. Besides this, some private hospitals and institutions are recognized for referral of complicated cases for management as per need.

Based on the needs of the railway population, health care facilities were developed at various places. These facilities are reviewed from time to time and augmented by providing new equipment, additional facilities etc. based on the need and justification.

Western Railway is able to meet the health care needs of Railway population adequately.

[Translation]

### Integrated Pest Management Scheme

5971. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh where Integrated Pest Management Scheme is being implemented;

(b) the progress achieved in this field in these districts during the last three years; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard during the aforesaid years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The scheme-wise, crop-wise and year-wise progress made by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during last three years is attached as statement.

**Statement**

*Statement showing progress achieved by the Uttar Pradesh State during last three years  
(1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01)*

Sl.No. IPM Scheme	Year-wise No. of IPM Demonstrations			No. of districts
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1. ICDP—Rice*	1800	1637	1777	33
2. OPP**	54	59	121	36
3. ICDP-Cotton****	45	42	127	23
4. NPDP***	15	7	28	20
5. Maize	285	204	202	48

\*ICDP - Integrated Cereal Development Programme.

\*\*OPP - Oilseed Production Programme

\*\*\*NPDP - National Pulses Development Programme.

\*\*\*\*ICDP - Integrated Cotton Development Programme

[English]

**Dock Safety**

5972. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether JNPT has any Inspectorate of Dock Safety to regulate the ports;

(b) whether Paradip and Tuticorin ports have also no safety officers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the arrangements for safety are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The post of Assistant Director (Safety) at Directorate General of Factory Advice Services and Labour Institute was created on 7.12.1998 for setting up of Inspectorate of Dock Safety at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai. The matter of filling up the post is at an advance stage in the Union Public Service Commission. However, the Inspectorate at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust is functioning by deputing one Inspector from the Headquarters.

(b) Paradip Port Trust has one sanctioned post of Safety & Training Officer in the pay scale of Rs. 9100-15100/- (Junior Class I). An officer, who obtained the required Diploma in Industrial Safety, is working against this post. Tuticorin Port Trust has one Safety Officer.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Survey on River Godavari**

5973. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey of the potential of the River Godavari as an Inland Waterways System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sufficient technical expertise exists to build launchers and other river craft to use the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been made by the experts team in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof on the potential of existing facilities to increase river transport on the Godavari?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Detailed Hydrographic Survey and Techno-economic feasibility study for navigation in Cherla-Rajamundry stretch of river Godavari was conducted during 1988-89. Another techno-economic feasibility study for development of canal system from Kakinada to Mercaunam integrated with Godavari and Krishna river systems was conducted during 1997-99.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The techno-economic feasibility study has recommended various infrastructural development works including vessels required for making the integrated waterways system viable for inland water transport.

#### **ONGC Pact with Iraq**

5974. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has signed a pact with Iraq to explore oil in their country;

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

(c) the manner in which ONGC has qualified to explore oil in foreign countries;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the exploration performance of ONGC in India as a first step;

(e) if so, whether ONGC has not found reasonable oil sources in India after Mumbai High was found by the then USSR; and

(f) the steps to be taken to review such ventures by ONGC?

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) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) signed a contract with the Oil Exploration Company of the Ministry of Iraq on 28.11.2000 for exploration Block-8 located in the southern most part of Western Desert of Iraq. The contract is to be ratified by the Government of Iraq before it comes into force.

(c) OVL, the fully owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has adopted a focussed strategy for availing opportunities of hydrocarbon exploration and production in selected countries and has been involved in acquisition of exploration acreages and oil fields abroad to supplement domestic production of crude oil and natural gas to provide energy security for the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The then USSR was associated in carrying out seismic survey in the Western offshore in 1964. ONGC initiated a systematic seismic survey in Mumbai High offshore basin in 1971 in association with international contractor, which resulted in identification of Mumbai High and several other structures, viz. Bassein, Panna, Heera, Neelam Gandhar etc.

In the post-Mumbai High scenario, ONGC brought Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins of east coast offshore and adjoining onland areas into the producing fold.

(f) Such ventures are reviewed by the Board of Directors of the company which has nominated directors from concerned Ministries, followed by a Committee of Secretaries constituted by the Government.

#### **Post Kutch Earthquake work by NGOs**

5975. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the post Kutch earthquake work being done for artisans relief by Judu Frater in association with Kala Raksha for setting up of textile museum as reported in SPAN for March - April, 2001 at page No. 23;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are providing all assistance to those NGOs that are helping the Kutch women artisans in particular; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The news item as reported in SPAN for March - April 2001 at page No. 23, titled 'Kutch Artisan Relief' is purportedly about the views expressed by Ms Judy Frater, Project Coordinator of Kala Raksha on the problems being faced

by the artisans in Kutch Region after the recent earthquake in the State of Gujarat and for their rehabilitation. Government is aware of the post earthquake work being done for artisans relief by Ms Judy Frater in association with Kala Raksha. However, it is not aware of setting up of textile museum by Kala Raksha as reported in the said Magazine.

As per information furnished by Kala Raksha, an NGO, they had extended various assistance in 10 villages in Kutch region after the earthquake thereby directly benefiting 3176 families. The assistance include providing commodities like Dabla (2710 Nos.), Tarpaulin (1885 Nos.), Food Kit (2760 Nos.), Flour pots (1100 Nos.), Flour bags (100 Nos.) Tents (15 Nos.) etc.

The Government has been *inter-alia* providing necessary assistance to the following NGOs who are helping the artisans including the women artisans in Kutch region.

- (i) Kala Raksha, Bhuj.
- (ii) Shrujan Trust, Bhuj, and
- (iii) Hast Kala Audyogk Sehkar Mandali Ltd., Bhuj.

However no proposals have been received under any scheme in the handicrafts sector from NGOs including Kala Raksha seeking assistance for artisans of Bhuj after the recent earthquake in Kutch region.

#### **Diversion of Cultivation from Wheat to Oilseed**

5976. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government to provide incentives to farmers to switch over to cultivation of oilseeds from wheat and other foodgrains;

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

(c) whether any agreement between the Agricultural Ministry and Public Distribution Ministry has been considered for such diversion;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether it has been suggested that the amount of Rs. 400 crore should be generated by imposing an Oilseed Development Fund levy of Rs. 1000 per tonne on import of crude oil and Rs. 3000 on import of refined oil; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the farmers have agreed for switching over to oilseeds from wheat and other foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No representation has been received from the State Governments nor there is any such proposal to provide incentives to farmers for diversion of cultivation from wheat and other foodgrains to oilseeds.

(c) and (d) There is no agreement between the Agriculture Ministry and the Public Distribution Ministry for such diversion.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

#### **National Plant Quarantine Authority Committee**

5977. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Plant Quarantine Advisory Committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted any report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National Plant Quarantine Advisory Committee has been Constituted to advise the Government on policy aspects and other related issues in respect of plant quarantine. It is a standing advisory Committee and is not to submit one time report. It meets to consider various matters arising from time to time and gives suitable advice to the Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Railway Projects received from Gujarat**

5978. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Projects received from Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in regard to each proposal;

(c) the details of survey conducted during the said period;

(d) the details and present status of on-going projects/surveys;

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period and the allocation made for 2001-2002; and

(f) the reasons for slow progress in the completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

#### **Schemes for Fishermen**

5979. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide funds to State Governments for construction of houses, community centres, tube-wells and development of model fishermen villages under the National Welfare Fishermen Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of schemes forwarded by Gujarat Government to Union Government for the purpose; and

(c) the number of houses constructed during the last three years under the scheme, State-wise?

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

(b) During the Year 2000-2001, Government of Gujarat had submitted one proposal for construction of 847 houses, 29 tube-wells and 04 community halls in 25 villages at a total cost of Rs. 308.70 lakhs.

(c) The information relating to the number of houses constructed during the three years (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) under the scheme, State-wise is given in the attached statement.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	States/UTs	YEAR		
		1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
		Houses	Houses	Houses
1.	Assam	—	281	—
2.	Bihar	—	—	23
3.	Gujarat	298	584	847
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	60	—
5.	Karnataka	650	2585	1920
6.	Kerala	1514	1505	1206
7.	Maharashtra	—	171	—
8.	Nagaland	—	83	—
9.	Orissa	—	350	—
10.	Pondicherry	150	—	150
11.	Tamil Nadu	300	1000	1201
12.	Tripura	60	40	—
13.	Uttar Pradesh	699	144	1155
14.	West Bengal	—	586	—
15.	Daman & Diu	—	150	—
Total		3671	7539	6502



*[Translation]***Minikits of Seeds**

5980. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide minikits of seeds of different varieties of Mutter, Massor, Moong and Urad released during the last ten years to Madhya Pradesh under the Pulses Production Programmes;

(b) if so, the time by which the minikits of seeds are likely to be provided;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to remove the restriction of ten years relating to the minikits of seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The minikits of different varieties of Pea (Mutar) Masoor, Moong and Urad are being distributed through State Department Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP). These minikits are being provided since inception of the scheme for the varieties which are less than ten years old. These minikits are provided free of cost to the farmers and cost of the minikit used to be borne by Government of India and State Government on sharing pattern of 75:25 basis. However during IX Plan effective from 2000-2001 the 100% cost of minikit is borne by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to remove the restriction of ten years relating to the varieties under minikit programme.

*[English]***Computerisation in Courts**

5981. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) the amount allocated to each States for the development of infrastructural facilities for computerisation in courts during the last one year;

(b) the names of the States in which the judiciary has been totally computerised; and

(c) the time by which all the courts in the country are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A statement indicating the amount released during 2000-2001 for implementation of information technology in courts under the Centrally Sponsored scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is enclosed.

(b) The judiciary has not yet been totally computerised in any State.

(c) Much of work in the Supreme Court of India has been computerised. However, the primary responsibility lies on the concerned State Government to provide infrastructural facilities including computerisation to the respective High Court and the Subordinate/District judiciary in the State. Hence, it is not possible to fix a time frame for computerisation of courts in the country.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount released for Information Technology during 2000-2001 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.80
3.	Assam	9.90
4.	Bihar	12.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil
6.	Goa	1.70
7.	Gujarat	5.25
8.	Haryana	3.56
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.70
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.70
11.	Jharkhand	Nil
12.	Karnataka	18.00

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	10.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8.78
15.	Maharashtra	14.25
16.	Manipur	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	Nil
18.	Mizoram	1.80
19.	Nagaland	1.80
20.	Orissa	8.47
21.	Punjab	3.80
22.	Rajasthan	10.23
23.	Sikkim	1.80
24.	Tamil Nadu	14.33
25.	Tripura	1.80
26.	Uttaranchal	Nil
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31.76
28.	West Bengal	14.12
Total		190.08

### Supply of Vegetable Seed

5982. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme is available for the supply of improved varieties of vegetable crop seed;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked to the States through this scheme during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise; and

(d) the success achieved by this scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - supplementation of States' efforts through work plans, from 2000-2001, under which there is a provision to supply improved varieties of seeds,

and planting material of vegetable crops. The scheme was launched with effect from October, 2000 and is being implemented in all States and Union Territories. Under the scheme State Governments have freedom to include the components which they consider to be of priority in nature.

(c) The details of amount released during 2000-01 and the amount earmarked during 2001-2002 under the Macro-Management Scheme is attached as statement.

(d) Since the scheme was launched only recently the success is yet to be quantified.

### Statement

*Details of funds released during 2000-2001 and allocated during 2001-2002 under Macro Management Scheme*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Funds released in 2000-2001	Funds allocated in 2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1995.95	4500.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	534.00	700.00
3.	Assam	492.06	1200.00
4.	Bihar	352.56	4000.00
5.	Jharkhand	91.47	1500.00
6.	Goa	29.42	200.00
7.	Gujarat	3000.00	4000.00
8.	Haryana	1233.39	1800.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1241.39	1800.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	848.32	1800.00
11.	Karnataka	6060.38	6500.00
12.	Kerala	3026.70	4000.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3920.42	5000.00
14.	Chhattisgarh	963.00	1700.00
15.	Maharashtra	8935.09	10000.00
16.	Manipur	479.13	1000.00
17.	Mizoram	553.16	900.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Meghalaya	542.32	1000.00
19.	Nagaland	1170.67	1200.00
20.	Orissa	614.89	3300.00
21.	Punjab	714.65	2300.00
22.	Rajasthan	6575.15	8000.00
23.	Sikkim	737.86	800.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	4441.27	5000.00
25.	Tripura	476.40	800.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6287.95	7600.00
27.	Uttaranchal	920.00	1400.00
28.	West Bengal	1077.83	2500.00
29.	Chandigarh	0.65	100.00
30.	D&N Haveli	21.61	300.00
31.	Delhi	61.03	300.00
32.	Lakshadweep	10.18	200.00
33.	Pondicherry	15.14	300.00
34.	Daman & Diu	4.34	100.00
35.	A&N Islands	38.87	200.00
Total		57395.15	86000.00

#### **Cattle Research and Development Centres**

5983. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Tamil Nadu to set up a Centrally Sponsored Cattle Research and Development Centre in the Salem and Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the cattle wealth of the Country, State-wise;

(d) if so, the details of the total pasture land available as well as utilised in Tamil Nadu for the purpose of cattle rearing; and

(e) the amount earmarked for the cattle rearing and Research and Development for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise?

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

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Total pasture and other grazing land available and utilized during 1996-97 in Tamil Nadu is 125000 hectares.

(e) The amount earmarked for the cattle rearing and Research and Development for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise is given in statement attached.

#### **Statement**

*Amount earmarked for cattle rearing Research and Development*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	ICAR Share	
	2000-2001	2001-2002
Haryana	49.50	52.96
Andhra Pradesh	45.77	48.78
Gujarat	26.32	23.87
Rajasthan	31.93	36.34
Punjab	14.21	14.66
Kerala	32.66	18.13
Maharashtra	10.78	9.98
Bihar	10.78	9.98
Karnataka	10.78	9.98
Tamil Nadu	9.00	9.65
Madhya Pradesh	3.35	—

#### **Solar Lighting System in Rural Areas**

5984. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide Solar Home Lighting Systems (SHLS) for rural areas in the country;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to implement Solar Rural Electrification Programme in Maharashtra and especially in Marathwada Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is implementing a country wide Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme, under which different types of SPV systems, including solar home lighting systems are being installed,

primarily in the rural areas of the country. The State-wise details of the solar home lighting systems installed during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) During the current year, the Ministry proposes to start a new programme for the electrification of villages in difficult and remote areas through renewable energy options like Solar Photovoltaics, Biomass and Small Hydro Systems. Maharashtra is not likely to be included in the new programme since all its census villages have already been electrified, according to the data compiled by the Central Electricity Authority.

### **Statement**

#### *State/UT-Wise details (Nos.) of Solar Home Lighting Systems installed during last three years*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1998-99 Nos.	1999-2000 Nos.	2000-2001 Nos. (as on 28.2.2001)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	91	192	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	152	241	0
3.	Assam	450	252	271
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	249	201	100
5.	Goa	0	0	20
6.	Gujarat	188	282	1367
7.	Haryana	667	1647	1034
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2450	2470
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2484	3739	1188
10.	Karnataka	0	0	1004
11.	Kerala	33	1112	569
12.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chattisgarh)	0	49	35
13.	Maharashtra	0	89	144
14.	Manipur	50	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	62	50	0
16.	Mizoram	249	136	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	135
18.	Orissa	579	192	525
19.	Punjab	1400	600	320

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	3964	5775	6425
21.	Sikkim	4	50	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	19	50
23.	Tripura	115	40	160
24.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	6944	6176	13924
25.	West Bengal	3585	2049	5607
26.	Chandigarh	100	0	50
Total		21,366	25,341	35,398

**Global Cooperation**

5985. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which global cooperation is given importance in the field of agriculture;

(b) whether Government are ware of the fact that global cooperation is not sufficient considering our dependence on agriculture to a great extent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take towards greater international cooperation and understanding with other countries in the field of agriculture;

(e) the names of the countries which have given cooperation/purpose to cooperate with India in the field of agriculture;

(f) whether any agreements have been signed with those countries who are prepared to cooperate; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (g) India attaches great importance to global cooperation in the field of agriculture. Effective steps have been taken for cooperation with other countries in the field of agriculture.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with 40 countries for bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, including phytosanitary and veterinary agreements. The list of countries with which Agreements/MOUs have been signed and their details are given in the statement.

India is an active member of several international organizations, such as, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) etc. India is also a beneficiary of the programmes of these organizations.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
1	2	3	4
<i>Countries whom Agreements/MOUs have been signed</i>			
1.	Australia	2.2.1996	The Umbrella Agreement between India and Australia provides for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and collaborative projects in disciplines such as soil management, veterinary sciences and overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environments in India and Australia.

1	2	3	4
2	Algeria	25.1.2001	The Agreements aims at cooperation in the field of phytosanitary, quarantine and protection of natural vegetation.
		25.1.2001	The Agreement envisages cooperation in the veterinary field.
3	Bangladesh	15.6.1983	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry, education, research and its application in practice, etc.
		22.1.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, production and agro-processing between the two countries through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel.
4	Brazil	2.7.1997	The Agreement seeks cooperation in exchange of technical and legal information on phytozoosanitary situation including methods of control of plague and diseases, diagnosis techniques, handling and preparation of products and byproducts of animal and vegetable origin.
5	Bulgaria	26.5.1994	The Veterinary and Sanitary Agreement provides for cooperation in the sphere of veterinary and medical activities in preserving both countries from penetration disease in animals and exchange animals and products of animal origin.
		26.5.1994	The Agreement for cooperation in the area of Quarantine and Plant Protection aim at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds.
6	Belarus	22.2.2001	The Agreement envisages cooperation in the field of Quarantine and Plant Protection with a view to prevent the spreading and penetration of quarantine pests weeds and diseases into each other's territory.
7	China	11.4.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote scientific, technical economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of materials concerning agricultural science and technology, exchange of germplasm, seeds, seedings and exchange of scientific and technical information, etc.
8	Cuba	16.9.1988	The Work Plan signed on 22nd November 1996 under this Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of science and technology and agricultural research and education.
9	Cyprus	26.3.1992	The Programme of Cooperation covers the fields of horticulture, field crops, soil fertility, fertiliser use and irrigation technology, etc.
10	Cambodia	18.2.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to develop further the existing friendly relations between the two countries through the development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural science and technology, animal husbandry and food processing.

1	2	3	4
11.	Eritrea	31.3.1998	A Tripartite Agreement between the Government of India, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Eritrea was signed on 31.3.1998 for providing technical assistance to Eritrea in the field of agriculture under Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and as a part of South-South Cooperation initiative of FAO. It envisages Technical Assistance in the branch of Irrigation, Soil Conservation, Agronomy, Livestock (Poultry and Pig Production), Marketing (post-harvesting).
12.	France	6.2.1994	The Agreement covers different areas for cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and agro-food industries sectors.
13.	Greece	5.2.2001	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to develop and to promote economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of scientific and technical information, development of training, management and advisory services for agriculture, exchange of experts and consultants joint ventures, etc.
14.	Indonesia	20.2.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various areas of cooperation in agriculture including food crops, secondary crops, rainfed farming, hybrid rice, fisheries, livestock, etc.
15.	Iran	11.11.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the fields of Agricultural Research and Education, Rural Development Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry, Water Management, etc.
		5.10.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of animal health, research and exchange of information on the control and eradication of veterinary diseases by organising common commissions, seminars, conferences and training courses in the veterinary field and exchange of specialists.
16.	Israel	24.12.1993	The Agreement covers areas of water and soil management, and and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, animal science, plant protection, agricultural research, agro-forestry, etc.
		30.12.1996	The Memorandum of Intent relates to the establishment in the first stage of a demonstration farm unit on the campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in New Delhi with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmer and private sector.
17.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.5.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. It envisages joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, crop production horticulture, plant protection, animal science, fisheries, forestry, agro-based industry, etc.
18.	Mauritius	3.6.1993	The Memorandum of Understanding covers different areas of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation.
19.	Myanmar	25.4.1998	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors with the objective of increasing agricultural production.

1	2	3	4
20.	Mongolia	16.9.1996	The Agreement seeks to promote scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of technology, development of modern methods of bio-technology, formulation and implementation of joint research projects and establishing food processing small industries, etc.
21.	Morocco	27.2.2001	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection, to facilitate and improve commerce and exchange of plants and plant products, deseminaton of diseases and insects that destroy plant species, etc.
		27.2.2001	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of Veterinary Sanitation.
22.	Mozambique	1.3.2001	A Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Government of India Government of Mozambique and the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations at Rome on 1.3.2001 under the Special Programme on Food Security (SPFS).
23.	Nambia	31.8.1998	India and Namibia signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 31st August 1998 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research through exchange of scientists for study visits, training, consultancies and exchange of germplasm and scientific information.
24.	Nepal	6.12.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing of food and cash crops, multicropping systems, fruit and vegetable development, dairy development, etc.
25.	Newzealand	15.4.1999	The Memorandum of Technical Cooperation envisages cooperation in Market Access and enquiries, phytosanitary measures reporting the detection of pests and exchange of technical and biological information.
26.	Oman	5.10.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors including joint activities and exchnages in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, dairy development, livestock, soil conservation, irrigation, etc.
		2.4.1997	The Agreement provides for development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural research and training and to improve the production technique and extension activities thereof by exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, scientific literature, etc.
27.	Pakistan	4.7.1985	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of research and education as well as development in agriculture.
28.	Panama	2.1.2001	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and cooperation in selected areas of horticulture, crop sciences, fisheries animal sciences, agricultural extension, agricultural education and natural resource management, etc.



1	2	3	4
29.	Peru	26.5.1997	The Memorandum of Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Research Institute of Peru provides for cooperation in the fields of research and training and improvement of production techniques and extension thereof through exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, exchange of scientific literature, information, etc.
30.	Philippines	28.4.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Philippines covers agricultural science and technology including areas of rice production and processing, multiple cropping system, dry land farming systems, water management, agricultural machinery, horticulture, dairy livestock improvement, etc.
31.	Russia	5.10.1995	The Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS) provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and related subjects.
		25.3.1997	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of plant quarantine and protection of agriculture and forest crops aiming at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds.
		16.4.1999	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the veterinary field with intention of prevention and elimination of animal diseases and prevention of their spreading.
		3.10.2000	The Agreement provides for economic and S&T cooperation in the field of agriculture in areas such as crop production, quarantine and plant protection, irrigation and drainage, animal husbandry, food processing, etc. through exchange visit of scientists, experts, trainees, exchange of scientific developments, joint researches, etc. of mutual interest.
32.	Senegal	16.2.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for establishment of Agricultural Development Project in Senegal by the Government of India.
33.	Syria	19.6.1994	The programme of cooperation covers the areas of plant production, research, horticulture, food processing industries, plant protection, animal production and health, soil and water management, etc.
34.	Trinidad & Tobago	24.1.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education. The areas of cooperation include livestock, water management for agricultural purposes, sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry crop improvement, etc.
35.	Tunisia	7.10.1996	In pursuance of the Agreed Minutes of the Fifth Session of Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission (7-12 October 1996), a Work Plan was signed between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture on 7th October 1996. It provides for technical cooperation, exchange of germplasm and scientific information, exchange visits/consultancies of scientists between India and Tunisia and training of scientists.

1	2	3	4
		5.4.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in agricultural research, crop improvement in wheat and barley, horticulture, soil conservation, dairy technology, improvement, aquaculture, fish genetics and fish processing, etc.
36.	Turkey	31.3.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote development of cooperation in agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation between the two countries through joint activities and exchanges to be determined and implemented through mutually agreed procedures.
37.	United States of	27.1.1996	The Agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural sciences to further cooperation among scientists from India and the United States of America in areas of significant mutual interests and benefits relating to agriculture, viz., exchange of information, ideas, skills and techniques to enhance opportunities to collaborate in solving problems of common interest relating to agriculture.
38.	Uzbekistan	2.5.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in agricultural research in horticulture, crop science, fisheries, cotton and vegetable production, crop protection, animal science, agricultural extension and natural resource management, etc. through exchange of scientists, training consultancies, exchange of germplasm and breeding material and scientific literature and information.
39.	Vietnam	31.12.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and covers areas such as crop sciences, scientific research, animal sciences, dairy development, exchange of scientists, etc.
40.	Yemen	7.12.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing, etc.

#### **Manufacture of Solvent from Naphtha**

5986. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small and big plants of public sector oil companies manufacturing solvent from naphtha in Gujarat and their production capacity;

(b) whether all such plants are functioning at present; and

(c) 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) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in their Koyali

Refinery in Gujarat are producing a limited quantity of Solvent through internal stream from crude processing to meet the requirements of certain major tyre manufacturers.

[Translation]

#### **Medicinal Plants**

5987. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:  
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks very low in the trade of medicinal plants in the world market;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any measures to augment its share;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans under which there is a provision for extending assistance to the farmers for cultivation of medicinal plant as per the needs of the States. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (DISMH), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also implementing a scheme by providing Central Assistance for Development of Agro-Techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy. Besides, a Medicinal Plants Board has been set up by the DISMH for coordinating the activities related to conservation, cultivation, marketing and export of medicinal plants.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Setting up of Hampi Development Authority

5988. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have extended help to the Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation to set up Hampi Development Authority for protection and development of Hampi monuments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Constitution of Corporation/Board

5889. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Corporation/Board which can provide loans to the fruits and vegetables producers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Corporation/Board is likely to be constituted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for constituting a Corporation/Board to provide loans to the fruits and vegetables producers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is already providing support for the development of fruits and vegetables through implementation of various schemes wherein back-ended capital subsidy is provided, need for separate Board or Corporation has not been felt. The following Schemes are implemented by NHB:—

(i) Under the scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management", back-ended Capital subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per project and a maximum of Rs. 30 lakhs per project in North Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas, is provided.

(ii) Under the scheme "Capital investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernisation/Expansion of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" back-ended capital subsidy @ 25% subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 50 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% not exceeding Rs. 60 lakhs per project for North Eastern States, is provided.

(iii) Under the scheme "Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture", financial assistance up to 100% restricted to Rs. 10 lakhs for production related projects and Rs. 25 lakhs for Research & Development efforts is provided.

(iv) Under the scheme "Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas", minikits of fruit plants worth Rs. 250 per family is provided. Rs. 2500/Zero Energy Cool Chamber per School/village in a Panchayat selected for demonstration is provided. Upto Rs. 5000 per School/ Panchayat selected for demonstration is provided.

**Fishery Harbours**

5990. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of operational fishery harbours at present in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of fishery harbours on which work is in the State, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any fishery harbour in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof with latest position of the proposal; and

(e) the time by which the new fishery harbour is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are two operational fishery harbours in Maharashtra situated one at Mirkarwada (Ratnagiri) and other at Sassoon Dock, Mumbai.

(b) One fishery harbour at Agrao in Raigad district is presently under construction.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has proposed to set up 8 fishery harbours in the State. The State Government has been requested to formulate detailed proposals based on detailed engineering investigations, techno economic feasibility studies and model studies wherever necessary and in accordance with the guidelines on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on fishing harbour facilities at major and minor ports.

(e) The proposals of the State Government for construction of new fishery harbours in the State are still at formulation stages and the time by which the new fishery harbour is likely to be established can not be fixed by the Government of India till after complete proposal are made available by the State Government.

**Fall in Mustard Production**

5991. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the US report as reported in Economic Times dated January 5, 2001 "Rapeseed, mustard production to fall by 20 per cent";

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

(c) the comparative figure of production of these crops during the last two years, till date, State-wise;

(d) the extent to which the short production has hit the market; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report says that India's 2000-2001 rapeseed-mustard production is expected to fall to 4.2 million tonnes nearly 20% below last year's crop, due to hot dry weather in the major producing States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the failure of September rains in most rainfed areas reduced seedings by an estimated 11 per cent to 5.0 million hectares, while unusually high tempratures during following and pod setting are expected to harmer yields. The Government is besieged of this situation.

(c) and (d) State-wise comparative figures of production of rapeseed-mustard during the last 2 years i.e. 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement. The State-wise production figures of rapeseed-Mustard for the current year are not yet available. However, the production of rapeseed mustard during 2000-2001 is estimated at 42.6 lakh tonnes. The latest report indicates that prices of rapeseed mustard are ruling below their Minimum Support Prices and procurement of mustard has commenced.

(e) In order to increase the production of rapeseed-mustard in the country, centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in various States and financial assistance by way of subsidies on various inputs is provided to the farmers to iduce them to take up the cultivation of oilseeds including rapeseed mustard on a large scale. Price Support Operation is also undertaken to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

**Statement***Estimates of Production of Rapeseed and Mustard*

State/UT	('000 tonnes)	
	1998-1999	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	1.0	0.6
Arunachal Pradesh	19.7	21.1
Assam	135.6	129.4
Bihar	102.5	102.5
Gujarat	468.9	301.0
Haryana	597.0	593.0
Himachal Pradesh	6.1	6.1
Jammu & Kashmir	48.0	48.0
Karnataka	1.8	1.6
Madhya Pradesh	574.8	666.1
Maharashtra	2.4	2.8
Manipur	0.6	0.6
Meghalaya	4.6	4.6
Mizoram	1.7	1.5
Nagaland	12.5	14.0
Orissa	2.4	2.3
Punjab	69.0	63.0
Rajasthan	2477.1	2652.6
Sikkim	2.4	4.5
Tamil Nadu	0.2	0.2
Tripura	2.9	2.9
Uttar Pradesh	880.3	1087.4
West Bengal	251.7	251.7
Delhi	0.7	0.7
All - India	5663.9	5958.2

**Replacement of Wagons**

5992. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CRT Wagons in South Central Railway are more prone to derailments than vacuum braked wagons; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to replace such wagons at the earliest to reduce derailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. CRT wagons being 4 — wheeler stock are comparatively more — prone to derailments as compare to Vacuum Braked Bogie wagons.

(b) It has been decided to phase out CRT wagons from Indian Railway and except for around 3,000 numbers rest have already been withdrawn from commercial use. These 3000 CRT wagons are being retained for carrying Indo-Pak rail traffic, till such time as Pakistan Railway starts accepting BCX wagons in lieu of CRTs.

**Utilization of Inland Waterways**

5993. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's Inland Waterways remained grossly underutilized;

(b) if so, the share of Inland Waterways transport in the total cargo movement;

(c) the total Kilometre navigable waterways alongwith the waterways suitable for mechanised craft and the total Kms. declared as National Waterways so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the capacity of underutilized waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cargo moved by Inland Water Transport mode is between 1 to 1.5 billion tonne Kms. which is less than 1% of the total cargo movement.

(c) The total length of navigable waterways is about 14500 kms out of which 5700 kms is suitable for mechanised craft. The total length of 3 waterways declared is 2716 kms. i.e. the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, National Waterway No. 1 (1620 kms), the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya, National Waterway No. 2 (891 kms) and the West Coast Canal alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals, National Waterway No. 3 (205 kms).

(d) Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up in 1986 for development and regulation of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation. The Government has accorded high priority for development of inland waterways. Techno-economic feasibility studies have been conducted on some more waterways. Their declaration and subsequent development will depend upon availability of resources. Loan assistance by way of reimbursement upto 50% of approved scheme cost is being provided to the State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of inland waterways other than National Waterways. Further a package of several measures to boost development of Inland Water Transport and to attract private sector investment in this sector has recently been approved by the Cabinet.

[Translation]

#### Loss of Livestock

5994. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of livestock suffered in Tribal and Scheduled Castes dominated areas of the country

particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years, till date;

(b) the kind of assistance provided to States particularly to Maharashtra Government during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the form in which the assistance is proposed to be given by the Union Government and the assistance provided to Maharashtra and other States till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per information provided by the Maharashtra Government, the losses of livestock due to contagious diseases in Tribal and Scheduled Castes dominated area in Maharashtra during 1997-98, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Government of India provides grants under Central/Centrally Sponsored schemes to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for controlling animal diseases. Central assistance provided to the State of Maharashtra under the schemes related to Livestock Health during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	Assistance Provided		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Assistance to States for Control Animal Diseases (50:50)	0.00	73.43	53.00
2. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (100%)	8.00	26.66	40.00
3. Professional Efficiency Development (50:50)	0.00	16.00	0.00
4. Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (100%)	0.00	25.00	53.00

(c) The Government proposes to continue to provide Central grants to the State Governments in the same pattern as is being provided at

present. Assistance provided to States under the schemes related to Livestock Health during 2000-2001 are in enclosed statement-II.

**Statement I**

*Number of animals died due to contagious disease in Tribal and Scheduled Caste areas of Maharashtra State*

Sl.No.	Name of the Disease/Species of animal	Year		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	<b>Foot and Mouth Disease</b>			
	Bovines	25	128	11
	Sheep and goat	—	20	—
2.	<b>Hemorrhagic septicemia</b>			
	Bovine	118	112	104
	Sheep and goat	263	113	28
3.	<b>Enterotoxaemia</b>			
	Sheep and goat	18	66	9
4.	<b>Black Quarter</b>	191	64	40
5.	<b>Sheep Pox</b>	40	—	—
6.	<b>Anthrax</b>			
	Bovine	27	—	17
	Sheep and goat	4	—	—
7.	<b>Bluetongue</b>	15	—	—
8.	<b>Peste des Petits Ruminants</b>	126	241	—

**Statement II**

*State-wise funds released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes related to Livestock Health during the financial year 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakh)						
Sl.No.	Name of State/UT.	Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases	Foot and Mouth Disease	Animal Disease Surveillance	Professional Efficiency Development	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.18	0.00	7.50	40.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	2.00	1.50	0.79	20.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	4.00	12.00	23.34
4.	Bihar	24.00	0.00	0.00	1.56	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Goa	2.00	2.00	2.53	0.50	15.00
7.	Gujarat	24.31	29.05	15.67	0.00	35.00
8.	Haryana	10.00	12.34	2.55	5.94	18.57
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	10.00	3.45	0.50	25.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$	21.91
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	23.00	27.83	4.00	18.50	39.50
13.	Kerala	12.00	3.50	2.50	0.00	23.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29.00	1.23	0.00	25.00	40.00
15.	Maharashtra	23.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	5.28
17.	Meghalaya	4.40	2.33	2.48	3.00	25.00
18.	Mizoram	38.00	15.00	10.00	7.00	15.00
19.	Nagaland	5.02	5.00	6.50	9.49	38.00
20.	Orissa	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.67
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.52
22.	Rajasthan	28.00	9.37	4.00	3.15	34.45
23.	Sikkim	2.38	5.00	3.00	0.00	15.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	18.00	13.50	1.50	\$	38.91
25.	Tripura	23.20	27.20	17.52	14.00	20.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40.00	36.00	3.00	4.64	37.67
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	18.67	30.00	0.00	10.92	56.00
<b>Total States</b>		<b>354.98</b>	<b>261.53</b>	<b>84.20</b>	<b>128.49</b>	<b>654.71</b>
1.	A&N Islands	5.00	7.00	6.00	10.00	3.67
2.	Chandigarh	1.75	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.33
3.	D&N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Daman Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
5.	Delhi	7.00	0.00	0.00	8.75	7.50
6.	Lakshadweep	2.00	1.00	2.50	0.00	2.00
7.	Pondicherry	3.00	0.00	0.00	5.98	6.43
<b>Total UTs.</b>		<b>18.75</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>8.50</b>	<b>24.73</b>	<b>21.93</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>373.73</b>	<b>270.33</b>	<b>92.70</b>	<b>153.22</b>	<b>676.64</b>

\$ Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 is yet to be adopted.



**Irregularities committed at Patna Junction**

[English]

5995. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are incurring losses to the tune of thousands of rupees daily at the Patna Junction parcel office;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years;

(c) the details of amount claimed by the traders alongwith their names and also the money paid to them; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to stop irregularities at Patna Junction parcel office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No Sir, except by way of compensation claims.

(b) During the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 41, 20 and 05 complaints respectively were received.

(c) Details of amount claimed & amount paid are as under:

(In Rupees)		
Year	Amount Claimed	Amount Paid
1998-99	32,44,38,009/-	27,89,874/-
1999-2000	9,47,47,446/-	32,15,741/-
2000-2001	1,55,38,877/-	35,61,418/-

Information regarding names of traders is being collected & will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) In order to prevent loss of Railway revenue on account of payment of compensation claims for loss/damage of parcel consignment at Patna Jn. parcel office, Railways have taken measures including instructions to the concerned division to step up security to stop recurrence of theft/pilferage, prevent overcarriages, Conduct Claims Prevention Checks and Surprise & regular Inspections. Such measures are a continuing process and are undertaken regularly.

**Plea Bargaining**

5996. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3884 on August 17, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to introduce the concept of Plea bargaining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 154th Report has, *inter alia*, recommended to introduce the concept of Plea-bargaining. The Report is being processed in consultation with State Governments and UT Administrations. The Government has also recently appointed the Criminal Justice System Reforms Committee under chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath former Chief Justice of Kerala and Karnataka High Court with comprehensive terms of reference. The Report of the Committee is awaited. A holistic view on this recommendation would be taken while considering measures to revamp the Criminal Justice System.

**Pending Private Projects**

5997. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private power projects pending with the Government as on date;

(b) whether the Government have decided to clear all pending private projects by the end of current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As on 31.3.2001, Detailed project Reports (DPR) in respect of 11 private sector schemes have been submitted to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for issue of techno-economic clearance (TEC). The accord of TEC by CEA depends upon tying up of the required clearances/inputs by the project developers to the satisfaction of CEA. A list of these projects indicating the status of these schemes is in the attached statement.

**Statement****Pending Private Projects**

Sl. No.	Name of Project State (District)	Capacity (MW)	Pending Inputs
1	2	3	4

**Hydro Schemes****Himachal Pradesh**

1.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP (M/s. Dhamwari Power Co. Ltd.) (Shimla)	70	In principle clearance (IPC) issued on 31.3.1996. Considered in the TEC meeting on 20.3.01. TEC letter could be issued depending upon finalisation of pending issues pertaining to financial, transmission and geological aspects.
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**Thermal Schemes****Uttar Pradesh**

2.	Jawaharpur TPP (M/s. Jawaharpur Power India Pvt. Ltd.)	800	IPC issued on 16.8.95. <i>Pending inputs/clearances:</i> (i) State Govt. recommendation on DPR/cost (ii) Corrigendum for cost under section 29(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 - [E(S) Act] Considered in SPAC on 2.12.98. Not recommended for TEC. To be reconsidered after pending issues are sorted out and cost is reduced substantially. Clarification on tentative financial package is pending. (iii) Fuel Supply Agreement. (iv) Fuel Transportation Agreement. (v) Re-validation of Fuel Linkage.
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**Madhya Pradesh**

3.	Rajgarh CAPP M/s. Alpine Power System Ltd.) (Under litigation)	343.48	Pending inputs/clearances are:— (i) Compliance of sec. 29(2) of E(S) Act—corrigendum for revised capacity and cost, Report u/s 29(3) awaited. (ii) State Govt. consent u/s 18A of E(S) Act for authorisation to revised capacity. (iii) Power evacuation system and number of outlets in S/Yard. (iv) Revalidated fuel transport clearance. (v) Fuel linkage for revised capacity of 343.48 MW.
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1	2	3	4
4.	Jhabua CCGT (M/s. Kedia Power Ltd.)	360	<p>Meeting held with project developer on 12.11.99. The company intimated to keep the project capacity as 330 MW.</p> <p>Pending inputs/clearance are:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Compliance of Sec. 29(2) of E(S) Act—corrigendum for revised capacity and cost; Report u/s 29(3) from State Governments awaited.</li> <li>(ii) State Government consent u/s 18A E(S) Act for revised capacity.</li> <li>(iii) Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests (MOEF) and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) clearance for submergence of 194.33 Ha of land.</li> <li>(iv) Fresh approval from Govt. of M.P. for drawal of 8.63 M Cu.m. of consumptive water.</li> <li>(v) Confirmation of power absorption by State Government.</li> </ul>
<b>Karnataka</b>			
5.	Hassan CCPP (M/s. Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	189	<p>Considered by CEA for TEC on 28.5.99. Scheme to be reconsidered after hard cost is reduced by Rs. 51 cr. in addition to Rs. 20 crores already reduced and reduction of Soft cost to a reasonable level.</p> <p>Pending inputs are:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Resolution of water availability by Central Water Commission (CWC) from <i>inter-State</i> angle (Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal issue).</li> </ul>
6.	Nanjangud CCPP (T) (M/s. IPS Power Co.)	96.7	<p>IPC issued on 31.3.96.</p> <p>Considered by CEA for TEC on 26.2.99.</p> <p>Pending inputs are:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Resolution of water availability by CWC from <i>inter State</i> angle (CWDT issue).</li> <li>(ii) Finalisation of hard cost.</li> </ul>
7.	Telgi (Bijapur) TPP (M/s. KEI Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	350	<p>IPC issued on 30.3.96.</p> <p>Considered by SPAC on 6.3.99. Not recommended for TEC as cost is not properly structured and equipment and service costs are not indicated in the reasonable proportion.</p>
8.	Mean Shivapur Konnur LNG based CCPP (M/s. Wescopower Gen. Ltd.) (Belgaum)	483	Under examination

1	2	3	4
9.	Torangallu TPP Expansion by M/s. Jindal Tractabel Power Co. Ltd.	500	Under examination.
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
10.	Konaseema CCPP (M/s. Konaseema EPS Power Ltd.) (East Godavari)	445	Under examination.
11.	Jegurupadu Expansion CCPP (M/s. GVK Industries Ltd.)	230	Under examination.

### Upgradation of Fishing Sector

5998. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any programme for upgrading the mechanised fishing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for expansion of the 'Shore to Fishing Vessel' communication system to the fishermen living in all the coastal States and the Island groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Marine Fisheries', about 33,000 traditional craft have been sanctioned for motorisation so far.

Besides, reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metre length covering about 18,000 such fishing vessels on an average per annum is provided.

(c) and (d) Under 'Shore to Fishing Vessel' communication system, facilities were provided to demonstrate the technology of communication for the benefit of coastal fishermen in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Goa during 8th Five Year Plan under Phase-I.

During 9th Five Year Plan, under Phase-II of the 'Shore to Fishing Vessel' Communication System, establishment of shore stations is envisaged in 10 places in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra and Goa and in the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

### Projected Capacity of Ennore Port

5999. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised cost of the Ennore Port near Chennai has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projected capacity of the port; and

(d) the time by which that Ennore port is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revised cost of the Ennore port near Chennai has been approved for Rs. 1056.52 crores with a Foreign Exchange Component of Rs. 258.15 crores and Interest during Construction of Rs. 261.10 crores.

(c) Initially two Coal Berths with 16 Million tonnes capacity have been constructed to cater to handling thermal coal for Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The port handle 65000 Dead Weight Tonnes carriers.

(d) Ennore Port has been inaugurated on 02.01.2001 and is operational.

**Development Council for Textile Industry**

6000. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a development council for the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether decline in powerloom goods export has been registered during the last year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Development Council for Textile Industry set up under section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), read with rules 2, 4 and 5 of the Development Councils (Procedural) Rules, 1952 has representatives from the Government Organisations and various sectors of Textile Industry as well as representatives of consumer interest. The council is to make recommendations to Government on matters concerning the Scheduled Textile Industry so that there is an increase in productivity and efficiency; improvement and development of the services and increased competitiveness of the industry and its products.

(c) and (d) As per the figures furnished by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, during the period April-February, 2000-2001, exports of cotton fabrics & made-ups (mill-made/powerloom) to quota countries have shown a positive growth of 13.3% over the corresponding period of previous year.

(e) Some of the main measures taken for improving production in the powerloom sector, which would also boost exports are given below:

- (i) Launching of a Programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and 2.5 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the powerloom sector, with the incentives provided through the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The guidelines and procedures of TUFS have been relaxed and broadened to enable the Powerloom Sector to avail of the scheme;

- (ii) Programme for modernization of Powerloom Service Centers (PSC) by the upgradation of their looms so as to provide training and skills to powerloom weavers to operate modernized equipment;

- (iii) Setting up of Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers, to provide necessary design inputs into powerloom production;

- (iv) Provision of a Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota of 15% to encourage powerloom exports; and review & simplification of export procedures.

[Translation]

**Agricultural Produce Procurement Centres**

6001. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open agricultural produce procurement centres at least at the Block level/Panchayat level to ensure procurement of agriculture produces at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which such centres are likely to be opened;

(c) the number of such centres already functioning in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure minimum support price to the farmers for their produces and to stave off the situation where the farmers are not compelled to use potato like crops as fertilizer in their fields as they did last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Twenty four major agricultural commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and sugarcane are covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme. Nodal agencies have also been set up, for these different commodities, which undertake procurement as and when prices fall below the Minimum Support Prices. The Nodal agency for the procurement operations of cereals, which constitute the major component of procurement operations, is Food Corporation of India (FCI) and a list of purchase centres opened by FCI either individually or jointly with States agencies or by the State agencies for Rabi 2000-2001 and Kharif 2000-2001 is given in the attached

statement I and II respectively. Information in respect of procurement centres for other crops operated by nodal agencies such as National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), Cotton Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Perishable Commodities like Potato are not covered under the MSP

Scheme, and the Government is implementing for them Market Interventioin Scheme (MIS) under which procurement is undertaken whenever their prices decline steeply. The Scheme is implemented at the request of the State Governments and losses, if any, incurred due to the operation of the MIS, are shared on 50:50 basis between the State and the Central Government.

### **Statement I**

#### *List of Purchase Centres being operated during 2000-2001 (Rabi)*

Sl.No.	State	FCI	Jointly with State Agencies	State Agencies	Total
1.	Punjab	446	49	1059	1554
2.	Rajasthan	22	—	118	140
3.	Haryana	40	90 <sup>⊗</sup>	227	357
4.	Bihar	26	—	—	26
5.	Madhya Pradesh	22	—	1086	1108
6.	Uttar Pradesh	44	—	4881	4925
Total:		600	139	7371	8110

⊗ Out of 90,35 jointly operated with FCI and the remaining 55 jointly by other agencies.

### **Statement II**

#### *List of Purchase Centres/Mandis operated during 2000-2001 (Kharif)*

Sl.No.	Region	Paddy/Coarse Grain			Total
		FCI	Jointly	State Agencies	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	460	87	1040	1587
2.	Haryana	22	10	192	224
3.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1400	1400
4.	Delhi	4	—	—	4
5.	Rajasthan	12	—	—	12
6.	Andhra Pradesh	173	—	156	329
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	2155	2155
8.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	18	—	13	31

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Pondichery	2	—	2	4
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
12.	Bihar	40	—	512	552
13.	Orissa	42	—	—	42
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—	—	2
15.	Maharashtra	—	—	255	255
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	—	—	2
Total		777	97	5725	6599

[English]

### Over Loading of Coal

6002. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is being loaded in the wagons beyond permissible limits and no action is being taken at the booking stations to stop this;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such instances came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(d) whether the matter has been investigated and responsibility fixed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the loss of revenue suffered by the Railways on this account; and

(g) the steps taken to check this practice forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It has been noticed, in some cases, various commodities including coal had been loaded beyond the prescribed limits and penal charges were levied on such overloaded wagons/rakes as per rule.

(b) Overloading of wagons/rakes at originating station can not always be detected there due to non-availability of weighbridges at the loading points, non-functional weighbridges, power failure and operational difficulties etc.

(c) The information is being gathered and will be furnished later.

(d) and (e) Based on investigations conducted, a number of coal rakes were re-weighed and penal charges levied for excess loaded coal. Staff responsible for lapses are also taken up.

(f) No assessment about the loss of revenue due to overloading is possible. Excess loading can be detected only when wagons are weighed/reweighed and in such cases freight including punitive charges are invariably levied and realised.

(g) To overcome the problem of overloading, the following steps have been taken/are being taken:

- (i) The permissible carrying capacity for slack coal/Run off Mines coal loaded in BOX 'N' enhanced to carrying capacity plus two tonnes.
- (ii) Severe penalty provisions have been built in, in the Railways (Punitive Charges for overloading of wagons) Rules, 1990 as amended from time to time.
- (iii) Compulsory weighment of Public coal rakes originating on Northeast Frontier Railway is presently undertaken.
- (iv) A number of electronic-in-motion weighbridges are in the process of procurement and installation/commissioning at major loading points and at certain enroute locations for undertaking surprise weighment checks.
- (v) Railways have revised the policy on weighbridges and gradually all-important loading points will be provided weighbridge facility.
- (vi) Frequent preventive checks are arranged.

**High Yielding Seed**

6003. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop hybrid seed;

(b) if so, the States where success has been achieved in this regard;

(c) whether any technology mission has been set up or proposed to be set up in Orissa to explore the possibility of developing high yielding seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Hybrid technology in crop plants has proved its potential in cross-pollinated crops (like Sorghum, Maize, Pearl Millet, Sunflower, Castor etc.), self-pollinated crops (like rice, arhar, safflower etc.), and 'often cross-pollinated' crops (like cotton, Bhindi, tomato, etc.) under rainfed and irrigated conditions. The list of hybrids released for different States is enclosed in the statement-I.

(c) and (d) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is being implemented in Orissa. Details are given below:—

- Under Accelerated Maize Development Programme to increase production and productivity of maize, incentive for Seed Minikit distribution (Rs. 1.53 lakh in 1999-2000 and Rs. 0.40 lakh in the year 2000-2001) has been given to Orissa. Incentive for certified seed distribution of hybrid/high yielding varieties of maize has been provided to the tune of Rs. 8.04 lakh in 1999-2000.
- Under Oilseed Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project, financial assistance of Rs. 765 lakh in 1999-2000 and 294.50 lakh in the year 2000-2001 has been given to Orissa for the production of breeder seed, foundation seed, distribution of certified seeds, seed minikit, seed village programme, crash programme for Groundnut seed and infrastructure development for seed producing agencies.
- The Technology Mission on Cotton is operational in Orissa and financial assistance of Rs. 8.42 lakh in the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 4.00 lakh in the year 2000-2001 has given for distribution of high yielding cotton seeds.
- Research on development of improved varieties including hybrids of different crops is being carried out in Orissa through the Centre of the All-India Coordinated Crop Research Improvement Projects (AICRIPs). List of Centres located in Orissa is enclosed as statement-II.

**Statement-I****List of Hybrids**

Sl.No.	Name of Crop	Name of Hybrids	Recommendation for
1	2	3	4
1.	Rice	APHR-1	Telangana, Rayalaseema and uplands of coastal A.P.
		APHR-2	Telangana, Rayalaseema and uplands of coastal A.P.
		MGR-1	Tamil Nadu for May-June and Sept.-Oct. planting)
		KRH-1	Irrigated areas of Kamataka
		CNRH-3	West Bengal (Boro season)
		DRRH-1	Telangana, Rayalaseema and uplands of coastal A.P.
		KRH-2	Irrigated areas of Kamataka
		Pant Sankar Dhan-1	Plains of Western U.P.



1	2	3	4
		CORH-2	Tamil Nadu (July-Sept.)
		ADTRH-1	Tamil Nadu (April-July)
		Sahyadri	Konkan region of Maharashtra
		Narendra Sankar Dhan-2	Eastern U.P.
		PHB-71	Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Maharashtra and U.P.
		PA 6201	Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Tripura, A.P., Karnataka
2.	Maize	Dharwad Makka3*	Karnataka
		HHM 1	Haryana
		HHM 2	Haryana
		Deccan 107	Entire country
		Rajendra Makka-1	Bihar
		Rajendra Makka-2	Bihar
		Deccan 109	Eastern UP, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP and Penninsular India.
		Him 129	Himalayan region, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP under rainfed condition
		Prakash	Across the country
		Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 1	Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP and Peninsular India
		Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 2	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
		Vivek Hybrid-4	Rainfed cultivation, Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat
		Vivek Hybrid 4	Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat, suitable for <i>kharif</i> cultivation under rainfed and irrigated conditions.
		Composite Gaurav	Central and Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. Suitable for <i>kharif</i> cultivation under rainfed and irrigated conditions.
		HHM-1	Haryana
		HHM-2	Haryana
		AH-58*	Release in Zone IV (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
3.	Pearl Millet	RHB 58	Rajasthan
		JKBH-26	Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, MP.

1	2	3	4
		GHB-316	Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, MP
		GK-1004	Karnataka, AP, Tamil Nadu
		Pusa 605	Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Gujarat, MP
		Pusa 415	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, North Eastern MP and Punjab
		MLBH-504	Maharashtra, A.P., Karnataka
		PAC 903	A.P., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
4.	Sorghum	CSH-5	Gujarat, A.P., Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu
		CSH-6	Karnataka, A.P., Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan
		CSH-9	Maharashtra, M.P., A.P., Gujarat, Rajasthan, U.P.
		CSH-10	Maharashtra, Karnataka, M.P., A.P., Rajasthan, U.P.
		CSH-13	Maharashtra, Karnataka, M.P., A.P., Rajasthan, U.P.
		CSH-14	Maharashtra, Karnataka, A.P., Rajasthan, U.P.
		CSH-16	Maharashtra, Karnataka, M.P., A.P., Rajasthan, U.P., Tamil Nadu, Gujarat
		CSH-17	Gujarat, MP, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu
		CSH-18	Maharashtra, M.P., A.P., Rajasthan, Gujarat and U.P.
		JKSH-22	Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat
		MLSH-14	Maharashtra, Karnataka, A.P., Tamil Nadu
5.	Cotton		
	<i>North Zone:</i>	Fateh	Punjab
		LHH 144	Punjab
		LDH 111	Punjab
		Dhanlaxmi	Haryana
		Omshankar (CSHH29) (entire) northern zone)	Haryana
		Raj HH 16 (Maruvikas)	Rajasthan

1	2	3	4
	<i>Central Zone:</i>	JK Hy 1	M.P.
		JK Hy 2	M.P.
		PKV Hy 2	Maharashtra
		PKV Hy3	Maharashtra
		NHH 44	Maharashtra
		NHB 12	Maharashtra
		CICRHH1	Maharashtra
		DCH 32	Maharashtra
		PKV Hy4	Maharashtra
		Pha 46	Maharashtra
		H 6	Gujarat
		H 8	Gujarat
		H 10	Gujarat
		DH 7	Gujarat
		DH 9	Gujarat
	<i>South Zone:</i>	JK Hy 1	A.P.,
		DCH 32	A.P., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
		Savita	A.P., Tamil Nadu
		HB 224	A.P., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
		TCHB 213	A.P.
		DDH 2	A.P., Karnataka
		DHB 105	Karnataka
		DHH 11	Karnataka
		Surya	Tamil Nadu
		Sruthi	Tamil Nadu
		TCHB 312	Tamil Nadu
		RCH 2	Tamil Nadu
6.	Sunflower	Jawalamukhi	All India
		Sungene 85	All India
		PAC 36	All India
		PAC 1091	All India
		MLSFH-47	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

1	2	3	4
7.	Castor	GCH 5 DCH 32  GCH 6 Deepak (DSH 177)	All India  Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka under rainfed conditions and Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat under irrigated conditions.  Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra
8.	Safflower	DSH 129  MKH 11	All Safflower growing areas under irrigated and rainfed conditions.  All Safflower growing areas under irrigated and rainfed conditions specially Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
9.	Rapeseed and Mustard	Hyola 401	Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh
10.	Pigeonpea	AKPH 4101	South West, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

**Statement-II****Research Centres under AICRIPs in Orissa**

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Name of Centre/University
1.	Rice	(i) Chiplitima, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar (ii) Jeypore, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
2.	Maize	Jasipur, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
3.	Small Millets	Behrampur, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
4.	Rapeseed & Mustard	Bhubaneswar, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
5.	Sunflower	Bhubaneswar, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
6.	Castor	Bhavanipatna, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
7.	Groundnut	Chiplima, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
8.	Sesame	Bhubaneswar, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
9.	Network on Niger	Semiliguda, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
10.	Linseed	Jashipur, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
11.	Pigeonpea	Berhampur, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
12.	MULLARP	Berhampur, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
13.	Cotton	Umerkote, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar
14.	National (Seed Project Crops)	Orissa, OUA&T, Bhubaneswar

**Earthquake Since Independence**

6004. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when major earthquake situations were faced by the country since independence;

(b) the number of lives lost in earthquakes, since independence, earthquake-wise;

(c) whether the Government have constituted committees from time to time to suggest precautionary measures and safety measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures suggested by the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government on the basis of suggestions made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The details of damaging earthquakes that have occurred in India since Independence, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the damage to life based on available information, is attached as statement.

About 13 lakh houses/huts have been destroyed/damaged in the earthquake on 26.1.2001.

(c) to (e) No scientific method is available today anywher in the world to predict an earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude. As prediction of earthquake is not possible, there is need to take preparatory measures like earthquake resistant constructions, adoption of building Codes/Guidelines/standards, retrofitting, public education and community awareness.

State Governments have been requested by the concerned agencies for taking necessary preparatory measures in the earthquake vulnerable areas. Vulnerability atlas for the country as well as State-wise has also been brought out with regard to earthquake, cyclone and flood disasters. States falling in seismic zones 4 & 5 have been requested to update their Contingency Action Plan, in the context of recent earthquake of Gujarat, and initiate necessary measures with emphasis on preparedness and mitigation.

In the event of earthquake of Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister having the representatives of the Presidents of the National and State level Political Parties. The National Committee will *inter-alia* suggest the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.

**Statement***List of some major earthquakes in India and its neighbourhood*

Date	Epicenter		Location	Magnitude	Deaths
	Lat (°N)	Long (°E)			
1	2	3	4	5	6
1950 Aug. 15	28.5	96.7	Arunachal Pradesh-China Border	8.5	1500
1956- July 21	23.3	70.0	Anjar, Gujarat	7.0	Hundreds
1967 Dec. 10	17.37	73.35	Koyna, Maharashtra	6.5	200
1975 Jan. 19	32.38	78.49	Kinnaur, HP	6.2	—
1988 Aug. 06	25.13	95.15	Manipur-Myanmar Border	6.6	—
1988 Aug. 21	26.72	86.63	Bihar-Nepal Border	6.4	1003
1991 Oct. 20	30.75	78.86	Uttarkashi, Uttaranchal	6.6	715
1993 Sep. 30	18.07	76.62	Latur-Osmanabad, Maharashtra	6.3	7928

1	2	3	4	5	6
1997 May 22	23.08	80.06	Jabalpur, MP	6.0	38
1999 March 29	30.41	79.42	Chamoli, Uttaranchal	6.8	106
2001 Jan. 26	23.6	69.8	Kutch-Bhuj	6.9	20,000

[Translation]

#### **Exploration of Gas in M.P.**

6005. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where gas has been struck due to exploration carried out in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the places where preliminary work has either been taken up or a decision to start exploration has been 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) As a result of exploratory efforts, by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), occurrence of Non-commercial gas has been indicated in the Proterozoic sequence in the well, Jabera-1, drilled in the Vindhyan basin of Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh (M.P.). Another well Anthoni-1, drilled in Satpura basin in Chindwara District of M.P., gave indications of dissolved gas on testing in Gondwana sequence.

(b) Based on the geo-scientific surveys, ONGC has drilled a number of wells in M.P. of which one exploratory well, Damoh-1 is currently under testing. In order to detail structural leads and delineate possible structural prospects, 2D seismic data acquisition by ONGC is also in progress in Tekapar-Bamni-Tamia area.

In addition, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) had carried out 183 LKM of speculative 2D seismic survey in the past, in Rewa area of eastern M.P. to upgrade the existing geoscientific information of the area.

[English]

#### **Karnataka Milk Federations**

6006. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the working of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF);

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the President of KMF has drawn huge amounts of loans from NDDB without submitting utilization certificates;

(c) whether misappropriation of the funds has also been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry under Co-operation Act has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

#### **Derailment of Goods Trains**

6007. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADGE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two incidents of derailments of goods trains were occurred one at Budameru railway bridge on 28 February, 2001 and another between Karigenoor and Hospet stations on March 5, 2001 under the South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of Government property damaged therein;

(d) whether enquiries have been conducted into those incidents;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of two accidents are as under:—

- (i) On 28.2.2001, while LXA/N goods train was leaving Vijayawada station at 00.45 hrs on Vijayawada-Rajahmundry section of Vijayawada Division, two wagons derailed of which one capsized on Budameru bridge and fell into canal. There were no casualties or injuries in this accident.
- (ii) On 5.3.2001 at 13.10 hrs., while HPT/N goods train was entering into Kariganuru station on Guntakal-Hospet section of Guntakal Division, the train driver overshot signal at danger resulting in derailment of engine and eleven wagons. Driver and Assistant Driver of the train sustained grievous injuries.

(c) The cost of damages to Railway property in these accidents were Rs. 2.76 crores approximately.

(d) to (f) Both accidents were inquired into by a Committee of Officers which concluded that these accidents were due to failure of Railway Staff. Action under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules has been initiated against the defaulting staff.

#### **Electrification of Chennai-Mumbai Rail Route**

6008. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification of Chennai-Mumbai rail route has been sanctioned by the Cabinet in September, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the project had already been cleared by the Railway Board and the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be completed along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which the work on electrification of Calcutta-Chennai rail route which was costing around Rs. 700 crores is expected to be completed;

(e) whether the electrification work of golden quadrilateral of Delhi-Chennai, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Calcutta trunk routes were fully completed;

(f) the total percentage of the tracks of the railway were electrified; and

(g) the total expenditure to be incurred in completion of the Chennai-Mumbai rail route?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The target for completion of electrification of Calcutta-Chennai route is March 2003, subject to availability of funds.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) As on 1.4.2001, 24.53% of Railway tracks have been electrified.

(g) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Irregularities in ICAR**

6009. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the financial administrative short comings including in purchase of computers in Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institute;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the cost of many projects of the Institute has escalated due to the inordinate delay in their implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the results thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Certain alleged irregularities in purchase of computers in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) were brought to the notice of Government.

Separately, an internal audit report prepared by the office of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Agriculture, containing certain financial and administrative irregularities in the ICAR was also received in the Department of Agricultural Research & Education. All these issues have already been examined and replies of the Department furnished to Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of agriculture. As regards irregularities in the purchase of computer, the Chief Vigilance Officer, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying was asked to conduct a preliminary inquiry. Subsequently, Secretary (A&C) was also asked to conduct an inquiry in the procurement of computers. The report submitted by Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) has been accepted and action has been initiated on the suggestions made therein.

[English]

#### **Funding System for Political Parties**

6010. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review the funding system for political parties;

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

(c) whether the Chief Election Commissioner and Chief Vigilance Commissioner have also given some remarks in regard to the funding of political parties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new pattern is likely to be brought out by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) has recommended, *inter alia*, partial State funding of elections, in kind only, to recognised political parties and candidates set up by them. The Election Commission of India, apart from giving its stand on the subject of State funding of elections and other allied issues, has expressed dissenting opinion in respect of some recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee. A Statement containing the views of the

Election Commission is laid on the Table of the House. In response to letter from the Government, the Central Vigilance Commission has, *inter-alia*, drawn attention to a note prepared by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner in which he has suggested the following:

- (i) The funding of the elections and the contribution to the political funds by individuals or corporate bodies must be freely permitted and such contributions must be eligible for tax deduction under the Income Tax Act. The information about all these contributions should be in the public domain and could be published in the website of the concerned individuals or the organizations and, more important, in the website of the political parties.
- (ii) The political parties must get their accounts audited properly so that there is absolute transparency in the funding process.

The recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee, however, are under active consideration of the Government.

#### **Statement**

#### **(A) VIEWS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA ON THE SUBJECT OF STATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS AND OTHER ALLIED ISSUES:—**

##### **State Funding of Elections-Extent and Manner thereof:**

The Election Commission has already, on its own, evolved a scheme whereby recognized political parties are given far greater time, free of any charges, on equitable basis on State-owned electronic media to make their election propaganda at the time of general elections. This is an indirect State funding.

##### **Compulsory Maintenance of Accounts by Political Parties and Audit thereof by Agencies specified by the Election Commission**

The Election Commission of India has always been of the views that political parties should be required to compulsorily maintain their accounts and get them audited by agencies specified by the Commission. There is strong need for transparency in the matter of collection of funds by the political parties and also about the manner in which those funds are expended by them. Therefore, the political parties must be required to publish their accounts annually for information and scrutiny of the general public



and all concerned, for which purpose the maintenance of such accounts and their auditing to ensure their accuracy is a pre-requisite. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends the acceptance of the proposal and reiterates its earlier views on the subject.

*Ban on Donation by Companies to Political Parties:*

The current provision on this issue, as per the statute, is that a company in existence for more than 3 years may contribute an amount not exceeding 5% of its average net profit. The Election Commission does not approve of total ban on donations by companies to political parties. After all, the political process and the activities, which a political party legitimately engages itself involve heavy cost which has to be met by funds coming through certain channels. Moreover, if trade unions and other organizations are allowed to contribute to political parties, there seems to be not much ground that companies should be banned from making donations to political parties. Efforts should be made to create an atmosphere where there is more transparency in financial dealings rather than take extreme measures, which would only drive these activities underground and away from the public gaze.

To sum up, therefore, the Commission is of the view that, in a democracy, companies may be allowed to contribute for political causes. However, such contributions should be limited to a reasonable level and, all transactions in this regard must be made in a completely transparent manner.

*Expenditure incurred by a Political Party, etc. to be included in the Election Expenses of a Candidate for purposes of Ceiling on Election Expenses.*

The Election Commission is in favour of this proposal.

*Empowering Election Commission to Fix Ceiling on Election Expenses before Every General Election.*

The Election Commission is in favour of this proposal.

**(B) VIEW OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS (INDRAJIT GUPTA COMMITTEE):—**

"The Election Commission has observed from the report that the Committee has not agreed with, or not expressed any definite view on, the following proposals of the Commission:—

(a) The Election Commission has proposed that the expenditure incurred by a political party, any other body of association or any individual in connection with the election of a candidate should be included in the election

expenses of that candidate, for purposes of the ceiling on election expenses. The Committee has not made any specific recommendation on this issue and left this question to be decided by the Government/Parliament in their collective wisdom.

(b) The Commission has proposed that the power to revise the ceiling on election expenses before every election should be vested with Commission, as it is best equipped to fix such ceiling for various constituencies. The Committee has, however, recommended in its report that periodic revision of limits of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India as at present.

(c) The Commission has recommended that political parties should be required to compulsorily maintain their accounts and get them audited by agencies specified by the Commission. While the Committee has agreed with the suggestion of the Commission that political parties should compulsorily maintain accounts of their election expenditure at every general election, the Committee has, however, recommended that these accounts may be audited by such chartered accountants as may be selected by the political parties themselves, which may, however, be further checked by the Income Tax Authorities by their own agencies."

**Matrubhumi Express Trains**

6011. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Matrubhumi scheme, almost all the States have been given the benefit of special trains for vacations and festivals in the current railway budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Gujarat State is being deprived of this benefit; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Geographical boundaries of States are not a criteria for introducing trains on Indian Railways. Trains are run subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

[Translation]

### **Purchase of Computer in ICAR Bidding Documents**

6012. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the terms of the Bidding documents of the ICAR in February, 1999 a firm had accepted to import computer equipments worth Rupees 15 crore through air passage/Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving permission to import the same through the sea-passage thereby giving direct monetary benefit to the seller and causing delay in the arrival of the consignments;

(c) whether as per one of the clauses all the equipments were to be made available by June, 1999 (within three months of the contract);

(d) if so, whether all the equipments have been received by the said period;

(e) if not, the dates on which the computer equipments were received consignments-wise alongwith the number thereof and whether there was any penalty clause for delay in this regard; and

(f) if so, the amount received on this account, if not the persons found responsible for it alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Bid documents do not provide for shipment of computer equipment by Air or Air India. The computers and peripherals ordered are worth only Rs. 12.09 crores (Rs. 12.57 crores with Annual Maintenance Contract).

(b) As per the Bidding Documents, the bids were invited on Cost, Insurance & Freight (CIF)/Carriage and Insurance Paid (CIP) to basis. The contract also did not specify mode of transport. However, in the Letter of Credit (LC) the mode of shipment was mentioned as "by Air/Air India". To this the supplier pointed out that for such large consignments it was not possible to restrict to particular mode or carrier. Hence, the Letter of Credit (LC) was amended to allow shipment "by Sea/Air/Surface" as per the stipulations of the Bid Documents/Contract, which lays down that "where the supplier is required under the contract to deliver the goods 'CIF or CIP' no restriction shall be placed on choice of carrier".

(c) As per the terms of contract, the supply was to be made within 12 weeks from the date of opening of the Letter of Credit (LC). The letter of Credit (LC) was opened on 31st March, 1999 but could not be made operational because of inconsistency arising out of decision for 100% Testing at Delhi, which was not covered in the contract. The amendment was notified on 3.8.1999 after obtaining clearance of the World Bank and the Competent Authority in ICAR. All the computers and peripherals have been received in Delhi between 25.8.1999 to 27.9.1999.

(d) All the equipment have been received within the contractual delivery period, in view of (c) above.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above. Further, Liquidated Damages (LD) to the extent of 10% of the value of the contract, which is maximum, has been imposed as per the stipulation of the contract.

(f) Since no payment has so far been released after the payment through Letter of Credit (LC), no amount on account of Liquidated Damages (LD) has been recovered so far. The same will be realized when the balance payment of 20% (Twenty per cent) is processed.

### **Irregularities in ICAR**

6013. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH:  
DR. BALIRAM:  
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement of computers worth Rs. 34 crore has run into problems as reported in 'Danik Jagran' dated February 17, 2001;

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

(c) whether the officers who raised the above issue at higher level have also been degraded and transferred to some other Department;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the justification therefor;

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

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty in this regard?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. The official was appointed on a tenurial post in ICAR headquarters and has been reverted back to his original institute and the post where he last served. This was done due to his consistently poor performance.

(d) to (f) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(g) Not applicable in view of (a) to (f) above.

#### **Closure of Petrol and Diesel Pumps**

6014. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol and diesel pumps closed during the last year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the number of petrol pumps restarted among them?

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) During the last year, *i.e.*, 2000-2001, 104 retail outlets were closed down in various States in the country for various reasons like failure of samples of MS/HSD, short delivery, non-availability of stock records, stock variation, failure of lube samples, benami operation, non-performance, dispute among partners, various irregularities, etc. Out of these, 19 retail outlets have been restarted.

[English]

#### **Jetties to Assist River Transport**

6015. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to build jetties on rivers to assist river transport and inland transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have cleared some proposals for building jetties on rivers to help river transport during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details of such proposals; and

(e) the manner in which these projects are likely to be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km), the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 kms) and West Coast canal from Kottapuram to Kolam including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals in Kerala (205 kms) have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed by providing infrastructural facilities such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids subject to availability of resources. Jetties for manual loading and unloading of cargo exist at Haldia, Calcutta, Pakur, Farakka, Karagola, Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna and Allahabad on NW-1 and at Dhubri, Jogighopa and Pandu on NW-2. A scheme for construction of terminals at 11 locations on NW-3 is under implementation.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. One proposal for construction of floating jetty at G.R. Jetty Calcutta has been cleared by the Government during 2000-2001. Construction of floating terminal comprises of pontoon, gangway arrangement and storage facilities. The projects are funded from budgetary grants under annual plans.

#### **Construction of Pipeline Linking Seaports in South with Marketing Centres**

6016. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Indian Oil Corporation Limited to construct a separate pipeline linking the seaports in the south with marketing centres;

(b) if so, the details of such a mega oil pipelines;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited is going in for a number of such mega pipeline projects to use its cash reserves;

(d) if so, the extent to which such pipelines are redundant presently;

(e) whether the Government propose to review such proposals of Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to conserve financial resources?

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) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **Signalling System in Mumbai**

6017. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways took up some work relating to upgradation of signalling in the western region, particularly in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the trains describer system in Churchgate, Virar section and Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Mumbai region and conversion of DC to AC in Mumbai Suburban have been completed;

(c) whether these systems are providing satisfactory service; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir. The work for train describer systems in Churchgate-Virar section and Chatrapati Shivaji terminus-Kalyan section and the work for conversion from DC to AC in Mumbai suburban area are in progress.

(c) and (d) Does not arise, as both the above projects-Train describer systems and DC to AC conversion on Mumbai suburban area are yet to be Commissioned.

#### **Implementation of WTO Ruling by Turkey**

6018. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has given an additional period of 30 days to implement WTO regulations in regard to Ankara's import curbs of Indian Textile items;

(b) if so, the details of WTO ruling that upheld India's complaint;

(c) whether Turkey has given any assurance to implement those WTO rulings;

(d) if not, the main reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) In the Turkey Textiles Dispute between India and Turkey in the WTO, the reasonable period of time for Turkey to implement the ruling and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) expired on 19th February 2001. The DSB of the WTO had in its ruling given on 23.10.1999 upheld India's stand that the restraint imposed by Turkey on imports of Textiles and Garments in 19 categories is inconsistent with the WTO provision. On March 8, 2001 India and Turkey reached an agreement on the "Agreed Procedures under Articles 21 and 22 of the DSU." According to provisions of this agreement, India and Turkey have agreed to hold consultations within 30 days of the agreement, to discuss compliance of the recommendations of the DSB by Turkey. Pursuant to this, consultations between countries are continuing.

#### **[Translation]**

#### **Proposal for Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Project**

6019. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal regarding Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Project Unit No. 5 to be set up in Madhya Pradesh is lying pending with his Ministry for clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in giving clearance to it; and

(c) the time by which the proposal for setting up the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up Sanjay Gandhi TPS, Unit No. 5 (1x500 MW) in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Central Electricity Authority for Techno-economic Clearance.

[English]

#### **Oilseed Production Programme**

6020. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Andhra Pradesh selected for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme;

(b) the amount earmarked and released to Andhra Pradesh during the last two year and for 2001-2002;

(c) the oilseed crops covered by this programme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the production achieved during the last two years as a result of this programme in Andhra Pradesh and the steps contemplated to be increased in the production in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The districts of Andhra Pradesh selected for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal, West Godavari.

(b) The amount released to the State of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last 2 years and the allocation made for the year 2001-2002 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount released
1999-2000	836.81
2000-2001	805.00
2001-2002	805.00 (allocation)

(c) The oilseed crops covered under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) in the State of Andhra Pradesh are groundnut, sunflower, seasmum, safflower, castor and nigher.

(d) The total production of oilseeds achieved during the last 2 years in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as under:

Year	Production (000 tonnes)
1998-1999	2465.8
1999-2000	1470.4

The fall in production during the year 1999-2000 is due to drought prevailing in the State. In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the state, financial assistance by way of subsidies is being provided on various inputs to the farmers under Oilseeds Production Programme with a view to motivate the farmers to take up oilseeds cultivation on a large scale.

[Translation]

#### **Promotion of "Shani Shingnapur" as Culture and Heritage Tourism Centre**

6021. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote "Shani Shingnapur" as culture and heritage tourism centre in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a special task force under the Director-General of tourism has been set up in this regard;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government along with the financial assistance being provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourist Places/pilgrim centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. However, Central Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually consultation with them. No proposal for promotion of Shani Shingnapur has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Task Force has been set up as far as Maharashtra is concerned.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

*[English]*

#### **Legislation to Check Decision**

6022. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring fresh legislation to check the rising trend of defection from the political parties in order to avoid elections at the short intervals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Certain proposals relating to amendments to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law) were included in the agenda for the meeting of political parties on the subject of reform of electoral laws held on 22.5.1998 but the discussion on the issue was deferred. The Government, however, intends to discuss the issue with the political parties at the appropriate time as part of the process of reform of electoral laws. The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no timeframe can be suggested in this regard. The Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties on various proposals to carry forward the process of electoral reforms, which include changes in the anti-defection law.

#### **Targets of Textile Production**

6023. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target for textile production has been fixed during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As most of the textile production is through the privately-owned units, the Ministry of Textiles do not fix any target of production of textiles.

#### **Organising Road Show Programmes in London**

6024. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had inaugurated road show programmes in London during January, 2001;

(b) whether the Government of United Kingdom has shown keen interest in investing in India in petroleum sector;

(c) if so, the extent to which the United Kingdom propose to invest in India;

(d) whether any agreement between India and U.K. has been signed in this regard; 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) to (e) The road show for the promotion of the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-II) was organised in London on the 18th and 19th January, 2001 to attract investments in the exploration of oil and gas from the international oil companies/investors through the open competitive bidding. Neither Government of United Kingdom (U.K.) nor companies owned by it have bid in the NELP-II.

#### **Status of Export Industry to Shipping**

6025. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant status of Export Industry to Shipping;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued to the Shipping Industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not rise.

#### **Meeting of State Textile Ministers**

6026. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Textile Ministers was held in Delhi to discuss the issues confronting the textile industry;

(b) whether this meeting was convened especially in the wake of recent turmoil in the textile industry;

(c) if so, the main issues discussed in the meeting alongwith the names of participating States;

(d) whether any composite view came up in the meeting to avoid the problems arising due to WTO agreement;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any strategy for Tenth Five Year Plan was also discussed in the meeting; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (g) A conference of States/UT Ministers incharge of Textiles was held on 10th April, 2001 to discuss issues important for the effective implementation of National Textile Policy, 2000 and for preparing the industry for global competition and for the post MFA challenges. The Representatives from all the States and Union Territories attended the conference except Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

The discussion centered around the Agenda for the meeting, which included items regarding implementation of programmes and taking of decisions relating to Apparels, Powerlooms, Silk, Jute Handicrafts and Handloom Sectors. The Conference adopted a set of

recommendations for taking action on matters raised in the Agenda that would lead to a strengthening of the Industry. It was *inter-alia* resolved in the conference that the Central Government as well as Governments of States and Union Territory Administrations would make concerted efforts to develop all segments of textile industry and enable them to realise their full potential. No specific decision was taken regarding the strategy for the Tenth Five Year Plan; however, programmes and initiatives taken in the current year are likely to be carried into the Tenth Plan.

#### **Manipulation in Weight of Parcel at Delhi Railway Station**

6027. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 32 Weight Inspector posted against sanctioned strength of 8 only at Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether Weight Inspector posted at Delhi Railway Station are manipulating in weight of parcel/cargo to give undue favour to the private contractors;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials;

(e) whether break vans have been given on hired basis to the private contractors on Magazine rate @ Rs. 3/- per kg; and

(f) if so, the loss suffered every day by the Railways on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no such post of Weight Inspector at Delhi Railway Station.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) To give thrust to parcel traffic, it has been decided to lease out brakevans of all passenger carrying trains. Further, to prevent empty running of brakevans where occupation is below 25% of space, Zonal Railways have been empowered to quote rates according to market conditions. The lowering of rates has been permitted to attract traffic in such trans where brakevans are running empty and there is no loss involved.

**Appointment of Adhoc Judges**

6028. DR. V. SAROJA:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint adhoc judges or engage retired judges and start mobile courts/ evening courts to reduce the pending cases in various courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 (c) On the specific recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the Central Government have decided to set up 1734 additional courts in the country in the Subordinate Judiciary. These courts are expected to serve as fast track courts, and dispose of, on priority, long pending sessions and other cases, priority being given to cases involving undertrials in jails.

The scheme envisages appointment of *ad-hoc* Sessions Judges from amongst the retired District/ Additional district and Sessions Judges to deal with the pending sessions cases in district/subordinate courts.

Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the respective High Courts and the State Governments under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the matter is under the consideration of High Courts and State Governments.

The proposal to introduce double shift in courts including evening courts is receiving consideration alongwith many other suggestions to reduce delays in the legal system. Views of all the High Courts/State Governments were sought. None of the High Courts/State Governments who have replied so far have supported the proposal.

Most of the State Governments have appointed Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and mobile courts for the disposal of petty offences including traffic cases. So far about 774 Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates have been appointed in various States/UTs.

**Earning of Metro Railways**

6029. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether earnings from Metro Railways in the country has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of earnings made during each of the last three years;

(c) the earnings of Railways from suburban and non-suburban passengers during the last three years, separately;

(d) whether there is an increase in the number of passengers using Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Sir. The earnings from Metro Railway, Kolkata during the last three years is as under:—

	(Rs. in crore)	
1997-1998	—	19.65
1998-1999	—	24.16
1999-2000	—	26.93

(c) The earnings of Railways from suburban and non-suburban passengers during the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)		
	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Suburban	931.16	1023.10	1069.88
Non-Suburban	6642.02	7526.85	8511.19

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The number of passengers using Railways during the last three years is as under:

Year	Number of Passengers (in Million)
1997-1998	4417.52
1998-1999	4468.51
1999-2000	4640.71



**CAG Report on on-going Projects**

6030. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the points raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General in their report No. 9 of 2000 (Railways) regarding on-going works/projects of Railways and the reaction of the Railways thereon; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the projects costing over Rs. 39,300 crore being reflected in the white paper prepared by them in July 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following main points were raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General in their report No. 9 of 2000 (Railways) regarding on-going works/projects of Railways and the reaction of the Railways:—

- (i) While only 322 works were completed during 1992-93 to 1996-97, a fresh shelf of 1847 new works, costing nearly Rs. 22900 crores, was created during the period.
- (ii) Many of these works had to be frozen/slowed down, largely due to shortage of funds.
- (iii) Railways often were starting work under urgency certificate (32 out of these 235, estimated cost Rs. 2455 crores) when there was no urgency. This was only to avoid prior sanction.
- (iv) A large percentage of these works was financially not viable.
- (v) Overall, there was substantial under provisioning leading to slow execution.
- (vi) Railways did not make adequate provision even for the standard track renewal works which were to be undertaken year to year.

(b) Railways have a huge shelf of New Line and Gauge Conversion projects viz. Rs. 22000 Crores and Rs 9000 Crores respectively. At the present rate of funding it will take several decades to complete these projects. This shelf of projects also results in thin spread of resources.

In order to tide over these problems, Railways have prioritised all New Line and Gauge Conversion projects on the basis of their physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability. This prioritisation will assist in making the fund allocation exercise more focused.

In order to augment the resource base, which is expected to result in more effective implementation of projects, Railways have taken the following steps:—

- (i) Obtain increased Budgetary Support from the General Exchequer.
- (ii) Tap non-traditional sources of revenue, e.g. commercial utilization of land, leasing of right of way for laying Optical Fibre Cables, commercial publicity, etc.
- (iii) Arrange financial participation of State Governments/Private Sector organizations for implementation of specific projects.

**Merger of NHPC with NTPC**

6031. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the merger of National Hydro-Power Corporation (NHPC) with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, do not arise.

**Relief Fund from Agency**

6032. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been observing on the relief funds collected by various agencies across the country for the Orissa Cyclone Relief, as well as for the recent Gujarat earthquake relief fund;

(b) if so, the details of the funds deposited/handed over by the agencies and particularly the names of such agencies which contributed more than Rs. 50 lakhs for the purpose;

(c) whether all the amount collected so far have actually reached the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) Contributions/donations in the wake of natural calamities are generally received in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNF) and Chief Minister's Relief Fund of the concerned States. There is, however, no legal bar for people to donate for lawful causes to organisations/agencies of their choice. List of contributors/donations made by various organisations/agencies is exhaustive and is not maintained.

#### **Animal Population**

6033. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the animal population domestic and wild in the country, State-wise;

(b) the ratio between population and human population in the country;

(c) the ideal ratio and availability of food/fodder for the animals;

(d) whether the Government lacks enough food and pasturing area for the animals;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Information about animal population based on Livestock Census, 1992 is given in Statement-I enclosed. The ratio between domestic animal population and human population is also given at Annexure-I. Information about wild animal population is at statement-II attached.

(c) The ideal ratio between concentrate and fodder for Animal is 1:3. The availability of the green and dry fodder is 574 and 399 million tonnes against the requirement of 744.73 and 583.62 million tonnes respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The pasturing area for the animals is getting reduced due to encroachment of pasture land for cultivation of various crops for human food, construction of houses for residence, industrial areas, etc.

#### **Statement I**

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Livestock Census 1992 Th Nos.	Human Population Census 1991 Nos.	No. of Livestock Population per 1000 human Population Nos.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32911	66508008	495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	842	864558	974
3.	Assam	16062	22414322	717
4.	Bihar	47930	86374465	555
5.	Gujarat	18598	41309582	450
6.	Goa	243	1169793	208
7.	Haryana	9143	16463648	555
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5106	5170877	987
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8703	7718700	1128
10.	Karnataka	29568	44977201	657
11.	Kerala	5834	29098518	200
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46744	66181170	706
13.	Maharashtra	36404	789377187	461

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Manipur	1290	1837149	702
15.	Meghalaya	1182	1774778	666
16.	Mizoram	203	689756	294
17.	Nagaland	1074	1209546	888
18.	Orissa	22742	31659736	718
19.	Punjab	10222	20281969	504
20.	Rajasthan	48441	44005990	1101
21.	Sikkim	385	406457	947
22.	Tamil Nadu	25007	55858946	448
23.	Tripura	1591	2757205	577
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64799	139112287	466
25.	West Bengal	35090	68077965	515
<i>Union Territories</i>				
26.	A&N Island	154	280661	549
27.	Chandigarh	31	642015	98
28.	D&N Haveli	71	138477	513
29.	Delhi	315	9420644	33
30.	Lakshadweep	20	51707	387
31.	Pondicherry	142	807785	176
32.	Daman & Diu	13	101586	128
Total		470860	846302688	556

**Statement***Population Census of Important Wild Animals State-wise Details*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Tiger	Leopard	Lion	Elephant	Rihino	Sanghar	Wild Ass
		1997	1997	2000	1997	1998-1999	1997	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	171	138	Nil	57	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	180	98*	Nil	2102	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	458	246*	Nil	5312	1684	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	103	203*	Nil	618	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	6	25	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	1	832	310-320	Nil	Nil	Nil	3000 App.
7.	Haryana*	Nil	25*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh*	Nil	821*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Karnataka*	350	Nil	Nil	6088	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Kerala	73	16*	Nil	5737	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	M.P./Chattisgarh	927	1851	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	257	431	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	147	Nil
14.	Meghalaya	63	Nil	Nil	1840	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Mizoram	12	28	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Nagaland*	83	Nil	Nil	147	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Orissa	194	422	Nil	1827	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	58	474	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Sikkim*	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Tamil Nadu	62	110	Nil	2971	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Tripura*	Nil	18*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	U.P./Uttaranchal	475	1412	Nil	1984	13	Nil	Nil
23.	West Bengal	361	108*	Nil	327	120	Nil	Nil
24.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		3836	7273	310-320	29010	1817	147	3000

\*1993 Census

**NRIs Encouragement in Power Sector**

6034. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to attract NRIs and encourage them to invest in India in the field of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government consider to follow the tactics of Japan and China in the matter of production of power; and

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to seek collaboration with foreign countries in the field of infrastructure and other development projects in India in lieu of hiring our technical professionals to achieve socio-economic party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the power sector announced in October, 1991, private sector units can set up thermal projects—coal/lignite or gas based, hydel projects and wind/solar energy projects of any size. As per the policy, upto 100% foreign equity participation can be permitted for projects set up by foreign investors. Some of the measures taken towards implementation of the policy area as under:—

- Return of upto 16% on equity (paid up and subscribed) at normative levels of operation i.e. 68.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF) has been allowed for generating companies in the private sector. For generation beyond this level, incentive at negotiated rates subject to a ceiling of 0.7% of equity (paid up and subscribed), for each percentage point increase in PLF is allowed.
- Minimizing the role of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects accordingly projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution have been permitted foreign equity participation upto 100% on the automatic approval route without any limit.
- Minimizing the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of private power projects by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- Raising the capital cost limit upto which techno-economic clearance (TEC) of CEA is not required.
- Close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and resolve the last mile problems in achieving financial closure.
- Enacting the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to fix tariffs in an objective and transparent manner.

- Delegating more powers to State Governments for environmental clearance.
- Enacting the Electricity Laws Amendment Act, 1998 to make transmission a distinct activity to enable private sector investment in transmission.
- A policy was initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro electric potential at faster pace, increase private investment and promote small and mini hydel projects.
- The development of mega power projects at mine pitheads and coastal locations both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions has been encouraged.

(c) and (d) The private power policy has been modified from time to time on the basis of experience gained over the years and interaction with Indian as well as foreign companies, Government agencies and financial institutions, etc. Presently, there is no separate proposal to follow the policies of Japan and China in the matter of production of power. While Government is in favour of collaboration with foreign countries in the field of infrastructure, this will be with the full involvement and association of our technical professionals.

#### **Eviction of Hawkers from Railway Stations**

6035. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are evicting a large number of hawkers at various railway stations in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against such eviction by Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to rehabilitate the evicted vendors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To eradicate the nuisance of unauthorized hawkers causing inconvenience to the passengers, regular drives are being conducted against them in co-ordination with Commercial Staff and Government Railway Police Personnel. During the year 2000, 54019 persons were prosecuted U/s 144 of the Railways Act, 1989 for unauthorized hawking and an amount of Rs. 18704678/- was realised as fine.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A few complaints have been received against such eviction. The complaints generally pertain to the action taken by the RPF and GRP to evict unauthorised hawkers.

(e) Unauthorised hawking is an offence under the provision of Section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989 and hence the question of rehabilitation of the evicted vendors does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Support Price of Crops

6036. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the whole sale prices of the agricultural produce is less than its production cost in the country thereby adversely affecting the farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers and agricultural industry as a whole;

(b) if so, the measures taken proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether an assessment has been made of the profits to be earned by the agriculture sector by constantly following the policy of increasing the support price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Wholesale prices of agricultural produce are generally higher than its cost of production. However, in

order to safeguard the interests of farmers, the Government has been taking necessary steps like (i) implementation of Minimum Support Prices Scheme (ii) implementation of Market Intervention Scheme covering horticultural and other minor products on the specific requests made by State Governments, and (iii) using the instruments of trade with a view to discourage imports and encourage exports.

(c) and (d) The Government is compiling Indices of Terms of Trade between Agricultural and Non-agricultural Sectors based on the methodology recommended by the Task Force on Term of Trade. These Indices measure the relative change in the prices received by the farmers for the produce sold by them in relation to the change in prices paid by them for the commodities purchased for final consumption, intermediate consumption and capital formation. The terms of trade have been favourable to Agriculture Sector as indicated below by the indices of terms of trade since 1990-91.

(Base: Triennium Ending 1990-1991 = 100)

Year	Indices
1990-1991	101.9
1991-1992	105.6
1992-1993	103.9
1993-1994	103.6
1994-1995	106.6
1995-1996	105.3
1996-1997	103.1
1997-1998	105.6
1998-1999	105.2
1999-2000 (Prov.)	104.2

#### Scheme for Production of Fodder

6037. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented in Bihar to increase production of fodder in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the success of this scheme in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Union Government and the State Government to increase the production of fodder in the State especially in the fodder scarce areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Feed and Fodder Development is sanctioned by the Central Government on receipt of specific proposals from the the State Governments. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar.

#### **Minister's Visit**

6038. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries visited by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture during 2000-2001;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the details of agreements entered into with these countries relating to agriculture during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Agriculture Minister led the Indian delegation to Japan for participation in the 25th FAO Regional Conference held during 31-8-2000 to 1-9-2000.

(b) Rs. 1,26,750/- (Approx.) was incurred on his visit.

(c) No Agreement was signed. As India is founder member of FAO, participation in this Conference was obligatory.

[English]

#### **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

6039. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agriculture Research Institute has taken some research work to counter the affect of Quinquennial Review Teams (QRT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given specific instructions to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in this regard to impart know how do research conducted by IARI, and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the report of the Quinquennial Review Team (QRT), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) have taken up various research works for increasing the productivity of major crops including fine and coarse grains, grain legumes, oilseeds, fruits and flowers and vegetables; application of biotechnology for identification characterization and isolation of genes of economic importance related to biotic and abiotic stress; resource management; post-harvest technology and other policy issues.

(c) and (d) The Krishi Vigyan Kendra located at Sikohpur (Gurgaon), Haryana, took up a number of on-farm trials and frontline demonstrations on various strategies of increasing the productivity of crops including comparative advantage of various crop rotations, productivity of improved varieties and performance of pest control measures.

[Translation]

#### **Subsidy**

6040. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to remove subsidy on all necessary items relating to agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Imbalance in Coop. Credit Structure**

6041. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an imbalance of Rs. 311 crores and accumulated loss of about Rs. 850 crores in the integrated cooperative credit structure of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Union Government propose to set up a Cooperative Rehabilitation Development Fund to assist banks on the cooperative sector at the various levels;

(d) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has requested to provide fund out of the Rehabilitation Fund to extinguish the entire accumulated loss and imbalance amounting to Rs. 1161 crores; and

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

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

(b) As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, there is an imbalance of about Rs. 311 crores and accumulated loss of about Rs. 850 crores in the integrated cooperative credit structure of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Task Force constituted by the Government of India to study the functioning of the Cooperative Credit System and suggest measures for its strengthening has recommended for establishment of a Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund in NABARD.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. In order to facilitate consensus, a meeting of the State Cooperation Ministers, Cooperation Secretaries etc. has since been convened by the Ministry of Finance. The State Government has also been apprised of the position in this regard.

#### **Cooperative Movement**

6042. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to strengthen the cooperative movement in agriculture sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Cooperation is a State subject under entry number 32

of the State List. However, the Government of India has been implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to strengthen the Cooperative Movement including agriculture sector in the country. The Government of India has set up a National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to promote cooperatives in the country. The Government of India is providing 100% financial grant to National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) for conducting cooperative training programmes in the country and to National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for implementation of the special component for intensification of cooperative education and 20% grant for other approved activities like General Cooperative Education programmes, education programmes for women etc. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is finalising a National Policy on Cooperatives in consultation with State Governments. Under this Policy, cooperatives would be provided with the necessary autonomy to make them self-reliant and democratically managed institutions accountable to their members. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperative has introduced Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000 in Parliament in the month of November, 2000 to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by a new legislation in order to provide greater functional autonomy and induce professionalism in the Management of the cooperative societies.

The Government of India is actively considering a Scheme of revitalisation of the cooperative credit structure so as to revamp and recapitalise the credit societies to meet the Agricultural Credit requirements more effectively.

#### **New Variety of Rice**

6043. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to produce new variety of rice;

(b) whether any programme has been launched for the purpose, particularly in collaboration of Indo-Swiss;

(c) if so, the details of that programme; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Developing new high yielding improved varieties of rice is an ongoing continuous programme and also high priority research area.



(b) A joint Indo-Swiss Collaborative proposal for transferring the beta carotene content from Japonica rice to Indica rices is under consideration of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

(c) and (d) Department of Biotechnology has already identified Indian Institutions to be involved in this programme. The project would involve back crossing and transfer of gene encoding beta carotene—a precursor of vitamin-A. The rice lines finally developed will be tested for their toxicity, allergenicity and nutritional impact as well as other agronomic parameters after requisite clearances before it is made available for general cultivation.

[Translation]

#### **False Evidence**

6044. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some innocent persons are punished and many guilty persons are saved in the courts on the basis of false evidence;

(b) whether a number of persons are available in the court premises itself for giving false evidence and lawyers have links with them;

(c) if so, the provisions made by the Government for preventing such false evidences; and

(d) the number of persons against whom action has been taken for giving false evidence during the last two years, State-wise?

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]

#### **Privatisation of Chennai Port Container Terminal**

6045. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai Port Container Terminal is earning a net profit of about 56 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons for privatisation of Chennai Port Container Terminal;

(c) whether tenders were not called for privatisation and a private company namely American Present Line has been introduced by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding impact of privatisation on its employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Chennai Port Container Terminal is currently earning an operating surplus (operating income minus operating expenditure) of Rs. 56.00 crores.

(b) The development and management of the Chennai Container Terminal is proposed to be assigned to M/s P&O Australia Ports Pvt. Ltd. on the following considerations:

- (i) The equipment have outlived their utility and hence need replacement requiring investment to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees from the internal resources of the port. The prospective licensee is required to invest US\$ 100 million towards provision of additional equipment and other infrastructural facilities to handle higher volume of containers.
- (ii) The trade continue to demand calling on of main line vessels at Chennai Port to eliminate transshipment cost in terms of foreign exchange and reduction in transit time to meet export and import obligations. The privatisation proposal envisages bringing in of main line vessels by the licensee within a period of three years with a fixed percentage of non-transshipment traffic.
- (iii) The port would earn 37.128% of the gross revenue of the prospective licensee of the terminal without incurring any operating expenditure. In addition, the port would be realizing port dues, berth hire charges and land lease charges. An upfront fee of Rs. 10 crores is also payable by the licensee before taking over the facility.

(c) and (d) Under the policy private sector participation in port sector which *inter-alia* provides for consideration of Innovative (Unsolicited) proposals also for private sector participation for development and operation of port facilities, Government invited proposals from top world

class container terminal developers/operators for the development and management of the existing container terminal at Chennai Port. Responses were received from M/s. P&O Australia Ports Pvt. Ltd. Australia, M/s. Port of Singapore Authority, Singapore and M/s. Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd., Hong Kong. The matter was further considered by the Government and it was decided to go ahead with the proposal as a 'Specialised Solution' in preference to the open tender route. With a view to safeguarding the interests of the Port, a set of non-negotiable terms and conditions and a package of guarantees to be provided by the bidder were finalised and issued to the bidders which included the minimum traffic to be guaranteed by the operator over the licence period of 30 years, commitment to bring in mainline vessels within three years of operation, the minimum level of investments to be made, taking over of the existing terminal along with the equipment and the labour, replacement of the existing equipment with new ones at appropriate time etc. In response, two parties viz. M/s. P&O Australia Ports Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd., submitted their revised financial bids.

The final criterion for selection of the bidder was the highest percentage of gross revenue from operation of the project that would be shared with the Port Trust. Of the final bids received from the two bidders, viz., M/s P&O Australia Ports Pvt. Ltd., and M/s. Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd., the offer of M/s. P&O Ports was more attractive as they had offered 37.128% of the gross revenue and, therefore, the Government accepted the offer of M/s. P&O Ports and an acceptance letter has been issued to them on 4.7.2000.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Development of Coastal Social Infrastructure/Harbours**

6046. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any projects/proposals for the integrated development of coastal social infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or 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) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has submitted the following proposals for development of infrastructure facilities in the State:

#### *I. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major & Minor Ports*

- (i) Project proposal for development of a fishing harbours at Okha in Jamnagar district and Dholai in Valsad district.

#### *II. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Fishermen Welfare*

- (i) Proposal for construction of 847 fishermen houses, 29 tubewell and 4 community halls in 25 villages at a total cost of Rs. 308.7 lakhs.

(c) The action taken by Government of India on these proposals is as follows:

#### *I. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major & Minor Ports.*

The proposals submitted by Government of Gujarat for construction of fishing harbours at Okha and Dholai are not complete. Therefore the State Government have been asked to furnish certain additional information, such as, (i) availability of necessary land with the concerned Department

of the State Government for development of the proposed fishing harbours at Okha and Dholai, (ii) receipt of environmental clearance from the competent authority (iii) availability of necessary budgetary provisions in the State Budget to share 50% capital cost of the projects and (iv) the detailed time schedule for completion of the projects.

II. *Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Fishermen Welfare*

The proposal of Government of Gujarat for construction of 847 fishermen houses, 29 tubewells and 4 community halls in 25 villages at a total cost of Rs. 308.7 lakhs has been approved by Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Fishermen Welfare and a sum of Rs. 154.35 lakhs has already been released.

**Seminar on Agricultural Policy**

6047. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on agricultural policy reforms has been organised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective for organising the said seminar;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to absorb more manpower in agriculture sector; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of agricultural infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is implementing various Central and Centrally sponsored schemes for

enhancing of production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors. New initiatives taken recently are given 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.
- Operationalization 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 Kisan 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 a facilitative climate for agriculture exports, *inter alia*, through establishment of agri-exports zones.
- Reforms in seeds sector legislation and procedures to provide a facilitative climate for investment, besides enhancing seed replacement.

Apart from the above, 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) 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% in the current year.
- National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas. In addition, Watershed Development Fund has been created with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore.
- Capital Subsidy Scheme for construction, modernisation and expansion of storages and cold storages.

[English]

12.00 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1999-2000 within stipulated period of 9 months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3653/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3654/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3655/2001]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3656/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3657/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3658/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3659/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-1999.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-1999 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3660/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1997-1998.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1997-1998 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3661/2001]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3662/2001]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3663/2001]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3664/2001]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1998-1999

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3665/2001]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1998-1999 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-1997.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-1997 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Seven Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3666/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Brief of Activities (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3667/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

- (1) The Weightment of Consignment (in Wagon-load or Train load) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 15(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2001.
- (2) The Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of Fare) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 145(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3668/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
  - (i) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Leave Travel Concession) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. A-27011/1/97-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001.
  - (ii) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Classification, Control and Appeal) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. C-19011/2/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2001.
  - (iii) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Temporary Service) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. A-30012/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2001.
  - (iv) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Conduct) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. C-19011/3/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2001.
  - (v) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Livery) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. A-22011/1/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2001.
  - (vi) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Leave) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. A-24011/1/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2001.
  - (vii) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Recruitment to Group 'C' and 'D' Posts) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.No. 12018/3/97-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2001.
  - (viii) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Recruitment to Group 'B' Posts) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No., F.No. A-12018/2/97-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2001.
  - (ix) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.No. A-27011/1/97-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2001.

- (x) G.S.R. 925(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Medical Attendance) Second Amendment Regulations, 2000.
  - (xi) G.S.R. 926(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
  - (xii) G.S.R. 14(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Grant of Advances for building of Houses) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
  - (xiii) G.S.R. 10(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Retirement) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.
  - (xiv) G.S.R. 19(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Appointments Promotions etc. (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.
  - (xv) G.S.R. 20(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
  - (xvi) G.S.R. 22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2001 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees' (Retirement) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001.
  - (xvii) G.S.R. 27(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
  - (xviii) G.S.R. 50(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-3669/2001]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
    - (i) G.S.R. 949(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000 containing Corrigendum to the Mormugao Port Employees (Educational Assistance) Regulations, 2000
    - (ii) G.S.R. 2(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2001 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 233 (E) dated the 8th March, 2000.
    - (iii) G.S.R. 21(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2001 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 6 (E) dated the 1st January, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3670/2001]
  - (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
    - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.
    - (ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
  - (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
 

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3671/2001]
  - (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1999-2000.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1999-2000.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
 

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3672/2001]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Port Trust for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calcutta Port Trust for the year 1999-2000.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3673/2001]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust for the year 1999-2000.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3674/2001]

- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3675/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3676/2001]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3677/2001]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradeep Port Trust for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradeep Port Trust for the year 1999-2000.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3678/2001]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

## MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of the rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2001 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April, 2001 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02 1/2 hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE Statements

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the Statement showing further followup action taken on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the following Reports:

- (1) 4th Report of PAC (12th Lok Sabha) on "Heavy Loss arising from joint venture operation."
- (2) 8th Report of PAC (12th Lok Sabha) on "Assessment of Religious & Charitable Trusts".



12.03 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS Seventy Fourth Report

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa), Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of Seventy Fourth Report on the Constitution (91st Amendment) Bill, 2000.

### Evidence

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Yashwant Sinha will make a statement.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, women have been sold in Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)* Nine Girls have been sold in Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Rajasthan is not taking any action thereon...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak after the statement.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, the Rajasthan Government is not doing anything...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not zero hour.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak after the statement.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a conspiracy to discredit the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Raids on Customs Officials

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): First, raids on premises of officers in connection with smuggling by Uzbek Nationals through the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

On 28.08.2000, an Uzbek woman was intercepted at IGI Airport, New Delhi, while attempting to clear Chinese Silk without declaring them to Customs Authorities. This lady had made 54 trips to India during the period July 1999 to August 2000. The Goods were seized under the Customs Act and the passenger was arrested and remanded to custody by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. Her bail application was rejected by the

*[English]*

12.04 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

### Forty-eighth Report

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty-Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport & Tourism on "Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Tourism".

### Forty-ninth Report

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Forty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport & Tourism on "Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Tourism".

### Fiftieth Report

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA (Raebareli): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fiftieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport & Tourism on "Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation".

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on 14th September, 2000, against which she filed an appeal before the Additional Session Judge. The Additional Sessions Judge, while allowing the appeal and granting bail, observed that there was a link with the Customs officials and that the CBI should investigate the role of the Customs Officials. The Commissioner of Customs preferred an appeal against the orders of the Additional Sessions Judge to the Delhi High Court, challenging grant of bail. In the meanwhile, she was detained under COFEPOSA Act and the matter was investigated in detail by the Director General of Revenue Intelligence and Director General (Vigilance) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs. On the basis of the findings, 33 officers were suspended during February 2001, which included six Group 'A' officers. It was also decided to refer the matter to the CBI. The Department informed the High court of this decision, when the matter came up for hearing in February, 2001 and referred the matter to CBI for investigation on 16th February, 2001. The CBI have registered a case against 48 officers and four private persons on 30.03.2001, and conducted searches on the premises of these officers on 31.03.2001. During raids, some cash, investments and property documents were recovered. None of the officers has been arrested by the CBI so far. The matter is under investigation by the CBI.

Second, raids on premises of former Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs.

The Central Bureau of Investigation registered a case against Shri B.P. Verma, former Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, on 30.03.2001 on the basis of source information on the allegation that, during the period from November, 2000 to March 2001, Shri B.P. Verma abused his official position and showed favour to M/s. A.K. Enterprises, Chennai in the matter of export of rags, declared as garments by the above mentioned firm, that he influenced his subordinate offices to enable the firm to draw false duty drawbacks, and that for this purpose, he obtained gratifications/considerations through his son. Consequent on the registration of the case, searches were conducted at the official as well as residential premises of Shri Verma on 31.3.2001. CBI has reported that during the course of searches, several incriminating documents were seized. The scrutiny of these documents has revealed that Shri Verma is in possession of assets in his own name, in the name of his family members, as well as *benami*, which are *prima facie* disproportionate to his known sources of income. Accordingly, another case for possessing assets

disproportionate to his known sources of income was also registered against him on 4.4.2001. Shri Verma was arrested by the CBI on 1st April, 2001 and remanded to custody. He was placed under suspension with effect from the date of his arrest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): How was Shri Verma in the first place appointed Chairman? The Central Vigilance Commissioner, Shri Vittal, opposed it, and the Finance Minister was responsible for the appointment of the Chairperson.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. Can I have the attention of the Finance Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Every time, you are making it as a practice. Let us not create new precedents.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, there is a well-established rule in the House.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that the subject matter of the Statement is a very serious one. A number of questions arise from it.

Sir, at some stage we would like to have a much wider discussion on this particular matter...*(Interruptions)* Sir, with your permission, at some stage, we would like to have a wider discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yashwant Sinha, his suggestion is that since it is a very important matter, would the Minister agree for a discussion on this matter?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was trying to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Finance Minister, all I am saying is that the subject matter of your statement is a very serious matter and a number of questions arise from it. I was seeking the permission of the hon. Speaker if at some stage we could have a much wider discussion on this matter so that we could go into the matter in greater detail...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Hon. Speaker. The Minister in Bihar has been threatened to life. They barged into the house of Minister and threatened him to kill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will be called. Please resume your seat for a minute.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, I would like to supplement the comments of my colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the manner in which Shri B.P. Verma was appointed the Chairman in utter contravention of the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commissioner...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No clarifications please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, how did the Finance Minister recommend...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Reddy, the Finance Minister is going to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we would like to know the facts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Finance Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia is asking for a discussion on this subject at any time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am entirely in your hands as far as a discussion on this issue is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* I will have absolutely no objection if the House were to decide, under your guidance, to take up the matter for a discussion...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that famine conditions prevail in Rajasthan for the last three years. The Union

Government has given a lot of assistance to the State Government during the last two years but the condition at present is such that relief works have not been started as yet and people have started migrating from there *(Interruptions)* Recently in Kothia village some young girls between the age group of 12 to 18 years were sold by their parents as they were facing starvation. Girls are being sold in Rajasthan almost everyday due to starvation. There could be nothing more shameful than this...*(Interruptions)*

This is my request through you that the State Government Government should be dismissed and the Chief Minister should be summoned here and pressurised. There are severe famine conditions in Rajasthan. The people are in distress in Rajasthan due to famine. The centre gave assistance to the tune of Rs. 500 crore to the Rajasthan Government even last year and the State Government...*(Interruptions)* Even this time, one lakh tonnes of wheat and grant to the tune of Rs. 85 crore was given. It is highly shameful act to sell girls. It is a disgrace for our society...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. You have raised the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You also take you seat. You will be called, please take your seat first...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will be called, please take your seat, first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bherulal Meena, what is your submission?

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing of this sort has happened, these people want to discredit the State Government...*(Interruptions)* Famine

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\* Not recorded.

[Shri Bherulal Meena]

relief work is being carried out there, I have seen it myself...*(Interruptions)* whatever he has said about the sale of girls is far from truth...*(Interruptions)* nothing of this sort has happened...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me as well *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please resume your seat. How can I call everybody like this?

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Let the lady Member be given chance, Sir!

MR. SPEAKER: You need not recommend her name. Please take your seat.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: A lady is a lady, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not giving any chance to the ladies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue which I wish to raise today, has already been raised by me twice in this House.

Stalemate results in the House when it is felt that the Government are not making any positive efforts to resolve the problems of the people. There are 3,23,915 public health workers in the country. In 1977 one public health worker was deputed per thousand people and he used to get Rs. 50 as monthly honorarium. Even after 24 years he is getting the same honorarium and in some States not even that is being given. Workers of Public Health Workers' Organisation have been constantly meeting the Government and making representations. They have been sitting on 'dharna' at Jantar Mantar in Delhi for the last four months and have been on fast unto death for 11 days. They have also courted arrests. Whatever measures for registering protest one could take in a democracy, they have taken them all. The Government have asked them to withdraw their two writ petitions filed by them in the High Court only then it would consider their demand. These people withdrew their petitions. When Indra Kumar Gujaral ji was the

Prime Minister he had constituted an expert Committee in this regard. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government. This is a very serious issue. Despite all this, the Government is not making positive efforts in regard to those people. I have met the Union Minister of Health several times. He says the Minister of Finance is not cooperating. It is high time that Government must make a positive effort today on this issue as the matter has already been badly delayed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need your protection on this issue. My request to you is that you may kindly summon the Ministers of Health and the Minister of Finance to your Chamber to consider this question...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Government. Please hear me first. This matter has been raised by the hon. Member two-three times.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I would submit that many important issues are raised in the 'zero hours'. I can communicate this to the concerned Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter have been raised by hon. Member two-three times in the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I agree, Sir, but my request to you with all humility is that you allow some kind of a discussion on that when the Minister can be present...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the matter directly concerns the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharaganj, U.P.): This question has been discussed several times in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: When I am asking the Government why are you disturbing.

[English]

It seems you do not want any reply from the Government. I am asking the Government and you are disturbing.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Its reply is not coming.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? You do not know how to behave in the House. I am asking the Government whether anything can be done in this regard?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, this is relating to the pending arrears of salaries to the Central health workers. It seems, there are some arrears.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I am not in a position to respond off-the-cuff. I can only promise that I would take a copy of the statement, which the hon. Member has made and I will respond him and send a copy to you...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be called. He has given notice for adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call your name too. He has given a notice of adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you all. If you disturb then it will be difficult to work.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I am obeying your orders.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got 15 notices. You should not disturb the chair.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, in the Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh, at the Yerraguntla railway station, *rail roko* is being organised yesterday, today and tomorrow...(Interruptions) This is regarding the sanctioned work for Nandyal-Yerraguntla railway line work. At Nandyal, there has been a *rail roko* agitation...(Interruptions) At Yerraguntla railway station, in the hot sun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this agitation has been going on yesterday. There will be *rail roko* today and tomorrow also. All the district MLAs along with the representatives of farmers and traders have been participating in this *rail roko*....(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have also given notice....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Last month, the GM, South-Central Railway assured in a meeting with Members of Parliament at the division level that work would be taken up in September-October. This Yerraguntla-Nandyal new railway line was sanctioned during Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's tenure as Prime Minister and the land acquisition part is also completed. However, works have not yet been taken up. The previous Minister of Railways assured that the civil works would be started as soon as the land acquisition part is completed. Now that the land acquisition part is completed in Cuddapah district, we demand the Government to take up work immediately.

Only a nominal amount has been provided for this sanctioned work. We request the Government to provide at least Rs. 20 crore to start the civil works immediately. Time-consuming works like building a railway bridge across the River Pennar have to be started immediately. I request the hon. Minister of Railways through you to assure on the floor of the House that he would provide the necessary budget and start the civil works. All the MLAs in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh are presently participating in the *rail roko* agitation at Yerraguntla railway station in the South-Central Railway. I therefore request the hon. Minister to assure on the floor of this House that necessary budget for this work would be provided and that the civil works would be started immediately. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to a serious agitation going on in Cuddapah district, which is represented by him. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways through you to take serious notice of it and have it attended to...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, he can meet me and I will look into the matter....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, all the important matters are raised during Zero Hour and they are all listed. Your name is also in the list, at no. 15, which is the last one. I will call you. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the financial condition of the most of the families belonging to tribal community depends on agriculture. The situation of drought for three consecutive years in Rajasthan has forced these people to die of starvation. By taking advantage of their helplessness, rich persons have purchased daughters of Tribals and driven them to abominable State. For instance, nine girls were sold in Patarpari village under Kotla Gram Panchayat Samiti. It is a grave situation. If this situation is not controlled then the social fabric and family structure of tribal community will be destroyed. In addition they are also facing the fury of famine. The Government of Rajasthan is not providing any kind of Job opportunity to deal with the situation of drought. Such a situation has rendered these families helpless. I would present the pathetic story of the families of those nine girls that has appeared in the newspaper but I want to say through you that voluntary organisations are also involved in this abominable deed. A lot of money is being spent for providing the rights to Tribals and for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and it is claimed that those voluntary Organisations are involved in their upliftment but these voluntary organisations are involved in bungling. Through those voluntary organisations...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kriplani, I have allowed her. Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. Shri Meena, I will give you the floor after her submission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kriplani, you are again creating problems.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Meena, I will call you later. How many times should I tell you? Since the matter belongs to your constituency, I will give you the floor.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Sir, I belong to Tribal community. Voluntary Organisations are dissimulating about the upliftment of Tribal families. I want justice through you. The Rajasthan Government consider them as their pocketed vote bank, voluntary organisations are committing a heinous crime against these Tribal families. Tribals should be emancipated and justice should be done to them as they have been victimised by the Rajasthan Government and voluntary organisations. The statement published in newspapers and magazines is not mine. ...(Interruptions) Heinous crimes are being perpetrated against women, girls and these families and I appeal to you for justice...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: This matter is pertaining to my constituency and I have visited there. I have inspected atleast 15 places. At each place 40-40, 50-50 and 100-100 workers are working. Therefore, the question of starvation does not arise. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. It is a matter pertaining to his constituency. Let him make his point. Why are you interrupting him?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: As far as this matter is concerned. Gujarat and Rajasthan have common border and the people of border areas have matrimonial alliances with each other. It is in their tradition to have such relations. ...(Interruptions) Another thing is the custom of my village is a bit different. Father of bridegroom gives money to the father of bride for marriage. This is the custom there and it has become a tradition. These people are raising this issue here only for their political mileage...(Interruptions) If somebody has written something in a newspaper then she is highlighting it here but nothing of that sort has happened there as being claimed by them.

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these BJP persons are trying to defame Tribals and they had made wrong statements in this regard yesterday also.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ever since this Government came to power, adverse remarks are being entered in the C. Rs. of the officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are not being offered executive posts and they are suspended on false allegations. There was an officer named Mathew Thomas not to Tehelka fame but some other Mathew. He belonged to the Scheduled caste and he was discharging his duties well. He has been placed under suspension on some charges. In this manner injustice is being done against the SCs and STs officers. This Government make tall claims that we are fully cooperating with the officers belonging to SCs and STs categories but adverse entries are made in the records of officers belonging to minority community and they are suspended. Whether this Government have a good record? Our officers belonging to SCs and STs categories are being defamed like this. Now they should get justice and if they are not given the justice then we are ready for struggle against this Government. Our officers should get protection.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a project for gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda rail line under the North eastern Railways was approved in the year 1996. For this purpose, the Railways Ministry had released Rs. One lakh as a token money. The then Railways Minister hon. Mamata Banerjee has earmarked Rs. One crore for the gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda and Anand Nagar-Nautanva rail line during the current financial year. This rail line connects the bordering areas of India and Nepal and it also connects the birth place of Lord Gauam Buddha i.e. Lumbini and its capital Kapil Vastu. Gauge conversion has not been carried out so far on such an important route. If gauge conversion is carried out on this rail line then the pilgrims from India and abroad will have a convenient rail route from India to Nepal and vice versa. Simultaneously, an easy route from Lumbini which is the birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha to Kushinagar which is place of Nirvana of Lord Buddha will be available and they will have a direct rail link with Sarnath and Bodhgaya. I would like to demand from the Government that gauge conversion on Gorakhpur, Gonda and Anandnagar Nautanva rail line should be commenced as soon as possible. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who are making noises, I will not call their names. Please remember they will not be called even if their names are in the list.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards an important issue. Many people belonging to Hindu Community undertake Amarnath Yatra but registration for this purpose is done only in Delhi in North India. It causes problems to the people who intend to perform Amarnath Yatra. They have to camp in Delhi for 10-15 days. They have to arrange for their fooding and lodging. Even then if they are not able to get themselves registered, they feel frustrated. I demand for opening of such offices in the capital of States particularly in the capital of Rajasthan that is Jaipur. Where they could get themselves registered without any inconvenience.

I want to say in regard to the statement made by Bherulal ji about women that I also belong to Meena community. Those nine women who have been sold should get the justice and investigation should be made in this regard. I don't know whether Bherulal ji belongs to Meena caste or not but I am Girdhari Lal Meena, this is my conviction. Since I belong to Meena caste, I request that the atrocities on Meena should be stopped. Bherulal ji should withdraw his statement. The Rajasthan Government should definitely look into this matter. This is my demand...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is defaming the Rajasthan Government. We treat women with great respect in our society. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, about three to four years back the Cochin International Airport was opened and declared as an international airport. It is a very good airport with all the facilities. It is working very well and all the certificates from DGCA and other authorities have been obtained to enable the flights come and go. A number of airlines have applied for permission to fly not only to that airport but also to fly from that airport to other international destinations. Unfortunately, the Government of India is not allowing that. The Government of India is not allowing the other operators to come into the picture even though the policy is that of liberalisation and open sky. If those applicants are eligible, the Government of India should not sit tight over them. Let the skies be opened. Let the passengers come and go so that more tourists come to India and that airport can be fully utilised. That airport is also finding it difficult to go on without having adequate number of flights, because the cost is very high. So, I would submit that the operators who have applied for flights to be operated from that airport to international destination and from international destinations to Cochin must be considered immediately. If otherwise found eligible, they should be allowed to fly to Cochin.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a request for according approval for opening of a medical college by the Guru Ghasidas University in District Bilaspur of Chattisgarh. The University had sent this request to the Central Government after completing all the formalities for opening a Medical College in Bilaspur. The Union Government sent a study group there for opening an All India Medical Council College.

The study group has submitted a found O.K. report. It is a scheduled caste dominated area. There is no medical facility and no arrangement for medical care for other diseases. Therefore, this is my request to the Union Government that approval should be given for opening a Medical College in Bilaspur.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious and shameful mischievous act. A fatal attack has been made on the Secular fabric of the country. A senior official Shri Kaon of the Ministry of H.R.D. has written an article in the official journal of N.C.E.R.T. "Education in Human Values" which I will quote.

[English]

"The greatest damage to our intellectual freedom has been caused by traditional religions especially by those which have a single holy book from which they derive their authority."

[Translation]

This way a great disrespect has been shown towards Holy Quran, Holy Bible, Holy Guru Granth Sahib. Disrespect has been shown to religion. This is very bad.

[English]

To add insult to injury, he added: "We tend to forget that these religions have been founded by people like us."

[Translation]

He compares himself with Jesus, Hazrat Mohammad, Guru Nanak. This is very dangerous for the country. I would like the Government to view this matter seriously. The Government should impose a ban on the article of Mr. Kaon, he should be dismissed and prosecuted.

Dr. Joshi who is after saffronisation must resign. I consider it disrespect to the religion. I think the entire House will seriously consider this matter. Akaies consider themselves as saviour of religion but lust of power has driven them to be a part of the Government. I would request them to break away from the Government.

[English]

This is a very serious matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Ropar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, an inquiry into this matter should be conducted. The Government should give a reply. He is a Government official, action should be taken against him.

[English]

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: He should be dismissed immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people compare themselves with Guru Nanak Ji and Guru Gobind Singh Ji....

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, he has raised a very important and sensitive matter. This article was written by none other than the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development. It was published in the official document of the Ministry.

Sir, we have the tradition of respecting all religions. We do not compare one religion with another and put one religion or some religions in a bad light which was done by none other than the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development. That is the point and he did not do it in his private capacity. It was done in an official organ. His public explanation was that it was his personal view. How can a Secretary express his personal view in an official article? It has hurt the sentiments of not only the Muslims and Christians but also Sikhs and many others. Sir, what is this happening in the Ministry of Human Resource Development?



[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the reply should come from the Government's side as to what are they doing? This is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: How can he be Secretary of the Ministry of Human Resource Development?

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: He is a Government Official and yet he is writing this kind of article. It is a serious matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I would bring it to the notice of the Minister of Human Resource Development. I cannot react on this issue. Shri Jaipal Reddy goes out and comes up with some new point.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This matter has been published in the press.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every religion is equal in the eyes of the Government. We believe in secularism. I cannot give a reply here to the matter raised by him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is alright if you cannot give a reply but please confirm that whether the article written by the Secretary in the official organ or book is objectionable or not.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have neither seen the article nor gone through the organ. I can only reply after having read it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You take note of it and find out.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have already said it...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Sir, this is a serious matter. How can one write like this about any religion in a secular country...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, the officers of this Government are playing with the religious sentiments of the minorities at the behest of this Government.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Such a senior Government Official has written this...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, this is a secular State and nobody can be allowed to hurt the religious sentiments. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Sir, the Government should tender an explanation in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that he would bring it to the notice of the HRD Minister.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has left the House. He must come and give an explanation on this matter...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What else can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already responded. How many times do you want him to react?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already mentioned that the matter would be brought before the Minister concerned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.48 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[English]

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at six minutes past  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

Prof. Dukha Bhagat.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to amend Forest laws to promote Development of ST dominated areas.**

[Translation]

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 50 per cent income is earned from the forests of my State Jharkhand and forests are protected by the tribals. But they have a very low standard of living and education. The laws which have been made for the tribals are impediments in their development. The roads cannot be constructed, electricity poles cannot be installed, dams cannot be constructed and canals cannot be made owing to these laws. The Government has launched several schemes but the funds do not reach these people due to which the tribals are facing a lot of problems at present.

This is my request through the House that inquiry against the people responsible for the irregularities being committed in these schemes be conducted and the laws made for these tribal area be reviewed and be changed in such a manner so as to facilitate the development of the tribals.

- (ii) **Need to release adequate funds under Prime Minister Gram Sarak Yojana to Churu District, Rajasthan.**

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister Gram Sarak Yojana is an important scheme for rural development. The State of Rajasthan particularly the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, facing drought situation for the last three years. If villages are connected by roads under the said scheme in my Parliamentary Constituency, Churu, it will provide employment to the people who are reeling under famine. The villages of my home tehsil, Rajgarh namely Chubakiya Tal, Kandrana, Manpura, Dingali, Gagadwas, Bas Kanjara, Bewad Sardarpura, Mundi Tal, Haryalu Kubari, Aachchhapur and the villages of Tara Nagar Tehsil namely Jhochhara Devgarh Dhangi, Kailash, Jigsana Tal, Bhalau Tibba etc. have a population of more than thousand people. Most of the roads of said villages have W.B.M. work owing to which villagers face great difficulties in the movement on these roads. Even than these villages have not been connected with roads so far.

Therefore, maximum funds should be made available to connect all the said villages with roads in the public interest, under Prime Minister Gram Sarak Yojana in Churu district so that rural development could get some momentum as well as the local people should also get employment.

- (iii) **Need for proper conservation of Neelkanth Mahadev Temple in Alwar district, Rajasthan by Archeological Survey of India.**

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Alwar is an important district of Rajasthan. The Neelkanth Mahadev Temple located in this district is being preserved by the Central Government. There are five to six thousands idols in this temple. The responsibility of maintenance of this spot is on the Archeological Survey of India. This temple is lying neglected for many years. Even basic facilities are not available here. There is a great need for structural repair, maintenance and Chemical analysis of this temple.

I request the Government to do necessary action for maintenance of Neelkanth Mahadev Temple and provide basic facilities so that this temple may prove useful from tourism and religious point of view.

**(iv) Need to take steps for the revival of Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Limited.**

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited is a joint sector undertaking located at Bhubaneswar in Orissa. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) have 51 per cent equity and Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Limited (IPICOL) have 49 per cent shares in it. The Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited has been declared sick since 1995. In 2000 A.D., the BIFR has declared that the attempt at revival of the company would be a failure. No steps are being taken by the Government of India to change the management or disinvest the company with a view to reviving it. The workers are facing a lot of hardship.

I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for revival of Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited.

**(v) Need to start work on Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation project early.**

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the delay in finalizing the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation project. The Corporation project has not yet started. The World Bank finance is delayed. There are chances of World Bank's back-out. Therefore, there is urgency to sort out the differences between the Railway and the Finance Ministries in the matter.

I request the Government to look into it early.

**(vi) Need to reduce export price of rice to a reasonable level to boost its exports.**

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): The Government of India decided to export 20 lakh tonnes of rice to place outside the country. So far none could be exported from Andhra Pradesh. This is due to non-competitiveness of FCI rate of Rs. 675 per quintal. Since countries like Vietnam and Thailand are offering rice at US\$ 131 to US\$ 139 for 25 per cent brokens and US\$ 147 to US\$ 155 for five per cent brokens, our exporters are not able to compete with those countries.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to reduce the export price to a reasonable level to boost exports. I shall also be grateful if the

Government of India take action to create more godown space in Andhra Pradesh for procurement of rice, which would ultimately result in purchase of more paddy from the farmers who are in distress in view of huge unsold stock.

**(vii) Need to provide more facilities at Chitrakutdham Karvi Railway Station, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Karvi is headquarter of Chitrakut district which is located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and falls under the Jhansi Railway Division of the Central Railways. Chitrakut is an important religious, historical and tourist place and famous through out the country. Lakhs of pilgrims visit this place ever month on the Amavasya day and a fair like situation is there almost everyday. Accidents often take place due to inadequate passenger amenities at Chitrakutdham Karvi railway station. Many problems arise while boarding and alighting from the trains. There is a need to provide adequate facilities to the passengers so that they may not face any problems.

The Jhansi Banda Shuttle train should be extended upto Manikpur and run daily which runs only during the days of Amavasya fair.

Chambal Express which runs on Agra-Gwalior-Howrah route three times in a week should be extended upto Nizamuddin Railway Station and it should run daily.

The stoppage time of the Mahakaushal Express from Jabalpur to Nizamuddin Railway Station should be extended from 3 minutes to 6 minutes.

A new rail track should be laid at Chitrakutdham Karvi Railway Station so as to facilitate stoppage of more trains.

One overbridge should be constructed to connect both the platforms.

**(viii) Need to provide railway ticket counter and reservation Facility at Malegaon, Nasik, Maharashtra.**

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Malegaon city under Nasik district has a population of about 12 lakhs. Manmad railway station is 35 kilometers away from here. 600-700 people commute daily from Malegaon by railways. Unnecessary expenditure is incurred in addition to wastage of time in commuting

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

from Malegaon to Manmad. I request to the hon'ble Minister of Railways through you to provide railway ticket counter and reservation facility at Malegaon city.

- (ix) **Need to look into the problems being faced by weavers in Andhra Pradesh.**

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, we have, for some time, been witnessing the phenomenon of farmers committing suicide on a large scale in Andhra Pradesh out of sheer desperation. Unfortunately, the despair has spread to the weavers' community to the point of driving of many of the skilled weavers committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh. In fact, in my own Lok Sabha constituency, one poor weaver, of Nakrekal town, unable to eke out his living, has recently committed suicide.

In view of the increasing distress of weaving community, I plead strongly for an extensive package of measures to rush to the rescue of weavers, who are the second biggest professional group in the country.

14.18 hrs.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

### Adjournment of the House Sine Die

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that at the Leaders' Meeting held yesterday, the Leaders of parties and Groups expressed general desire that in view of the forthcoming Assembly Elections in five States, the Lok Sabha may be adjourned sine die on 27th April, 2001. It was also the consensus among the Leaders that the time lost due to the early adjournment of the House may be made up by having a comparatively longer Monsoon Session. In view of the consensus on the above proposals, if the House agrees, Lok Sabha may adjourn sine die by 27th April, 2001.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The sittings of the House were also to be held on 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th instant. The Government have sabotaged the sittings. Several issues were to be discussed. The Government do not want those issues to be discussed here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, it has already been decided. Please take your seat.

14.20 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

### Discussion Re: Problems being faced by farmers

MR. SPEAKER: The time allotted for this discussion is two hours.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, on the 13th instant I was called by the chair to speak on the issues of farmers and I rose to express my views on the said issues. But in the meantime the 'Tehelka' episode came to light and we started demanding that this corrupt and communal Government must go. That issue has not died down yet. In the absence of unity amongst the opposition parties, these people are still in power. There is an unprecedented crisis before the farmers all over the country. All hon'ble Members agree with this fact. Be it the coconut growing farmers of Kerala or wheat and Paddy growing farmers of Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh or onion growing farmers of Maharashtra or the farmers producing Milk, oilseeds, pulses and sugarcane, all are facing an unprecedented crisis and all the Members of the House agree that farmers are in distress. But when it comes to individual party level, we talk differently. Yesterday during the course of his reply, the Finance minister had said that farmers of the country were prosperous. He said that the Government have issued credit cards to more than one crore farmers but all these claims of the Government are an eyewash.

14.21 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

That is why the farmers in his State are compelled to commit suicide. Off the record, the people say that

ten thousand farmers have committed suicide in different States. Official figures show the number of deaths to be much less. The Governments of Punjab and Haryana have said that compensation of Rs. 2,500 should be given to the Kith and Kin of each farmer who have committed suicide. The farmers are committing suicide. I want to know as to what action the Government of India have taken? All the farmers are facing crisis but when the Government give such pretentious reply, I find it amazing and irritating. The hon'ble Prime Minister has asked for farmers to give preference to cultivation of oilseeds, pulses, fruit and vegetables over cultivation of Paddy and wheat. This is the pretentious statement of this worthless Government which is discriminating against the farmers. This statement of the Government is nothing but deceit. It is evident from the statement of the Government that it does not want to solve the problems of the farmers. It appears to me that they are playing with the fate of the farmers. I have raised several issues pertaining to the farmers. The issues of the farmers have been discussed several times here in the House under various rules *i.e.* through adjournment motions, under Rule 193 and under other provisions but their difficulties have not been mitigated through these discussions and rather their miseries have increased. What is the reason? What remains to be done? What is the remedy for it? It is the subject matter of discussion. All have agreed that the farmers are facing crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Cost of their inputs has gone up. Due to hike in the price of diesel, agricultural equipments, fertilisers, pesticides and upward increases in electricity tariff, water charges and labour charges, the overall cost of cultivation has increased but the Government are fixing low support price and the farmers are not getting even that much. The farmers are compelled to burn the foodgrains produced by them.

In Jalandhar, farmers threw potato on the roads. Similarly potato was thrown on the roads by the farmers in Hapur also. In Maharashtra, the onion growing farmers are in distress and are compelled to sell their produce at half rate or throw them. The policy of the Government is anti-farmer. This Government is anti farmers and it seems to me that the Government is ignorant of the problems of farmers and as such how can this Government solve their problems. I have raised many points which are to be replied by the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture who is more interested in running of trains but he will reply to the points raised pertaining to the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*) According to the newspapers reports he is more interested in retaining the Railways portfolio, the Ministry of Agriculture would be assigned to someone else.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You should cross over to this side.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You are asking me to cross over to hell. I cannot come to that side as you are anti farmers. I shall come to that side after bidding a final farewell to you.

The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture belongs to Bihar and he claims that he works for the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*) The cattle rearing farmers are also suffering and the animal husbandry department has been closed down under your rule. There is nobody to take care of this department and nobody is ready to have a discussion on this subject whereas agriculture produce contributes 31 per cent and animal husbandry contributes 9 per cent to the G.D.P. This sector is considered as the most neglected one. I can say with challenge that until animal husbandry is developed properly nobody can remove poverty and unemployment from the country. There is one more problem about which I want to ask a question but I am afraid that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will say that the question is related to the department of food. Due to this problem, the department of agriculture is unable to remove the problems of the farmers. The W.T.O. is related to Commerce and labour and water problem is related to department of irrigation and other problems are related to various other departments. It means that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will reply to the matters related to ten to twelve departments. In the year 1999 paddy production in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Bihar was 167 lakh tonnes, 149 lakhs tonnes, 41 lakh tonnes and 123 lakh tonnes respectively. The Food Corporation of India has shown procurement of paddy as 27 lakh tonnes in Punjab and 27 thousand tonnes in Bihar. In Bihar 27 thousand tonnes of paddy was procured in 1997-98 and under your rule only 8 thousand tonnes of paddy has been procured which is negligible. You have no reply to it. You have got no reply except to express helplessness.

So far as maize is concerned, it is grown in four States and production of maize in Madhya Pradesh was 13 lakh tonnes, in Bihar it was 16 lakh tonnes, in Andhra Pradesh the production was 16 lakh tonnes and in Karnataka also it was 16 lakh tonnes. The procurement of maize in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka was 16 thousand tonnes, 37 thousand tonnes and 89 thousand tonnes respectively, but no procurement of maize was made in Bihar. I want to know as to why discriminatory treatment is being given to the farmers of Bihar? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It is the responsibility of the State Government.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is the responsibility of the State Government, that is why I have said that the problems of the farmers are not being solved due to the ignorance of these people. Thousands of crores of rupees of the country have been spent in setting up of the Food Corporation of India. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to fix the M.S.P. and to ensure that it is paid to the farmers. I want to know as to whether the Food Corporation of India is an undertaking of the Union Government or an undertaking of the Bihar Government. In Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar there is surplus production of wheat. In five States wheat is being procured but in Bihar it is not being procured. Therefore, I would say that either the Food Corporation of India is a puppet in the hands of the Union Government or it is biased against the Bihar Government, and the people and farmers of that State. I have got written evidence in this regard and nobody can refute it. I do not think this biased attitude of the Government would come to an end from this year. Though eight thousand tonnes of paddy has been procured in Bihar but wheat and maize have not been procured at all in the State. On this issue the proceedings of the Parliament were stalled and agitation was launched in Bihar but I do not think that it is going to have any impact on this Government. The Members of the Parliament from Bihar sitting in the treasury benches owe an explanation as to what they are doing for the betterment of the farmers of the State.

The problems of the farmers are related to different departments and if he gives any reply that will not be satisfactory. He cannot give any reply as procurement is not the job of his Ministry.

This Government hikes the prices of diesel three times in a year. When do they hike the price of fertilizers whether Shri Yashwant Sinha would slash the subsidy. This is not possible for him. We demanded for Constitution of a Parliamentary Committee but this Government runs away from the mere name of the Parliamentary Committee. This Government runs away from the Constitution of the J.P.C. or a Parliamentary Committee like a dog runs away from mere the sight of petrol. This is very unfortunate situation. ...*(Interruptions)* This is merely a saying. This is not the issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, We have repeatedly demanded for Constitution of a Committee regarding the problems of the farmers. A Parliamentary Committee should be set up on the problem of farmers on the lines of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the problems relating to the SCs/ STs which should co-ordinate with various departments,

as to how the grievances of the farming community could be solved besides monitoring and examining various issues pertaining to the farmers. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has also stated that he does not object to it then which anti-farmer lobby is stalling its constitution. We together can constitute the Committee. The Government must give specific reply as to why this Committee is not being set up. There are as many as 150 Committees then why do you not constitute a cabinet level economic Committee on agricultural affairs for farmers. This Committee should be headed by the Prime Minister and all the Ministers should be made its members. If you have got even slightest of sympathy towards farmers then you must Constitute the Committee. However, we do not have trust in you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bhishma Pitamah was on the cot made of bows and arrows in Mahabharata.

When he was giving sermons Draupadi laughed. He asked here as to why she was laughing, to which Draupadi replied when she was being undressed in the courtroom where his knowledge and wisdom had gone. Bhishma stated that he had eaten the food of Duryodhana and as you eat so shall you become. However, after being hit by arrows, my entire polluted blood has oozed out and pure blood is again flowing into my veins. Therefore, I am giving lessons of wisdom. We don't relay on you. You people have not been elected by farmers. You people have come here with the support of capitalists, blackmarketeers and multinationals. Therefore, we do not expect from you that you will solve the grievances of the farmers. Like Bhishma Pitamah when polluted blood of blackmarketeers is flown out of your veins then you will be able to think about farmers.

Therefore, I earnestly seek that a cabinet Committee of farmers on agriculture should be constituted. You have constituted several Committees for various purposes. Then why do you not constitute one for this purpose? Farming Community launched small agitations as they don't have any lobby they have never launched a nation wide movement that is why you are not bothered about them.

You people have allowed agriculture to be included in the W.T.O. keeping therein TRIPS, TRIMS, GATE and there was absolutely no need to include agriculture in it. When the W.T.O. conference was being held an agitation was being organised outside the conference venue opposing inclusion of labour and environment therein and ultimately these were not included. You people should also mobilise public opinion in its favour and get the agriculture excluded from the W.T.O. The farmers are

scared of the W.T.O. agreement. I have with me a list of 715 items which will be imported. These items are edible oil, cinemone, fertilizers, paper, crude rubber, turmeric, corriender, oil flow, clove, Tejhatta, cardamom, mustard. What will happen to the farmers. We do not trust you people. The small scale industries have already been ruined now it is the turn of farmers. What will happen to their produce.

You have stated that you want to reduce the subsidy. Today the people living below the poverty line are getting wheat at the rate of Rs. 8.00 per Kg. You people want to withdraw the subsidy of Rs. 4.50 from it. This will hit the poor very hard. Why are you giving subsidy to the traders. You say that they will export their products. Where from the subsidy will come for it? You have slashed the subsidy for the farmers and the poor.

Madam Chairperson, the Government procured the wheat at the rate of Rs. 5-6 hundred per quintal and are selling it at Rs. 9 per kg. to the persons living below the poverty line when they were reprimanded for it then they have reduced this rate by 50 paise and are now selling it at Rs. 8.50 per kg. We do not find any economy in it is as wheat is being purchased at Rs. 5-6 per kg. and selling it at Rs. 8.50 per kg. The same wheat is being sold at Rs. 4.10 per kg. in the foreign market and to the traders the wheat is being sold at Rs. 4.15 per Kg.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The F.C.I. officer gets Rs. 20,000 as pay therefore, a huge sum is spent on establishment. I have got figures.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Why are you trying to mislead the House. You also sound antilabour\*.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Have the farmers voted in your favour. They have not voted for us...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain ji, the Minister is then to answer why have you stooped up to give reply please sit down. Please do not disturb. I shall give you an opportunity to speak. Shri Raghuvansh ji, only five minutes were allotted to your party but I have already given you 20 minutes. You now please conclude in a minute.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Chairperson, what should I do? Shri Swain Ji stood up in between and raised a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not address to him you please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Chairperson, the Food Corporation of India sells wheat to the persons living above the poverty line (APL) at Rs. 8.50 per kg. and to those living below the poverty line (BPL) at Rs. 4.50 per kg and to the traders at Rs 4.15 per kg. for export purpose what is the logic behind it. What kind of economics is this. You want to slash the subsidy but to the traders and capitalists.\*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Madam Chairperson, the honourable Member is resorting to unparliamentary language.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he utters unparliamentary words, I would look into it, and order to expunge such words. Raghuvansh Babu, I am calling the next speaker. I have repeatedly given you time but you are reacting to the members and repeating the something. You better address to the chair and conclude it soon.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Madam Chairperson, Raghuvansh Babu is being provoked by his fellow members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu you have to conclude in a minute.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairperson, the sugarcane growers are dying but the levy is being reduced from 65 per cent to 40 per cent to mill owners and from this they will get a profit of Rs. 1500 crore and the sugar quota to the persons living below the poverty line has been discontinued. I would seek an explanation as to how much money the Government has taken as bribe as the mill owners have earned a profit of Rs. 1500 crore?

This has over burdened the common man. They have discontinued the levy. My observation is that at every stage and in every field decisions are being taken against the consumers and farmers and in favour of capitalists, corrupt and multinational companies. This Government is anti people and anti farmers with these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I feel it is better for you to grace the Chair.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Madam Chairperson, please got him checked up other wise the entire House will be concerned one day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When he is in Chair, he sits quietly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Chairperson, he is sympathetic and intervenes just to encourage me to deliver a good speech.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Madam Chairperson, when I stand here to speak after Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I shiver because of the hammer and tongs approach of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh—a saintly appearance with a barbed tongue; and he is incongruity personified.

When I am speaking on the farmers, I think I would harp upon the incongruities that we have been facing in this country, so far as the plight of the farmers is concerned. I fully agree with Shri Ramjilal Suman, Shri Sahib Singh And Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi—all the three of them are absent today—for having shown concern for the plight of the farmers in this country. But let us not forget that if I have a hammer, I should not think that everybody is a nail, as Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh might have thought about it. All are not nails and one should not have a hammer to hit upon everybody, at every moment, at every opportunity.

The plight of the farmers is really very difficult in India. I would start with the basic requirements the farmer had and the planners thought of. I am not going into different approaches of Parties and all those things. What has been thought of for the farmers over the years? The concern is that the imbalances that have to be corrected so that the farmer could have a better life in society.

So, when we thought of imbalances, we thought of removing the imbalances so far as the commodity is concerned, so far as regional imbalances are concerned and so far as trade difficulties are concerned.

The commodity imbalance refers to production of crop. We had the Green Revolution where importance was given to five main crops—rice, wheat, Bajra, Maize and Jawar. Everybody knows that the Green Revolution has been a success. But the success has had difficulties for us. Too much has been creating problem for us. So, the commodity approach and the Green Revolution have

created problem for us in the sense that we have had, in 1999, about 208 million MT of foodgrains. Where to keep and how to utilise it? Last year, because of the vagaries of the nature, I think, three million MT was less. But still, we have had difficulties so far as the commodity balancing is concerned.

Now the basic necessity is to have a commodity balance. We had corrected the imbalance. Now we have to have a balance, and for that balance, let us see how the present Government has been tackling the problem. It has been tackling the problem to see that the farmer gets the due for his produce. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was mentioning about the plight of the farmers and the distress sale. I fully agree with him. In his State, in my State and in many other States, there has been distress sale of paddy. It has been creating problem for us. But the Government of India, from time to time, has been fixing the minimum support price of agricultural produce. There is a High Power Committee—CACPR or something like that.

It decides during the *Rabi* season and during the *Kharif* season as to what should be the price of commodities and the incentive level is taken into account to fix the price. Incentive level means what the farmer could expect for his produce so as to see that he is able to make both ends meet. So, whenever the Minimum Support Price is fixed, this is taken into account. Last year, the MSP for various agricultural commodities was increased between Rs. 10 and Rs. 110. This year also, it has been increased. Shri Yashwant Sinha, in his statement on the Finance Bill, was telling yesterday as to how much money had been given to farmers last time. But whatever it is, the commodity imbalance has to be corrected now. It is absolutely necessary. The farmer has to go in for different crops.

The second thing is regional imbalance. I am coming to Bihar without any acrimony to anyone. Bihar is having regional imbalance so far as unresponsive administration is concerned. The administration is not responsive to the plight of the people living there. We may say many things, but the unresponsive administration is the main cause for the plight of the farmers in Bihar. There are many other things also. Take the case of Orissa. There, connectivity is the main factor. In Chhattisgarh also, connectivity is the main factor due to which the farmer is not able to send his articles outside for sale.



The third thing about imbalance is trade. Whenever we produce a little, whenever the farmer is able to produce a little, he should be able to sell it in a proper manner to the Government, to private parties and to other people so as to ensure that he is able to sell the excess foodgrains that he has produced, of late, for the last two years, the Government of India has been giving incentives by way of cold storage, by way of godowns and by way of many other things, and for those incentives also, some sort of tax holiday is being given. There is flow of credit to the people for setting up godowns.

You would kindly agree with me that the cooperative credit system has been a failure in India, and because it has been a failure in India, the farmer has to sell his produce in distress at a lower price. Had the cooperative credit system been good, had it been able to get good flow of credit, he could have utilised or he could have kept his articles for some time. I am giving an instance of maize which is being produced in my constituency Berhmapur in Orissa. There are refugees from Tibet. They also produce maize. The tribals in my constituency also produce maize. The Tibetan refugees do not sell their maize immediately after production. They keep it for three or four months because they get all the incentives that are required for them. So, they keep it for three to four months and sell it for Rs. 650 per quintal at an appropriate moment, whereas a tribal has to sell it immediately because he is living hand to mouth and gets Rs. 300 per quintal or a maximum of Rs. 350 per quintal. That is the imbalance which has been creating problem for us. That has engaged the attention of the Government in different ways. That is why, for a good productivity system, the Government of India has started indicating as to what would be the future course of action.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, would you mind sitting here and listening to me?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Our three demands should be accepted.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: We will accept that indirectly, not directly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you address the chair, you will not be detracted.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Madam thank you for the reprimand.

What I have been saying is that it has engaged the attention of the Government of India and that is why, the National Agriculture Policy has come. What is the Agriculture Policy which has been indicated a number of times? The able and efficient Minister had indicated earlier also as to what are the five or six points which are there in the Agriculture Policy. There is mentioned a growth rate in excess of four per cent. That is most important.

- A growth rate that is based on efficient use of resources, and conservation of soil, water and biodiversity;
- Growth with equity, that is, growth which is wide-spread across the regions, and farmers. The regional imbalance, as I was telling earlier, has to be corrected now.
- Growth that is demand-driven and caters to domestic markets;
- And the last but not the least is sustainable, technologically, environmentally and economically viable growth.

These are the few things which have been, as I was telling earlier, hammered into us by concrete steps in the National Agricultural Policy. Whenever we think of these policies, as I was telling you earlier, the productivity factors that have to be taken into account for the farmers of India are: (i) the system identification, and (ii) diversification.

You have heard yesterday Shri Yashwant Sinha telling about the land use, land development, and all those matters related to land, that is, diversification, the system identification and value additions. I indicated that the system identification is most important. In what manner we can produce foodgrains at a cheaper rate, and the farmers should be able to sell it at a higher rate, that is the basic requirement. Whenever we think of system identification etc., we are thinking of subsidies, the fertiliser subsidies. The Rs. 13,000 crore food subsidy indirectly helps the farmer because his produce, wheat or rice, has to be sold immediately. That way, he does not have the distress sale.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Now, most important is whenever we are thinking of diversification, I am reminded of an old English rhyme. The old English rhyme says:

"Old McDonald had a farm  
Yeah, yeah, ho  
A quack, quack here  
A quack, quack there  
A quack, quack, everywhere  
Old McDonald had a farm  
Yeah, yeah, ho  
A mow, mow here  
A mow, mow there  
A mow, mow everywhere  
Old McDonald had a farm  
Yeah, yeah ho  
A neigh, neigh here  
A neigh, neigh there  
A neigh, neigh everywhere"

Meaning thereby that in his farm, he had a flock of ducks; in his farm, he had cattle; in his farm, he had horses. Now, there is no necessity of horse-power. There is necessity of implements—mechanical implements or any sort of agricultural implements—for the farmers. For agricultural implements, you have said that lots of incentives have been given by the Government to ensure that the farmer is able to buy tractors, tillers and all other required machinery at a cheaper rate. I think, 25 per cent subsidy is being given to him in many aspects and, at the same time, for quack, quack and mow and mow, the animal husbandry and dairying facilities are being extended by the Agriculture Ministry in a very liberal way. Things are being bought so that the old McDonald of the Scottish origin could be an old Indian farmer with mow, with quack, quack and with all other things that are necessary to have diversification. Not only protection of cereals will help him, but also he must have fish farming, horticulture and so many other things. That is why, it has engaged the attention of the Government to make it a unified process of production so as to ensure that the farmer does not have any economic disadvantage vis-a-vis the other persons who are in the urban area or other persons who are taking to different types of activities.

I hope, I am not extending the time, Madam. Please give me another five or six minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can give you only two more minutes because there are many speakers from your side.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: That is too less a time, Madam.

We are thinking of subsidies. The fertiliser subsidy, it has been seen does not go to the farmer. It has also engaged the attention of the Ministry of Fertilisers and Chemicals. They have come out with a paper wherein, within a period of five years, it would be phased out so that the subsidy goes to the farmer directly. They are working on it to ensure that the subsidy level for the farmer is given.

So far as the seeds are concerned, the seeds which are required for the farmer are being subsidised, and Corporations are being set up. The Agriculture Ministry's Annual Report indicates a very good idea as to how seeds are to be given at different place. Lots of incentives are being given to the producers or the breeders and the foundation and certified seeds are being taken up.

15.00 hrs.

But as I said, flow of credit is most important for the farmers. Unless there is a flow of credit, the farmers would not be able to survive the difficult situation that they are facing...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): You have defined mow-mow; please also define neigh, neigh.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Horses make a sound like neigh neigh.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It sounds like a nursery class!

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Madam, so far as the flow of credit is concerned, you would kindly see from the annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture that the credit flow last year was to the tune of Rs. 22,032 crore, whereas the credit flow this year has been to the tune of Rs. 41,764 crore. This has been done to ensure that the farmers get good amount of money from different banks. The Kisan Credit Cards have been introduced. The Insurance sector has also been opened up so that the vagaries of nature do not play truant on the farmers whenever they go to field for cultivation or for taking up some other activities. So, one could find that step by step the farmer is being helped by the present

Government under the able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and our very efficient Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar. These are being done to ensure that the farmers do not have any difficulty.

Madam, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was mentioning about the WTO. WTO is being thought of to be a 'ghost'. A 'ghost' does not exist but we think it is a ghost. In the WTO regime, a WTO compatible price mechanism is being worked out by the Government of India. I hope, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will go through the price mechanism that is being thought of by Government of India to ensure that the subsidy component is WTO compatible. When we are thinking of the WTO, when we are thinking of the tariff restrictions we are putting on others, it would create a balanced level-playing field for our farmers too. We should not get worked up on that issue. It would take a few months to work out in a proper manner as to how we can tackle the WTO regime in a very efficient manner. We have some difficulties in selling our produce immediately but we should not have a cynical approach to it and in the near future, with our policy being concrete, we would overcome this difficulty.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Madam Chairperson, when the history of the beginning phase of 21st Century of this Country is written, it will surely bear reference to the careless attitude of the N.D.A. Government towards the interest of the farmers of this country which has been neglected and the farmers are very distressed in the entire Country. The history will record this as a slur on the face of this Government, which has brought the poor farmers of this Country into a pitiable condition due to its careless attitude. I am reminded of a few lines of the great poets Dushyant Kumar ji which very well depict the condition of farmers and which seem to be echoing from this very dome of the parliament and I quote —

'Yaron Ab To Is Talab ka Pani Badal Dalo,

Ab To Machaliyan Bhi Tilmilane Lagi Hain.'

So has become the condition of farmers of this country. I shall talk in terms of data and I shall be serious enough because this is an important matter.

The entire country is concerned and farmers are concerned. This I am quoting from the report of the economic survey. The hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri

Nitish Kumar ji is not present in the House at the moment who often boasts that the condition of farmers has now improved a lot. The hon. Finance Minister was taking pride while presenting the Budget. The foodgrains output, as it was during 1980 to 1991 i.e. before the commencement of economic reforms should have been 239 million tonnes during 1991 to 2000 and uptill now, but this has been reduced to 200 million tonnes. The next item is pulses. In this regard also the Government boasts that enough progress has been made. In pre-reform period (1980-1991) the production of pulses increased by 37 per cent but afterwards it has come to 18.6 per cent. There can be nothing more shameful than this. The recorded growth of oilseeds was 25.5 per cent during the last decade and if the growth rate had remained the same we would have recorded 30 million tonnes of production, but this has been reduced to 18.6 per cent. This is a cause of concern. The production of Sugar-cane and of other cash crops has fallen substantially.

15.06 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you belong to such a State of the country-namely Bihar which is always in news. Comments have already been made on how much the Government is concerned about the problems of farmers in regard to WTO. Our worthy colleagues in the B.J.P. have an excuse. They put forth the logic that the WTO agreement was signed in 1992 during the tenure of Narsimha Rao Government. We say it firmly that our country could not afford to be isolated in the world by not signing the said agreement. On the contrary, I am very much perturbed by the news that has come up today. A man like him who has the interest of farmers in his heart does not deserve to continue on his post even for a moment after receiving this news. Today's edition of 'The Time of India' reports.

[*English*]

"Petty politics behind WTO appointment bungle."

[*Translation*]

It was also been mentioned in the news that.

[*English*]

"After having scuttled the appointment of Hardeep Puri,"

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[Translation]

It has also been reported in the news that Hardeep Puri was appointed ambassador in Geneva the headquarter of W.T.O. at the instance of the Prime Minister and following a cabinet decision.

[English]

"India's Deputy High Commissioner, an acknowledged expert on trade issues, to this position, the Commerce Ministry has decided to break all rules by giving the present incumbent S. Narayan an unprecedented fourth extension.

[Translation]

Your Government has given him extension in service fourth time. When your Government assumed power you declared that extension in service would be given only in rarest of rare cases. The Government should also take into account the agony of the other efficient officers who could have replaced the present incumbent. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take notice of this fact and try to replace to the Present incumbent with the other officer who is a rightful claimant. The newspaper report also States that the Minister of Commerce Shri Murasoli Maran has rewritten the rules in regard to cancelling the appointment of Mr. Puri which had the assent of the Prime Minister and the President. Internecine squabbles leading to gross violation of administrative rules is a painful thing. Since the time is short, I would not present any date. I would only read out one paragraph from the latest report of the world Trade organisation which is on agricultural agreement. I was much impressed by the speech of the hon. Minister of Agriculture which he gave last time, but now this record is before you:

[English]

Now, the record says:

"Unfortunately, after five years of implementation of the expected market, excess opportunities have not materialised. The FAO has reported upon the whole view. Studies reported improvement in agricultural exports in the post QR period."

Hon. Krishi Mantri ji, the typical finding was that "there was a little change in the volume exported or in diversification of products and destination.

Thereafter, it is also written, and I quote:

"According to the statistics, the share of developing countries in world's agricultural exports remains low"

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from 31.7 per cent in 1972, it fell to 25.4 per cent in 1992 before increasing to 30.7 per cent in 1996-97.

This is the figure Nitish Kumarji, which is smaller than the figure of 25 years earlier.

[Translation]

These were the figure 25 years ago. You need to pay attention to it. However, if decisions in regard to WTO agreement are taken by the Ambassador at Geneva, then there can be nothing shameful than this.

Sir, the Members of the B.J.P. are present in the House. I would like to quote a couplet, of the famous poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz. He writes—

"Bol Yeh Thora Waqt Bahut Hai,

Jismain Juban Ki Maut Se Pehle.

Bol Ki Sach Jinda hai Ab Tak,

Jo Kahna Hai Weh keh Le."

Many allegations have been leveled against our party. But green revolution was ushered in the country during our regimes and farmers got the price of their produce. The hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yaswant Sinha has also accepted this fact that this thing could not have been done by his Government. He has himself accepted it. Sir, I would like to submit that farmers of Punjab and Haryana are apprehensive and they talk among themselves that FCI would be disbanded. There is a big scandal in FCI. You may be aware that under the 'Annpurna Yojana' of the Prime Minister, foodgrains worth Rs. 700 crore are transported by passing the FCI by big traders engaged in transport business. In this regard I am to present a Memorandum to you after getting the signatures of 200 Members of Parliament I am also reading out the report in this regard that has been published in today's edition of 'The Economic Times' and I hope that you will order an enquiry into it.

[English]

"Worst harvest in USA may open new lands for Indian Wheat."

It is further said that, "Chicago price which was earlier at the lowest 2.20 dollar per bushel is today 2.66 per bushel."

[Translation]

I would like to say something about how to provide relief to the wheat growing farmers so that they may make money. Our hon. Colleague Raghuvansh Prasad ji was saying that a Committee of Minister should be set up for this purposes. For the knowledge of this House I would like to quote a few lines from the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam. It is written in the report.

[English]

"The Committee was distressed to find that allocation for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, as percentage of Central Plan Outlay has been continuously declining."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what are they doing. It has been continuously declining. As against the percentage share of 1.87 per cent in 1999-2000 and 1.66 in 2000-2001, the share of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in 2001-2002 was only 1.51 per cent.

[Translation]

There can be nothing more shameful than the fact that in a country where 70 per cent of the population is dependent on Agriculture the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture is not implemented. There can be no bigger violation of the Parliamentary system and of its dignity. The Government will have to take some stringent steps in future. The last comment of the Committee is—

[English]

"The Committee was constrained to note that an important scheme of revamping of co-operative sector has still not been approved by the Planning Commission."

[Translation]

What is the Government doing? If the Planning Commission is not approving it, then what are you doing? You often talk of the interest of farmers. Your intentions

may not be bad, I am not making comments on that. But you are aware of the fact that Programmes are implemented on a slow speed. You should take into account the report of the Standing Committee.

Be it under the pressure of the World Bank or under the pressure from some other quarter, whenever the Government talks of reducing the subsidy it is said that this will yield benefits in the international market. However, I would like to submit that during the harvesting period of wheat and paddy nearly thirty lakhs labourers come to Punjab from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and if the procurement of Paddy is delayed by say, one month, how will the poor farmers pay wages to the labourers.

You will have to pay attention to this matter as well. The purchase by F.C.I. is proving dangerous for those two States which are contributing 70 per cent foodgrains to the foodgrains stocks of the country.

Mr. Chairman, there is a news for Hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister who talk about the protection of cows. I want to tell you something not for making speech but for record sake. Today, in the morning at 6.50 a.m. Hon. Shri Jag Pravesh Chandraji former Chief Executive Councillor and a famous congress leader who had written a famous book entitled "How to win Elections", was sitting outside Lodhi Garden. Milk packets of Nestle company were being sold there for Rs. 25 a kg. He told me that it was written on the packets that the milk was bacteria free and contained sugar content upto the normal level. They want to make maximum money by putting up counters there. My friend Shri Saiduzzama has left, he was saying that people in Rajasthan and Gujarat were being compelled to sell their livestock due to drought and shortage of water. I would like to know what measures the Minister of Agriculture was taking to control the 'Foot and Mouth' disease. This disease has spread in Rajasthan and Haryana and due to this reason Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have refused to accept imports of meat from India. Earlier due to drought their goods could not be sold now if their livestock dies of this disease you can just imagine what would be their fate. In United Kingdom,

[English]

More than 2,70,000 animals had been slaughtered up to the 21st March."

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[Translation]

If this disease spreads in India what would happen to our livestock? The Government needs to pay attention to it seriously.

I would like to make one more submission, this is about party politics. Late Chaudhari Devi Lal was a great leader of the farmers. He was also President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee at one point of time. He worked in the Congress Party in the senior position. He is not with us today. I express my sorrow on his demise. The farmers got an outstanding leader in Choudhary Devi Lal after Sir Chhotu Ram and Choudhary Charan Singh. He is no more amidst us. On behalf of my party and other people, I express my sorrow on his demise.

Have the hon. Minister visited any State where farmers have committed suicide? 700 farmers committed suicide in Punjab. 700 Jawans attained Martyrdom in Kargil war. The farmers and Jawans of the country which gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' are distressed today. You must extend help to the drought hit States at least. What the Minister of Finance is doing in this regard? I would request the Minister of Agriculture that it is the need of the hour that you visit the houses of the affected families after this session and listen to their grievances. You should visit those in distress and express your regret. A comprehensive policy should be formulated to deal with the spate of suicides. You should take initiative in this regard.

Now I would like to make another submission in regard to crop insurance. I feel sad when I hear people saying that BJP gave an agricultural Policy to the country. Balram Jhakar Sahib also gave agricultural policy to the country. But revolution that came about in agriculture was a result of the efforts of the Congress party. They have given an agricultural policy as per the need of hour. According to the Constitution.

[English]

Right to reside anywhere by adopting choice occupation. It is given under Article 19(1) (e) and (g). It is deprivation of protection to a farmer to buy land anywhere.

[Translation]

Farmer of any region can buy land anywhere. It is a Constitutional right, however, several States have imposed ban on this. At least 15-20 lakh migrant labourers go and reside in Punjab and live there amicably. There is feeling of fraternity among them if you tell any farmer of Punjab you have.

[English]

You have no right what soever to purchase land in other States.

[Translation]

Believe it will be sort of torture on these people. I hope you will consider this point.

With these words I conclude and express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important issue is being discussed in the House. In reality farmer is like God of the Country but he is being neglected for long and as a result he always lives in misery. This discussion should be done by rising above party politics. The condition of farmer is like Draupadi. Whenever anyone got an opportunity he attempted his exploitation. There is need to consider this matter seriously. We believe that Nitish Kumar ji will enact new legislations to save the farmers from exploitation. Since they are facing a crisis due to WTO. He will make efforts to save farmers from this crisis. We have come to know that you will make efforts to protect the farmers by framing a new Agricultural Policy through a new legislations entitled Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Bill'.

In our country farmers depend on vagaries of weather. Sometimes there are excess rains and at times there is drought and his crops get destroyed due to natural calamity but he never gets any compensations. We are happy that now efforts have been made to implement crop insurance scheme. But the state Governments have not paid any particular attention to this scheme. For example, the crop insurance scheme has not been implemented in Madhya Pradesh till date. Even if it has been implemented anywhere then it has been done on the credit drawn by the farmer and not on the crop. I would like to give a suggestion this regard that insurance should be done against the crop cultivated by the farmer and not against any Tehsil or district taken as a unit. Only then a farmer can be benefited.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have given the slogan Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and it is an era of science. Several new discoveries are made and Researches conducted in regard to agriculture in various Universities and Research Centres in our country and the benefit of such research must accrue to the farmers but it remains restricted to the centre and technology does not reach

the farmers. The information on new seeds and the use of the new techniques does not reach the farmers. The officials concerned with agriculture do not oversee the schemes by visiting the villages. That is why that technique does not reach the farmers. Therefore, we need to pay special attention to it.

We have read in literature that a farmers is born in debt, grows up in debt and finally dies in debt. That is why when land revenue system was in practice farmer was entrapped by the Private Moneylenders. Banking system was introduced to liberate the farmers from such debt, but modern day banking is not beneficial to the farmers. That is why I would like that these loans should be easy, simple and at low rates of interest so that the farmers can avail of the benefit of banking.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have Land Development Banks in our country but in farmers parlance these Banks are called land destroyer banks or loot banks since they loot these farmers by levying higher rate interest on the money drawn from Reserve Bank or nationalised banks. Whosoever has taken loan from the Land Development Bank have lost their lands and tractors. The diesel and electric pumps bought by them for irrigation have been sold. I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for the directions issued by him to the banks and Samjhauta Yojana implemented by him under which an agreement on the principal amount was reached resulting in the saving to the tune of several lakhs to the farmers. He has given relief to the farmers by implementing this scheme for approximately two months. I feel that there is a need to review the existing system of loan for the farmers. Farmers can definitely improve their agriculture if easy loan at lower rate of interest is provided to them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for increasing the support price of the farmer's produce. We could have been happier had he told us one more thing. The farmers could get more benefits if they were given remunerative support price based on the inputs used and expenditure incurred by them in the cultivation of a crop. Hon. Atal ji has done a great job in the interest of the farmers by announcing credit card and crop insurance scheme. But there is a need to monitor the implementation of the scheme at State Government level to ensure expeditious implementation of this scheme so that the farmers could be benefited.

Crops have been destroyed this year due to drought. Last year, crops were destroyed due to heavy rains. But the farmers did not get any compensation due to non-implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme. At present, farmers are in heavy debt. Cases of suicides being committed by farmers have come to light. The Government will have to pay attention towards the farmers in order to avoid such situations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, more than fifty per cent of the Members sitting here may be farmers associated with farming activities in some way or the other, but due to the constraints of parties and their disciplines we are not openly expressing our views in the interest of farmers. That is why farmers are lagging behind. Therefore, through you I would like to suggest that there should be an association of farmers which should in particular ensure the welfare of farmers. When we all will think together in the interest of farmers rising above party-politics and in a fearless and unbiased manner only then we will be able to help them, otherwise only speech making exercise will carry on and such discussions will continue to take place in this House without yielding any positive result.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers require tractors and generators for irrigation purpose. So, definitely duty on these items should be reduced and instruction in this regard should also be given to State Government so that the farmers may be benefited. Moreover, when the luck favours the farmers and they get bumper crops, the next problem they face is that of storage. There is no proper arrangement for storage of foodgrains which is very necessary. The farmers who grow green-vegetables which are perishable, they need cold-storage facility. I am aware that the hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Nitish Kumar has made special Provisions in the New Agriculture Policy in regard to storage facility. For this I am thankful to him.

I would like to submit that if the Government pays attention to what I have mentioned, then the Government would surely be doing justice to the cause of farmers.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU (Wardha): Mr. Chairman. Sir, the matter that has come up before us calls for serious discussion and I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this.

It is well known that as per the census of 1991, 74 per cent of our population lives in rural areas and they are dependent on agriculture. This figure might have come down to 70 per cent following some section of the population migrating to cities. Yet, we have to see whether the Government is formulating right policies for that 74 per cent of the population living in the rural areas. If not what are the short-comings being observed in the Government's policies and how can we overcome them? I would like to give some suggestions. I have not brought the data with me but being a farmer and on the basis of my experience I would like to put forth some suggestions.

[Shrimati Prabha Rau]

First of all, as regards the Cases of Suicides being committed by farmers of our country during the last three-four years were unheard of earlier. As you are aware that farmers of every State including Maharashtra, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka used to lead a happy life. But farmers in these States, too have committed suicide. Here we should not go into such things as to which party is ruling in the State. I am of the opinion that there is no party of farmers. They themselves are a Party and we should view them as that only. In this regard I agree with what has been said earlier by our colleague. However, he has put his view on his party line, but the fact remains that unless we adopt a common approach to the problems of farmers, we shall not be able to improve their lot.

I agree with what has been said by the hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji. He has said that unless we constitute a Committee of all the departments of the Government related to agriculture and unless we overcome the shortcomings as per the suggestions and unless we implement the recommendations, mentioned in the 13th Report of the Demands for Grants of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the situation will not improve. Suggestions will keep pouring on, Committees will be constituted and discussions will carry on, unless we decide the course of action. We will not be able to provide relief to our farmers and make them happy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has rightly been said that water is life. Had this not been so the civilization of every country would not have emerged near some or other riverbanks. In spite of this fact we are not able to provide water in every part of the Country. We should think over as to what is to be done in this regard.

15.39 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This subject may be concerning the irrigation department. We will have to take into account that often the rains there is too much destruction in several States due to the flood. A great scientist Shri Vishwesaraiya had said that we need to have a National Water Grid for the entire Country on the pattern of a Power Grid System existing in our country. Have any steps been taken in this regard? If not, my suggestion is to take some steps in this regard on priority basis. Had there been National Water Grid in the country perhaps we would have been

able to solve the problem of drought in the areas like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Maharashtra which have been facing drought situation for the last 3-4 years. My suggestion is that the Government should think as to what steps can be taken in this regard.

Another point is whether the facilities intended for farmers do actually reach them, whether they avail them. For example, take electrification. There is a problem of electricity in every State. Farmers do require electricity for irrigation purpose. We observe that only electricity poles have been erected or may be wire connections are also there. But there is no regular power supply and due to erratic power supply, the electric motors of farmers burn off and irrigation work is stopped. Such situation is witnessed in every State. I feel we can not hold electricity board of every State responsible for this. They may be responsible for this, but can situation not be improved upon?

The next point is relating to the Problem of what we import from other Countries, particularly the items which our farmers themselves produce. This point must be considered because subsidy has been withdrawn. When the subsidy is withdrawn whether the prices of the items used by farmers as inputs have come down. No prices have not come down. Unless we reduce the prices of those items and unless the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce, there can be no progress in their life. Therefore, we need to review our policy in regard to the items to be exported. We have to assess our requirements. We have to take into account everything including agricultural land, the climate and the items which can be produced for export. Besides, have any incentives been given for augmenting supplementary production in fields such as dairy farming, poultry farming, horticulture, Plants of aromatic compounds, medicinal plants used for Ayurvedic Medicines, fisheries and Sericulture etc. Have we helped our farmers in any way? Whatever help has been provided in this regard that is very meagre and that can hardly improve lot of farmers.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): You have mentioned about the cuts under all the heads in the current year's Budget as also in the Previous Year's Budget.



SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Our colleague has just mentioned the same thing. I am not giving statistics but I must say that the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture in regard to enhancing the budgetary support has not been accepted. On the contrary, there have been cuts in allocation. This seems to have been done in every field. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit with due regard that the Government will also have to pay attention to diversification. Maximum attention should be towards marketing side followed by processing and export. Unless the three-four issues mentioned by me taken into consideration to make a suitable policy according to the conditions prevailing in the country, our farmers cannot make any progress in any field. This I am saying with a very heavy heart.

I would like to mention that we have agriculture universities in our country where research works are conducted. Just now, one of our colleagues has said that research work result into nothing. I have heard that the extension work being done by I.C.A.R. and the experiments in the fields for the benefit of farmers and villagers have since been stopped. These things will now not be telecast on T.V. on any channel, nor any discussion will be held in this regard. How will then the people come to know about the research work and their results? Unless we think about it setting up of universities, conducting research work making payments to the officers of those institutions will hardly yield any benefits to the farmers. In my opinion extension work need to be done now. And therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government should pay attention in this regard so that extension/research works may be conducted to serve the purpose of farmers.

I would also like to mention that there are three sectors which contribute to our national income and add to the G.D.P. They are Agriculture, Industry and Services Sector. Unless, we bring the financing structure for agricultural sector at par with the industrial sectors, our farmers cannot make much progress. When any industry is on the verge of closure, all sorts of financial assistance is extended to protect the industry, but nobody pays attention to farmers since they are poor. When the matter of financing to them comes, their lands are mortgaged. Why this discrimination? The Government must ponder over it. There is a website on the internet which should be used to ascertain as to which items should be produced by the farmers which can be beneficial. This channel must be exercised to help the farmers. With these words, I conclude.

15.48 hrs.

## MOTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I  
beg to move:

"That a Joint Committee of both Houses consisting  
of 30 Members—20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from  
Rajya Sabha be appointed:

- (i) To go into the irregularities and manipulations in all their ramifications in all transactions, including insiders trading, relating to shares and other financial instruments and the role of banks, brokers and promoters, stock exchanges, financial institutions, corporate entities and regulatory authorities.
  - (ii) To fix the responsibility of the persons, institutions or authorities in respect of such transactions.
  - (iii) To identify the misuse, if any, of and failures/inadequacies in the control and the supervisory mechanisms.
  - (iv) To make recommendations for safeguards and improvements in the system to prevent recurrence of such failures.
  - (v) To suggest measures to protect small investors.
  - (vi) To suggest deterrent measures against those found guilty of violating the regulations.
2. That the Committee shall have the following 20 members of the Lok Sabha as its members:—
1. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
  2. Dr. Baliram
  3. Shri C. Kuppusami
  4. Shri Harin Pathak
  5. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

6. Shri Jagannath Mallik
  7. Shri Kirit Somaiya
  8. Shri Kharabela Swain
  9. Shri K. Yerrannaidu
  10. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
  11. Shri Maheswar Singh
  12. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
  13. Shrimati Margaret Alva
  14. Shri Pravin Rashtupal
  15. Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi
  16. Shri Prabhunath Singh
  17. Shri P.H. Pandiyan
  18. Shri Rupchand Pal
  19. Shri Vijay Goel
  20. Shri V.P. Singh Badnore
3. That the Speaker shall nominate one of the Members of the Committee to be its Chairman.
  4. That the Committee shall start functioning from the day it is duly constituted.
  5. That the Committee shall be provided all assistance by the Government and its agencies.
  6. That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee.
  7. That the Joint Committee shall make a report to this House by the end of the next Session of Parliament.
  8. That the rules of Procedure of the House relating to Parliamentary Committee shall apply.
  9. That the Committee may if the need arises in certain matters adopt a different procedure with the concurrence of the Speaker.
  10. That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee and communicate to this House the names of the members appointed from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to the Committee as mentioned above."

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we can adopt this Motion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): It is unanimously agreed.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Sir, what happened to the Committee on Tehelka.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all. You tell me what is wrong with your throat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a Joint Committee of both Houses consisting of 30 Members—20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha be appointed:

- (i) To go into the irregularities and manipulations in all their ramifications in all transactions, including insiders trading, relating to shares and other financial instruments and the role of banks, brokers and promoters, stock exchanges, financial institutions, corporate entities and regulatory authorities.
- (ii) To fix the responsibility of the persons, institutions or authorities in respect of such transactions.
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10. That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee and communicate to this House the names of the members appointed from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to the Committee as mentioned above."

*The motion was adopted.*

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Problems being Faced by Farmers—Contd.

*[English]*

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (Machilipatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak about the problems that are faced by the Indian farming community. After 52 years of Independence, the agriculture sector continues to remain as the main sector of the country and contributes more than 35 per cent to the country's total GDP. Even today, more than 60 per cent of our population is depending on agriculture and agro-based industries. But, for the last two years, the growth rate of agricultural products has not increased to even one per cent due to lack of sufficient funds to the agriculture sector and due to some other calamities like cyclone, drought. Due to natural calamities, in States like Orissa, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, farmers are not getting remunerative prices or the Minimum Support Price for their produce.

Take, for example, paddy or wheat or oilseeds or commercial crops like tobacco, cotton, chillies and copra. I am not going to criticise the present Government or the previous Government.

15.54 hrs.

*[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair]*

In the first Five Year Plan, topmost priority was given to the agricultural sector. But in the successive Five Year Plans, allocation of funds to agricultural sector had been reduced.

[Shri A. Brahmanaiah]

I want to bring, through you, to the notice of this august House, and to the notice of the Agriculture Minister that farmers are facing a number of problems. Everyone is well aware of the same. But I would like to bring to this notice four or five problems.

As I mentioned, in Andhra Pradesh, the farming community, especially the paddy producers, is not at all getting the minimum support price at present. Unexpected heavy rainfall from 13th to 16th of April has led to major damage to the paddy crop. The FCI is not coming forward to purchase paddy from the *ryots*. Our Chief Minister, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu has requested, through his letters a number of times our Agriculture and Civil Supplies Ministers to come forward to purchase paddy from the *ryots* at a remunerative price. The Government is also extending maximum support but because of various reasons, millers are also not coming forward to procure paddy. At this juncture, it is very important to safeguard the farming community by providing minimum support price. As a matter of fact, it is not limited to paddy crop.

Yesterday, our Parliamentary Party Leader, Shri Yerranaidu, and some other Members met the hon. Prime Minister and informed him that sufficient godowns are not available to store plenty of paddy stocks in Andhra Pradesh. We requested the Prime Minister, and as already promised by the Government, nearly 20 lakh tonnes of rice is to be exported to other countries. The procured paddy or rice has to be stored in Andhra Pradesh. The rate was fixed at Rs. 675 per quintal, whereas some other countries are offering below that price. That is the reason why not a single tonne of rice has been exported to other countries. In this connection, I would request the Government to come forward to reduce the price so that we can export our targeted quantity of rice to other countries.

The farming community is facing another problem. In the recent Budget, 2000-2001, the procurement policy has been adopted and introduced by the Government. In future, the State Government has to make procurement and the Central Government can only allot some funds. But there are no infrastructural facilities in the states to store the procured paddy. At this juncture, it is not at all good to tell the States to take the responsibility or put the burden on the States to procure or distribute or store. Because of globalisation, the WTO Agreement, and liberalisation, the farming community is facing a number of problems. So, I would request the hon. Ministers for Agriculture and Civil Supplies that the Central Government should continue with the responsibility of procurement.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, the farmers of our country are facing another problem due to reduction of subsidy given to fertilisers. In the last year's Budget, the Government has reduced subsidy given to fertilisers. Due to reduction of subsidy to fertilisers, many fertiliser units have been closed down. So, in future, we have to depend upon foreign fertiliser units to get fertilisers. It will hamper the interests of Indian farmers and they have to pay a higher price to get fertilisers. This has to be reconsidered and we have to, once again, increase the subsidy given to fertiliser industry.

In this connection, I would like to give some details as to how other countries are giving subsidy to their farmers. The United States of America is providing a subsidy US\$ 2,000 per hectare, Japan is providing US\$ 700 per hectare, and European countries are providing US\$ 11,000 per hectare whereas our country is providing only US\$ 17.8 per hectare. If such a low amount of subsidy is given to agriculture in our country, how can our farmers face the challenges thrown by globalisation, liberal economic policies and WTO? So, we have to increase the subsidy provided to agriculture in our country. Otherwise, the farmers in our country, who have no infrastructure facilities, who do not have enough subsidy or new technological methods like biotechnology, will not be in a position to compete with the farmers in other countries where they are getting thousands of dollars as subsidy towards agriculture.

Sir, I would like to bring another issue to the notice of the Government and that is regarding palmoline oil. In our State of Andhra Pradesh, we have encouraged the farmers and we have given subsidy to them. Although the import duty on palmoline has been enhanced upto 75 per cent, the farmers are not getting the benefits, because the companies are not giving them remunerative price. So, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has introduced market intervention scheme last year to help the farmers. Last year, our Government has purchased 5,000 metric tonne palmoline oil and this year Government wants to purchase 1,05,000 metric tonne of palmoline oil. So, we have requested the hon. Prime Minister yesterday that through the market intervention scheme, 50 per cent should be procured by the Central Government and the rest 50 per cent should be procured by the State Government. This is very much essential. When large quantity of palmoline oil is imported into our country, we have to protect our farmers. So, this matter should also be taken into consideration.

Now, I would like to spell out the following measures which have to be implemented to protect Indian farmers.

First, new and innovative scientific methods should be introduced in agriculture. The results of biotechnology should go to the farmers. Then only we can face the challenges thrown by WTO Agreement.

Secondly, we should expand the mechanism for dissemination of scientific knowledge to the farming community.

Thirdly, developing quality high-yielding varieties of seeds and closing down of public sector seed production agencies which are wreaking with corruption; fourthly, inauguration of a new era for seed production at the village level; fifthly, establishment of independent institutions having accountability; sixthly, bringing changes in the statutes relating to seeds and pesticides.

The other step needed is the establishment of farmers clubs or societies by taking four or five villages as a unit for providing access to agricultural tools and modern farming equipment.

Early completion of pending irrigation projects is required. To ensure this, an action plan needs to be prepared and published.

We should encourage the farmers to introduce changes in their cropping pattern linked to the availability of water for irrigation and also to give a go-by to single crop system by substitution and also by inter-cropping practices.

Last but not least, the Government has to accord recognition to agriculture as an industry and also allow freedom to the farming community to determine and control the price structure of their produce.

I also want to bring to your notice the issue of crop insurance. We have already introduced crop insurance scheme at the village level. But, at present, it is not at all suitable. If we introduce crop insurance at the level of survey numbers, it will be more useful to the farmers. So, through you, I request the Government to study the crop insurance policy and introduce it in such a manner so that it is based on survey numbers. Then only, the farmers can get the benefit. Whenever there is flood, drought or some other natural calamity, he can get benefit from the crop insurance. Then, something would be given to the farmers. Otherwise, if we introduce it at the village level, it would not be useful. It is our practical experience.

With these few words, I express my thanks to the Chair. Once again, I request you, to safeguard the interests of the farmers. While we are facing WTO or globalisation, our Government has to come forward to protect the interests of farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the problems of farmers. It is a headline news in the 'India Today' magazine that, *Kheli-kare So Mare* (Farming is loss incurring business). Nowadays farming is in dire straits due to falling prices, stable yield and decreasing profits. Monsoon has been good in India for the last 12 years but despite that condition of farmers has been deteriorated. It is misfortune of this country that such a situation is prevailing here where 70 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture. The agriculture sector provides 35 percent of the GDP and 65 percent of employment despite that the farmers of India are helpless and poor.

In the sixties, cultivation was so low in India that wheat and rice had to be imported. At that time people could not get meal. New seeds were introduced in the early seventies and the country became self reliant by making use of fertilizers. Government control started in the eighties subsidies were increased, production was increased but the Government did not make any policy regarding surplus wheat. What was the result? Prices started falling. By the beginning of the nineties there had been a difference of 2 to 2 1/2 times in the prices of foodgrains sold under PDS and open market. As a result of this prices of commodities fall and farmers could not get remunerative prices for their produce since 1990. As a result his attachment with the agriculture is no more. There has been no increase in the production of agriculture and has been constant since last three-four years. A new order is being propagated by foreign companies and its publicity is on peak. It is about organic food. 5 to 10 percent of Indians want to eat this food. No chemical or fertilizer is used for its production and one can not fall ill by taking such a food. It will result in fall of our production and we will be dependent on foreign countries. Slogan of organic food is being rendered.

The farmers of India are such an unfortunate class which has to face the fury of nature. Sometimes it faces excessive rains sometimes a drought and sometimes an earthquake. River Ganges is regarded as the most pious river of India but if its water is used for irrigation then crops could be damaged because of chemicals in it. Its

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

water is black and contaminated. It damages the crops if used for irrigation. Where water from canals is used and the water table is ok tubewells work properly. There are many places where tubewells have been installed but less rainfall has led to the fall in the water table. Where once 10 Horse power diesel engines were required for drawing water now 15HP diesel engines are required for that purpose. Cost of expenditure will increase due to more consumption of diesel. There was no electricity earlier. I am particularly talking about my State that is Uttar Pradesh where Farmers do not get electricity. If they get electricity the voltage is not above 220 volts. This often leads to burning of motors and motors do not draw water to their optimum capacity.

Yesterday hon'ble Finance Minister was mentioning that we are distributing Credit Cards to farmers. It is a good thing. The Government which perform good job should definitely be commended. I can say with confidence that the farmers in Uttar Pradesh have not got full benefits of credit cards so far. Even today there are middlemen. The farmers are not getting assistance easily. If at all they get any assistance they get spurious goods from the dealers whether it is diesel, fertilizers, pesticides or insecticides. Though the engine bear ISI mark but local engines are supplied since they purchase it on credit. As a result of this that engine does not work. The farmers use fertilizers, insecticides, diesel but they do not get standard goods. Use of these things increase the cost of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Government has announced the support price of wheat at Rs. 610 per quintal. But even today wheat is being sold in the markets of Uttar Pradesh at the rate of Rs. 490-500 per quintal and procurement by the Government has not been started yet. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Many of the speakers here have mentioned that the last time potato crop was very good. Potatoes got rotten but the farmers could not get appropriate prices. I had a chance to visit Kerala where the prices of rubber are Rs. 65-70 but no one was purchasing it even at the price of Rs. 20. The same was the condition of coconut. Even coconut could not fetch appropriate prices. I am talking about the whole nation just because the Government are claiming to have formulated new agriculture's policy. Congress has also claimed that an agriculture policy was formulated during the stint of Dr. Balram Jakhar. That was formulated in newspapers only. This was formulated on papers. What happened to its implementation? We are not aware whether that policy has benefited the farmers or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers produce many such things which are commonly 80 percent perishable. When we talk about cold storage whether the Government have considered this fact that the temperature required for storage of potatoes varies from the storage of tomatoes, apple, turmeric, tamarind. Whether the Government have announced to make such an arrangement for constitution of different ware houses for the storage of different articles.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister has talked about connecting villages having a population of about 1500 with roads under the Prime Minister Gram Sarak Yojana. This is a good programme. If this is done it would certainly benefit the farmers of India. But in present condition, the transportation cost for carrying commodities to the markets in towns is so high that farmers can not get his cost price in return. Therefore I would like to request the Government that this Gram Sarak Yojana should be implemented as early as possible, new roads should be constructed so that farmers could be benefited.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place before you an important subject you will be surprised to know that 35 percent of GDP is contributed by the agriculture sector but only one percent is being spent on research works in this field. In developed countries like America and Canada, 3 to 3.5 percent of GDP is spent on research and development of agriculture. What is going to happen today under the WTO regime. I have information that various multinational companies are going to develop seeds and they are going to establish research centres in Punjab and Karnataka. These facilities are still not available in India. Earlier seeds were imported from abroad which do not suit to Indian climatic condition. If you will open seeds research centres and engage talented scientists by giving them maximum salary then they will develop improved seeds for us. They will develop seeds according to the climate of every State. If foreign companies develop such seeds then they will sell it on prices fixed by them which will not be beneficial for our farmers. If you provide only one percent for research work to the scientists of our country then how could you expect from them to develop improved seeds and new technology for farmers. Therefore I request to the Government to increase the amount of money for conducting research works so that our scientists could also develop new seeds.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want a little discussion in regard to WTO agreement also. As all of you are aware that it was signed in 1994. what is the biggest confusion in the WTO agreement is that big countries like America, China and Canada discussed the matter relating to the WTO agreement in their Parliament and shaped it to their suitability and implemented its by-laws to their own

requirement. But what happened in India is that this agreement was signed without having any discussion due to which our problems are increasing today and in view of these problems all the countrymen and this entire House is in a State of utter confusion. We have come a long way from 1994 to 2001. If WTO agreement was to be implemented, then what efforts Government made to make the farmers understand that we have to enter in the Global market and we have to produce quality products and sell them at lesser rates and we have to increase our production maintaining quality and withstanding competition. But the Government have not taken any such measure. Had the Government done some efforts in this direction then the farmers of our country would have been mentally prepared that we are entering into World Trade and we must see and take care of all these things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as goods to be exported from India under the WTO agreement are concerned, I would say that none of the items to be exported from India is free from disease be it animal meat or any other product. The very first consignment is returned. Only those countries are ready to take your goods which have got no money. After all what is the reason behind it. Just a few days back I have read that if the farmers want their farmers to be free from all kinds of pests and insects and all diseases, they will have to spend about 5600/- rupees per acre and then their farms can be disease free. I do not think anybody would be able to afford Rs. 5600/- per acre. The farmer has no money to invest initial and he is getting no price of his product and how he can invest Rs. 5600/- to make his land free from Pests and diseases when his own diseases are not cured. This is the reason that the poor farmers are committing suicide, they are dying. How they would be able to make their farmers free from diseases. What is the result of all these things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few days back the issue of export of potato was raised, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has said that potato would be exported. But he has not exported even a quintal of potato though he has said so with full confidence. How can your potato be accepted outside as it contains less percentage of carbohydrate and higher content of water. Nobody is going to ask for your potato. Whether the Government have ever launched such an extensive programme or introduced such a variety which may contain less percentage of carbohydrate and water. Nothing of this sort was done. The whole production of potato is either infected by virus or by bacteria. It means this variety of potato is not going to be exported to the countries which can offer

better prices. The only thing I have to submit is that either you talk of wheat or rice but still qualitatively we have not been able to prepare ourselves mentally because earlier our country faced food problem. In the name of Green Revolution the farmers have made the country prosperous by the dint of their hard labour. They have made the country capable of providing food to all the countrymen but today nobody is going to listen to their grievances because the Government have also seen that now everything will come to our country from abroad.

It was also said that some Bar Committee would be constituted to check dumping. Where that Bar Committee has gone when recently China has dumped everything in India. What the administration of India has been doing. What was Government doing at that time. Amongst the items dumped by China, Pencil cell is one which is available at the cheapest rate. In India, the price of cell was Rs. 7.50 per cell and now the same is available at Rs. 1.50 Chinese cycle is available in India at Rs. 450.00. Now there is a plenty of these items in the market but there is no buyer. What is the reason behind it. These are the things which require attention of the Government. You must pay timely attention to it. It is my firm belief that still it is time to arrest the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to discuss a bit about the subsidy. Sir, I will conclude in just five minutes. Please do not ring the bell otherwise I will be nervous. In the name of subsidy, whatever items we would export to America or Canada and whatever items they would export from there they have given 245 per cent subsidy on those items.

What is the position here? Here still they are not ready to give subsidy in the name of export, then how you will stand in the competition in the global market? Unless the Government give subsidy on all these items, you will not be able to withstand the competition in the global market. America gives subsidy to the tune of 2000 dollars on one hectare of land in the developing countries at the initial stage and in India; there are problems in giving 17.5 dollars subsidy on one hectare. If the agriculture production declines even in this year, then we must understand that we would be aheading towards economic slavery and if we do not look into this matter then our slavery would prove to be more grave than of 200 years slavery of the British empire and we will not be able to make ourselves free from this economic slavery.

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

Now we come to the issue of Cost. If the Government have formulated a policy that two per cent employees would be reduced. It is good because it is not possible to pull on if we depend on jobs and for any Government it is not possible to provide jobs to all the people. But how you are going to compete. In Brazil only 236 persons are deployed to produce one million ton of sugar. They have also got job security and all the persons work sincerely. In India, ten thousand persons are required to produce one million ton of sugar. Where will you stand? What system will you adopt? Everybody we come across so many examples. When Pepsi Cola was introduced in India, it was available at the rate of rupees three per bottle. They purchased all the soft drink companies by offering hundred rupees for one rupee. Now the same Pepsi Cola is available at rupees ten per bottle. What will be the position in future. If they sell a bottle for hundred rupees still you would be compelled to purchase that. All the facilities under the N.T.C. are getting closed, small-scale industries are getting closed, agro-based industries are getting closed. The Government is turning a deaf ear to all these things. I request that the Government should be aware of all these things and they should look into the plight of the farmers. Just now, Brar Sahib was saying that double the number of persons have been killed in the Kargil war than who have committed suicide. The same is the position in Andhra Pradesh and in other States. If we have to avoid these circumstances and keep our farmers alive then the Government will have to assist and the Government must assist.

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. A lengthy discussion has taken place till now, for the past three hours, about the problems faced by the farmers.

Sir, as we all know, agriculture is the mainstay of our economy as it provides livelihood to most of our people. It is heartening to hear from the hon. President's Address that India had record foodgrains harvest of 209 million tonnes last year. Our buffer stock has crossed an all time high of 40 million tonnes. It is further heartening to note that India has become the largest producer of milk and the second largest producer of rice, wheat, fruits and vegetables in the world. Our beloved country also happens to be the world's fifth largest producer of eggs and sixth largest producer of fish.

Sir, with this bright picture of the agriculture sector in mind, for which our farmers deserve highest commendation, the poor plight of farmers continues. In the words of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, farm scientist "though India is a grainsurplus country and has over 45 million tonnes of wheat and rice in its godowns, over 250 million children, women and men go to bed partially hungry everyday". From being food secure, India needs to become livelihood secure and that is the biggest challenge facing the country today.

The results of the 55th Round of the National Sample Survey Organisation released recently reveal that over 26 crore of the country's population live below the poverty line. More recently, considerable concern has been expressed on whether the Indian agriculture would be adversely affected by a flood of subsidised imports under the WTO regime which will be able to enter our market when Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) are removed with effect from 1st April, 2001. There is an apprehension among the farmers that after the removal of QRs on various agro items, they will not be able to compete with their imports that will be much cheaper than the present rates prevalent in the domestic market.

Now, coming my State of Andhra Pradesh, I would like to submit that ten districts of the Telengana region of the State are declared as drought-prone areas. The entire region is hit by drought every year. Agriculture is dependent only on lift irrigation. Lift irrigation is not properly given and electricity supply is not proper. There is a lot of voltage fluctuation and the farmers face a lot of problems due to this when the yield is coming in.

The Telengana region does not have proper water, proper lift irrigation system and today there is no adequate supply of power. The region is facing today a very bad situation. There are no alternative crops which are being suggested to the farmers. Everybody knows that when there is no adequate water supply, paddy should not be grown. They should come out with alternate crops. There are so many research centres which have been financed by the Government and there are NGOs which are moving around with so many schemes. But nobody comes to the rescue of the farmer.

The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are also suffering with the abnormal power tariff which has been imposed on them. The commercial products like tobacco, turmeric, groundnut, sunflower, horticulture etc. are not being undertaken although researches have shown that there is profit in this. This is due to the high tariff of electricity.



The situation is so bleak today that no farmer is encouraging his son to do farming. They are not allowing their sons to take up the profession which their forefathers have left for themselves. There are a lot of farmers who are migrating to the neighbouring districts in search of jobs. They are going to other places in other States and are working on the projects there, leaving behind their profession.

I would like to share my experience with regard to the problems of farmers of my constituency in Mahabubnagar district, Andhra Pradesh.

Mahabubnagar is the largest district in Andhra Pradesh where 80 per cent of the population depends on agriculture and a majority of them are below the poverty line. As I myself belong to the farmer class, I have seen them from close quarters.

Sir, enquiries have been made. They invest about Rs. 14,000 on one acre of land, they wait for the yields. There is no proper supply of water. There is no proper irrigation system for them. There is no proper supply of electricity. No proper fertilisers are given to them. At the end of the day, the farmer, who has invested Rs. 14,000 on one acre of land, stands back and waits, with the loans which he has accumulated, for the yield. The money is being brought on loan and at the end of the day, he does not get anything from the yield. Thus, either he has to sell his land or he has to commit suicide. Sir, you know that the cotton farmers had committed suicides and they still linger in our memories. A lot of farmers have committed suicides. The groundnut farmers had committed suicides. The cotton farmers had committed suicides. Now, I think, it is the turn of the paddy growers this time.

All the 64 *Mandals* in Mahabubnagar district have been declared as drought prone areas. Fortunately, last year, there had been good rains. The farmers were happy thinking that such good rains had come and they could again go back to their old profession. So, they again went to the moneylenders, took the loans and sowed the seeds. There was a very good yield which had come out. They had bought the pesticides and were giving the last touches to the yield so that come insects did not infect the crop, but unfortunately, they did not know that there was a very big insect coming, that is, WTO. After all this, they have taken their yields to the market and the rate which was given to them was only Rs. 540 per quintal. With this amount, they could not even pay the interest on the loan which they had brought in. This again brought them back to square one.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can see that there is a lot of money which is being earmarked for training programmes for the farmers. I fail to understand what kind of training is being given to them they cannot be cautioned about the WTO and cannot be advised about alternative crops. My concern is that farmers have to be enlightened on WTO and various other crops which will fetch them some money. Research should be carried on and farmers should be advised on what would probably fetch them good returns for their toil. This is one part of the sufferings of the farmers in the villages.

Secondly, I would like to highlight the poor sanitary conditions in the villages. When you go to a village, you can find only shit everywhere. There are no hygienic conditions in the villages. There is no person to look after these people. Today, we are talking of the hi-tech information technology all over the world, but we are forgetting our poor farmers, who are actually the backbone of the country.

I know that the Government is taking good steps. To reduce the impact of WTO, they have made efforts and they have taken a number of steps. They have introduced heavy import duties on certain agricultural products. As a matter of fact, duties have been revised upward to safeguard the interests of the domestic farmers, time and again.

For example, the basic customs duty on refined edible oil was increased from 15 per cent to 25 per cent in December 1999, and a further ten per cent increase in basic customs duty had been effected from July 2000. On 6th March, the hon. Prime Minister has committed to the farmers, in a large gathering of farmers at Kurukshetra, that the interests of the farmers would be protected.

I am also glad that the Budget 2001-2002 has given some incentives to the farmers like the Kisan Credit Cards, coverage of life insurance etc. However, there is not much to feel comfortable about it, as there is a lot more to be done to the poor farmers.

I would like to mention about coverage of life insurance. Today, not even 25 per cent of the farmers have received their insurance. Seventy-five per cent of the farmers are still moving around the DM offices, around the MRO offices for collecting the amounts. When this particular scheme has been introduced, I request the

[Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy]

Government\* to also see that it goes to the end-users and not to the middlemen. Basically, we should not forget that without *kisans*, our country is not there. Keeping in view the importance of the farmers, while whatever facilities we are providing to the other different sectors, we should not forget the farmers.

I conclude by saying that the farmers are the backbone of the country and, therefore, they should not be neglected.

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma): Mr. chairman, Sir, the discussion on farmers is being held several times we are all farmers and are also aware of the problems of village but the outcome is never discussed. So many announcements are made by the Government but nothing takes place is reality.

Just now, Hon. Minister of Finance mentioned credit card, insurance coverage for the farmers, these things have been there even in the past but whatever experience we have that where it should reach, the real beneficiaries have so far not been benefited by it and the kind of system we have at present, nothing can be expected from that system. The main problems being faced by the farmers are of irrigation and power. Wells, check dams, ponds are required for irrigation and for these power is required. Both these things are vital resources which are not available anywhere. Farmers want that they should have wells, check dams, ponds but there is no provision for it in the budget. Previously funds used to be provided directly for digging wells and ponds through the Million Wells Schemes but this Scheme was subsequently converted into Swarn Gram Yojana last year from April and it was stated that farmers of various categories living below poverty live will be given loans through commercial banks for this purpose and grants will be given accordingly. But if you review the situation you will find in the villages no one has even attempted to achieve the target fixed for commercial banks. Their achievements have been negligible. Thus, it was rightly pointed out by Mr. Chairman that nothing would come out of the discussion on these points. Discussion may go on here for four hours, eight hours and even for two days and thereafter hon. Minister has to give a reply and everything will be over and nothing concrete is going to happen. As suggested by you the problem of farmers is concerned with many departments. It is concerned with the Ministry of Finance, Power, Chemicals and Fertilizers, concerned

with Petroleum for Oil. Therefore. If we have to solve the problems of the farmers in the true sense then a Committee of group of Ministers should be set up besides a parliamentary Committee. What happens that whenever problems of farmers are brought before the Minister of Agriculture, he passes them on to the Ministry of Finance or Fertilizers by the time reply comes from there or a decision is taken, another session of the House commences and then we hold discussions on the problems of farmers. I agree with the suggestion made by you and believe the House would also agree that a Committee of group of Ministers besides a Parliamentary Committee should be set up, to do the work effectively. The problems of farmers will be solved. For example these Committees can effectively monitor the proper utilization of funds provided by you under various schemes.

Many Governments announced in the past that the loans up to Rs. ten thousand given to the farmers will be waived but nothing happened in reality. When the farmers goes and asks about waiving of his loan he is handed over a letter giving details of the payment to be made by him alongwith the compound interest on the loan taken by him which is several times the loan taken by him. The farmer is not able to pay that loan even if he sells his entire property. Therefore, the Government should review the situation and try to remove the lacunae in the system.

It is very hot in Bihar and Jharkhand. The farmers are not even getting drinking water, what to talk of irrigation. Nothing is taking place on the ground level from the schemes and funds floated by the Department of Rural Development. You talked about storage but even today the farmer is facing problems in storing his foodgrains. How he would carry his produce to the market, there are no roads. We could thank the Government for launching the Rural road scheme. But what would be it's fate by March. How would you construct the roads in villages when there would be Monsoon after two months.

The condition of farmers is becoming pitiable from all sides. Therefore, it is my request to the hon. Minister to constitute a Committee of Ministers and a Parliamentary Committee, which will consider these problems. No matter how many figures you give, nothing will happen. We hail from Bihar, Jharkhand there the farmers have their our problems. People are demanding wells is my constituency Kodarma. They are saying if you provide us wells, our problems will be solved. But instead of digging wells there, the Government talks of opening Agriculture Science Centres. I would like to ask you, how many such Agriculture Science Centres have been opened in Jharkhand? It is stated that farmers will be imparted training but nothing is taking place is reality.

Therefore, not taking much time I would conclude by simply making this request that to solve the problems of the farmers a Committee of group of Ministers a Parliamentary Committee be set up to avoid discussions on the farmers every now and then.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Janhanabad): Mr. Chairman, I would first of all like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the subject of farmers. Today the discussion on farmers and villages is being held with full gusto. Several times discussions have taken place here and even today the hon. Members have very scientifically given the detail figures in regard to the problems of farmers. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards some points that whenever we discuss farmers, agriculture policy, we will have to discuss the overall development of villages. Because it's significance is not restricted to the produce of the farmers alone.

I would like to submit that to some extent our policies have been responsible for the present State of affairs. Lack of will power has also been responsible for this. Our policies are not framed keeping the villages in mind, due to various sort of pressures from the bureaucrats and other vested interests. The very will power which was expected from the Government after the independence to frame such policies which may strengthen the villages, is lacking. Kusumaria ji has said that we hold discussion as a ritual on the fundamental issues of the farmers not cutting across party lines. Several steps have been taken. National Agriculture Policy was formed long after independence. For this we would like to congratulate the Government. But National Agriculture Policy was framed in 52 years which ignores the villages and the farmers. It is an example in itself. I would like to submit before the hon. Minister that farmers is a cadre who is always under debt and require more and more debt but is not able to repay to loan and ultimately goes to the prison. You will be surprised to note that the law that was in force during the British region made the farmers a thing of exploitation and even after, so many years of independence that law still exists. When a farmer is imprisoned for non payment of loan, the money spent on him in the prison are added to his loan. On one side dreaded criminals are sentenced to prison for committing crimes and they are governed under the jail manual for providing them facilities. Whereas no such facilities are provided to the farmers who is the most neglected person. Therefore this draconian law should be repealed it is a stigma in itself.

Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to congratulate the Government for bringing the Scientific revolution in the country. Our Minister of Agriculture belongs to a family of farmers and has experienced the plight of farmers. He has made several efforts in this direction so that the lot of Indian farmers is improved and they may make their presence felt in the global market. But whatever efforts have been made in this direction are like a drop in the ocean. In reality the farmers and the labourers are on the verge of ruin and particularly the condition of farmers of Bihar is quite critical. The reason being that the State Government is not concerned and whatever framework has been made in the name of development has in fact affected the entire process of development of the farmers of Bihar. In such a situation, around one crore labourers and farmers are leading a miserable life outside Bihar. The problems of farmers have increased after partition, that is why schemes should be definitely formulated for comprehensive and integrated development. Hon. Member, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh has suggested that a team of group of Ministers be formed. This is correct without which development of villages is not possible. Rupees thousand crore are being earmarked and sent in the name of literacy mission in villages but none has been made literate there so far. We evaluate the real situation we will find that only paper work has been done. Therefore, DRDA, Indira Awas and Water Management Schemes will have to be reviewed. Water Management Scheme was conventional Scheme, even this scheme has collapsed. Like wise check dams and bridges, culverts have been constructed only on papers. Those who are resourceful only they get the facilities. Therefore I would like to say that schemes should be framed for rural development/Schemes should be framed in regard to health, agriculture and education. On one side we have problems of farmers. And on the other no meaningful efforts have been made for the recovery of Rs. 18 thousand crore outstanding of the banks against big 17.00 hrs.

houses. Banks have opened for the development of farmers but these very banks are proving to be land loot banks. If we examine the role of banks in the schemes being implemented through various means banks will be seen encouraging the purchase of tempo, car or truck but they will make a farmer run from pillar to post for purchase of cattle so much to that he drops the idea of buying them. Such is the mentality of bank officers and this mentality is anti-farmer. There was no hue and cry when bungling to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crore was committed in Banks. But the attitude of the Government towards farmers is dangerous. When we talk of prosperity and development of farmers we must keep in our mind that farmers and villages are the very source of our strength whether it is manifested in the form of the

[Shri Arun Kumar]

strength of our nation or in what is termed as 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan'. We will have to accept that our source of strength lies in the village. People of pervert minds are now out to weaken the strength of villages and farmers. Their attitude is a hurdle in the way of our tradition, development and culture. This we have to bear in our mind.

During the last fifty years we have not done what was required for the promotion of our culture and tradition. My submission is that educational facilities and techniques of management should be developed in the villages and farmers should not only get support price but remunerative price for their produce. We will have to see how farm management and price of produce are well balanced. Unless the villages are made stronger by saving them from the threat of pervert urban culture. Our country cannot be made strong. In a city crores of rupees are spent when a bridge has to be constructed there but he has to cover a distance of 70-80 Kms. from a village to reach the district headquarters via a longer route in the absence of a direct road. Nothing is being done in a village for farmers. Nothing has so far been done to provide approach roads in villages.

The basic tenets of Indian culture are deeply rooted in its village culture and Indian values and Indian culture can be protected by villages only and thereby India can become strong. However, the people of villages are compelled to lead a life of destitution devoid of educational facility etc. and they are forced to virtually sell themselves by coming to cities. We will have to consider this problem thoroughly.

A discussion on FCI was being held just now. There may be irregularities there. It is correct that there is an imbalance in the FCI. Several States have sufficient storage capacity but the requirements of several other States are being overlooked. Private agencies should not be allowed to exploit the farmers. This is a big crisis. If the Government has strong will power, we can definitely ensure such a management so as to prevent exploitation of farmers. Farmers grow foodgrains, fruits and tomato. By the side of G.T. road in Rohtas and Aurangabad districts of Bihar tomato is grown on such a large scale that farmers leave it in the field itself. Lack of management is to be blamed for such a situation.

While thanking the hon. Minister of Agriculture for announcing National Agriculture Policy, I would like to seek certain clarifications from him. Who should be the owner of land? Farmers are the owners of land, but care should be taken to ensure that the land is not owned by

corporate houses. If the land goes to the corporate house, farmers will not remain farmers, their characteristics will not remain intact. A farmer means a man with a strong courage of conviction who can struggle in adverse situations. He is an invaluable legacy of mankind. A fighter with a strong courage of conviction he is none but a farmer living in the village. A difficult situation will be created if his land goes in the hands of corporate sector. Our culture gives inspiration and strength to the entire humanity. If the ownership of land passes on to the corporate house it will pose a threat to them. The hon. Minister should give clarification in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put my points very briefly. Several hon. Members have mentioned about the poor and miserable condition of farmers. I agree with them. I also agree with their suggestions and would like to appeal that the hon. Minister should show his benevolence in implementing those suggestions to improve the condition of farmers. Keeping in view the suicides committed by farmers, a Joint Committee of the Parliament should be constituted to find out a remedy. When J.P.C. can be constituted in regard to the cases of bunglings, why cannot we formulate a clear cut policy to ensure the welfare of those who constitute the very foundation of this country? Now there is a slogan in the country 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan'. Amidst all this, incidents which amount to ruination of farmers are taking place. Committing suicides by farmers is not an ordinary matter. Farmers are facing odds from all corners. Right, the slogan of 'Jai Kisan' is there but the policies of the Government are causing heavy blow to the farmers. In this situation of hopelessness and utter dismay farmers have no other way out but to commit suicide. There should be a thorough investigation into all such incidents. That will make it clear as to what is the attitude of the Union as well as State Governments. Be it food or drought or any natural calamity or the issue of taking loans from Banks or making recovery thereof, the Government have made several policies in that regard. Many of them are in practice of them are in practice for several years. There are volumes of books on Government announcements, so much so that libraries are full of informatory documents. I am reminded of a couplet by Dr. Iqbal-

"Jab Amal Hi Nahin To Awar Mein Kya Rakha Hai,  
Agarche Lakh Seene Se Laga Rakha Hai."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have announced policies for farmers, coined slogans and made speeches, but the fact remains that farmers are still neglected and that they are committing suicides. Now the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and virtually the farmers of all the States are saying that the Government have surrendered before the W.T.O. ignoring the factual conditions prevailing in the country and our agriculture sector has been totally mortgaged. Those who sacrificed their lives for the country would have never thought that such a treachery would be committed on the farmers. They sacrificed their lives for the cause of the country and said while departing from this world:

'Khush Raho Ahle Vatan Hum to safar karte Hain,  
Daro-Diwar Se Mata Ko Naman Karte Hain.'

They would not have thought that after independence the country would be ruled by such people who under the guise of patriotism would hand over the country to those very people against whom they fought and sacrificed their lives. The peasants of the country struggled against the Britishers at the time when a large section of our own countrymen including princely States lords (Zamindars), capitalists, traders and bureaucrats were indulging in flattery of Britishers and they were also indulging in brokerage. The need of the hour was to formulate such policies paying due respect to the sentiments of the freedom fighter who sacrificed their lives, so as to make our country self-reliant. However, we are moving towards corporate sector today. They are being given opportunities. Our freedom struggle was also aimed at doing away with feudalism doing land reforms and making the tillers of land as owners thereof. That would have strengthened our agriculture and rural economy. But after fifty years of independence the Government is talking of giving big plots of land to corporate sector, big multi-national companies, big racketeers, big mafias and those indulging in scams and on the other hand the landless farmers and lakhs of agricultural workers are being forced to migrate from their villages in search of livelihood. This is horrible situation. This is why poverty is increasing in our villages. There is no facility of roads, houses, toilets, sanitation, hospitals, schools in villages. There is a lack of irrigation and electricity facilities. All these things are now required to ensure development and prosperity in villages. In such a situation it will be only proper for the Central Government to co-operate with the State Governments to settle these things and there should be no confrontation between the two.

17.17 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

To accuse as to who purchased the foodgrains of the farmers of Bihar and who prevented from doing so will not serve the purpose. In this regard the Union Government has to play its role and the State Governments have also not to shy away from their responsibilities.

Both the Government have got distinct responsibility and duties. Both the Governments are governed by the same Constitution. Therefore, none should be blamed when the issue is to rise above the party politics then an effort should be made to find out as to where the mistake has been committed in solving the problem instead of indulging in mudslinging. The mistake should be rectified. If it is beneficial then, it should be admitted but the ruling party should not insist that whatever they say is the last word. If we adopt this approach then, the grievances of the farmers could be redressed. The Union as well as the State Governments should work in tandem and try to understand and solve the real problems confronting the farming community. With these words I conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a very important debate on the problem of the farmers has been going on for the last three hours here in this House. I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this issue. Sir, if we cast a look on the post independence 53 years then we find very few Governments at the Centre that have worked for the vast farming community.

After all what are the problems confronting the farmers? Had the Central Government thought over the problems of the farmers and villages then the problem on which the farmers are agitated today, would not have been there and the situation in which farmers are committing suicides would not have arisen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the price of farmers produce is decreasing and the price of the inputs he has to purchase have increased to such an extent that he cannot purchase them. When the price of farmer's produces like wheat, millet, jwar, moong etc. were Rs. 2.00 per Kg. then the price of tractor was 15.20 thousand rupees only. Today the same tractor costs around 3 lakh rupees and if he goes for purchasing the other accessories and agricultural equipments then it costs about 5 lakh rupees. Today the price of foodgrains is 3-4 rupees per Kg. The

[Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi]

prices of the inputs the farmers procure have gone up 30-40 times whereas the price of the farmer's produce has not increased in the same proportion. Today, the farmer cannot afford to use electricity. The diesel the farmers get in villages is not pure. If they use it in their pump sets and tractor then they have to get the engines overhauled every four-six months. The gap between the prices of kerosene and diesel has widened so much that the retailers adulterates kerosene with diesel owing to which the tractors develop snags and the farmers have to spend 10-20 thousand rupees after just four-six months. The farmer should get the fine quality diesel so that he does not need to spend even a single rupee on his tractor during the initial five-six years. Such arrangement was there earlier but today it is not so. Therefore the Government should ensure that there is no adulteration in the diesel meant for the use of farmers.

Sir, today, garlic and edible oil is being imported in the country. In my Constituency of Jodhpur, the farmer produces garlic at the rate of 3-4 rupees per kg. but the imported garlic is freely available in the market merely at Rs. 2.50-3.00 per kg. The farmers have no option but to burn their garlic crops in fields itself. The edible oil is also being imported. The farmer sold the mustard at the rate of Rs. 2500 per quintal three years back, but now the price of mustard has slumped to Rs. 500-1100 per quintal. All the oil mills in Rajasthan have closed down. Same is the situation in other parts of the country. The farmers have stopped cultivating 'Raida'. The import duty imposed on the imported edible oil does not make much of a difference. All the oil mills have closed down. The labourers engaged therein have also been rendered jobless. In case the country need to produce edible oil in the country in the near future, then, the oil mills cannot be set up overnight nor can the mustard be produced in the country in a day. Therefore, this issue needs to be pondered over in the interest of farmers as well as labourers.

Sir, Rajasthan has been facing acute famine for the last three years. Fodder is not available for the livestock. The farmers are not in a position to procure fodder. Haryana and Punjab have provided some quantity of fodder free of charge. Therefore, some farmer have been able to save their livestock but unfortunately these areas were lashed by rains in last four-five days and the foods dumped their got rotten. It would be very difficult to save the live stock in the times to come. Out of the five crore sheeps in the country 2.5 crores sheeps are there in Rajasthan, western Rajasthan in particular. Grazing charges have been increased in Madhya Pradesh for sheeps coming from Rajasthan. The shepherds are sitting on M.P.-Rajasthan border with their luggage and a flock of over 2 crores sheeps.

Sir, those engaged in rearing of Cattle in Rajasthan are facing tough time. There is no veterinary hospital in villages. Such hospitals are located in big cities which are not accessible for farmers. Therefore, a big veterinary hospital should be set up at the block level so that the farmers could get their cattle treated in these hospitals and save them. If the farmer's cow or buffalo is worth 10-15 thousands of rupees even then he can not go to the city hospital and get it treated there. If a cow or buffalo falls ill then it needs to be attended by the doctor in 10-15 minutes which is not possible in the village resulting in the death of the cow or buffalo.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the power tariff has been hiked in Rajasthan. Still the farmers have not been supplied adequate power as a result of which the situation of famine have been created. Famine is of two types. First the famine is created if it has not rained. Second type of famine is manmade. It is second type that has hit the State. Even we cannot put the blame on the almighty. The fault lies with the Rajasthan Government. When the farmers were engaged in sowing operations the power supply was given for 10-12 hours when it was time for harvesting after reaping of the crop the power supply was given nearly for two hours. This resulted in the drying up of the crops in the field. Owing to short power supply and non-availability of other means, the farmer could not reap the crop. Therefore, it is my humble request that adequate supply of power should be ensured to the farmers at the time of sowing and harvesting. So as to ensure that the produce reaches the farmer's house safely. The farmer has to spend a huge sum on purchasing the inputs. If adequate supply of power is not provided to the farmers then his crop is destroyed causing immense financial loss to him. Thus man-made famine should not be created.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to make an earnest request to the Union Government that several centrally sponsored schemes are run in the States such as I.R.D.P. in which poor families are identified and given Dalia. There is literacy mission on which the Government spends crores of rupees. But the most essential of all required in the State is water. Punjab and Haryana are also to face scarcity of water because water level in the Ganga basin is going down. Therefore, the old sources of water are needed to be conserved and protected. The State Government does not have resources to save those sources. Therefore, the State Governments should be provided funds by the Union Governments for protection and development of the old sources of water. As many as 3 crores of people and few crores of cattle are affected by the shortage of water in Rajasthan. Water is available neither for human beings nor for animals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell something about my Parliamentary Constituency of Jodhpur. Where the Union Government have spent 3 crores rupees on literacy programme for 1st, 2nd and third class in this lone district but to no avail. Had the Government spent this amount on conservation of Ponds, it would have provided great relief to the farmers of Jodhpur district. The country too would have prospered. But the Government did not pay any attention on conservation of ponds, development of old sources of water. The whole country is to face water crisis in the future. Therefore, it needs to be looked into.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say that what the farmer says is not understood by the Chief Minister and the Government does not do any thing. The farmer ultimately withdraws in despair. There is acute shortage of water in Rajasthan and the farmers are in great difficulty. The farmers of Rajasthan are brave and the farmers of this State have laid down their lives for safeguarding the nation. They would never commit suicide in whatsoever difficulty they may face. Though such situation has arisen particularly in western Rajasthan where they are facing tough time. There are fourteen desert districts in the State where villages are situated in the remote and there is no water and electricity. The rules which are applied in the parts of the country cannot be made applicable there. Therefore, separate scheme should be made for desert districts of the State. With those made I conclude.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. There has been a long debate on the grievances of the farmers. Several honourable Members stated so many things. Associating myself with suggestion made by honourable Members here in this House I would request the Union Government to think about the farmers. The honorable Members should also ponder over it. At times the debate is focussed on same States and parties. We should rise above the party line and should help formulate a policy for the farmers so that they could be saved. In these 53 years of independence, so many Members have put forward several suggestions about farmers but no action has been taken thereon. Today we are at such stage that there is great danger for the whole farming community. If the farmers are ruined, the country would also not survive. This Government has hit its farming community hard. There would be a policy for the farmers. Otherwise we can not compete in the world and with those countries where farmers are given hefty

subsidies. The present Government has not done anything for the farmers. If farmer's son is there at the helm of affairs and formulate a policy for the farmers then the interests of the farmers would be safeguarded.

Shri Nitish Kumar ji had from a farmer's family. The farmer's son always understand the pain of the farmers. But this Government does not have any inclination towards the farmers. Several farmer leaders might have contributed their bit but that did not work. If we together make a policy for farmers then their interests could be protected. No Government is prepared to formulate a policy in the interest of the farmers. All are aware that there is no place to store the produce of farmers. The farmer is not getting the price for their produce. They have announced the support price of 610 rupees per quintal for wheat about no arrangements have been made for sugarcane and paddy. The manner in which foreign goods will make their entry here in coming days, Chaudhari Saheb, you are son of a farmer please listen to me, how much sympathy your Government have towards farmers? You being a farmer, are sitting on back benches. Chaudhari Saheb if you sit quietly like this is the House then the farmers will continue to suffer die like this...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Should he go away from the House?

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: You should not speak. You please remain quite. He is present here. He will give the reply...(Interruptions) No. I am not asking him to leave the House. I only want to say that people come to this House to make fun of the farmers. What is happening to farmers in Delhi. Sugar mills are lying closed in Uttar Pradesh, payments for sugar cane are not being made, farmers are not getting their money. 70-75 per cent farmers of this country when they get payments for their crops...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would just like to know your ruling. The hon. Member mentioned that hon. Members come to the House to make fun of farmers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the hon. Member said that all the hon. Members are present in the august House to make fun of farmers. Will that find a place in the proceedings? I would like to know about it from the Chair...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Did he say that hon. Members come to the House to make fun of farmers?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You have said that hon. Members come to the House to make fun of farmers. You have said this. It is a part of the proceedings...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Hon'ble Member could not get my point. I have said that when there is a discussion on farmers or about their interest some people make fun of farmers. Therefore, they should understand the need to think seriously about farmers. I have said this, the hon'ble Member could not get it.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: There is no misunderstanding.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Or perhaps you do not feel their agony.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already explained it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): You have said that hon'ble Members come to this House to make fun of farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: I want to say this much that when there is a discussion on the issue of farmers or matters related to farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In the light of his explanation, it may be recorded.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: When there is a discussion on issues related to farmers not only Agriculture Minister but other Ministers such as Finance Minister, Irrigation or Power Minister whose Ministries are some how related to agriculture should remain present here, as this matter relates to farmers. On the one hand thousands of crores of rupees are outstanding against some big business houses but no warrant is issued against them and Government is not ready to disclose even their names. On the other hand in Uttar Pradesh, farmers are being insulted for paltry sum of loan of Rs. 5,000 and their buffaloes, cows, cattle heads and tractors are being confiscated...(Interruptions) I have myself witnessed in my constituency Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh that thousands of farmers being insulted just for a petty loan of Rs. 2,000. They are being taken into custody and being locked up by the tehsildars. Thousands crores of rupees of this country either due to electricity department or to any other department is outstanding against the big people but the poor farmer who owes only five thousand is not spread. There should be some law so that they are not humiliated for such petty amount of loans. Farmers do not get payments for their crops on time. As long as payment for sugarcane are not made how could farmers pay back their loans. On the one hand payments of sugarcane are outstanding against the Uttar Pradesh Government and the other hand the Government is disgracing local farmers by putting them behind the bars. As long as farmers do not get payments for their crops, for their sugarcane, they cannot send their wards to school, they cannot get their uniforms stitched and cannot marry away their daughters. If you have sympathy towards farmers then formulate effective policy for farmers which could strengthen the country as well. We had heard that one East India Company had come to India and enslaved us and ruled over us for 200 years. But many East India Companies are now coming to our country and God knows for how many thousand of years they will make us slave and rule over us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the Government through you that it should formulate such a policy which could safeguard the interest of farmers. I have mentioned two-three points earlier too which I would like to reiterate. The DCM group has set up a mill in Mau, Western U.P. but this mill exist only on paper not in reality. The local farmers are wandering about to sell their sugarcane crops. Injustice is also being done to the farmers by the Durala and Mawana mills, they are not getting the payments. I request the hon'ble Minister to look into the cases of those mills which exist only papers.



The land acquired from farmers at throwaway price for this purpose if there is no mill on that land or the mill is not operational yet or they do not propose to start the mill should be returned to them so that they could again start farming there.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing the proposal brought by hon'ble Member Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Many institutions have contributed in raising the glory of India and farmers have made the maximum contribution. But it is a matter of regret that the Government of India is doing nothing to protect the self respect of farmers. Crop Insurance Scheme is being applauded a lot. The members of treasury benches say that our leader Shri Vajpayee has launched this scheme. They give credit to him to which I have no objections but most of the persons sitting these are democratically elected. There was a time when we used to sit on that side. I want to say something about the Crop Insurance Scheme. Under the Life Insurance Scheme, if the policy holder has paid first instalment, then in the event of his death his family gets the compensation. But the same does not hold good in the case of the Crop Insurance Scheme. During the current year Maharashtra is reeling under famine. Food crops as well as her crops have been damaged. Farmers are wandering here and there. I request the hon'ble Minister to send a team to Maharashtra to look into the problems of farmers. But my appeal is not being heard, though he himself is son of a farmer but he is not paying heed to our request. There is a provision in Crop Insurance Scheme that insured sum can only be claimed, if there is famine for three years consecutively. Is it possible? This insurance policy covers loan amount only. I request that this insurance policy should cover the damage caused to the crops. We have not got a single penny out of the crores of rupees deposited as insurance money through the cooperative societies over a number of years. This is very unfortunate and wrong. The Hon'ble Minister has brought a new agriculture policy that is alright. But they always find fault with the Congress Party. I would say. They were critical of Devegowdaji but they should know that Devegowdaji did a lot and he formulated a policy regarding gas and fertilizers beneficial to farmers. You were also part of that Government. He was not in favour of Congress but in favour of farmers. You should be true to your heart. Your policies are of course correct but your intentions are bad. This creates problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now conclude. You said that you will be brief. Now please conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: It is a question of intention. These people sometime say that subsidy should be withdrawn. America is a big country but our population has crossed the figure of one billion. Our only 30 crore people can afford to spend Rs. 200 per month on tea. America is aware of it. Therefore they are coming to India targeting that 30 crore people who are well to do, remaining 70 crore people do not have the purchasing power. Farmers are starving here despite surplus foodgrains. ...*(Interruptions)* I, therefore, submit that the Government should do something in this regard and the issue of onions should also be considered.

*[English]*

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. When we talk about the plight of the farmers in this country, I would like to submit that the farmers, in general, want that the WTO Agreement should be scrapped.

We have to see that the farmers get remunerative prices. When the minimum support price is to be decided, there should be a Committee constituted from among the farming community. That Committee should have Members and also representatives of the farmers for fixing the remunerative prices for their produce. It is a natural demand of the farming community when they know about the cost of production and the remunerative price that they want.

The immediate problem in Andhra Pradesh is to provide minimum support price for paddy and other agricultural commodities. The Central Government has to intervene through the FCI to procure the produce from *Rabi* crops in a big way. The minimum support price for groundnut should be around Rs. 1,500; for sunflower, Rs. 1,500; for cotton, Rs. 2,600 and for red gram, Rs. 2,000 per quintal.

Hundreds an thousands of farmers have been committing suicides. All those bereaved families have to be immediately sanctioned *ex gratia* payment.

I come from Rayalaseema. Cuddapah is my constituency. These areas are always drought-prone. I would request the Government, through you, that the definitions of 'famine' and 'drought' have to be liberally amended. To have a permanent solution and to mitigate the problems, we demand that the pending projects, like Galerugari and the Tungabhadra parallel canal, be completed early.

[Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy]

Employment opportunities have to be provided to the agricultural labourers by providing food for work and other drought relief work. All debts of the farmers have to be scrapped. They are to be provided fresh loans. Free and uninterrupted power supply has to be provided to the farmers in the drought-prone areas.

There is a very unfortunate situation. Our farming community is in great distress. The farmer is born in debt, and dying in debt. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicides. It is shocking for the country. Maybe the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh want in his 'Vision-2020' that dependence on agriculture has to be brought down from 70 per cent to around 40 or 50 per cent.

The Government over there and the Central Government, may be heading towards achieving total dependency in agriculture by forcing the farming community to commit suicide. Needless to say that irrigation is very important to agriculture. Since my childhood, I have been hearing of the National Water Grid. I do not know why the Central Government could not take it up when they can take up National Power Grid, or when they can take up National Road Network. I need not say that this facilitates drought proofing of our drought prone areas and mitigate the sufferings of the flood prone or the cyclone prone areas.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the farming community is in an agitating mood, though they are unorganised. They are so depressed to see that the Government in Andhra Pradesh and the Central Government are deciding their destiny. They are writing their dying declarations. I think, the hon. Minister of Agriculture should coordinate with the Department of Irrigation and maybe they have to come out strongly to help the farming community. I would like to know, how long this discrimination and regional imbalances are to be debated and when they are to be balanced.

I think, the Central Government has to come in a big way to help the farmers in general.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the issue pertaining to the farmers are being discussed here in the House which is a matter of joy and self-respect for us. About 70 per cent population of our country is dependent on villages. Today the farmers are producing foodgrains to feed more than hundred crore population of our country. Our Government should also think about empowerment of

these farmers. Hon. Shri Nitish Kumarji has brought a new policy for the farmers but the farmers have not been benefited by any policy till date. It is not so that the farmers will become prosperous by framing and implementation of your policy.

18.00 hrs.

The Governments do formulate policies. The Congress Government also formulate policies and your Government are also formulating policy. The Congress party during its rule of fifty years has done commendable job but your Government have completely ruined the country during your three years rule. Merely formulation of policy for farmers will not do. Shri Nitishji, your slogan is "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan", whereas the slogan of the Congress Party was "Jai Jawan, Jai Kissan". By giving the slogan of 'Jai Vigyan' infamous Tehelka scam occurred during your three years' rule. I think this is what you call 'Vigyan'. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi also promoted science but his slogan was 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kissan' perhaps he left 'vigyna' for you. Within the rule of one and a half year you have gone to this extent and if you remain in power for five full years it can be easily imagined as to how much detrimental you will prove to the country. You are not saving the lives of the farmers. If you do not heed to the issues relating to farmers, we will not allow you to remain in power. Twinkling stars are visible during night only. Cheer up...(Interruptions) when you are in power you do not care for the farmers who are in distress.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): You are absolutely right.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the benefit of the schemes formulated for improving the condition of the farmers should reach the farmers but the bureaucrats who are responsible for implementation of the schemes chalked out for the benefit of the farmers swindle the funds meant for such schemes. The funds earmarked for these schemes should reach the farmers. You should also think about the agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourers work in the fields of the small farmers but they are unable to pay wages to them. The Government can pay fifty per cent of their wages. Today there is a need to strengthen the agricultural labourers. You should pay heed to the problems of the agricultural labourers. There is need to increase their wages in proportion to price-rise. The farmers are unable to pay higher wages to the agricultural labourers. The Government should contribute to it.

A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Governor of Maharashtra Shri P.C. Alexander. The Committee has said that adequate surplus land is available in Maharashtra which can be distributed amongst the landless people. Four acres of land per family should be allotted to the landless people. Distribution of land should be done by the Union Government. If you will strengthen the farmers you yourself will be strengthened. We will not allow you to rule the country unscrupulously. Justice will have to be dispensed to the farmers and I believe that you will definitely dispense justice to the farmers but I am not sure as to how long you will remain in power.

Therefore, I do not know as to what kind of justice you will dispense. You belong to a farmer's family and I belong to the family of agricultural labour. It would have been better if both you and myself were in the same party. You have gone to other side. There is a need for us to come together. One day you will have to join us. with these words I request the hon. Minister to kindly make efforts for dispensing justice to the farmers.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House till the reply of the hon. Minister?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I have already called the hon. Minister.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, since you have extended the time, please allow me. I have to make only two points. I have given the notice...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You may ask some questions later on.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After the reply, both of you can seek some clarifications.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on the problems of the farmers. The discussion on the problems of the farmers started in March and it is being concluded today. During the last session also concern was expressed here in the House on the condition of the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we rise above the party lines and think over their problems, I think we will be able to deal with their problems more efficiently and the policies would be implemented properly. Many a time it has been observed that the problems of the farmers are politicised and the interests of the farmers are sacrificed for the sake of politics. Like our country our agriculture sector is vast and we have varied climate in different parts of our country. On the basis of the agro climate conditions it has been presumed that roughly about 65 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture. Several crops are cultivated in our country. Some crops are cultivated to feed our population whereas some other crops are cultivated to supply raw material to the industries. Thus different types of crops are cultivated in different areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture itself is a wide subject. As cultivation is done on land similarly cultivation is done in water also. Animal husbandry is also associated with it. When we talk about agriculture, it is not only the foodgrain, it also includes fruit, vegetables and spices. Thus every area has its own problems. It is but natural that the hon'ble Members want to vent their feelings here in the House. It is proper to do so. This House is the Supreme body of the country. People have elected us to this House. In the real sense more than 70 per cent members of this House have been elected from the country side. The people who have elected them are also the rural people. A large chunk of that population is dependent on agriculture. If we do not raise their problem in this House we will not be doing justice to our electorate. Therefore, agriculture is an important subject for the Government. Agriculture contributes to a large extent in the total gross domestic production of the country. As such no Government can ignore the agriculture sector.

But when politics crops up in between we forget everything and start criticising the views of each other. But I do not like to criticise the views of anyone here in the House. I would like to assure this House and the farmers and people of the country through this House

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that today there is fear of W.T.O. in the minds of the people. Last time also we had a discussion on this issue but that discussion was a high profile debate. Senior leaders had participated in that debate but I do not know whether they remember that or not. But today after making an assessment of the participating member in this debate I can say that they certainly want to make some points on the basis of their previous experience. Therefore, first of all I would like to assure the House that the interest of the farmers of our country will not be affected by the World Trade Organisation. In this regard, I would like to say that an agreement on agriculture was made in the field of agriculture and this agreement was one of the agreements signed with the World Trade Organisation under GATT Agreement. The 'agreement on agriculture' is being reviewed. There was a provision for reviewing that agreement. Now that agreement is being reviewed and talks are going on. India has put its stand on that. I am happy to inform the House that the stand put forth by India in the interest of its farmers and the farmers of the developing countries of the world has been supported widely. On the issue of review, differences have cropped up in between the developed countries and they have divided in many parts. Though we are not happy on this because it may be that the developed countries impose something on the developing countries by reaching some agreements amongst themselves. Therefore, we will have to be cautious at very stage and our learned negotiators are going to participate in the review exercise. I am happy to share the information with you that besides the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture is also paying its role in the process of reaching agreements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Brarji has raised some points here in the House which I can explain to him separately. But I would like to assure the House that when the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Murasoli Maran, while expressing India's views on 'Agreement on Agriculture' told to the officers of his Ministry that he will sign only those documents which will be bearing the signatures of Ministers of Agriculture. This was his stand. The Ministry of Agriculture has played an active role in preparing every document relating to agreement on agriculture. We have had discussion on this earlier also. But today I would like to reiterate that before preparing the documents relating to Agreement on Agriculture, we convened a meeting to the Ministers of Agriculture and Food of all the States in the country and circulated the related documents to the Chief Ministers of all the States.

Their opinion was taken in whatever meetings were held. Moreover, the opinion of all the reputed agricultural

institutions of all those who are interested in this subject including the opinion of Government organisations, voluntary organisations and experts were sought. All the political parties and their agricultural organisations were invited. They participated in the meeting and gave their opinion. Besides, we also sought the opinion of four former Prime Ministers and then finalised the document. It was approved by the Cabinet. It was also approved by the Cabinet Committee concerning W.T.O. We gave our presentation which received wide support as I mentioned earlier. We are negotiating strongly. We are not the ones to surrender. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now the market has been opened and you also must be aware of the reasons why it has been opened. We need not be scared of this opening of the market. Of course, we should be alerted for that we have made arrangements. Case is being taken for every item particularly the sensitive items. Our efforts will be to prevent dumping of any cheap agriculture produce or any other produce by any other country. If any such thing happens and there is a flood of imported items. The Government will certainly take steps. We have increased the custom duty. Other steps can also be taken including further raising of custom duty upto optimum limit, taking measures against dumping etc. Other safeguard measures provided under GATT will also be exercised. Whatever other measures are required, the Government will take. In any case, the interests of the farmers of the country will be taken care of. This much assurance I would like to give to this House.

The market is open now and we should analyse it. We are able to understand everything and give general explanation. If there is any crisis in agriculture sector we ignore it every conveniently and try to attribute it to W.T.O.. We will find out the solution to any such problem which is due to W.T.O. The attitude of generalising the things will not serve the purpose. Problems are more serious. The Government has a solution if any problem originates due to W.T.O. and the Government will take suitable measures. The hon. Finance Minister has made a Budget provision according to which edible oil is to be imported in huge quantity. The custom duty on it has been increased. Uptill last year, it used to be a concern that rice or wheat are being imported. That problem has also been solved. Import duty on traditional foodgrains has been increased. Import duty on wheat has been increased by 50 per cent while import duty on different varieties of rice has been increased by 70 to 80 per cent.

About milk, everywhere there is a talk that it is being imported. Brar Sahib was speaking just now. He is our colleague and is a learned member. He has a strong feeling

for farmers and I respect his feelings. He cited the example of Nestle. Be it a multinational company or any other company they are doing marketing by taking milk from farmers. They purchase milk from milkshed areas which are allotted to them and the farmers engaged in producing milk and engaged in animal husbandry do get market. They do marketing. Present time is the time of marketing. If the marketing of our produce is properly managed, people will naturally be attracted. The marketing capacity of the items being marketed from Anand is no less, however, that is a separate matter. That is not the imported milk. We have already taken steps in case milk comes from outside. Last year milk powder was imported since there was no import duty on it. Subsequently, we struck a fresh agreement under article 28 provided in GATT and the import duty which was zero was raised to 60 per cent. That way the import of milk powder was stopped. I have data with me. If you permit, I shall produce the data as to how much quantity of powder and other items were imported. Meanwhile, several problems cropped up. There was a newspaper reporting that liquid milk is being imported. We took that into account. I took a meeting in my Ministry and I personally sent my men to the market. The imported milk was found in tetra pack. I got one litre of milk bought in Rs. 65 wherein 1.5 per cent fat content was found. On analysis we found that several rules were being violated. We came into action immediately and issued an order that anybody desirous of selling anything would have to follow the established rules including mentioning the name of the product in the language of this country, mentioning the contents, price of the products and they would have to adhere to the other rules in this regard. In this way wherever there are any shortcomings, we have removed them. The custom department have been put on alert so that substandard goods are not exported to India. We have tried to go deep into the matter to find out the facts. After proper investigation we have tried to set right the loopholes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the issue is published on large scale then the matter is different. We are all in politics and belong to different political parties. We all seek votes and contest elections. Elections are held in different parts of the country. These things are spoken during campaigning but that is not the truth. The truth is entirely different.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Babu is worried. I would like to assure him that our Government is trying to promote animal husbandry. He was a Minister of Animal Husbandry in the Cabinet of Deve Gowda's Cabinet, he must be well aware of the fact that the work

related to Integrated Development Project and Operation Flood were completed in 1996. The area which was not covered under the Operation Flood Scheme for that a programme is being conducted. Improvement has been made and the efforts are being made to cover those areas which were left. Efforts are being made to provide marketing facilities to farmers by way of forming cooperatives. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, moreover a campaign to improve the breed is also being conducted. We are going to do that on a big scale. The Cabinet has approved the National Breeding Programme for cattle and Buffalo. Now there is no need of going to artificial insemination centre, rather a kit will be given to some people after imparting them training. They will reach to the villages at proper time to help the farmers. Insemination rate is failing in case of animals. We are trying to do better arrangements through this scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Brar Sahib has mentioned about foot and mouth disease. I would like to tell him that India does not claim that this disease has been eradicated. This claim was made by England and other countries. After their claim when this disease was found there then the attention of the world was drawn towards and there was a hue and cry in their countries. Now I do not want to speak about that because the matter is concerning the other country. That country has its own rules and sovereignty. They are free to do anything. There the animals which were in serious grip of the disease were burnt. In my personal view that was not a right thing. Anyway what can we do, this is their policy. They are sovereign States. We cannot even think of it in our country. Our people will not allow that the animals suffering from a disease should be burnt alive. This is like killing a man who suffers from a disease. If a man has a disease he should get treatment and should not be killed. We have claimed to have eradicated rinderpest disease from our country, but we have not made such a claim in regard to foot and mouth disease. The Union Government provide assistance to State Governments for eradication of the disease. To control and eradicate the disease is the part of Government policy. We provide help to the State Government in this regard. The State Government bear the financial burden of their share and farmers have also to bear the burden of their share.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is of the opinion that disease free zones should be created in the country. Some areas should be declared as having disease free animals. Our efforts are in that direction. This proposal is under consideration. This matter is not concerned with our Ministry only rather other Ministries

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and departments are also involved in it. Approval has to be taken from the Planning Commission and every other concerned department. So, the matter is under process. Our Ministry holds that in order to eradicate the foot and mouth disease a campaign similar to the Pulse Polio campaign should be conducted. We have already made efforts in this regard and soon we will take a decision in this regard. But the problem is that this issue is widely reported in the newspapers only when some incidents take place in other countries. That is their problem. They had made claims. No body can claim that the disease once eradicated cannot revive. There have been instances in this regard. Now it is being investigated as to from where the disease originate. Several statements are likely to be made in this regard. Meanwhile, where was a talk that some particular disease was eradicated from India 10 years back. Our scientists are competent to make a reply. Now it will be claimed that this is being prevented in other countries. We have open trade with other countries. We do not hide anything. Nothing is hidden about the facts of our country. We are a big country and we have a democracy. We have freedom of speech and freedom of writing as well. Sometimes an article has a devastating impact. This I have felt personally. In regard to Soyabean, we have seen the paste risk analysis of America. I had seen it in the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources which is an institution of ICAR we have done Paste risk analysis on 15 plants.

They have analysed India in the matter of Soyabean. We ask for split Soybean and we do not permit to export whole Soyabean to our country. People of other countries explain it in their own way. They conduct pest risk analysis in regard to the goods of our country. What criteria they have set in that regard? A person of our country have written an article and now that has been quoted that the disease is prevalent in your country. Now how can you check it? What is being written and what is being said. What would be the evidence and what would be stated to the world based on that evidence? The things know no bounds to the manner in which the speech made today by Shri Raghuvanshji has been used as evidence against us. Therefore, everyone should take care of certain things. For this, we must sit specifically. We are passing through a liberalised regime. My personal opinion may differ but it has been prevailing since a past date and this Government has also adopted it. We are not withdrawing from that. But we will have to think afresh in the new era. Now just for the sake of levelling the charges, people will say that you are giving at such and such price, then Raghuvanshji, it may be that can also be quoted somewhere. Today, how we should help the farmers? If production of anything outstrips its requirement

in our country, then we will export that item. On the one hand we want to have our access in the global market. When we think selling any product in the international market, we would be able to sell that only in the situation when our rates would be less than its prevailing rates in the international market. Only then, we will be able to sell that item. ...*(Interruptions)*. You may ask later on because now the sequence of my speech would go out of order. I would like to say something for the sake of information. If we are exporting that item, we should be glad. If anything would go out of the country, then the farmers would be able to fetch the price thereof. The procurement is not completed, we fully agree with it. Procurement has not been made everywhere? The Government have made the policy, price support scheme is there. The Government claim that if the price would fell, we would procure but it has not been implemented fully. It is right thing at its place. For that we can debate that what is the fault and where the fault lies? We have not got full infrastructure facilities. The agencies involved in procurement lack mutual coordination. It is a separate issue. I would not like to go on that today. Our Minister friends would take up that thing. We also go on apprising what our Ministry has felt. But that is a separate issue. There is a limit of procurement. You have got the capacity of 4 crore 74 lakh tonnes. Last time, we had said that the Union Government or the State Government should take the subject of its storage capacity in their hands. The production was made to the level of 20 crore 88 lakh tonne. Everything is not procured, the grains should have their price in the market and the farmers should get the price for their produce. There is a way of making procurement. Price support scheme is implemented only to help the farmers. It can never be possible to procure everything produced by the farmers. How the price of that things would increase? The price will increase only when there is a market for that. If there is sufficient market not available in the country, then efforts should be made to sell it outside the country. If we are exporting anything, then we would have to be competition in the matter of rates prevailing in the international market. If we store any product in the godowns and keep that there for two years or three years, then God knows whether that would be fit our consumption or not after three years period. If we store that in the godown, then what about the storage of the things that would be procured next year because cold storage is not built overnight. The Government have formulated a policy in regard to godowns in the rural areas. The scheme of cold storage has proved to be a big success. We had set a target of 12 lakh tonnes and we have exceeded that target. In the Five Year Plan, there is a back-ended capital subsidy scheme for cold storage for which we give subsidy. That

Scheme is being extended for godowns in rural areas. This time, there is a proposal in the budget which the Finance Minister has seen. A scheme would be formulated therefor and godowns would be built in rural areas but that would not be possible over-night. Private sector is also being asked to construct big godowns and Silos. If grain is taken out of our storage keeping in view our storage capacity that should be taken to the light place and that should get the proper market. Another point on which the criticism has been made is that grain is lying in godowns and people are sleeping with empty stomach. It is said in a quite normal way. Whatever grain is lying in the godowns, that has been procured after paying off the price and if somebody is sleeping with empty stomach, then there are separate programmes for poverty alleviation. Both these things are mingled in such a way which suddenly seem to be right when we listen that but we do not try to understand the economics between both these things either ignorantly or deliberately. The Government implemented Food for Work programme and grain is being given free of cost in the drought prone areas drought affected areas so that the States may implement Food For Work Programme. Yesterday, the Finance Minister has said that the Government are considering to extend this programme to the other States. Give work to the people and if grain is required for giving the work, take that from the Government. Such type of scheme is being formulated. Finance Minister has said that they are ready to open the godowns. Nothing can be more important than this. But both the things are continuing in the country. If we export then it will have to be made competitive in the international market. Foodgrains stored in godowns cannot be given for free distribution to anybody within the country. That can be given under some of the other scheme because the money or revenue coming to the treasury of the country is the money given by the people in the form of Tax from their hard earned wages. None of the Government has got the right to squander this money. The Government can function by forming one or the other policy. It can function by having the consent of the Parliament. As such just giving an ignorant plea is not going to serve any purpose. Therefore, the Government are also endeavoring towards that direction. What items are being imported? Our import is increasing. I did not want to quote the figures but for the sake of assuring you I would certainly say that you should not worry and as such I would like to quote the figures which is not because of the reason that you should not speak thereafter, you may speak as much you wish to do so. nobody can stop anyone from speaking but I am quoting the figures for the sake of your satisfaction. These are the figures worked out by our DGCI & S, Ministry of Commerce, which are quoted in the official data. The

data show the total agriculture import during the period April, 1999 to January 2000 and April 2000 to January 2001. There are nine months figures of the each of these two years. The total agriculture import between April 1999 to January 2000 was of the value of Rupees 13,799 crore 53 lakh and between April 2000 to January 2001, it was of the value of 10,452.72 crore which shows the decline in the import. Now let us see export details. We do not want to mention the export details repeatedly between the said period. The value of the total export between April, 1999 to January 2000 is rupees 20058 crore 29 lakh and between April 2000 to January 2001 Rupees 21,413 crore 41 lakh. It means that our export is increasing and import decreasing. As such you need not worry but you are required to be cautious.

The Minister of Commerce has announced that for the purpose of constant monitoring, a war room was made in a way to keep a tab on the items and quantity thereof being imported. And if anything is being imported in excess, then immediate steps should be taken to do the needful and it should be seen whether there is a need to increase import duty under bound rate. We have made efforts in this regard and we want to assure you that you need not worry for all these things. All of you would have always worried about the import in the area of dairy products etc. I would like to give only one figure and not much figures because every time there has been discussion about milk and cream that what was their quantum between the period April 1999 to January 2000. The import of these items was to the tune of 18.42 thousand tonne i.e. 18,420 tonne between the said period and the value thereof was Rupees 104.68 crore. And the quantum of import of these items is 1080 tonne and the value thereof is Rupees 6.01 crore between the period April 2000 to January 2001, this is the position. But everywhere it is being said that milk is coming from abroad and the farmers of our country would be in distress. Anyway, we are not forbidding to speak let the Members speak whatever they want to speak but be assured and have peace in your mind, this much I want to assure you. Rest of the things would be revealed to you later on ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Your information is based on some documents whereas I am telling from my own experience. Milk is not being purchased in our country and you are reading out the document...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Whatever the position is I am giving you the data and I have also narrated an incident that the step that we have taken to allow the import, I do not want to take much time of the House, otherwise the every single order of milk issued. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): I am not raising my question on your data and eloquence.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already said. I am not interested in eloquence. Public meeting forum is meant for that. But here this House is supreme, here the truth should be revealed. You are free to make the analysis, there is nothing in that.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I want to ask one question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him finish first, then you can ask.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will reply your questions one by one later on. Now I want to cover certain points. Shri Bhadana has just gone after speaking. Shri Bhadana, Shri Arunji and our friends have spoken the same thing. They have narrated the manner in which the loans were recovered from the farmers. Farmers are arrested and put behind the bars at several places and whatever amount of money is spent thereon in the jail, that is added in the amount of loan. Nowhere such things happen. If there is any defaulter in my industry, he cannot be dealt with in such a manner but it is happening with the farmers in the agriculture sector. I also represent the agricultural sector, I also hail from the rural area. Therefore, I also have got some information in this regard. As such I wrote a letter to all the Chief Ministers on my behalf. I had also written letters to all the Chief Ministers in August, 2000 and had stated, if you permit me. Will read out it, but if there is no need of it, I would like to place it on the Table of the House.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: That should be complied with.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Now please listen.

*[English]*

After every harvest, recovery complaint is lodged by the banks. In case of default the amount involved is declared as arrears of land revenue and sale certificates are issued by the State authorities. The properties mortgaged are attached and sold off for realisation of the loan amount. In addition, there is a provision of arrest and detention of the defaulter in the State Acts and this provision is resorted to quite frequently. The cost of proceedings and detention charges are also added to the loan amount. This draconian law is legacy of the British rule which does not fit in the democratic system of our country.

*[Translation]*

I have written this and requested to all the Chief Ministers.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: For this, you need to be congratulated, but the States are not giving importance to your letter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have said this on my own behalf and Shri Akhileshji is right that there is no response to this letter. A conference of Chief Ministers is going to take place and we would like to put this question during that conference. We would ask them to review this legislation framed by the Britishers which needs to be changed. This is not the way to humiliate farmers, if no body is able to pay off his debt, there could be other ways of recovery. A person cannot be punished two time for one offence, if someone is lodged in jail and sentenced to imprisonment, that is sufficient. It is not that you imprison someone and the expenses borne during the course of imprisonment are also added to the principal amount of loan. What sort of injustice is this?

Such injustice is continuing. This injustice should be done away with. Therefore, I would request that everybody should exercise their influence so that this kind of law should be repealed, if a farmer is unable to pay off his debts, he should not be insulted in this manner. There could be many other ways, but this way should not be the modus operandi. If this is so, then this law should be enforced for every sort of recovery, be it industry or any other sector. On the one side there are non performing assets which save you from declaring your assets and on the other side you apprehend a farmer and humiliate him. That is why we should make a resolution rising above party politics. Some issues never come to the fore, they remain hidden. It is good that discussions are held on such issues and the cat is let out of the bag. When such issues come up some or the other way is found out. It is not that this exercise in the House goes futile. Some of our Members feel disappointed that every time we discuss this issue. Whenever there is a discussion, it has an impact. Discussion always activates the Government. It is a special characteristic of parliamentary democracy. Please do not understand that there is no impact of a discussion. There is always an impact and that is why discussions should be held in the House. If there is half truth or incomplete facts, if it is mentioned then at least reality is surfaced.

Our colleague Shri Subodh Rai ji was speaking about the land reforms. I had presented the National Agriculture Policy in this House in July 2000. Agriculture policy was



being worked out since 1990. When National Front Government was in power, Shri Madhu Dandvateji was the Minister of Finance. He had emphasised the need of a National Agriculture Policy in his budget speech. Who ways there is no policy, policies have been there. Whether National Level Integrated Agriculture Policy has not been there? Several Governments came to power, every Government has worked. Several drafts were presented in this House. Even during the tenure of Shri Balram Jakhar many drafts were presented. I was the Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture. I have submitted a report after discussion this issue in my Committee. Many time this matter was discussed in this House, even with the State Governments. Many drafts were framed but could not be finalised. Even this much credit will not be given to a human being born in a poor family and who is representing a rural area. He gave a final shape to a proposal in this Government which could not be finalised in the last ten years. Not even this small amount of credit is being given. I do not talk of credit, it was our duty. When Shri Vajpayee had asked me to look after the Ministry of Agriculture then on the very day I had decided to give a final shape to agriculture policy. I am glad that it has been finalised. Standing Committee is discussing it. You talked about Land Reforms. Please go through paragraph 35 of agriculture policy, I would like to quote it:

*[English]*

"Indian agriculture is characterized by pre-dominance of small and marginal farmers. Institutional Reforms will be so pursued as to channelise their energies for achieving greater productivity and production."

The approach to rural development and land reforms will focus on the following areas:

- Consolidation of holding all over the country;
- Redistribution of ceiling surplus lands and waste lands among landless farmers, unemployed youth with initial start up capital..."

*[Translation]*

We have incorporated Land Reforms in our policy. I would like to quote—

*[English]*

"Tenancy reforms to recognize the rights of the tenants and share croppers;

*[Translation]*

You had launched movement holding red flags. This is in our agriculture policy. You could have given minimum praise. After this I would like to quote another issue in regard to which there is hue and cry in the country. I quote this also.

*[English]*

- "Development of lease markets for increasing the size of the holdings by making a legal provision for giving private lands on lease for cultivation and agree-business."

*[Translation]*

It was disputed that Multi National Companies will acquire the land of all the farmers. I would like to explain that we have no idea to increase the size of the holdings beyond the ceiling. It is the duty of the State to enforce the ceiling law. We are not saying to repeal it. The size of the land holdings can be increased under the ceiling, provided in the ceiling laws, it can be given or taken on lease. Today a farmer owning one beegha land cannot cultivate, he is giving it to the other fellow. His right also remains. New technology should be adopted by increasing the size of the holdings. It never means that there would be corporate farming and they will come and produce foodgrains here. They will come for some other work. That is why I want to make it very clear. At times one needs such clarifications. If discussion were held on policy, we could have clarified it under the ceiling. The purpose of increase the size of the holding lies in this. After this is

*[English]*

Updating and improving of land records, computerisation and issue of land passbooks to farmers.

*[Translation]*

Every farmer should get passbook for his land. Today, the farmer has to face so many difficulties for taking loan, for selling or buying a piece of land. This passbook will be given to the farmer so that when he would sell his land entry will be debited in his passbook and when he will make a purchase, it will be credited and he can

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take this passbook to the bank and show them his holdings and apply for loan accordingly on the basis of his holding. Therefore, the farmer should get money for his land and when he will have passbook, his non confirming assets or benami lands will be declared and those lands can be distributed amongst landless farmers. This is the purpose of issuing passbook. Thereafter we have:

[English]

"Recognition of women's right in land."

[Translation]

Women should have rights in land, they should get ownership rights, they should get equal rights. This is land reform policy and agriculture policy. We do not want to do away with land reforms. We want to implement land reforms in the country strictly. This is our purpose, this is National policy, therefore, we would definitely like to give assurance in this matter. Several questions have been raised during this time, certain remarks were also made. So many issues come in. Procurement also comes in. About procurement we said that this work is handled by FCI in collaboration with State agency, particularly of foodgrains and for the procurement of pulses, oilseeds the agency is 'Nafed'. If you want we can give you the figures of procurement made by Nafed that how much procurement we have been making continuously. But if you want we can give you figures of oilseeds which we have. The procurement of Soyabean was five lakh one thousand tonnes in 1999-2000. Its value was Rs. 439.25 crore. The procurement of Sunflower was 46,000 metric tonne in the year 2000-2001. The procurement of ground nut was 29,000 mt. In 2000-2001 the procurement of Soyabean has been 54,660 metric tonne. The procurement of mustard seeds was 2 lakh 45 thousands metric tonne and that of sunflower seeds has been 4,60,000 tonne. The purchase of coconut oil has been 2,25,287 mt. Its price has been assessed Rs. 765 crore. The procurement of ground nut has been 28,982 metric tonne in 2000-2001. The procurement has been Rs. 37 crore 80 lakh. Whatever and wherever procurement has been possible of pulses and oilseeds crops it has been made. Last time when discussion was held and if I am not mentioning the wrong name Prabha Raoji said that there should be diversification. It was very right. Hon. Prime Minister had insisted that diversification should be there.

Now the emphasis is on wheat and rice cropping pattern and through this some parts of land should be

diversified. This discussion started on 12th March and several people criticised it. We would like that you should make your colleagues aware as to how much important diversification is. On one hand there are no storage facility for wheat and rice. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices everywhere this is a problem. This problem has cropped up where there is surplus production. Even procurement has not been carried out thus causing uneasiness among the farmers.

If a part of land is diversified then several ways could be explored. There is deficiency in pulses and oil seeds. If a part goes for horticulture produce then the farmers would get the remunerative price and there would not be any crisis of storage as well. Therefore, the diversification should be kept in mind and in fact the farmers should go for it. The farmers would go for diversification only when they get good price for their produce. Therefore, when the Government announced the price policy for Rabi crop. We increase the price of wheat from Rs. 580 per quintal to 610 per quintal. When this debate started on 12th March an apprehension was expressed that the minimum procurement price for wheat would be reduced but these people might have got disappointed as the price of wheat has been increased from Rs. 580 per quintal to 610 per quintal. We decided to increase the prices of coarse cereals pulses oil seeds etc. more so that the farmers feel inclined for the cultivation of such crops the farmers cultivate pulses and oil seeds on marginal land and more in rainfed areas and does not like to make huge investment. Therefore, they do not get remunerative prices as well as we are also not able to achieve self sufficiency and this also create a problem. Therefore, we formulated a price policy for Rabi crop and increased the price of wheat. Besides, we increased the price of Barley up to 500 Rupee per quintal. If my memory serves me right and subject to correction the price of barley has been increased from Rs. 430 per quintal to Rs. 500 per quintal. Similarly the price of grain has been increased from Rs. 1015 per quintal to Rs. 1100 per quintal.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: There is huge market.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The price policy has basically been formulated to encourage the farmers for undertaking cultivation of such crops. We should fix the inter-se-parity between the crops in such a manner that the farmer feel inclined towards that. Therefore, I have already given the figures in this regard. Still procurement is being undertaken whenever it is required. If the farmers get good price for their produce, they would naturally feel inclined towards cultivation and diversification of these crops.

The second part relates to processing we have acquired second position in terms of production of fruits and vegetables. In our country only 1.8 per cent of total production of fruits and vegetables are processed and the remaining over 98 per cent we marketed as fresh vegetables. If we are able to process 10 per cent of total production of vegetables and fruits then, with 7 per cent value addition, the farmer will get 35 per cent more and the consumer will also have to pay less. Today in our country if the farmer gets 1 rupee then the consumer has to pay five rupees for the same. But in the new situation neither the farmer will get the less price nor will the consumers have to pay the higher price and gap between both will reduce with processing there will be value addition and the farmer will get the higher price. Therefore, when we formulated the processing policy this time and demanded to execute it was realised that it should be given exemption in excise duty. I am happy to learn that our Finance Minister has given exemption in excise duty under this policy. When it has been given exemption in excise duty then it should also get exemption in sales tax. Since the sales tax is State subject, therefore, we had a meeting with them and decided not to have special inclination for any commodity. They have a standing Committee regarding it this issue was deliberated upon those so as to build consensus over it and they get exemption in sales tax with exemption in excise duty and sales tax more units will be set up and the two percent level of processing could be taken up to 10 per cent land in the next 10 years. To achieve this in 10 years we need an investment of 1.40 lakh crores of rupees. With this level of processing it will create 3 crore jobs i.e. 3 crore people will get employment. There can not be mere job opportunities in any other field. The big companies can do market but we should have an anchor industry with implementation of food processing policy with agriculture for small farmers. There should be one anchor industry and other industries should be linked along with networking down to the level of village so that the persons in villages are also benefited. We want to formulate this policy this very year they should get market space as well as concession to go abroad. I visited Lasan village in Maharashtra the farmers there are so aware if they have good crop of onion then they intimate about it by FAX. Though this is Commerce Ministry's job but they immediately intimate by FAX that some work is heard up of the part and we promptly intervene so as to facilitate export of onion and ensure remunerative prices to the farmers. We should keep exporting such commodities. Even if there is scarcity of such commodity then too we should such a challenge. It is not proper to react in the manner as we did in 1998. Once we lose our place in the international market then it is very difficult to secure

the same place again. Therefore exporting such commodities is in the favour of the farmers if there is shortage of these items in the country then bear it. We should not blow hot and cold to these situations. We should be unanimous on these issues, these should be unanimity between the ruling party and the opposition over such issues. Therefore, we have decided that the issues relating to the agriculture should be articulated. The Ministry of Agriculture does it therefore we have decided to set up an advisory Committee of farmers headed by the Agriculture Minister and all the farmer leaders, their well wishers and their organisation will be included therein.

We have two seasons of Rabi and Kharif if not early we should set up this Committee before Rabi and Kharif seasons if possible before the budget session. With the setting up of this Committee, the issues of the farmers will come to the fore and these could be articulated within the Government so that the policy gets the support. We have our own view on this issue and there are views of others on this issue. There has been discussion on these earlier as well. We and the Government does not have any objection to it there should be a Committee on the lines of the Committee on the Welfare SCs and STs. It would be a welcome step to set up a Committee comprising the members from all sections of the House and we are in favour of it, and the constitution of this Committee lays in the hands of hon. Speaker. For the purpose of roping in the farmers in the decision making process at the level of the Government and articulation of their views and secondly there should not be some permanent arrangement outside the House and for this Committee we are deciding on names and ascertaining feed back from all the field so that no area is left out and no important crop too is left out. If there is such Committee then, we can put forth overviews before the Government.

Secondly, if such a Committee is constituted comprising Members from all sections of the House then this decision has to come from the Chair. The Government does not have any objection to it. It is correct that we have already introduced the Agriculture policy and we have also set up a Committee for implementation of this policy and all the industries and departments should be included in this Committee. Hon'ble Raguvansh Baba was stating that 13-14 departments are here in it but as many as 18 ministries are associated with the agriculture policy. Only four departments are in the Agriculture Ministry and the remaining 14 departments are outside it. Officer level meeting is held for its implementation. We have also

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

talked about land reforms and the State Governments are to be persuaded upon. For that the Ministry of Rural Development has to take the initiative. Similarly if we take up the issue of Water then Ministry of Water resources is to be involved and for the issue of power, the Ministry of Power is to be associated. For procurement of Food grains, the Ministry of food needs to be involved. In this way separate Ministries are related with it and finally the Ministry of Finance is related to all the Ministries and issue is discussed at its level. You will be glad to know that the

19.00 hrs.

Prime Minister has set up a group of Minister keeping in view the entire scenario and it included the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. Apart from Agriculture Minister, Food Minister and Rural Development Minister have been included in to Groups of Minister (GOM) to examine the issues relating to Agriculture. This is the footsteps aimed at establishing in ordination among the people. Therefore, I would like to assure you that I am giving reply here in the issue on behalf of the Government and the matters related to Minister of Agriculture. Matters related to other departments put forth here do not carry any weightage. These are related and I am putting forth those views with all seriousness and responsibility. I am very glad that problems of fairness and issues relating to agriculture and pondered over with all seriousness under the stewardship of the Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and all possible help is being given to agriculture sector.

Several Members have raised the issue of subsidy here I would not take much of your time but this issue has been raised by several Members and stated that the subsidies are being slashed. Subsidy has not seen slashed on fertilizers and over all subsidy on agriculture has also not been reduced rate it is on the rise and the subsidy should also increase. Subsidy is increasing both on Urea and other fertilizers. You feel that this discussion should end at the earliest. Overall amount of subsidy is increasing. Yesterday the Finance Minister said that he would like to cover more and more farmers under the credit card scheme. This year 64 thousand crore rupees loan is to be disbursed. Hon'ble Member Smt. Prabha Rai Ji said that the research is carried out in the research institutes but does not reach down to the farmers. The ICAR has not discontinued the front line demonstration rates it has made it more effective. Institution village linkage programmes are being undertaken. Villages are being linked with every institution so that extension

activities could be implemented directly. Although the ICAR is not responsible for the implementation of extension programmes and activities. It is being looked after by the State Governments. The extension link between research and production is weak. I have felt that on one side where thousands of agriculture graduates are unemployed, on the other side farmers do not get information on modern techniques and good practice. Despite numerous legislation farmers get spurious and substandard inputs.

It has also been mentioned that the farmers have been committing suicides. A numbers of investigations were made in this regard and it was found out that spurious and inferior quality of inputs led to destruction of their crops. Keeping that in mind we thought that as there are doctors and clinics to treat a patient, we should also have Agro clinics to treat the infested crops and remove the deficiencies and we thought of setting up of agro-clinic. A package was prepared by giving higher training to the graduates. They will opt and adopt the practice of their choice and will open an agro clinic. I am glad that hon. Minister of Finance incorporated it in his budget speech and stated that Agro clinic will be set up. For this banks will give loans. Matters relating to suicides by farmers and crop insurance scheme were discussed here. Crop Insurance Scheme will be made comprehensive to launch National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. Initially, it was available for loanee farmers only. It exists for them even now. This scheme was however, not available for the non loanee farmers. Now non-loanee farmers will also be covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, we are propagating it more and more so that more and more people subscribe for it. There is a provision for review, after two three years. I am glad to tell you that I reviewed it in one year. It is implemented with State Government's co-operation. Since they share the loss they are termed as loss assessment unit. There are districts or talukas. I felt that till it is extended upto panchayat level it will not be that effective. It's benefits could not be accrued to the farmers. It is possible if one taluka is made one unit then there could be five panchayats which suffered loss and did not suffer any loss. It is probable that loss must have not been upto that limit which could enable them to get the benefits. That is why we thought of carrying out a proper review. Pilot scheme has been implemented after review. Every State shall implement insurance scheme on Zilla Panchayat level and this is being examined. Since yield required data was not available statistics institutions were consulted and a formula was evolved. GIC and everyone agreed and it was implemented on experimental basis so that after observing the results it could be implemented in rest of the country with cooperation from the State

Governments. Then only people will get the benefit of insurance in the real sense. Inputs are spurious and sometimes seeds are substandard. We are bringing it for discussion in the House. The protection of varieties and farmer's rights Bill provides for the right to farmers to seek compensation if a planting material does not satisfy the conditions and the persons dealing in planting material will have to give the compensation. Likewise I would like to bring amendments in the seeds Act. It is an old Act and preparations in this respect are going on so as to provide best quality seeds to the farmers and check illegal trade of seeds. Today the farmers are facing problems. If agriculture clinic will be there, there would be an arrangement for testing of inputs. If the farmers would wish they would be able to get the pesticides, fertilisers and micro nutrients tested. Then he will get quality inputs and right advice. There will be no more tragic incidents of suicides that are being committed at several places. We can shed tears but we will have to take a step instead. Any Government may come to power. Farmers take this drastic step because of miserable state and when their prestige in society is lowered they are not able to bear it for long and commit suicide. We will have to understand this problem and have to think that what should be done in this regard and we will have to take steps in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, quality inputs are required we have taken steps to remove the problems in the case of seeds. When discussions are held new ideas emerge and new steps are taken keeping them in view. Therefore, we shall consider those meaningful suggestions given by hon. Members for bringing improvement in the agriculture sector. Now to make a better strategy so as to increase our agriculture growth bearing those suggestions in mind. We have declared in our National Agriculture Policy that we want to achieve more than 4 per cent growth. Not only we have to feed our population numbering more than 100 crore but we also have to provide them nutritious food. We have to make a place for ourselves in the world market so that we can improve the financial state of farmers. When their condition will improve, so will the condition of the country. That is why we are committed to step forward in this direction. Our hon. Prime Minister has fixed a target and has expressed a wish that our food production may be doubled in this decade. We are stepping forward in this direction by contemplating upon the suggestions received in this regard and reaching a consensus to make maximum investment in this sector. We have got extensive support in this sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, investment in the agro sector is such a topic on which elaborate discussion can

be held. We could not discuss capital investment but we would like to increase the share of public sector under Prime Minister Rural Road Scheme. If we complete the time bound irrigation projects we can increase public investment. Likewise we can take several steps through watershed management we will have to make efforts to increase capital investment but investment in agriculture or capital formation is a wish which can be relied upon. The programmes run by the Government are not treated as capital formation. The Central Government gives thousands of crores of rupees every year to the State Government which is not treated as investment. The Rs. 64 thousand crore credited neither comes under investment in agriculture sector nor under capital formation. Permanent assets come under it which can be used by the farmer over the years. To ensure capital formation in the agriculture sector and terms of trade have to be made in favour of farmers and steps are being taken to enable farmers to get the maximum benefit but consensus is a must for it. I am glad that all parties have expressed their concern over this. The opposition has a habit of criticising the Government. They may do so. If they do not do so they will be accused of joining hands with the Government. If they derive satisfaction in levelling allegations, they may do so. But they have expressed their concern for agriculture and have said many things in favour of farmers. This will give encouragement to the Government and will give impetus to the agro-sector. With these words I conclude...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister has dealt with the subject in depth. He has agreed to give some clarifications to points raised by some Members. So, in short, you may please ask them. I will start calling the names of Members from this side. The hon. Minister may kindly take note of all these points.

[Translation]

Shri Pappu Yadav if you wish to ask something please seek clarification and nothing else.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the entire country feels proud over the abilities and honesty of hon. Minister of Agriculture and there is no doubt about it. But the biggest question we are facing is that today after 53 years of independence our farmers have even come down that position where they were placed 53 years ago. Though many Governments came into power during this period, many

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

policies were framed, many Ministers of Agriculture and Prime Ministers changed hands yet we fail to understand as to why the new policies and new proposals are not helping in the upliftment of farmers have come.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please seek clarification, you do not have to make a long speech, it is already seven thirty.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I am seeking clarification only. I agree to what all he has said. I am not commenting on his words. But whatever he has said will it be applicable for villages too? Whether words will continue to flow in this very manner in the supreme house of this democratic country. Will we continue to do so even after hundred years. As far ceiling Act is concerned, we will request the Minister of Agriculture to strictly enforce ceiling Act on those handful people in this country as pointed out by our leftist colleagues. But no law is enforced on those big shots coming under the purview of the Ceiling Act.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Pappu Yadav, hon. Minister has explained everything in detail. You only ask clarification. It is seven thirty now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Ceiling Act is enforced on the people who have five daughters and five sons. This Act is imposed on the farmer owning ten bigas or twenty bighas or on even poor farmers who are not able to manage even two square meals.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are making a long speech. You should only ask clarification.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I would like to seek clarification as to how to ensure strict enforcement of the ceiling act. Secondly, he has mentioned about fertiliser and seeds. Now fertilisers are being adulterated and that too is not available on time. Seeds are never timely available to farmers. The state to which I belong seeds are not timely available to farmers. How the Government or our Minister of Agriculture are paying attention to it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not seeking clarification rather you are making a speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

I have put an end to such things.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: I would simply like to say that the whole system is faulty. He should pay attention to it so that the Agriculture policy may be implemented properly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is alright, the Government will pay attention to it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture, as has just been stated by Raghuvansh ji in his speech, that wheat is now being exported at the rate of Rs. 4.15. I would like to know as to how much money has been spent on storage of wheat that Government procured at the rate of Rs. 5.80.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Anybody will use all of your speech against our national interest. Please keep it in mind.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to know whether the Government would spend this amount being spent on storage for reducing the cost of production incurred by farmers? Now the farmers think that they will not get any benefit even if they raise their production. Second question pertains to procurement of wheat. Keeping in view the reducing prices of wheat in the market. Whether the Government would take proper measures to purchase it on support price?

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to three aspects. First, I come to price protection. I am quoting this as an example. Of course, it applies to all the States. In Karnataka, the price given to the farmer for potato was Rs. 3.60 per quintal. When the Chief Minister Shri S.M. Krishna fixed it, when the price of potato was Rs. 200 in the market, it has immediately risen to Rs 400 even in Chennai, Bangalore and other places. Based on this, the Government again provided Rs. 200 crore

in the Budget for the produces like jowar, maize, potato and whatever it may be. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India could give equal money and financial assistance to the States to protect the price of the produces of the farmers.

Secondly, whatever credit facility is given by the commercial banks or cooperative banks or NABARD, the interest should not exceed the principal amount. Earlier, the Government of India's order was there. Mr. Minister, can you issue a direction saying that the interest amount should not exceed the principal amount—whether it is in respect of big farmer or small farmer?...(*Interruptions*)

Thirdly, while doing the agriculture work, when an agriculture labour dies, Rs. 10,000 is given. Can you increase the amount to Rs. 25,000?

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU (Wardha): I would like to know the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of creating the National Water Grid for irrigation purpose. Is there any such possibility with the Government now?

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): Sir, of course, I am in the Consultative Committee. But I want to make just one point. Mr. Minister, Animal Husbandry and Aquaculture are part of your Ministry. Can you not bring the Coffee Board and the Tea Board under your regime because you have more experts in regard to particular plants and all those agricultural produces? Instead of giving the whole thing to the Commerce Ministry, you can keep the commerce aspect on their side. Why do you not keep the production aspect on your side? This is what I want to know.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall submit my points very briefly without taking much time. I would like to ask three things which the hon. Minister has evaded very beautifully. Through you I would like to have his attention drawn to the fact that three Chief Ministers. Shri Chandra Babu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Prakash Singh Badal of Punjab and Shri Om Prakash Chautala of Haryana who support the Government, I would not quote their statements because we have shortage of time, but all the three have termed the World Trade Organisation agreement as death warrant you have said that you have taken the approval of all the Chief Ministers, but I would like to know whether these three Chief Ministers have also given their consent. I am asking this because these three persons are opposing W.T.O. agreement. May be publicly they are opposing it but they may have given their approval to you. I want clarification in this regard.

Secondly, you said about Nestle that farmers are getting market and domestic farmers are also getting good prices. Since the Nestle Company is located in Moga under my constituency. So I would like to tell you that they are purchasing milk from farmers at the rate of Rs. 8 per litre while they are selling it at the rate of Rs. 27 per litre. Do you term this as a proper price? I would like to submit to you that you have said that Murasoli Maran Sahib fully agrees to agriculture programme. I would like to quote before you. This article has not been casually written. It has been mentioned in it

[*English*]

It is very important and I quote the name of the person. ...(*Interruptions*)

"Shri Maran then denied that he had given assent to Shri Puri, who was appointed as Ambassador to Geneva, and he wrote to the Prime Minister that in appointing Shri Puri, the Prime Minister was indicating his lack of thrust in the Cabinet colleague, who was answerable on W.T.O."...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is it about?

SHRI J.S. BRAR: This is about the W.T.O. Ambassador.

[*Translation*]

W.T.O. Ambassador for Geneva has to be appointed. Mention has been made about your Cabinet and the Prime Minister. You are free not to make a reply to this, but you have given extension in service for five times.

[*English*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: These postings are not discussed in the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): it is not about posting. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It has never been the practice of the House to discuss postings. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon. Minister has referred to my name and in that connection has also mentioned about the foot and mouth disease. Indian Council for Agricultural Research which is under your Ministry, has a veterinary Institute at Izzat Nagar (Bareilly). I would like to draw your attention to what is written by it

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[English]

"Dr. M.P. Yadav, Director of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar. Native Indian breeds are more or less resistant to FMD. The disease affects productivity and is not generally fatal. However, the virus..."

[Translation]

He has said about virus that—

[English]

"Export of meat and milk products to western countries require a certificate."

[Translation]

That should be there—

[English]

"With the ban by the Arab countries, India's meat exports have fallen from 30,000 tonnes in February, 2001 to 15,000 tonnes."

[Translation]

There has been a reduction of 15,000 tonnes. Therefore, I would like to bring to your notice that this is the view of your Ministry about the certificate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not telling about those who burn, animals, I only want to warn you, caution you...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any scheme for 'Diara land' and 'Tall land'

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the farmers do not repay their loans, they have to suffer imprisonment and the money spent on them in jail is added to their loan amount. Hence, I would like to know as to in which year this rule was framed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can answer to whatever is relevant.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What do you want? I can send you the entire National Crop Agriculture Insurance Scheme. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Crop Insurance Scheme, for computation of loss they are taking the average yield of the preceding three years. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Vivekananda Reddy, you have already spoken about it. Please take your seat now.

Mr. Minister, you can reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Brar Sahib has said something I think it is my fault that I could not make him understand properly while I was making my point...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It is my fault...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: My Deputy Speaker, Sir, W.T.O. agreement was signed earlier. This has not been signed by the present Government Mandated review in regard to agreement on agriculture is underway. We have not convened the meeting of Chief Ministers to decide the stand of India in this regard. We informed the Chief Ministers and sought the views of agriculture and food Ministers of States. We also discussed the matter with former Prime Ministers and the document which was prepared after due deliberation was widely appreciated we are putting our proposal in the negotiations. You quoted the views of the three Chief Ministers. ...(Interruptions) We all may have our own opinions...(Interruptions) Please first listen to me and then speak. It is now contradictory. Whether WTO agreement on agriculture should be done or not or whether this agreement is right or wrong that is a separate issue. The Government is already committed to the agreement. When you enter into some international agreement the whole country stands committed to it. So as a Government we are committed to that. But, if there is any review then that is a separate thing. I am telling about the review that is going on we are not entering into any fresh

\* Not recorded



agreement. Old agreements are under review. Anybody can give suggestion there. Our Government has arrived at a national consensus. I said that this was widely supported. There is no contradiction between the two. A meeting of Chief Ministers has been convened to discuss the likely impact of W.T.O. agreement on agriculture sector...*(Interruptions)* You are not listening patiently...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: All the three Chief Ministers are talking of people's movement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is alright. You should ask them. I can only tell you that it is going to be the conference of all the Chief Ministers of the country and not only of three Chief Ministers. Chief Ministers conference was to be held on 23rd April to discuss agriculture related issues. Issues relating to food procurement about which the Finance Minister has given a proposal and moreover, the issue regarding food economy as also to discuss the likely impact of WTO. But it could not be held. Now that conference will be held on 21 May. As you are aware that elections are to be held in several States, so that conference will now be held on 21st May. All these issues will be discussed in that meeting. I have mentioned about the position as on date. You are frequently referring to a particular posting made by the Government. Discussions about executive decisions postings etc. are not held in the House. This is always the prerogative of the Government.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, World Trade organisation is a sensitive matter...*(Interruptions)* That is our right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: All right. Ask for discussion on the policy. Why do you want a discussion on a posting...*(Interruptions)* You can consult rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: What you are telling is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If I am not correct. I am ready to correct myself...*(Interruptions)* Brar Sahib, we both shall remain in this House. Discussion on a particular posting cannot be held in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: The question is finger has been raised against an appointee of P.M.O. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever it may be, we should discuss about postings in the House. Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given any assurance about procurement of wheat, therefore Members of our party walk out from the House...*(Interruptions)*

19.29 hrs.

*At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh left the House.*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon. Minister has not given any assurance about the procurement so I walk out from the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.29 hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh left the House.*

19.29 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 27, 2001/Vaisakha 7, 1923 (Saka)*

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