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Monday, March 10, 2003

Phalguna 19, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, March 10, 2003/Phalguna 19, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I would like to draw your attention ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one at a time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, unilaterally the United States has taken a decision to attack Iraq after 17th of March. I demand that the Prime Minister of this great nation should come to the House and make an official statement on the developments in Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can explain you reasons for this during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious constitutional crisis has arisen in Madhya Pradesh. The Government there has refused to follow the directions of the Election Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving one minute to each. I will allow you also to speak. But now Mulayam Singhji will speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dasmunsiji has raised a serious issue ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing a constitutional cirisis.

MR. SPEAKER: Umaji, you go to your seat.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: There are serious irregularities in the electoral rolls of about 41 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh. Directives to suspend three collectors have been issued there. I urged you to take up this matter urgently. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing a constitutional crisis. The Government there has refused to follow the directions of the Election Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: You raise this question during Zero Hour, I will allow you to speak. Shri Mulayam Singh ji, you resume your speech

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to speak. you will have to wait for a minute.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Dasmunsiji has raised a serious issue. In the international politics it has always been the role of India that in the event of any country of the world making an aggression on any other country, we will oppose the attacking side. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had made it clear after independence that we would oppose any attack or aggression made or even a warming given by any country in any part of the world. If America attacks Iraq, it will have serious consequences. It is not only Iraq which has the lethal weapons, rather a number of other countries of the world possess such weapons, but America is not clear in their approach towards them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested you to raise this question during Zero Hour. I will allow you to speak on this serious issue during Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is no other issue today which is more serious than this. If the war breaks, it will be India which will suffer the most. So we want the Prime Minister to make a reply in the House. And besides that we also demand that even if the UNO favours the attack, India should oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to take much of the time of Question Hour on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: A serious constitutional crisis has come up in Madhya Pradesh. This issue should be taken up urgently. The government

there is not ready to follow the instructions of the Election Commission. It is openly defying them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, a serious incident has occurred at Dhantala in West Bengal. Shri Dasmunsi also knows about it. He has raised this issue in the House. In an open street few women were raped. ...*(Interruptions)* The National Commission on Women as also the State Commission on Women went there. ...*(Interruptions)* An FIR has also been lodged in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you tell him in one sentence.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice, I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, wheat worth Rs. 32 billions have been stolen from the FCI godowns in Punjab. This is a highly serious issue. The Prime Minister himself has been saying that there is no dearth of foodgrains in our country. But people are starving to death and there in Punjab wheat worth Rs. 32 billion has been stolen. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All those who have given notices will be allowed to raise their issues during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, the government of Mahdya Pradesh is defying the directions of the Election Commission. the EC has directed them to suspend the collectors there but they are not ready to abide by them. We want that this matter be taken up urgently. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour. Pandeya ji, you please ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, my submission is that the Question Hour should be suspended. Madhya Pradesh is facing a constitutional crisis. ...*(Interruptions)*. The state government is not following the orders of the Election Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of the ruling party are pressing for the suspension of the Question Hour. We are cooperating with you and they are interrupting . ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Umaji, you please be seated.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: There is a big constitutional crisis in Madhya Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Except the question of Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, nothing else would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects under AIBP

*261. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects under construction under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 2002-03;

(b) the total irrigation potential added under this programme so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction more projects under it to augment the irrigation facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

---

*Not recorded.

Statement

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves.

Concerned with a large number of major and medium irrigation projects spilling over into IX Plan, the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of such ongoing irrigation/multi-purpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and for other major and medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons.

During 2002-03, 85 Major/Medium irrigation projects and 558 Minor Irrigation Schemes are receiving Central Loan assistance (CLA) under AIBP. An irrigation potential of 1974.042 thousand hectare has been created upto March, 2002 through the major and medium irrigation projects under this programme since its inception in 1996-97.

The Central Government is persuading the State Governments to submit proposals under this programme for early completion of pre-Fifth plan schemes, which are eligible for CLA under AIBP norms, so that full potential of such projects could be utilized. Other proposals as received from the State Governments for major and medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes are also considered for CLA under AIBP as per the norms.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. Even after 55 years of independence irrigation arrangements for agriculture in the whole country is only 33 percent of the requirement. I have a letter written by the former Minister regarding the then ongoing projects. In the address given to both the Houses of the Parliament on 25.10.1999, the Government while referring to the priority areas emphasized in the letter the early completion of the pending irrigation projects. But the Konar Irrigation Project of Jharkhand, the estimate of which was prepared in 1971 is still incomplete even after 22 years and then cost of the scheme which was Rs. 10 crore then has now gone above Rs. 100 crores. My submission is that when a misappropriation of Rs. Five only calls for an action against a Government Official, then with regard to the Rs. 10 crore scheme which is now going to cost Rs. 100 crores, we want to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken against the officer or employee responsible for this escalation in cost of the said scheme.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, we all know that water is a state subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: No, I am talking of the Central Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Pandey ji, did not you hear what the hon. Minister wanted to say further.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the money is provided to the States and the schemes are generally implemented by the State Governments. The Central Government does not go there and implement it. It is for the State Governments to utilise the funds that are made available to them. No doubt, there has been a delay in implementing the project. I would appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member. So, as I have stated, the implementation and utilisation of funds depend on the State machinery. It is up to them to implement it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir my second supplementary question is that the AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme) was launched in 1996-97 spilling over into 9th Five year Plan, in which Rs. 5409 crore was released in 1999-2000, Rs. 473 crore was released in 2001-02 and again Rs. 2800 crore was released under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for 13 Fast Track Programme, 2002-2003. For implementing these programmes, the state was also given the status of a special category state for irrigation facility. We want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many irrigation projects were started separately in Jharkhand and Bihar and how many of them have been completed or are under completion? During 2002-03, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes 85 Major/medium irrigation projects and 558 Minor Irrigation Schemes are receiving Central Loan Assistance. The hon. Minister was just saying that it is a state matter and

under this programme, an irrigation capacity of 1974.042 thousand hectare was generated by the Major and medium irrigation projects.

I would like to know the details of the capacity generated under this programme in Jharkhand and Bihar and whether the State government was requested to send a proposal to complete this scheme during the 5th Five Year Plan, and if so, the number of such proposals received so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your question in brief. Do not ask a long question, it will not be replied.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: I had raised a question in this very House regarding the Konar Irrigation Project of Bihar fully funded by Central Government. I wanted to know about the utilization of funds, the time by which it should have been completed and whether it was completed within the prescribed time limit, and if not, the status of work, and also whether the Minister will get the reason for delay examined.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, funds are being provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to the States. So far as release of funds is concerned, the Ministry of Water Resources had recommended to the Ministry of Finance to release the required amount. The Ministry of Finance has released whatever amount had been recommended by the Ministry of Water Resources to the different States. Till the other day, Jharkhand was under Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got the letter of the former Minister. If you so wish I can lay it on the Table of the House. You see it for yourself the present status of the scheme. It is the hon. Minister who can get it examined. Dr. C.P. Thakur was the Minister then. I have got the letter sent by him at that time. This is his reply.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I have not stated anything against what my non. predecessor had said. I am stating the facts here. Whatever reply had been given by him, I stand by it. Neither I refute it, nor I contradict it. But, so far as Bihar and Jharkhand are concerned,Jharkhand and Bihar were together just two years back; they are now bifurcated—we have released a total amount of Rs. 350 crore to Bihar and Rs. 54 crore to Jharkhand States under AIBP.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker Sir, can the Minister not get it examined as to how much work has so far been done in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State subject. The Minister has said that he will ask the state government in this regard.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, work cannot be done by sitting in an AC room. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think Mr. Minister, you have replied.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It is not going to help any way I can not resolve the problem there.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this hon. Minister cannot get it examined, what is the benefit of giving such a reply here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ravindra Kumar Pandeyji, sit down. Its responsibility lies with the State government.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague has just asked a question about Konar. Though you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has sanctioned the Konar scheme, and if so, what is the amount of money of the government of India involved in it; why has this scheme not been completed even after 22 years, at that time Bihar and Jharkhand were united. How much money is involved in this scheme and do the Government of India feel that in order to fulfill the objective of the investment. This scheme should be completed at the earliest?

Sir, In his reply the honourable Minister has stated that action is taken as per the norms to provide central assistance/loan on the other proposals received from state governments for completion of major, medium and minor irrigation projects speedily under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. Honourable Minister is considering to implement some new projects. I want to know whether the hon: Minister is interested in completion of the old project which is being implemented there for the last 22 years and wherein a lot of money of the Union Government has been spent and if so, by when?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear that for the projects which are approved by the Planning Commission the Ministry provide funds. If the State concerned proposes for funding under AIBP, we provide funds. The hon. Member referred to Konar. The list is not with us. I can read the names of the projects which have been financed or which are availing facility under AIBP.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have asked the Minister about the Konar Project. If no information in this regard is available with the Minister at the moment, then I would like to request him to send me a written reply.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Konar Irrigation project is not being funded under AIBP.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not being funded under this scheme.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion. I have to humbly submit to you that same members of this House are levelling charges against other members in regard to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund. As such I have to request to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise it during Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to submit to you that the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme should be scrapped forthwith because it is lowering the dignity of Members of Parliament thoughout the country ...*(Interruptions)*. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has levelled such charges on her arrival in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, the notice to suspend the question hour is given when the question hour starts. At that time you were not available in the House. Now how can you raise the issue and speak all of a sudden just in the midst of the Question Hour. At this time I cannot allow you. You can raise this question during Zero Hour. At that time I will allow you to speak.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The hon. Minister for Water Resources has stated that the responsibility of planning and investigation lies with the State Governments. Recently the hon. Prime Minister has announced a vision to inter-link all the rivers of the country. How are we going to achieve this vision if everything lies on the State Governments? This is a contradictory statement. Now unless we pass some other legislation, if need be, and take this up on a priority basis, we cannot achieve this objective of maximum utilisation of river waters.

Sir, around 2500 TMC of water of Godavari river in Rajahmundry area is drained into the sea every year. We are not able to do anything with it. If everything is left to the State Governments, then the situation even after 50 years would be the same. Is there any vision or plan for achieving proper harvesting of river waters?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the subject of water is in the State List. Everybody knows it. For having this inter-linking of river waters in the country, we are having interaction with the State Governments. If there will be a consensus on the issue, certainly necessary changes would be made in the Constitution of India. We are for discussions and we are having interaction with the State Governments. When there will be a consensus amongst the States on this issue, necessary amendments and necessary changes will be made.

Sir, so far as the utilisation of the water of the Godavari river is concerned, when all the States would be agreeable to this proposal of inter-linking of rivers, certainly the waters of Godavari river would be utilised and this would not only help the State of Andhra Pradesh but it would help the country as a whole.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, there are many forms of irrigation, like medium irrigation, major irrigation, minor irrigation and lift irrigation. Presently the major and medium irrigation projects are being funded under the AIBP. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the major lift irrigation projects, that would irrigate more than a thousand hectares of land, would be funded under the AIBP or not. Would the Government make some provision for funding these types of lift irrigation projects? It is because the AIBP contribution varies from State to State.

In some State, the share of the State is 30 per cent and the Centre gives 70 per cent. At other places, the share of the States is ten per cent and the Centre gives 90 per cent. So, in the case of lift irrigation projects, would the Central Government take a decision for providing 90 per cent grant from AIBP so that only ten per cent could be borne by the various drought-prone States?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, so far as the special category States and the KBK districts in Orissa are concerned, the pattern of funding is 90 and 10 per cent respectively, as has been suggested by the hon. Member.

So far as lift irrigation is concerned, at present it is not permissible. However, it is under consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Honourable Speaker, Sir, there is a major reason behind non-completion of the irrigation projects within the scheduled time. Over the years it has been seen that cost of the sanctioned annual projects of the states exceed their own resources. The states start a number of such projects which are beyond their means and the result is that those projects are not completed with the scheduled time and full resources are not made available to the projects. It is because of this reason that this anomaly has arisen.

Through you, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister towards one more anomaly and would like to know from him whether he has evolved any monitoring system to ensure that the states which are provided money and resources for various projects under the AIBP, Complete the projects within the stipulated time schedule and the flow or payment of money and the procedure adopted to release installments does not get interrupted. I would like to know what measures the government propose to take in this regard?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that without the knowledge and approval of the Planning Commission, some States have implemented the different projects, on their own. It is a fact.

So far as funding under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is concerned, we only provide funds, which have been approved by the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission has given investment clearance. We provide funds only to those projects.

So far as monitoring is concerned, certainly Sir, at the first instance we provide 50 per cent of whatever funds the States asked for. Then, monitoring is being done by the Central Water Commission (CWC). If the Central Water Commission is satisfied that the utilisation is all right, then second installment is given to the State. So, we have some kind of mechanism to monitor, and we can oversee the implementation and utilisation of funds.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Honouable Speaker, Sir, I had asked an important question that what the government is doing to ensure that the payment of instalments does not get interrupted and the projects are completed within the scheduled time because one Bariarpur canal project has been sanctioned in my constituency under the AIBP by the Union Government and that project was required to be completed with three years period but inflow of money is not being ensured in time due to which the work of the project is getting interrupted. What measures you propose to take to ensure release money in time?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, whatever money the States ask, we certainly give. If they ask for Rs. 5 crore, then we certainly will give them Rs. 5 crore. We cannot give Rs. 10 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Would you please check in regard to the Bariarpur Project?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what he wants is that a better system of monitoring should be done. That you can always see.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Yes, Sir. I have already stated that the Central Water Commission is doing it.

As regard Bariarpur-V, up to date, Rs. 10.94 crore have been given, under AIBP.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: What amount was to be paid till date?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: We have paid what was required to be paid.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Is it a fact that out of 155 crore rupees, you were to pay 35 Crore rupees within this line limit but you have paid ten crore rupees only? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Amendment in Agricultural Produce Marketing Act

*262. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act to encourage contract farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have already introduced the said system on experimental basis;

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

(e) whether the Government have considered the long term impact of contract farming system on small and marginal farmers; and

(f) so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) Contract farming arrangements of different types have existed in various parts of the country for both subsistence and commercial crops. The commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton, tea, coffee etc. have always involved some forms of contract farming. Even in the case of some fruit crops and fisheries, contract farming arrangements, involving mainly the forward trading of commodities have been observed. In contract farming companies enter into contracts for marketing of the horticultural produce of the farmers and also provide inputs, technologies and capital to contract farmers. According to this, agreements are made between the farmer and the other parties and the latter contribute to the management of the farm through input supply as well as technical guidance and also markets the produce.

The present State Acts dealing with agricultural marketing *viz.* Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act) restrict the farmer from entering into direct marketing/contract with any processor/manufacturer/ bulk purchaser as the produce is required to the canalized through regulated market. This system puts the farmer into a disadvantageous position as he has to sell his produce through a middleman who often takes away a large share in the price of the produce. An Inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by this Ministry to suggest reforms in the agricultural marketing sector, in its report in May, 2002 has suggested, as a reform measure, promotion of direct marketing and contract farming in the country, by suitably amending the APMC Act.

The Task Force has also recommended that the APMC within whose jurisdiction the area covered by contract farming agreement lies, should record the contract farming agreements and act as a protector of producer's and processor's interests with due legal support in its jurisdiction.

In order to ascertain the views of the State Governments/UT Administrations, which are implementing the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act, the report of the Task Force was discussed in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27th September, 2002. The Conference was attended by Ministers in-charge of Agricultural Marketing in the State Governments and UT Administrations, Central Government Departments and Autonomous Organisations dealing with Agricultural Marketing. There was a consensus among all the State Governments/UT Administrations on the need to promote contract farming arrangements to benefit the farming community. Since the subject falls within the purview of the State Governments, they were requested to go ahead with the implementation of the reform measure as suited to them. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force in its report considered the long term impact of contract farming system on small and marginal farmers and has observed that small farmers in India are generally capital starved and cannot make major investment in land improvement and modern inputs. Contract farming can fill up this gap by providing the farmers with quality inputs, technical guidance and management skills. Although the company deals only with the contract crop, the farmers' overall management skill may improve, thereby helping him to raise the yields of both contract and non-contract crops.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not answered part (c) and part (d) of my Question. I would like to ask whether contract farming in Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh, and Hingoli in Maharashtra set up by multinationals like Hindustan Lever and Rallies India of Tata Groups—had failed in its objectives.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a State subject. Mandi Samiti Acts are there; APMC Acts are there; and we have asked the States to see that these Acts are modified, so that contract farming is allowed and the farmer gets a better option about selling his produce.

Now, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have made some laws about it. They have not yet enacted them but, they have prepared Bills. We are discussing with them as to how these Bills can be used, can be passed. But, this particular case that you are referring to, in some States they have the residual power, under which they allow certain companies to have the contract farming.

As far as the general Act is concerned, no State have passed the law as yet nor amended the APMC Act to allow contract farming. But the States have residual powers under APMC laws under which they have allowed certain companies to engage in contract farming.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: I would like to know whether the much needed cereal and pulses do not form major crops under the contract farming. If so, how the Government is going to ensure local food security through availability of commonly needed steples?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I did not quite understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please repeat your question.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: I would like to know whether the much needed cereal and pulses do not form major crops under the contract farming. If so, how the Government is going to ensure local food security through availability of commonly needed staples?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: If the hon. Member is asking as to how the Government will ensure that farmers' interests will be protected, what we are suggesting is that the APMC laws may be modified so that there will be a tripartite agreement among the farmers, processors and the Government, and some kind of independent authority will be set up which will settle the disputes. Suppose the farmers does not get his price; or there is not enough produce; or when the prices are high, they do not sell it to the company; in order to resolve these disputes, some kind of authority should be set up.

As I mentioned earlier, no State has modified the law as yet. We have set up an expert committee in the year 2000 and the again in September, 2002 we called all the Ministers of all then States and a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State. They have suggested certain ways. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have prepared a Bill; they have not yet enacted it and we are discussing this issue with them. We are also making a model legislation here so that States can be advised as to what practices they should follow.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: The way the crops are being offered for contract farming, only some specific companies are benefited therefrom. In a state like Gujarat, small farmers have got only one or two acre land. They can neither make that land fertile nor can get better yield therefrom. Through you, I would like to know from the honourable Minister of agriculture that if small farmers want to grow any crop on that land in the entire village through cooperative sector and do the entire work under the cooperative sector, then whether such cooperative sector societies would be given any incentive by the government of India?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly we are providing incentives to the cooperative sector but this presumption of the honourable member is wrong that the farmers having one acre or two acres of land would not be benefited through the contract farming. The entire sugarcane is being produced through the contract farming. Tobacco is also being grown through contract farming. As regards cooperative sector, this is a state subject and the Union Government and state governments are promoting it constantly.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether both the Centre and the States will endeavour to adopt a uniform policy not to give subsidy because the companies which are engaged in this business are already having an input. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will have a uniform policy in regard to this subsidy to farming.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Whatever subsidies are given by the Government are given to the farmers. Whether they are under contract farming or they are selling their produce to the *mandis* does not make a difference. Whatever subsidies which are meant for the farmers, like the price we fix for the fertilizers and others, are given to the farmers irrespective of what agreement they have for selling their produce.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Subsidy is given to the company and not directly to farmers. Subsidies are given to fertilizer factories and not to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prakash, you are not allowed to speak; I have not taken your name.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: The Minister is giving wrong information and I am just correcting him.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We are not discussing subsidies as to how subsidies are given or where they can be given.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have not asked you to reply the question put by Shri Prakash Ambedkar.

[Translation]

When the Minister completes the replies, only then the members ask the questions.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: There was a specific question asked as part 'C' as to whether the Government has considered the long-term impact of marginal farming on contract farmers. But the reply that has been given by the hon. Minister says that the small farmers are capital starved. That does not clarify the position. An hon. Member asked a specific supplementary but a proper reply has not come from the hon. Minister.

My supplementary is, have the Government taken into consideration the implications of the land reforms for which the Government of India and all the States have worked for many years. What would be the impact or the conflict between the contract farming system, as has been emphasised here, and the basic concepts of land reforms which are meant basically to benefit the small and marginal farmers and the landless agricultural farmers who will be getting the land for the first time in their life? Nothing has been said about this point.

There is a contract between two unequal partners, that is, big national and international companies on the one side and the small farmers on the other side. In this contract, unless the Government takes a particular position in favour of the landless agricultural farmers, who are getting the benefit because of land reforms, it will not be to the benefit of the poor farmers. This is the suspicion that we have. Can the Minister clarify it?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, 80 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers in our country and they have more problem in selling their produce. The whole idea is that the small and marginal farmers under contract farming are assured of the prices they get and also the company or the processor who is buying their produce will help in improving the productivity because it is in their interest also. I appreciate the concern about the unequal agreement between the small farmers and big companies and that is why, we are suggesting that it should be a tripartite agreement. Government should be part of that agreement and it is the Government which has to make sure that it is not unequal agreement and the interests of the farmers are safeguarded.

Project 'Reinvent the Employees Provident Fund'

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*263. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ambitious project of his Ministry "Reinvent the Employees Provident Fund" has been delayed;

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

(c) the plans formulated by the Government to implement other ambitious projects which are lying pending with his Ministry over the last few years?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Fund Organization has taken up the task of modernization through the Project "Re-inventing EPF India". In view of the magnitude of the task of mapping business processes, the Project schedule has been revised and the scheduled tasks have been taken up for implementation in a phased manner.

(c) Formulations of Plans & Projects and their implementation is a continuous process.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, "Reinvent the EPF" is an ambitious project of the Ministry of Labour. I am not satisfied with the written reply sent by the Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Reinvent project contains such safety measures that EPF money would not be invested in such companies which are prone to nsk and if so, the details thereof? Besides, I also want to know.

MR. SPEAKER: Your one question is over.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: It is part-II of the first question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementaries are not asked in parts.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: If not, whether provisions have been kept in this project to ensure security of the depositor's money?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable member has asked whether the money we invest is safe and my reply is that money is fully safe. We do not invest this money in such risk prone works with which the money of the employees could not be recovered in any form. I have given an assurance to this effect. Apart from this, the money we invest, has neither been blocked anywhere nor proved to be a bad debt due to the risk and on the contrary, that money is safe. We have also tried to get best return out of that money. It is because of this that even during this financial year, we have been in position to give 9.5 percent rate of interest on it whereas rate of interest has come down on other deposits.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Minister as to what action the government propose to take against such employers who have not deposited the employees provident fund (PPF) till date or against whom a huge amount is due? What steps the government propose to take to deposit such money into PPF, EPF at an early date?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his question and concern is quite justified because some employers do not deposit the money. You will be surprised to know that there were about 81 lakh such establishments which did not deposit the money with effect from the day they were covered under this scheme or till three years from that day. We scrutinised 3 lakh 57 thousands such files and found that there is an amount of around 800 crore rupees including interest and penalty which we can recover from them.

We have started scrutiny of those three lakh fifty seven thousand files and about sixty eight percent work has been completed. Those people own us about Rs. 600 crore out of which we have recovered Rs. 48 crores and I hope that the money of the employees will not be spent on to reinvent PPF which we have started now. We will meet this expenditure from the money collected as penalty etc. The hon'ble Member had asked by which time this word would be completed, I believe that we shall be able to complete this work by the next year.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I also endorse the point raised by my pradecessor that our question has been replied to in a round about manner. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the date from which modernisation work has been started? The date on which schedule thereto has been amended and the nature of amendments made therein? You have said that scheduled tasks will be executed in a phased manner. I would like to know from you in how many phases it will be completed and the number of phases that have already been completed and the number of the remaining phases?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that there were a number of objectives before us, one of which was to create efficiency in the entire system and the second was transparency and as well as effectivity. Till the system was not streamlined and auditing was not computer aided, payments were not being made to the employees within thirty days. But our inspectors used to report that payments are now being made within thirty days. But when we looked into the matter through the computer assisted audit, we came to know that only 26 percent people were getting their money within thirty days. Work relating to account slips was pending for the last twenty years. Now we have ensured that all the account slips are issued in time and pending work be completed upto 31 March and I am sure that we will be able to complete it by that time. The employers have to deposit contribution of the year upto 15th September of the same year. It was not being complied to earlier. Now we have provided for sitting up of call centres and the employees who wants to know whether money has been deposited or not in his account, can get the information from the said call centre. We have formulated a comprehensive scheme for compliance of this. A software has been developed and work has been started in this regard. The employer who will not deposit the money we will remind him through telephone twice and thereafter he will be reminded through a letter. The whole system has been computerized. Before initiating legal action a strongly worded letter and notice will be served followed by legal action. Thus compliance has been strengthened. A large number of employers have started depositing money. Initially we have provided for settling the claims within thirty days but once the system is streamlined we shall be able to settle the claims within two days. If any employee want to know as to how much money is there in his account he can get this information through telephone. This sort of arrangements we are providing for.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not replied to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has given a detailed reply to your question. He has given you more information than you have sought. Not only this but break up has been given.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, the Employee's Provident Fund is the terminal benefit of the employees. If you reinvest it in any industry or in any institution, it will yield some profit. I would like to know from the Minister whether that profit would be shared with employees.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we invest the money after considering all aspects. We try to ensure risk free investments and best returns. As I have already told that the rate of interest is 9.5 percent which is credited to employee's account. Apart from this, money can be advanced for marriage, house or education of employees' children or for insurance claim. Such cases will be settled within two days.

MR. SPEAKER: There was a little bit confusion due to reinvent and reinvestment.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am really thankful to the hon. Minister, Shri Sahib Singh Verma because he came to Cochin day before yesterday to address the rally organised by our construction workers. I am thankful to him for that.

Sir, the EPF Scheme that we have in India is one of the biggest social security schemes in the world. As the hon. Minister himself has stated, lakhs of employees are its members. In the present emerging scenario, we have to have a serious re-look into this EPF Scheme. Now-a-days, job security is not there at all. Many companies are being closed down, many companies are diversifying, and many companies are migrating. So, the job security is not there. Now, the EPF is attached to the factories or to the management. That should go. The EPF should be attached to the members or to the workers. Then only it can be of use.

My questions to the hon. Minister are: (1) will the Government, before modernising or formulating the 'Reinvented EPF Scheme', be kind enough to call the opinion of the central trade unions, industrial organisations and management associations functioning in this country? and (2) will the Government be kind enough to give a number to each worker so that he can, by himself, remit the money instead of going through the circuitous route of remitting the money through the management itself?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised appoint that the employees whose money it is should have a unique number so that the money could be of some use to them in case they go to some other places. Secondly, the money should be safe and used properly and there should not be any risk factor involved. I would like to assure the hon'ble Member about his query whether the money is invested after having a discussion with the employers or the employees. In this regard I would like to inform you that....

[English]

we have got the Central Board of Trustees. All major decisions are taken by the Central Board of Trustees which has the representatives of the industrial organisations and the unions. It has the representatives of the employees organisations and also the representatives of the State Governments. So everything is put before all these members and then we take a decision. This is the most democratic thing. We keep everybody informed of everything of the EPF.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given notice for raising question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received several notices from members, you are not understanding my Problem. At least five questions must be taken up in question hour.

Decline in Production of Oilseeds

*264. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of oilseeds has declined in the year 2002-2003;

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

(c) the details of the production of oilseeds in the country during the last three years, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to advance estimates, the production of oilseeds during the year 2002-03 is estimated to be 154.4 lakh tonnes. The decline in production has been due to drought conditions prevailing in major oilseeds growing States in the country.

(c) State-wise production of oilseeds in the country during the last 3 years from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is enclosed as per Annexure.

Annexure

State-wise production of oil-seeds from 1999-2000 to 2001-02

('000 Tonnes)

State/U.T.	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1375.2	2510.9	1613.4
Arunachal Pradesh	25.7	25.6	28.2
Assam	147.9	160.0	155.6
Bihar	156.6	131.1	125.8
Chhattisgarh	—	88.5	114.8
Goa	2.3	3.2	2.5
Gujarat	1733.3	1661.7	3362.6
Haryana	607.0	570.7	806.9
Himachal Pradesh	10.2	10.1	10.1
Jammu & Kashmir	53.4	28.1	41.8
Jharkhand	—	28.0	28.0
Karnataka	1192.5	1538.2	1064.1
Kerala	5.8	3.5	3.2
Madhya Pradesh	5811.3	4096.2	4442.6
Maharashtra	2668.6	2098.8	2225.9
Manipur	1.2	1.3	0.5
Meghalaya	6.2	6.3	6.4
Mizoram	7.2	5.4	5.1
Nagaland	43.3	46.1	53.2
Orissa	160.8	117.9	142.3
Punjab	111.7	87.4	95.1
Rajasthan	3405.8	2032.6	3127.1
Sikkim	7.6	6.9	6.9
Tamil Nadu	1481.5	1440.4	1433.6
Tripura	4.2	4.7	4.0
Uttar Pradesh	1286.7	1144.6	1046.9
Uttaranchal	—	14.5	17.7
West Bengal	406.2	571.0	493.4
D&N Haveli	0.1	0.1	0.1
Delhi	0.6	0.7	0.7
Pondicherry	2.6	2.3	2.3
All India	20715.5	18436.8	20460.8

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what priorities the Union Government have fixed to boost the production of oil seeds for the states where its production is comparatively low? Particularly for the newly created states like Uttaranchal where production of oil seed is very low. What sort of assistance is being given by the Union Government to the said State Government to boost production of oil seeds in the state?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some states have formulated schemes in this regard. For example Punjab has submitted a scheme to Union Government to boost the production of oil seeds. Similarly we are encouraging the other states to increase the production of oil seeds but we do not have any specific scheme for any state.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the state I am referring to have ample potential of boosting production of oil seeds. Whether the Union Government would constitute a team of scientists to study the potentialities in those states where production potentialities are not being exploited fully. Whether a team of scientists or agriculturists would be constituted to ascertain and to find measures to remove the factors responsible for its low production and whether a study in this regard would be conducted through them?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got the information in regard to states where there is potentiality of production of oil seeds. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: The hon'ble Minister is addressing the hon'ble Speaker as Chairman.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The hon'ble Speaker is the presiding officer also.

MR. SPEAKER: Both question and answer are correct.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Whatever is suffixed to word hon'ble is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it not sufficient?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, we know in which states production of oil seeds is possible on the basis of their weather and every state is making efforts to increase its production, But at several places where it can be produced the farmers are growing the crops which can fetch more money to them. Therefore they do not want to shift their crop system. As I have already told that there are some states which are anyhow encouraging the farmers to increase the production of oil seeds.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the most part, oil seeds are grown by the poorest of the poor in the most barren and unirrigated parts of the country. Oilseeds output is, therefore, a key measure of any Government's commitment to *Garibi Hatao*. In the light of this, would the hon. Minister kindly confirm that notwithstanding a series of droughts in the 1980s including the terrible drought of 1987-88, oilseeds output was doubled from 9 million tonnes in 1980-81 to over 18 million tonnes in 1989-90 thanks to the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Oilseeds Technology Mission and Drought Proofing Programmes. If output was doubled in the 1980s' why has output collapsed in 2002-03 to levels below those recorded 15 years ago? Does this not reflect both the incompetence of this Government and its lack of compassion for the poor?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member himself said that oilseeds are grown in the rainfed areas. Most of the oil seeds are grown in the rainfed areas thus drought does affect the production.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If it did not affect output in the 80s, why is it affecting it in the 90s?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I will give you the figures for the 90s. In 1995-96, it was 22 million tonnes, in 1996-97 it was 24 million tonnes, and in 1998-99 it was 24.75 million tonnes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am asking you to confirm the figures for the 80s and not for the 90s. In the 90s, did or did not oilseeds output double between 1980 and 1990, notwithstanding a series of droughts, particularly in Rajasthan which had the worst drought ever in 19870-88? Please do not read out what your officers have told you. Please answer my question. Is it not true that we doubled the output? Is it not true that under you the output has collapsed to below what it was fifteen years ago?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I wish to tell the hon. Members that the output of oilseeds in 1987-88 was 12.65 million tonnes. It is true that an Oilseeds Technology Mission was formed by the Rajiv Gandhi Government and it did improve the production of oilseeds. It has gone up and down since then. I pointed out, and the hon. Member also mentioned that in 90s it had not gone up. That is why I mentioned that in 1987-88 it was 12.65 million tonnes and it went up to 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99. It has doubled again. So, please do not say that it was doubled, and there was a competent Minister or an incompetent Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have given the figure for 1989-90 which was 18 million tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)*. Why is he misleading the House? I did not say that it increased by 1987-88 ...*(Interruptions)*. I said "by the year 1989-90". I am giving the figures based on the *Economic Survey*. I am asking him the question as to why it has collapsed in 2002-03 while in the 1980s we were able to recover from the drought. The figure in 1987-88 is 3 million tonnes higher than it was at the beginning of the decade.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The collapse in 2002-03 is because of the unprecedented drought we had. ...*(Interruptions)* Rajasthan has had the worst drought in this century and it is one of the main oilseeds producing States.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has said that oil seed production has declined due to drought. Its production increases or decreases due to drought and floods. I have suggested in the House a number of times and want to know whether the government would make efforts to tackle the situation.

[English]

Whether the government is thinking to set up any consultative kind of department which may advise the farmers.

[Translation]

as to the season in which production of a crop should be taken up.

[English]

which should be based on demand and supply.

[Translation]

In a particular year there is bumper crop of sugarcane which creates problem to the farmers. Next time there is bumper wheat crop which also creates problem to the farmers. Sir, through you I would like to ask the minister whether the government are contemplating to set up any such department to advise the farmers on the basis of demand and supply as to how much wheat they should produce and the area where the farmers should grow sugarcane?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Union Government as well as the State Governments estimate the production of wheat; what will be the demand and which crop can be taken up in a particular area. If the hon'ble Member asks the farmers in his constituency to produce less quantity of sugarcane, will they go by his advice? Remunerative price is being paid for sugarcane.,

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It can be done if the government so desires.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Payment of remunerative price is also a way out. Besides other factor are also there. We are also making efforts to persuade the farmers to diversify the crops. They should be inclined towards growing of fruits and vegetables instead of growing wheat, paddy and sugarcane. For this facilities can be provided gradualy. This can not be done in a year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since I have received names of several hon'ble Members who want to ask supplementary on this question somebody may ask for half-an-hour discussion and I am ready to allow it provided time permit.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us have half-an-hour discussion on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can give a notice for that.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds

*265. +DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have utilised the funds allocated to them for irrigation projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount allocated and actually utilised;

(c) the number of projects completed during the said period and proposed to be completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the additional irrigation capacity generated during the said plan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The approved allocation for Irrigation and Flood Control Sector for the States during Ninth Plan was Rs. 55850.40 crore and the expenditure incurred during the Ninth Plan was Rs. 61002.05 crore (provisional).

(c) As per information provided by the States, the Working Group on Major & Medium Irrigation Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan assessed that 25 major and 45 medium projects are likely to have been completed during the Ninth Plan. According to the Working Group Report, 103 major & 240 medium projects are proposed to be completed by the States during the Tenth Plan, for which State Plan allocation of Rs. 77100 crore is estimated to be required.

(d) As per existing assessment, an additional irrigation potential of 9.15 m.ha (provisional) is estimated to have been created during the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying that water is life, water is god. We formulate irrigation projects as ours is predominantly an agricultural country and we depend heavily on rain for irrigation but if monsoon fails in some particular regions famine like situation emerges. Keeping in view the paucity of time I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister the number of projects for whose completion targets were set by the government during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indoraji, please ask the question directly, as time is ticking away and you will not get answer.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I want to know as to what was the irrigation capacity and cost of the projects targeted to be completed and the expenditure incurred thereon during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the number of projects completed out of them and the irrigation capacity thereof?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Member asked as to how many projects had been completed during the Ninth Five-Year Plan. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan, 25 major, 45 medium and 14 extension/ renovation/modernisation projects had been completed. So the total number of projects that had been completed during the Ninth Five-year Plan was 84. Some of the projects have spilled over to the Tenth Five-Year Plan. As I have already stated, the task of implementation and execution of the projects rests with the States. We are certainly persuading them and requesting them to get the projects completed on time.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: The total number of the ongoing projects under the Tenth Five Year Plan and the amount of funds incurred thereon and the number of projects targeted to be completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the amount of funds earmarked for expending thereon. The amount of funds required for completion of the ongoing projects after the set target is achieved. What is the status of the SYL project and the time by which it is likely to be completed.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, 159 major, 242 medium and 89 extension/renovation/modernisation projects have spilled over to the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The total number of spilled-over projects from the Ninth Five-Year Plan to the Tenth Five-Year plan is 490. With regard to the question as to how many projects we are going to take up in the Tenth Five-Year Plan, the number is not yet finalised. We are having interaction with the State Governments and certainly it will be finalised within this month.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Please tell us by which time SLY is likely to be completed?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, we stand by the judgment given by the hon. Supreme Court. We honour the judgment of the Supreme Court. Certainly we will take a decision accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know how much money was earmarked by Union Government for improvement of the Son canal in Bihar and the extent of funds which have already been released and whether the government have received report regarding completion or otherwise of the work there?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, Shri Nawal Kishore has to ask a question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He was not present in the House. Therefore, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey asked a supplementary. Please reply to his supplementary.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: The government of India have provided funds for improvement of Son Canal in Bihar. I want to know from the government whether the intended work has been completed and whether they are satisfied with it.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I have stated earlier that implementation and execution rest with the Central Government as per the constitutional arrangement,

as it stands today. We cannot direct anything to any particular State Government. We cannot force them. We are requesting and persuading them so that these projects can be implemented on time. The benefits will certainly accrue to the State Governments. I cannot force any State Government to do something which is not to their liking.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Special Package to drought Affected States

*266. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central study team has recently visited various drought affected States to assess the drought situation and losses caused thereby;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received proposals from various States requesting additional assistance to combat drought;

(d) if so, the details thereof including assistance and foodgrains sought by each State for the purpose;

(e) whether the Union Government have given any special package to the affected States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) Area Officers from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have visited the drought affected States recently and their Reports are under process in accordance with the procedure laid down in the NCCF scheme.

The assistance so far extended to the affected States is summarized as under:-

1. Assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund Rs. 1065.95 crores.
2. Allocation of 40.53 lakh MTs. of food-grains for relief employment for the current drought. In addition, 10.12 lakh MTs of food-grains for allocation to Rajasthan during the remaining period upto July, 2003.
3. Release of Rs. 1416.98 crores being the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03. Further, Rs. 44.93 crores being 25% of the Central share of CRF for the next financial year for Rajasthan has been released in advance in February, 2003.
4. Decision of free transportation of fodder and water by Rail, wherever required.
5. Scheme of assistance to NGOs for running of Gaushalas/Cattle camps with an outlay of Rs. 50.00 crores (Rs. 25.00 crores each from NCCF and Prime Minister's National Relief Fund).

The Task Force on drought has also permitted allocation of food-grains for relief employment in Rajasthan ensuring provision of employment to one willing individual from each rural house-hold in 74 worst affected Blocks of the State and for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) and a majority of non-BPL rural house-holds in other-Blocks of the State 10 days every month. The State has also been provided with 30,000 MTs. of cattle grade food-grains.

The following additional assistance requirements were projected to the Area Officers:-

State	Additional requirements projected	
	Food-grains (Lakh MTs.)	Financial assistance (Rs. In crores)
Andhra Pradesh	19.00	2373.44
Chhattisgarh	5.00	—
Maharashtra	0.50	539.25
Orissa	10.72	1676.58
Rajasthan	42.25	4160.67
Tamil Nadu	9.00	2027.53
Uttar Pradesh	—	1128.00

Further, Gujarat Government has submitted a Memorandum for assistance of Rs. 895.34 crores from the NCCF.

National Dairy Development Board

*267. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has asked the Union Government to formulate suitable policy to stop indiscriminate import of dairy products in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Airports

*268. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to upgrade all small, medium and major airports in the country as per the international-standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government thereon;

(d) the airports selected for upgradation during the year 2003-2004 including in the State of Bihar and Orissa; and

(e) the number of airports where modernisation work is under way at present alongwith the expenditure already incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) Upgradation and Modernisation of all airports in the country is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon traffic potential, operational requirements, availability of funds, economic viability, availability of land, social considerations etc. As per revised estimates for the year 2002-2003, amounts likely to be spent on development/upgradation works at major airports is approximately Rs. 717 crore. In the State of Bihar, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already renovated and expanded Patna airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore, and Gaya Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore. Construction of new Terminal Building, Technical Block, Fire Station, strengthening of runway for A-300 type of aircraft, has been taken up at Gaya Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 62 crore. In the State of Orissa, AAI has completed runway extension work, except the portion through which State Government's road passes across at Bhubaneswar Airport. State Government has been approached to divert the road at priority. Development works at Bhubaneswar has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crore. AAI has also plan for construction of Civil Enclave at Purnea Air Force Station. The Airports at Gaya and Patna in Bihar and Bhubaneswar in Orissa are planned for further upgradation during the year 2003-2004. There is also a plan to set up a perishable cargo complex at Patna airport in Joint venture with Bihar State Export Corporation Limited at a cost of Rs. 3.11 crores.

[English]

Subsidy for Agriculture Sector

*269. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developed countries provide huge subsidies to their agriculture sector including exports;

(b) if so, whether it has caused imbalance of trade in the developing countries particularly in India;

(c) if so, the remedial measures the Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether India alongwith the other developing countries has a plan to thrash out a clear-cut time-frame for scaling down subsidies and opening up the markets for the developing countries in the next Ministerial conclave of WTO; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The continued high levels of domestic support and export subsidies on agricultural products in many developed countries denies meaningful market access to products of export interest to developing countries and depresses international prices.

In the on-going negotiations in the WTO under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), India has sought, *inter-alia*, substantial reduction in all forms of trade-distorting domestic support by the developed countries and time-bound elimination of all export subsidies, other than those provided by all developing countries for marketing,

including handling, upgrading and other processing costs, and costs of transport and freight under Articles 9.1(d) and (e) of the AoA which should remain without reduction commitments. The Doha Ministerial Declaration also provides that special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations. The negotiations are likely to be concluded by 1.1.2005.

[Translation]

Foreign Loan for Tourist Spots

*270 YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any foreign loan for renovation of historical tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names and location of tourist spots on which this loan is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Infrastructure development projects along the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was carried out by undertaking loan assistance of 7.7 billion Japanes Yen from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The project covered Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 251.05 crores in December, 1998.

Loan assistance was availed from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase-I) in Maharashtra. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loan assistance was to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 127.50 crores approximately in March, 2002. The places covered were Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra. Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Approximately Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are: Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej, and Kolvan in Maharashtra.

Closure of Traditional Rural and Cottage Industries

*271. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the condition of traditional rural and cottage industries has been deteriorating and are on the verge of closure;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve their condition; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (c) The Khadi and Village Industries sector consists essentially of conventional (traditional) rural cottage industries. Government have been taking steps from time to time for the promotion and development of rural and cottage industries with positive results. Assistance provided to this sector consists of margin money assistance under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), training, technological and marketing support. As a result, village industries have been registering growth in production and employment.

In order to further strengthen this sector in the country, 'Khadi Package' was announced by the Government on 14.05.2001. The package mainly consists of creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital etc.

In view of the above, it may be seen that traditional rural and cottage industries are not deteriorating and not on the verge of closure.

(d) The improvement in the status of rural cottage industries during the past two years is given below:-

Item	2000-01	2001-02	(%) Growth
Production (Rs. in lakhs)	649168.96	714052.35	10%
Employment (Persons in lakhs)	50.51	54.17	7.2%

[English]

Expansion of ESI Scheme

*272. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed by the Government to set up ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the country;

(b) whether any proposal to expand health care facilities through ESI in some States are under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details alongwith steps taken to set up additional ESI hospitals and dispensaries in various States, State-wise; and

(d) the details of progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per norms prescribed by ESI Corporation, (a) 50 bedded hospital can be set up for 25000 Insured Person while a dispensary can be set up for 3000 Insured Persons.

(b) to (d) Expanding and upgrading of medical facilities through its hospitals, dispensaries and other tie up arrangements is a continuing activity of ESIC. Since 1999-2000 it has added 9 hospitals and 30 dispensaries making a total of 141 hospitals and 1451 dispensaries run by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments. The State-wise position of the added establishments is given in the statement. It has also decided to upgrade one ESI hospital in each State into a Model Hospital and a provision of Rs. 156 crores has been made in its budget for the year 2003-2004 for the purpose. Since 1999-2000, ESIC has also sanctioned over Rs. 46 crores for purchase of modern equipments in the various ESI Hospitals and dispensaries run by the State Governments/ Corporation.

Statement

The year-wise position of commissioning/sanction of ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries since 1.4.1999

Hospitals

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place of the hospital	Date of commissioning of the Hospital
1.	Delhi	Okhla	13.4.99
2.	Karnataka	Belgaum	27.5.99
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Nagda	5.6.99
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati	8.7.99
5.	West Bengal	Durgapur	21.2.2000
6.	Delhi	Rohini	21.5.2000
7.	Gujarat	Ankleshwar	14.12.2000
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	29.12.2000
9.	Chandigarh Admn.	Chandigarh	12.10.2002

Dispensaries

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Dispensary	Date of sanction
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	Manesar	24.5.2000
2.	Haryana	Jhajjar	24.5.2000
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangaliya	22.6.2000
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Maxi Distt. Sajapur	22.6.2000
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Industrial Area Devas	22.6.2000
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Reeva	22.6.2000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Pitham Pur Sector 3 & 4	22.6.2000
8.	Tamil Nadu	Chennimalai	13.9.2000
9.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	6.10.2000
10.	Gujarat	Anand Vallabh Vidyanagar	6.10.2000

1	2	3	4
11.	Tamil Nadu	Nanguneri	23.10.2000
12.	Tamil Nadu	Vannur, Distt. Cuddalore	23.10.2000
13.	Tamil Nadu	Sholinagar	23.10.2000
14.	Tamil Nadu	Karaikudi & Chettinad	23.10.2000
15.	Tamil Nadu	Sankaralingapuram	24.10.2000
16.	Tamil Nadu	Rasipuram	24.10.2000
17.	Tamil Nadu	Kariapatti Valkkanankundu	24.10.2000
18.	Tamil Nadu	Nallatipalayam	24.10.2000
19.	Goa	Honda Circle, Sattari Taluka	21.3.2001
20.	Tamil Nadu	Vellakoil area Dist. Erode	23.7.2001
21.	Chattisgarh	Hathkhoj (Bhilai)	26.9.2002
22.	Chattisgarh	Champa Centre, Raipur	26.9.2002
23.	Tamil Nadu	Paramadudi area Dist. Ramanathapuram	23.1.2003
24.	Tamil Nadu	Panrutti, Dist. Villupuram	23.1.2003
25.	Tamil Nadu	Tindivanam	23.1.2003
26.	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram area	23.1.2003
27.	Tamil Nadu	Sivaganga & Kalayaroil	23.1.2003
28.	Tamil Nadu	Karipatti & Vazappadi, Seshanchavadi	23.1.2003
29.	Tamil Nadu	Vaduganthangal & Pallikonda Dist. Vellore	23.1.2003
30.	Tamil Nadu	Sriperumbudur Dist. Chingleput	23.1.2003

Conference of Water Resources Ministers

*273. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 12th National Conference of Water Resources Ministers was held recently;

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

(c) whether some State Governments have expressed their views against implementation of inter-linking of rivers project in their States as the project is detrimental to their water management position; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) The 12th National Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers was held on 5th February, 2003 at New Delhi. The

Agenda for the Conference included Vision for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management; Review of Performance of Ninth Plan and Strategy for Tenth Plan; Action Plan for Implementation of National Water Policy, 2002; Need for Water Sector Reform by way of Performance Improvement, Rationalisation of Water Rates, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of Ongoing, Major and Medium Projects, River Basin Organisations; Command Area Development Programme and Participatory Irrigation Management; Inter-Basin Transfer Links Studied by National Water Development Agency and Setting up of Third Irrigation Commission.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister released the Document on "Vision for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management" in the Curtain Raiser of Launching the Freshwater Year, 2003 held prior to the Conference.

The Action Plan for Implementation of the National Water Policy, 2002 has been adopted in the conference. It has also been decided that certain States, who have not formulated their State Water Policy, will formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan within two years as per provisions of the National Water Policy, 2002. It was agreed that all-out efforts would be made by all concerned to meet the objectives set for the Water Resources Sector in the Tenth Plan document adopted by National Development Council Reforms required in the water sector are key to the economic sustainability of the irrigation systems. Initiatives towards sector reforms as discussed in the Conference and those detailed in the Tenth Plan document is required to be taken up with right earnestness. Reform measures including rationalisation of water rates are also important aspects of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme as special incentives are being provided for such measures for funding of schemes. The restructured programme of the Command Area Development will be pursued further. The States will make all-out efforts in the implementation of the restructured programme. Participatory Irrigation Management is central to the sustainable management of irrigation systems as also for improving their efficiency. Recognising this, the implementation of the CAD Programme is closely linked with Participatory Irrigation Management, wherein beneficiaries are required to bear a small part of the overall costs.

(c) and (d) On the issue of inter-linking of rivers, the representatives of some of the States did express their reservation on some grounds. With a view to bringing about a consensus among the States, the Central Government has set-up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on December 13, 2002 towards expediting the inter-linking proposal with the following terms of reference:-

(i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;

(ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;

(iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;

(iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;

(v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and

(vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

Schemes under NCLP

*274. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether every State in the country including Sikkim has formulated a number of schemes for the benefit of child labour under the centrally sponsored National Child Labour Project (NCLP);

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

(c) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any grants for the implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Government of India has sanctioned the projects for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour in 13 endemic states of the country. The National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) are presently being implemented in 100 districts of the 13 states. These projects are a part of the Central Plan Schemes and not Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Schemes for elimination of child labour in districts other than the 13 states are taken up under the Grant-in-aid schemes. Sikkim has not submitted any scheme for the benefit of child labour. The list of the 13 endemic steps with the names of the 100 districts is given in the statement.

(b) to (d) A strategy for elimination of child labour in the country includes the following interventions:

(i) A legislative intervention;

(ii) A project-based action plan in the entire country;

(iii) Focussing and convergence of general developmental programmes for benefiting children.

Under the National Child Labour Projects funds are made available to the districts for providing education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, etc. to children withdrawn from employment.

Under the Grant-in-aid scheme, voluntary organisations are given financial assistance by the Government to the extent of 75% of the project cost for rehabilitation of working children.

Statement

List of National Child Labour Projects running in 13 States:

(Total Projects in Operation: 100)

1.	Andhra Pradesh:	Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Nellore, Nizamabad, Markapur, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakapatnam, Warrangal, West Godavari, Mahaboobnagar, Adilabad. (22).
2.	Bihar:	Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui (3).
3.	Jharkhand:	Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibsasa) (5).
4.	Karnataka:	Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad. Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban (5)
5.	Madhya Pradesh:	Mandsaur, Gwalior, Ujjain (3).
6.	Chattisgarh:	Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Surguja, Raigarh (5)
7.	Maharashtra:	Solapur, Thane (2)
8.	Orissa:	Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Gajapati (Udaigiri), Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Cuttack, Balasore. (18)
9.	Rajasthan:	Jaipur, Udaipur, Tonk, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar. (6)
10.	Tamil Nadu:	Chidambarnar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Kamrajar (Virudhunagar), Vellore, Pudokkotai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli. (9)
11.	Uttar Pradesh:	Aligarh, Firozabad, Moradabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar (Khurja), Allahabad, Kanpur (Nagar), Saharanpur, Azamgarh. (11)
12.	West Bengal:	Burdwan, Dakshin Dinajpur, Midnapore, North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Calcutta. (8)
13.	Punjab:	Jalandhar Ludhiana, Amritsar (3).

Projects under National River Conservation Plan

*275. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government agencies and local bodies have made little progress in implementing the projects under National River Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, whether some schemes, aimed at making waterways cleaner and limiting pollution levels in cities, have not even taken off, though the Government have released funds;

(c) if so, the reasons for dalay; and

(d) the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the National River Conservation Plan, pollution abatement works have been taken up in 155 towns along the polluted stretches of 29

rivers spread over 17 States. The different components of the Plan have been approved at different times from 1993 till date. The present estimated cost of approved works is Rs. 3438 crore. Out of a total number of 1061 projects, 758 numbers of projects have been sanctioned where works are under implementation. Of these 351 numbers of projects have been completed. A total amount of about Rs. 1195 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of the approved works. The main reasons for delay in sanctioning of the remaining projects are delay in land acquisition and preparation of detailed project reports (DPR) by the implementing agencies. The State Government agencies concerned have been asked to submit the proposals of the remaining projects expeditiously.

Funds under UNDP for Improvement of Environment

*276. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Environmental System has become vulnerable to natural disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UNDP's Global Environmental Facilities funding to India is continuously increasing; and

(d) if so, the funds received from UNDP during the last three years and the measures taken to improve environmental system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. have adverse impacts on the local eco-system. Due to its size and geo-climatic conditions, India is vulnerable to such natural disasters.

(c) and (d) Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial mechanism that provides funds to developing countries to help them in carrying out projects to achieve global environment benefits. During the last three years, funds to the tune of US $ 29.25 million have been allocated by UNDP for GEF projects in India. These include 8 projects worth US $ 21.06 million signed for GEF assistance including Project Development Facility (PDF) assistance during the last three years. In addition, funds to the tune of US $ 5.27 million have also been received during the last three years for various environment related sub-programmes under the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF).

The measures taken by Government of India to improve environmental system in the country include:

- Eco-regeneration
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Specified Developmental Projects.
- Promotion of Environmental and Forestry Research, Extension, Education and Training.
- Afforestation and re-generation of degraded areas.
- Prevention and control of pollution.
- Dissemination of environmental information and education.
- Creation of Environmental awareness.
- Management of hazardous substances/wastes.
- National Rivers Conservation Plan.
- Energy efficiency and cleaner production technologies.

Decline in Prices of Crops

*277. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cash crops and plantation crops in the country experienced sharp price decline during recent years;

(b) if so, the details of the crops which experienced the price decline alongwith the reasons for the same;

(c) whether lifting of Quantitative restrictions has resulted in the price decline of these produces;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review its decision on Quantitative restrictions in order to enhance the tariff rate on imports of the same articles;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) According to the Annual Average Wholesale Price Index (1993-94=100) for the period 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, (upto February, 2003), there has been a mixed trend in the prices of cash crops and plantation crops, which may be seen from the figures given in the statement. In the case of sugarcane and oilseeds there has been an upward trend during the last three years. However, in the case of cotton, tea, coffee, arecanut and black pepper there has been a downward trend in prices during this period. It is difficult to attribute decline in prices to removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) because domestic prices of a number of cash crops and plantation crops move in tandem with international prices. The competition from abroad also assumes importance in this context. For example, pepper has been facing increased competition from the traditional Pepper producing countries like Indonesia, Brazil, and Malaysia. As regards arecanut, the unprecedented growth in area and production with limited domestic demand have resulted in supply-demand imbalances, which have pushed down prices. As regards rubber, prices have fallen in recent years due to decline in consumption by the tyre industry which accounts for around 60% of domestic consumption. However, there has been an increase in prices in both domestic and international prices of rubber in 2002.

With the removal of QRs, the import duty on tea and coffee has been increased from 70% to 100% and both commodities have been placed on the list of sensitive items, imports of which are being monitored closely. Customs duty on natural rubber and arecanut has been fixed at 25% and 100% respectively which is at par with W.T.O. bound rate. The import duty on cotton has been doubled from 5% to 10% and that on black pepper has been revised to 70%.

As regards natural rubber, the Government has made market intervention through State Trading Corporation (STC) and procured around 55,000 metric tonnes of natural rubber which has been sold to advance Licence Holders (ALH) at international prices; imports against Advance Licence have also been banned and this ban is in force even in a QR free regime in view of the surplus availability of rubber in the domestic market. Further, to enable natural rubber cultivators to get a reasonable price for their produce, Government has fixed the Minimum Price of two most commonly used classes of rubber, *viz.* RSS 4 and RSS 5 at Rs. 3209 per quintal and Rs. 3079 per quintal respectively. Government has also approved a Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), which would benefit the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco. The PSF Scheme will be implemented from April, 2003 onwards for a period of ten years. Regarding cotton, it is covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) where in the event of prices falling below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the central nodal agency enters the market and undertakes the procurement of cotton.

Statement

Trends in Wholesale Price Index of cash/plantation crops (Base 1993-94=100)

Commodity	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (April-Feb.)
Raw cotton	157.3	148.7	140.0
Raw jute	149.8	182.5	159.8
Sugarcane	173.3	187.3	199.1
Oilseeds (Group*)	129.3	137.6	154.1
Tea	128.7	117.4	118.5
Coffee	126.5	101.7	88.5
Cashewnut	131.6	120.0	129.7
Betelnut (Arecanut)	194.0	143.2	135.7
Tobacco	163.7	155.0	172.7
Black pepper	501.4	246.6	248.0

*The Group consists of nine oilseeds, namely, groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean. The trends in prices of these oilseeds are given in the following table:

Annual Average Wholesale Prices in Rs. Per quintal

Commodity	Centre	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
Groundnut with shell	Rajkot (Gujarat)	1218	1508	1985
Rapeseed & Mustard	Kanpur (U.P.)	1250	1394	1553

1	2	3	4	5
Sesamum seed	Hyderabad (A.P.)	1526	1777	2230
Safflower seed	Jalna (Maharashtra)	1182	1350	1600
Sunflower seed	Khamgaon (Maharashtra)	1314	1554	1648
Niger	Ranchi (Jharkhand)	1459	1470	1950
Soyabean	Dewas (M.P.)	998	1275	1345
Copra	Kozhikode (Kerala)	2335	3179	4100
Cotton seed	Rohtak (Haryana)	1044	1036	1100

Utilisation of Funds

*278. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the total allocation made for the financial year 2000-01, the Ministry could utilise only Rs. 62.79 crore towards rehabilitation of bonded labour, employment, welfare of SCs/STs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Out of the total outlay of Rs. 123 crore for the Ministry of labour during 2000-01, the allocation and utilisation of funds earmarked for Plan Scheme of Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, Employment & Training and Welfare of SCs/STs & OBCs are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	Budget Allocation	Utilisation
1. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour	5.75	9.21
2. Employment & Training	49.97	31.62
(a) Employment	13.03	9.66
(b) Training	35.32	21.50
(c) Welfare of SCs/STs & OBCs through Coaching, Vocational Guidance & Training	1.62	0.46
Total: (1 to 2)	55.72	40.83

(b) The utilisation of funds for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour was substantially higher than the allocated amount. There was, however, a shortfall in utilisation under Employment & Training and Welfare of SCs/STs & OBCs. The main reasons for low utilisation were non-creation/ non-filling up of posts, non-approval of schemes by competent authority, less number of instructors sponsored by State Governments, non receipt of equipment in time etc.

(c) There is a three-tier monitoring mechanism under operation in the Ministry to review the pace of expenditure. Under this mechanism, Secretary reviews the pace of expenditure in periodic meetings with the Divisional Heads with a view to identify the main hurdles and to take steps to overcome them. Secretary is also separately monitoring some of the important schemes like National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Employment & Training and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour. This is followed by meetings taken by the Additional Secretary to examine the actual implementation of the decisions taken at the level of Secretary. Finally, the Divisional Heads meet the Financial Adviser at their level and discuss individual cases. Recently, Planning Commission has also started reviewing the implementation of schemes through Quarterly Progress Reports.

Tie-up of ESIC Hospitals with Private Hospitals

*279. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a policy to allow ESIC Hospitals to have tie-ups with private hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of the tie-ups which have been and are likely to be permitted;

(c) whether ESIC will also invest in private medical care companies to provide services for ESIC insured persons;

(d) if so, whether any such investment has already taken place;

(e) if so, the details of the collaboration with private hospitals for medical care to insured persons; and

(f) the details of other facilities to be provided to ESIC hospitals/State Governments for the development of ESIC dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation has requested the State Governments to tie-up arrangements with other Government/reputed private institutions for providing facilities which are not available in its own institutions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) To upgrade the medical facilities in various ESI Hospitals, the ESI Corporation has, *inter-alia*, undertaken a programme of upgrading medical equipment and for this purpose Rs. 46 crores have been sanctioned by ESI Corporation since 1999-2000.

Utilisation of Fleet

*280. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilisation of Air India's fleet is lower than the industry average in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the steps taken by the Government during the past few years to increase the fleet utilisation of Air India remained ineffective;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to improve the fleet utilisation of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) The utilisation of A310-300 aircraft by Air India is far better than the industry average. However, the utilisation of B-747 classic aircraft is very low as these aircrafts are very old and are economically unviable to operate and therefore, they are being phased out. The utilisation of B-747-400 aircraft is marginally lower than the industry average due to scheduling done on commercial basis resulting in lower average stage length and higher average ground time.

Protection of Taj

2692. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job of protecting the Taj has been entrusted to CISF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of complaints about misbehaviour by CISF men deployed at Taj Mahal;

(d) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with concerned authorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the checking of tickets at Taj is assigned to ASI Staff; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. Some unpleasant incidents had taken place because of CISF checking entry tickets at the Taj Mahal. Subsequently the Home Secretary has directed the CISF not to check the tickets and confine themselves to security aspects of the monuments; the checking of tickets rests with the Archaeological Survey of India staff.

Non-Conventional Insecticides

2693. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many companies manufacturing non-conventional insecticides have been banned in several States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether such companies are shifting their bases to other parts of the country where these insecticides are not banned;

(d) if so, the details of such companies; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) In the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, 1968,

insecticides have not been classified as 'conventional' or 'non-conventional'. Non-conventional insecticides may refer to non-chemical insecticides *viz.* bio-pesticides and pesticides of plant origin. None of the bio-pesticides and pesticides of plant origin registered under the Insecticides act, 1968 has been banned by the Government for use in the country.

Package for Agricultural Sector of Kerala

2694. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced a package of Rs. 1000 crore for agricultural projects in Kerala during the year 2001;

(b) if so, the number of projects initiated;

(c) the amount so far released for such of the projects including the 'Technology Mission of Coconut'; and

(d) the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Prime Minister made announcements related to setting up of a Coconut Technology Mission, procurement of copra and rubber, import of and import duty on rubber duty on rubber and proposal to negotiate at WTO for bringing rubber in the category of agricultural products.

(b) to (d) (i) Government of India sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme on Technology Mission on Coconut with financial allocation of Rs. 4.00 crore for the year 2001-02 and Rs. 20.00 crores for the year 2002-03 to be implemented throughout the country. Under this scheme, a total of 30 projects were sanctioned by the Project Approval Committee of the Coconut Development Board for implementation in various States including Kerala. During the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs. 257.053 lakhs was released under Technology Mission on Coconut for 6 projects. So far an amount of Rs. 206.62 lakhs has been released during 2002-03 under the Mission. The projects are at different stages of implementation.

(ii) During the season 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, a total quantity of 85,761 MTs of milling copra was procured in Karala at Minimum Support Price fixed for copra for the above periods.

(iii) In order to stabilize the declining prices of natural rubber, Government had made market intervention through State Trading Corporation (STC) during August, 1997 to April, 2001. During the market intervention operations, STC procured around 55,000 MT of natural rubber in four phases. The Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 56 crores on these operations. The present market prices are ruling approximately at Rs. 4400 per quintal which is higher than the notified minimum price of the two most commonly used classes of natural rubber, i.e. RSS-4 and RSS-5.

(iv) The duty free import of natural rubber against advanced licences has been banned by the Government.

(v) A proposal has been submitted to WTO by India for bringing rubber in the category of agricultural products.

Construction of Jetty for Fishermen In Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2695. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a Jetty for fishermen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has posed a proposal for construction of fish landing centre at Junglighat (Dairy Farm), Port Blair and sought Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(b) The proposal envisages construction of a RCC Jetty, Reclamation, Auction hall, Administration office, Traffic areas and surfacing, Boulder bund, Cement Concrete Sloping Ramp, Water supply and other ancillary facilities. On examination of the proposal by the Union Government the UT administration has been requested to confirm receipt of environmental clearance from competent authority for implementation of the project.

Lease of Aircraft

2696. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether lease rental on the acquisition of aircraft have been declining;

(b) if so, the details of reduction in these rents by the different companies;

(c) the number of aircrafts presently on lease with the Indian Airlines/Air India and the lease rent paid therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to acquire aircrafts on lease with a view to augment its fleet; and

(e) if so, the number of aircrafts proposed to be acquired and the lease rent to be paid thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Dry lease rentals are fixed for a period of three years. However, the lease, rentals for the succeeding dry leases entered into by these airlines have shown a decline as compared to the first dry lease.

(c) Details are as under:

No. & Type of Aircraft	Lease Rental per month in USD
Air India	
Two A310	281000 each
Two A310	250000 each
One A310	235000
One A310	230000
One A310	220000
Two A310	240000 each
One B747-400	510000
Indian Airlines	
Two A300	105,000 each
Six A320	244000 each
Four ATR42	67500 each

(d) and (e) Lease of aircraft is a short term measure for the airlines to meet the immediate demand. For meeting the long term requirements, both the airlines have plans to acquire new aircraft. However, Air India is considering induction of two additional A310-300 aircraft on dry lease. The lease rental for these aircrafts cannot be determined at present as Air India is still in the process of inviting global tenders. Indian Airlines is also considering the induction of five A320 aircraft at a lease rent of USD 140,000 per month per aircraft in order to replace A300 aircraft and also a augment capacity.

Declaration of Coconut as National Crop

2697. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare coconut as National Crop; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to declare coconut as a National Crop. However, Government is giving focused attention to development of coconut crop through Coconut Development Board set up under the Coconut Development Board Act, 1981 for integrated development of coconut industry in India.

For increasing production and productivity of coconuts, product diversification and by-product utilization, the Coconut Development Board under Ministry of agriculture is implementing programmes, *viz.*, production & distribution of quality planting materiel; expansion of area under coconut; integrated farming for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information & information technology; infrastructure and administration. Besides, Scheme for Technology Mission on Coconut has been launched during 2001-2002 for giving focused attention on management of insects, pest and diseases; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. Since inception of the Coconut Development Board in 1981, Government has provided an allocation of Rs. 298.47 crores to the Board for implementation of various programmes. This includes additional assistance released for rehabilitation of cyclone affected coconut gardens in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and also for control of eriophyid mite of coconut in southern States.

In order to ensure remunerative prices to coconut farmers, Government of India fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for milling copra and ball copra and undertake price support operations if the price fall below MSP. The MSP fixed for the years, 2000 to 2002 is as under:-

(Rupees per quintal)

Year	Price fixed by the Government of India	
	Milling Copra	Ball Copra
2000	3250	3500
2001	3300	3550
2002	3300	3550

A meeting was convened by Union Agriculture Minister with Agriculture Ministers of coconut producing states at Bangalore on 5-5-2002 to discuss various issues, such as, coconut production & protection, product diversification and fall in prices of coconut and procurement of copra etc.

[Translation]

Limestone Mines at Bhavanathpur

2698. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of power being purchased from Government of Jharkhand for Limestone Mines located at Bhavanathpur Raw Material Division of SAIL:

(b) the rate of power used in quarters of employees in said mines;

(c) whether the SAIL has made payment for the power being used in said place to the Jharkhand State Electricity Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the SAIL management has been benefited by it or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The average rate per unit charged by Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) is Rs. 4.72.

(b) Monthly Electricity Charges being recovered for each type of Quarter occupied by company employees are as under:

Type of Quarter	Recovery Rs./Monthly
F	120.00
D	150.00
C	220.00
B	290.00

(c) SAIL is making payment on the basis of Actual Consumption at Bhavanathpur Limestone Mines.

(d) Payment made to JSEB during April, 2002 to January, 2003 are as under:-

Sl.No.	Month	Amount Paid to JSEB
1.	Apir'02	Rs. 12,71,549/-
2.	May'02	Rs. 12,61,850/-
3.	June'02	Rs. 10,70,012/-
4.	July'02	Rs. 10,01,855/-
5.	Aug'02	Rs. 11,30,411/-
6.	Sept'02	Rs. 13,57,718/-
7.	Oct'02	Rs. 13,73,699/-
8.	Nov'02	Rs. 12,23,667/-
9.	Dec'02	Rs. 13,71,982/-
10.	Jan'03	Rs. 11,95,787/-

(e) Does not arise.

(f) SAIL management has benefited as JSEB has provided power for operation of the mine.

[English]

Optimum use of Land

2699. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme for optimum use of land to support the growing population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the available land which would be put to optimum use;

(d) the total land in the country which is subject to soil erosion and land degradation;

(e) whether the Government have made any assessment about the loss of land during the next fifteen years as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan, consulted by Planning

Commission, has formulated a perspective plan for development of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development programmes.

(d) to (f) It is intimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5334 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion. The Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes for development and management of degraded land in the country. An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Central Aid for Cold Storages

2700. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra has been deprived of Central aid for cold storages and other schemes for the last six months;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government of India, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is providing financial assistance for establishment of cold storages in the country including Maharashtra. NHB through its scheme, "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/ Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" has sanctioned Rs. 424.14 lakhs as back-ended capital investment subsidy for 19 cold storage projects in the State of Maharashtra during the year 2002-03. Out of this, Rs. 294.14 lakhs have been sanctioned for 14 cold storage projects in Maharashtra during the period 01-08-2002 to till date. The Scheme is demand based.

Also, under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, an allocation of Rs. 98.84 crores has been made for the State of Maharashtra for the year 2002-03. Out of this, Rs. 75.44 crores has already been released to the State.

Farmers Benefited under NAIS in U.P.

2701. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of the farmers benefited in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Mohan Lal Gaj and Unnao from the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from January, 2002 till date, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): During Rabi 2001-2002 total number of farmers benefited under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in Uttar Pradesh were 61,692. The number of farmers benefited in Unnao district was 589. However, no farmer from Mohan Lal Ganj block could be benefited under the scheme as the prescribed conditions of the scheme were not met. A *statement* indicating district-wise details of the farmers benefited is enclosed.

Statement

Number of farmers covered and number of farmers benefited from inception

Name of District	Season							
	Khariff 2000		Rabi 2000		Khariff 2001		Rabi 2001	
	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited	No. of Farmers Covered	No. of Farmers Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Agra	4	—	24988	4069	0	—	29561	4041
Aligarh	214	—	6538	—	5782	538	4951	22
Allahabad	11904	1219	14304	2402	7217	1065	6419	3864

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ambedkar Nagar	5158	—	10097	171	131	—	10094	18
Azamgarh	15653	4212	26717	8934	14867	391	6523	1152
Badaun	5096	616	7588	4	360	123	2292	844
Baghpat	13741	—	265	14	1313	—	10068	—
Bahraich	4423	582	4303	585	50	—	—	—
Balia	3726	1970	9981	2369	2555	—	5261	1229
Balrampur	0	—	0	—	0	—	—	—
Banda	3610	3610	14236	1614	2152	125	1566	—
Barabanki	3033	60	5787	620	4052	657	8502	76
Bareilly	36201	6330	2067	97	2217	—	793	39
Basit	3781	602	8134	3418	5355	—	8121	2202
Bijnor	755	748	3445	734	4500	—	—	—
Bulandshahar	9278	2538	20254	4732	4808	716	8791	16
Chandauli	7105	2938	2242	2216	887	1	76	76
Chitrakoot	1467	855	8195	2116	1246	446	1831	360
Deoria	0	—	8135	—	1854	191	609	38
Dehradun	215	—	0	—	0	—	—	—
Etah	3107	468	12319	826	3748	2736	11291	3272
Etawah	3648	2309	12124	1479	5547	3372	9987	84
Faizabad	553	—	1832	377	107	—	681	83
Farrukhabad	781	—	8389	—	419	13	17655	—
Fatehpur	686	—	2416	698	1699	144	14	—
Firozabad	320	97	16096	3278	10024	—	15452	2893
Gajipur	33621	9644	51065	—	22986	877	4779	2582
Ghaziabad	2506	13	4249	631	1688	—	741	—
G.B. Nagar	2460	44	2036	571	479	—	140	164
Gonda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gorakhpur	9753	691	7456	1103	7166	1452	4162	285
Hamirpur	5472	4971	9848	715	816	392	2424	79
Hardoi	3785	1436	8785	2455	3076	222	7102	1704
Hathras	68	—	4809	—	610	568	7575	1081
Haridwar	369	—	0	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jalaun	0	—	32482	8320	0	—	6405	—
Jaunpur	0	—	32415	—	13688	1842	33137	3012
Jhansi	306	—	1004	410	6	3	3700	—
Jyothibaphule Nagar	9095	1445	2811	—	2681	—	953	—
Kanpur Dehat	10044	—	574	100	537	417	3411	35
Kanpur Nagar	163	33	312	44	1050	13	5756	1095
Kaushambi	3857	—	4089	208	2222	—	648	—
Kushinagar	0	—	1023	2	2738	127	78	—
Kannuaj	1243	404	11691	—	2323	—	16666	8893
Kakhimpur Khiri	326	—	64	—	37	—	—	—
Lalitpur	0	—	860	705	1230	556	10706	4162
Maharajganj	6301	1	1514	—	4396	193	1849	763
Mathura	18016	5466	6195	—	5283	888	7762	1339
Mau	209	—	2357	1203	227	—	585	111
Meerut	41445	3065	778	—	5028	—	876	—
Mainpuri	1536	298	5904	—	1604	—	4760	—
Mirzapur	3316	553	5019	1016	8561	1397	—10063	—
Mohaba	3184	7070	5664	—	20	28656	909	562
Moradabad	17614	5961	6298	35	4966	2868	1245	368
Muzaffarnagar	9023	1252	1563	—	7395	—	516	—
Nainital	6349	—	0	—	0	—	—	—
Oraiyya	6498	5474	16734	—	7755	—	17248	5360
Pilibhit	9499	754	462	14	2417	—	1197	119
Pratanagar	7946	4684	4914	1624	14651	361	12093	3252
Raibarelly	3381	1587	4105	3060	3855	44	8019	1886
Rampur	6669	—	2559	169	2989	—	645	—
Saharanpur	606	550	559	110	538	321	62	45
Sant Kabirnagar	1906	—	7237	5440	836	246	7272	—
Sant Rabidas Nagar	890	4	2909	987	1	—	55	295
Shahjahanpur	17453	5059	4103	—	7332	4817	2461	—
Siddharthnagar	3857	635	6328	855	808	—	2662	969
Sitapur	19476	16692	136	52	4755	87	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sravasti	1708	—	2452	1490	0	—	—	—
Sultanpur	11146	1607	16010	3020	10393	221	16622	2579
Sonebhadra	434	308	0	—	3980	—	13	589
Unnao	11014	6185	2575	632	730	—	1688	—
Udhamsingh Nagar	14973	—	0	—	0	—	—	—
Varanasi	4220	59	7312	3548	56	—	68	—
Lucknow	2612	1568	230	—	304	—	281	—
Total	—	117064	—	77272	—	57086	—	61692

Destruction of Mangrove Forests

2702. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where mangrove forests are grown;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of destruction of mangrove forest during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to develop the mangrove forest in States especially in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Mangrove forests occur in West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) and (c) According to State of Forests Report 1999 total Mangrove area in the country is reported to be 4871 sq.km. This showed over all increase of 338 sq.km. of Mangrove forest in the country during 1995-99. Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched a scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs since 1986. On the recommendations of the National Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs Coringa, East Godavari and Krishna Mangrove areas in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for conservation. An amount of Rs. 117.05 lakhs has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years for implementation of Management Action Plans for these identified Mangrove areas. The Scheme is continued in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Mangroves are salt tolerant characteristic complex plant communities growing in coastal areas and therefore do not occur in Uttaranchal.

Amendment in ESI Act

2703. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers covered under the Employees State Insurance Act would be entitled to the benefits from the date of their employment and not from the date of registration;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to amend the rules to give effect to Supreme Court's judgement in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The workers are entitled to benefits under the Employees State Insurance Act as soon as the employers register all workers coverable under the Act with the ESI Corporation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Science Cities

2704. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 'Science Cities' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient feature of the proposed Science Cities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India facilitates the setting up of Science Cities on the basis of proposals received from agencies including the State Governments, after examining the merits of the project proposals.

The Science Cities normally comprise components such as Extensive Science Parks, Science Exploration Halls, Science awareness and Educational Elements, large Visual and Film Formats, Science and Entertainment Formats, Promotional Science and Creative Displays, Cutting edge Technology and Futuristic trends. Besides these, development of infrastructure in Science Cities is also undertaken, such as Roads, Telecommunication, Power and Water Supply, Transport, Science Souvenir, Shops, Reception area, Cafeteria and other required visitor facilities.

[English]

Tourism Policy of Karnataka

2705. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has prepared any new Tourism Policy to develop tourist spots and to attract more foreign tourist in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to the said policy;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide any financial assistance to the State Government to make the new policy effective; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government has informed that a number of incentives and tax concessions are offered in the New Tourism Policy of the State. Besides, the concessions available under the Industrial Policy (2002-07) of the State are also available for private investment in the tourism sector.

(c) to (e) The State Government has not sought any approval of the Policy from the Union Government. The Central Government during the year 2002-03, has sanctioned Rs. 782.49 lakhs for development of Hampi, Kokkare Bellur, Konkan Riviera circuit and Beugle Rock Garden at Basavanagudi.

[Translation]

Livestock Census

2706. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any livestock census has recently been conducted in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of cattle especially milch and cross breed recorded in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government and the State Governments to increase the number of cattle and also to improve their breed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Last quinquennial livestock census in the country, was conducted in 1997. Bihar State did not conduct the census.

(b) The statewise provisional population of total cattle, crossbred cattle and milch cattle is as given in the statement enclosed.

(c) the thrust of the government policies and programmes is on scientific management and upgradation of genetic resources. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) is being implemented with the principal objectives of making available high quality breeding inputs at the doorstep of the farmers and evolving programmes towards conservation of indigenous breeds. At present 17 States are participating in the project.

In addition to this the Government is also implementing in the central sector a Central Cattle Development Organization scheme for production, registration and supply of high pedigreed bulls for the breeding programmes.

Statement

Total Cattle, Crossbred Cattle and Milch Cattle in India, 1997—State-wise (Provisional)

(in '000)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Total Cattle	Crossbred Cattle	Milch Cattle
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10602	751	2528
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	453	10	96
3.	Assam	8080	369	2138
4.	Bihar	23550	211	5334
5.	Goa	92	11	27
6.	Gujarat	6749	342	2171
7.	Haryana	2488	792	758
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2174	368	1293
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3175	1083	978
10.	Karnataka	10831	1293	3668
11.	Kerala	3396	3627	1641
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19967	170	5725
13.	Maharashtra	18072	2457	5352
14.	Manipur	508	69	111
15.	Meghalaya	756	17	222
16.	Mizoram	33	8	10
17.	Nagaland	383	124	87
18.	Orissa	13810	912	3752
19.	Punjab	2632	1822	1149
20.	Rajasthan	12881	211	4635
21.	Sikkim	143	52	48
22.	Tamil Nadu	14931	2503	5074
23.	Tripura	1228	73	410
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20016	2105	5270
25.	West Bengal	17832	936	5211
26.	A&N Islands	60	6	21
27.	Chandigarh	7	6	4
28.	D&N Haveli	60	1	10
29.	Delhi	96	60	57
30.	Lakshadweep	3	1	0
31.	Pondicherry	73	50	34
32.	Daman & Diu	5	0	1
33.	Chhatisgarh	8786	105	2523
34.	Uttaranchal	2031	103	615
	All India	205903	20648	60953

Source: *Provisional reports of Livestock Census, State Departments of Animal Husbandry.*

Note: 1. For Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Dadra & Nagar Haveli projections have been used.

2. Milch cattle includes Crossbred and Indigenous.

Seven Point Work Plan to Handle Drought

2707. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Calamity Relief Fund and have announced a seven point work project in view of the severe drought;

(b) if so, whether the said work plan and scheme has been implemented; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereunder till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The scope of the Calamity Relief Fund is as laid down in the awards of the Finance Commission appointed every five years. The current scheme governing this fund is in accordance with the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission which are operative for the period 2000-01—2004-05. Expansion of this Fund will be possible only in the light of the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, which has been constituted only recently and whose recommendations will be operative during 2005-06.

[English]

Drought Animal Power

2708. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drought Animal Power (DAP) can be productively utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated during 2002-2003; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote DAP in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The DAP can be productively utilized in the country for ploughing, drawing of animal cart, power generation etc.

(c) and (d) DAP has been weeded out by the Department of Expenditure, (Plan Finance Division), Ministry of Finance, since the year 1997-98.

[Translation]

Pending Tourism Projects

2709. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism projects for development of Jaisalmer, Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh in Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded;

(c) whether the State Government has requested to the Union Government for financial assistance for development of Harauti Tourism Circuit and for conservation and development of ancient temples of Ausian; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the assistance is proposed to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has already sanctioned following works at Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh under a project for development of Mewar as a destination during the current financial year:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Works	Amount Sanctioned
1.	SEL Show at Kumbhalgarh Fort	195.00
2.	SEL Show at Chittorgarh Fort	206.10
3.	General lighting of the monuments around Kumbhalgarh Fort	33.60

The Department of Culture has also sanctioned development works at following monuments in commemoration of 2600 years of Tirthankara Mahavira's Janma Kalyanak:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Works	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Chittorgarh Fort	100.00
2.	Khumbhalgarh Fort	117.00
3.	Jain Temple at Amarsagar, Jaisalmer	15.00
4.	Jain Temple at Lodruvapatan, Jaisalmer	15.00

(c) and (d) Central financial assistance has also been sanctioned for following projects by the Department of tourism in Hadoti Region and Osian near Jodhpur:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Project	Amount Sanctioned
1995-96	Conservation work at Osian Temple	13.00
1998-99	Integrated Development of tourist places in Hadoti Region	82.00

The Department of Culture has also sanctioned Rs. 106.19 lakhs for development works at Osian Temples.

Funds to Protect Arawali Mountain

2710. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and spent by the Government for the protection of Arawali mountain in Rajasthan, during each of the last three years; and

(b) the area where the funds were utilized alongwith the forest land thus protected under the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH

JUDEV): (a) and (b) Expenditures incurred during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are Rs. 4251.06 lakhs, Rs. 4737.46 lakhs and Rs. 5130.87 lakhs respectively in all the 18 districts in the Arawali range by 27 territorial and wildlife divisions protecting 20229.46 sq.km. of forest area.

[English]

Production of Seeds

2711. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the production of seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure setting up of Seeds Board at State level also and linking them up with the National Seeds Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) to (d) The draft Seeds Bill encompasses, *inter alia*, arrangements for streamlined production of quality seeds and the establishment of the National Seeds Board and State Seed Committees.

Drought Condition In Orissa

2712. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether KBK districts in Orissa are prone to drought; and

(b) if so, the action plan initiated or proposed to be initiated to assist the farmers in these drought prone districts to combat drought situation during 2003-2004 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has initiated a Special Plan for all round development of KBK Districts under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna to cater to the various developmental needs of the KBK Districts of Orissa including the problem of recurrent droughts in the region through development of agriculture. While this years's out-lay is Rs. 100 crores the Plan for 2003-04 is yet to be approved.

National Dairy Development Board

2713. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in contravention of government policies under which National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was set up it is now actively seeking collaboration with private firms like HLL and Amrit Foods for UHT milk;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to disinvest NDDB;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, Mother Dairy Foods Processing Ltd., a subsidiary company of Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Ltd., which is a wholly owned company of NDDB is getting UHT flavoured milk packed, on contract, from Amrit Foods Ltd.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Closure of Industrial Units

2714. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries financed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are virtually sinking and closing on account of higher rate of interest and variable penalty charged by the banks and financial institutions on the loans advanced/financed to the entrepreneurs before 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various banks/cooperative institutions etc. are charging 15 to 18% against the industry on the mortgaged property from the entrepreneurs while the interest rate on fixed deposits have been reduced nearly 6% to 8%;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have requested the RBI to make a uniform policy on the interest/penalty for charging interest in the interest of the trade/industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Rural Entrepreneurs are provided funds from Banking Institutions under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). The interest rate for such assistance varies from bank to bank. Public sector Scheduled Commercial banks charge interest at Prime Landing Rate (PLR) or PLR plus upto 4% as per the policy of different banks.

(e) to (h) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has already requested Reserve Banks of India to advise banks to charge interest only at PLR for these loans.

Setting up of Agro-Based Industries

2715. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Margin Money Scheme for setting up Agro based and other rural industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the type of industries which are covered under the scheme;

(d) the number of such units set up under the scheme as on December 31, 2002, State-wise; and

(e) the total amount earmarked for the purpose and amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) The Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country for setting up Village Industries including agro and rural industries. Under this scheme the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of weaker sections, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary is required to contribute a minimum 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost.

(c) The scheme covers all industries belonging to the following seven groups:-

(i) Mineral Based Industries;

(ii) Forest Based Industries;

(iii) Agro Based Industries;

(iv) Polymer and Chemical Based Industries;

(v) Engineering and Non-Conventional Energy;

(vi) Textile Industries; and

(vii) Service Industries.

(d) The State-wise details of number of such units set up under REGP as on 31st December, 2002 is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Since the inception of REGP in 1995-96 and upto 2001-02, the Government earmarked Rs. 626.88 crores of which Rs. 620.03 crores has been sanctioned and spent during this period.

Statement

State-wise project financed upto December 2002 (provisional) under REGP

S.No.	States/Union Territories	Projects financed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10687
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	349
3.	Assam	719

1	2	3
4	Bihar	593
5.	Goa	2229
6.	Gujarat	715
7.	Haryana	4083
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1103
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6013
10.	Karnataka	11121
11.	Kerala	6085
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17149
13.	Maharashtra	17753
14.	Manipur	624
15.	Meghalaya	2954
16.	Mizoram	832
17.	Nagaland	4665
18.	Orissa	1829
19.	Punjab	8433
20.	Rajasthan	21611
21.	Sikkim	35
22.	Tamil Nadu	3885
23.	Tripura	184
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12918
25.	West Bengal	13136
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	162
27.	Chandigarh	140
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8
29.	Delhi	203
30.	Lakshadweep	1
31.	Pondicherry	899
32.	Chhattisgarh	309
33.	Jharkhand	254
34.	Uttaranchal	828
	Total:	152509

Honey Production in Bihar

2716. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving any Central Assistance to Bihar for the development of agriculture in the State for enhancement of honey production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives proposed to be given for the production of honey in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plan, the Government is providing assistance to the State Governments and State Designated Agencies (SDA) for various programmes including development of bee-keeping. An amount of Rs. 54.35 lakhs was allocated to the Bihar Khadi and Village Industries Board during 2001-02 for this purpose.

(c) Incentives are being provided for activities like production of honey bee colonies through bee breeders, supply of honey bee colonies, supply of hives and bee-keeping equipments, organizing training programmes and for organizing promotional activities like honey festivals. Besides, the Khadi & Village Industries Commissions through its Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) also provides, *inter alia*, financial assistance in the form of margin money to village industry project including bee-keeping unit.

[Translation]

Export of Agro Products

2717. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of export from agro-based industries in the country;

(b) the details of domestic consumption of their product in the Country;

(c) the contribution of each State particularly Maharashtra therein; and

(d) the details of business based on the lac and wood industries during the last three years indicating the contribution of Maharashtra therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The estimated share of export under Agro and Rural Industries in total export is 0.08% during 2001-02.

(b) The total domestic consumption in terms of sales value of agro based industries during 2001-02 was Rs. 8383.49 crores.

(c) The State-wise contribution of domestic consumption of agro based industry products in the country including Maharashtra is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Data is not maintained centrally.

Statement

State-wise contribution of domestic consumption of Agro Based Industry Products during 2001-2002.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Domestic consumption (sales)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38526.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	284.81
3.	Assam	4763.15
4.	Bihar	17539.19
5.	Goa	3489.88
6.	Gujarat	55278.17
7.	Haryana	20525.56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20152.86
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	16682.07
10.	Karnataka	69722.62
11.	Kerala	30500.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	53921.89
13.	Maharashtra	125998.61
14.	Manipur	4843.79
15.	Meghalaya	3353.67
16.	Mizoram	4424.24
17.	Nagaland	4731.49
18.	Orissa	8691.06
19.	Punjab	34733.03
20.	Rajasthan	84690.28
21.	Sikkim	162.44
22.	Tamil Nadu	70598.86
23.	Tripura	2080.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	120577.37
25.	West Bengal	26923.47
26.	Chhattisgarh	4122.59
27.	Jharkhand	412.63
28.	Uttaranchal	2136.37
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	381.89
30.	Chandigarh	2356.43
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	16.21
32.	Daman & Diu	0.00
33.	Delhi	4689.71
34.	Lakshadweep	19.69
35.	Pondichery	1006.76
	Total	838348.56

[English]

Reduction in Premium for Sugarcane

2718. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has proposed changes in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme regarding increase of share of the Central Government and reduction in premium rate for sugarcane crop; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Maharashtra Government on several occasions have demanded sharing of claims liabilities between Central and State Government in the ratio of 2:1 in place of 1:1 and reduction in the premium rate of sugarcane crop for 2001-02.

The issue regarding sharing of financial liability in the ratio of 2:1 between Central and State Government was examined in this Department and it was not found feasible due to financial constraints.

Regarding charging of premium rates for sugarcane crop, actuarial rates of premium are charged on all annual commercial/horticultural crops including sugarcane. These rates are worked out by the Implementing Agency on the basis of variability in the past yield data. The actuarial rates may change year to year with a change in the quantum of variability in the yield. The Government of Maharashtra has already been apprised about this position.

[Translation]

Wildlife and Forest Tourism in Bihar

2719. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for wildlife and forest tourism in Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to exploit the tourism potential in the State;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There is some scope especially in Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve for development of wildlife and forest based tourism in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Central financial assistance is now provided for Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits and Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development projects identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. During the current financial year works worth Rs. 505.00 lakhs have been sanctioned in Bihar under a project for Integrated Development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Circuit.

[English]

Bifurcation of ICAR

2720. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bifurcate ICAR to enable more focused attention on regional agricultural requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any outside agency has made any suggestions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No proposal to bifurcate ICAR is pending before the Government.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Bokaro Steel Plant

2721. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) had invited tenders from NGOs institutions and various types of committees through advertisement to provide land on lease for a period of 33 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the some academic institutions who were provided land on lease received financial assistance from the management of BSP;

(d) if so, whether these institutions defaulted in paying back interest or the instalments; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the management to discontinue the lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Out of 16 academic institutions who were provided land on lease and received financial assistance from Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), 6 institutions have defaulted in paying back instalments/interest.

(e) Repayment of loan is being vigorously pursued by BSL and the institutions have been cautioned that continuing default would warrant serious measures, including cancellation of lease.

[English]

Promotion of Guilty Assistant General Manager

2722. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4162 on December 16, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Assistant General Manager Security of Air India IGI Airport was found guilty in an incident related to illegal travel of two Afgan Nationals on Air India 111 dated October 28, 2001 has not been transferred from the IGI Airport and was only given censure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether he is being considered for a promotion to the post of Deputy General Manager in Air India Security despite such a serious lapse on his part;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether he is also being considered for the foreign posting; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The police investigations conducted by the Andheri Police Station, Mumbai did not elicit any involvement of Mr. G.S. Bankoti or the other three officers of Air India. However Mr. G.S. Bankoti Assistant General Manager Security, IGI Airport, New Delhi and other three officers were suspended pending enquiry with effect from 30th October, 2001. Subsequently, A committee consisting of senior executives from Air India was constituted to look into the issues relating to the suspension of Shri Bankoti and three other officers of Air India. The Committee, in its findings, recommended that officers from the Commercial/Security Departments who were suspended pending enquiry were to be held responsible for lack of supervision over their subordinates in their day-to-day functions and further recommended that letters of censure be issued to them for this lapse.

(c) and (d) As per the Standard Force of the Security Department there are three posts of Deputy General Manager-Security of which two posts are vacant. Promotion to these posts will be undertaken on the basis of seniority and merit in due course.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Drought Condition in A.P.

2723. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain districts in Andhra Pradesh including Mehboobnagar are drought prone;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Government about the damages and loss suffered by these districts during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of assistance provided to the State during the said period and how this was utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 22 districts in Andhra Pradesh including Mehboobnagar have been affected by drought during 2002-03.

(b) and (c) Inter-Ministerial Central Teams were deputed during 2001-02 and 2002-03 for assessment of the situation in the wake of drought.

(d) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 and 2002-03 have been released to Andhra Pradesh for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural clamities including drought. In addition, Rs. 13.72 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has so far been released for the drought of 2002-03. Distribution at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

Development of Konark

2724. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konark in Orissa has been recognized as an International Heritage Centre;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted about the current tourist flow to 'Konark' and the potential of tourist growth both internal and foreign in immediate future;

(d) whether Government are aware of the bad road condition from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri and lack of Railway link to "Konark';

(e) if so, the measures being taken in this regard;

(f) whether any programme has been finalised for development in and around 'Konark';

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the efforts made by his Ministry to get converted Phulankhara (at NH No. 5) Niali-Mahab-Charichhak-Gop-Konark-Puri (at NH No. 203) SH No. 60 Road into National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Sun Temple at Konark was declared to be a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1984.

(c) The Department of Tourism has not conducted any survey about the tourist flow to Konark. However, 9,98,514 persons are estimated to have visited Sun Temple, Konark in the year 2001.

(d) and (e) The roads to many tourist sites in the country including Orissa need improvement. The road connection from Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri to Konark falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

(f) and (g) The development/improvement schemes are in hand.

(h) No such proposal has been received in the Department of Tourism from the State Government. However, a proposal for declaration of road from Puri to Phulankhara as National Highway was received in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways from the State Government. But it has not been declared as National Highway so far.

[Translation]

Employees under ESI Scheme

2725. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to bring the employees of private education and medical organisations within the ambit of Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of employees likely to be benefited under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring the employees of other private sectors within this ambit who have not been covered so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The ESI Corporation has recently taken a decision to extend provisions of the ESI Act, 1948 to private educational institutions. However, it is for the State Governments to decide the scope of coverage of the educational institutions.

(b) About 1.5 to 2 lakh employees may get covered if all the State Governments extend the provisions to private educational institutions.

(c) Presently there is no proposal to extend the provisions to other sectors.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Harang Drainage Scheme

2726. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Harang Drainage Scheme; and

(b) the funds sanctioned/released to State Government for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The present status of Harang Drainage Development Scheme is as below:-

Land Acquisition	—	92%
Construction of Embankment	—	60%
Construction of sluices (i) Kinnorkhal	—	41%
(ii) Kakrakhal	—	35.75%

(b) The Harang Drainage Development Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme bring implemented by Brahmaputra Board with the revised estimated cost of Rs. 30.49 crore. So far an amount of Rs. 14.42 crore has been released for the above scheme.

International Air Services at Bagdogra

2727. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights arriving and leaving Bagdogra Airport;

(b) the details of new international flights proposed to be introduced to and from Bagdogra Airport;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect Sikkim, Cooch Behar and Kathmandu by air for promotion of tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) At present no international services are being operated to/through Bagdogra Airport. Indian Airlines is not presently in a position to commence any international services from Bagdogra due to operational limitations. No foreign airline have evinced interest to start operations to/from Bagdogra either. Kathmandu is currently connected with Delhi, Varanasi and Kolkata by Indian Airlines. As far as airlinking of Sikkim and Cooch Behar is concerned, the domestic scheduled operators are free to operate to any station in India subject to route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. The non-scheduled operators can also operate services to any station on demand basis.

Fishing Harbours In Tamil Nadu

2728. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each fishing harbour functioning in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal for developing coastal town in Southern District of Tamil Nadu particularly Kannyakumari District including Ramanthurai and Thengaipattinam towns into fishing harbours to facilitate fishermen;

(c) if so, the details thereof location-wise and by when it is likely to be set up;

(d) whether partially developed fishing harbour at Muttom would be further developed into a full fledged one; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Details of fishing harbours functioning in Tamil Nadu at present location-wise are as below:-

S.No.	Name of Fishing Harbour	District
1.	Chennai	Chennai
2.	Tuticorin	Tuticorin
3.	Mallipattinam	Thanjavur
4.	Pazhayar	Thanjavur
5.	Chinnamuttom	Kanyakumari

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has posed three proposals for construction of fishing harbours in Southern Districts, *viz.* Rameswaram in Ramanad District, Poompuhar and Pazhayar stage-II in Nagapattinam District. After scrutiny of these proposals, the State Government has been asked to confirm the availability of necessary land, receipt of environmental clearance from the competent authority and adequate budgetary provisions in the State Budget.

The State Government has completed pre-project investigations for construction of fishing harbour at Thengapatinam in Kanyakumari District. The Union Government has not received any proposal for construction of fishing harbour at Ramanthurai.

(d) and (e) No proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for development of a full fledged fishing harbour at Muttom.

[Translation]

Air Safety System

2729. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to review the air safety system installed at all the airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing air safety system installed at airports in the country is considered adequate.

[English]

Fire Resistant System In Coal Mines

2730. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to improve the fire resistant system in Coal Mines and factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for the occurrence of fire accidents in the Coal Mines and the remedial steps taken by the Government;

(d) whether the safety and security in Coal Mines has been compromised in the recent years;

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the amount allocated, disbursed and spend for the safety and security purposes in Coal Mines and factories during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Comprehensive and detailed provisions for prevention and control of fire in coal mines are contained in Chapter-XI of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, As regard the factories, the requirements for precaution against fire are covered under Section 38 of the Factories Act, 1948 and Model Rules framed by Directorate-General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes. These provisions are considered sufficient.

(c) The main reasons for the occurrence of fire accidents in Coal Mines are:-

(i) Old fires spreading to a part of the mines from another part or from an adjoining mine.

(ii) Self-combustion of coal.

(iii) Overheating of electrical cable/equipments.

The out break of fire is prevented by sealing off the area under fire. In addition to this the management of coal mines are advised to take the following remedial measures:-

(i) Proper ventilation in development galleries and headings.

(ii) Keeping old galleries and return airways cleaned of fallen coal.

(iii) Filling in of cracks developed on surface due to subsidence to prevent leakage of air to sealed areas.

(iv) Proper production planning so that extraction of coal is completed within the incubation period.

(v) Timely detection of leakage of air through isolation stooping in sealed-off areas.

As a result of above mentioned remedial measures there have been no fatal accidents due to fire during the last two years in coal mines.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Ministry of Labour does not allocate and disburse any fund for the Safety and Security purposes to individual coal mines and factories.

Dam on Ghaggar River

2731. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct a dam on Ghaggar river to meet requirement of water needs of Chandigarh region has been shelved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps stipulated to overcome the future water needs of Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The proposal to construct a dam on Ghaggar river to meet the requirement of water needs of Chandigarh region has been shelved by the Government of Haryana, as it was not in the interest of State of Haryana.

(c) As informed by the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the steps stipulated to overcome the future water needs of Chandigarh are:

(i) Augmentation of Fourth Phase of Water Supply to bring 20 MGD (million Gallons per Day) from Bhakhra Main Line, which is under execution and likely to be commissioned by the end of the year 2005;

(ii) Addition of some new deep bore tubewells every year, most of them in lieu of abandoned/ uneconomical ones; and

(iii) Recycling of sullage water treated upto tertiary level for irrigation of lawns, open spaces etc. in order to save drinking water.

[Translation]

New Ministry for Development of Places of Pilgrimage

2732. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any demand for creating a Ministry of Development of places of pilgrimage in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has not received any demand to create a Ministry of Development of places of pilgrimage in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Unirrigated and Uncultivable Land

2733. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of unirrigated and uncultivable land in the country towards the end of Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the latest measures taken by the Government to provide irrigation facility in those areas; and

(c) the details of these proposals sent by the State Governments for implementation of irrigation projects in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available estimate, sown areas of about 85.5 million ha. is unirrigated and an area of about 28.7 million ha. is uncultivable land (permanent pasture, other grazing lands, land under miscellaneous tree crops & groves and culturable wasteland) in the country by the end of 1998-99. The State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Irrigation being a State subject, action to augment irrigation capacity is taken by the concerned States through completion of ongoing projects and planning and implementation of various new irrigation projects/schemes. The Ministry of Water Resources has received 182 proposals from different States for techno-economic appraisal of irrigation projects. Out of these, 96 projects are under different stages of appraisal.

In addition to Plan allocation of the States, the Central Government is also providing Central Loan Assistance to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for expeditions completion of selected Major and Medium Irrigation Projects and Minor Irrigation Schemes.

Statement

State-wise Unirrigated and Uncultivable land

Area in 000'ha.

S.No.	States/UTs	Unirrigated Land	Uncultivable Land
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6440.00	1701.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149.00	44.00
3.	Assam	2129.00	483.00
4.	Bihar	3749.00	772.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*
6	Goa	120.00	57.00
7.	Gujarat	6616.00	2833.00
8.	Haryana	786.00	66.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	446.00	1671.00
10.	Jharkhand	**	**
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	424.00	338.00
12.	Karnataka	7997.00	1735.00
13.	Kerala	1884.00	84.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13279.00	4090.00
15.	Maharashtra	14786.00	2451.00
16.	Manipur	75.00	24.00
17.	Meghalaya	173.00	628.00
18.	Mizoram	100.00	174.00
19.	Nagaland	198.00	189.00
20.	Orissa	3958.00	1753.00
21.	Punjab	234.00	46.00
22.	Rajasthan	10574.00	6801.00
23.	Sikkim	79.00	75.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	2616.00	711.00
25.	Tripura	242.00	28.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4894.00	1739.00
27.	Uttaranchal	***	***
28.	West Bengal	3529.00	125.00
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	38.00	32.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	18.00	1.00
32.	Daman & Diu	3.00	3.00
33.	Delhi	2.00	11.00
34.	Lakshadweep	2.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	3.00	4.00
	Total	85543.00	28669.00

* Area included in Madhya Pradesh.

** Area included in Bihar.

*** Area included in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Impact of Chemical Pesticides on Farmers

2734. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blood samples of many farmers hailing from Southern States and particularly from Kerala and Karnataka sent to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi have revealed that they are suffering from diseases caused due to excessive exposure to chemical pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to create awareness among the farmers in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) On the directives of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Institute of Occupational Health of the Indian Council of Medical Research had submitted its report on investigation of unusual illnesses allegedly caused by exposure to Endosulfan in Padre Village of Kasaragod District in N. Kerala. NIOH has observed significantly higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental reiteration, congenital defects and

abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasaragod district of North Kerala due to aerial spraying of Endosulfan over the cashew plantation.

(c) to (e) The Central Government and State Governments conduct awareness campaigns for safe and judicious use of pesticide through various training programmes for extension functionaries and officials of Agriculture Departments of Central and State Governments at National Plant Protection. Training Institute, Hyderabad and other locations, who in turn train farmers across the nation regarding this aspect.

The labels, leaflets and packaging of pesticides, approved by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 also contain detailed instructions/information on safe use of pesticides.

Further, under the Integrated Pest management approach, Farmers Field Schools are organized to train farmers in safe and judicious use of pesticides with the aim of preventing misuse or excessive use thereof.

[Translation]

Livestock Affected In Border Areas

2735. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent firing on the Indo-Pakistan border has affected livestock population adversely and cows of improved breeds are dying;

(b) if so, whether the said cows will be sent from the border areas to gaushala (cow sheds) of the country to secure them;

(c) whether the cattle breeders will be given any compensation for loss of livestock; and

(d) the efforts being made to ensure that the cattle breeders of the border areas carry on their traditional occupation peacefully?

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

Welfare Schemes under KVIC

2736. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of welfare schemes being run through Khadi and Village Commission under the 'welfare schemes for others' alongwith the criterion adopted by the Union Government for providing loan, grant and other financial assistance for this purpose and the contribution or financial assistance being provided by the State Governments in the said schemes; and

(b) the total funds provided directly by the Union Government as loan, grant or financial assistance for the schemes, programmes being run by the "Khadi and Village Commission" during the last three years and current year in the country including Rajasthan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) implements schemes of Khadi Loan, Khadi grant, Village Industries (VI) Loan, VI Grant, and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) all of which aim at welfare of rural artisans and entrepreneurs as well as generation of employment through promotion of agro and rural industries. Central Government through budgetary allocation releases funds to KVIC for implementing these schemes, based on KVICs assessment and demands for funds as also utilization of the previously released funds. State's contribution in general, comes in the form of Sales tax exemption on the products and rebate on Khadi.

(b) The total funds provided by the Union Government to the KVIC for implementing the schemes during the last three years and current year is as under:-

Schemes	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Khadi Loan	1500	675	150	149
Khadi Grant	9470	10500	0.00	6930
V.I. Loan	250	0.00	0.00	1.00
V.I. Grant	5400	1350	0.00	3500
REGP	1103	11000	15000	17760

The State-wise details of funds provided during the past 3 years under the above-mentioned schemes are enclosed as statement-I, II and III.

Statement-I

State-wise disbursement of loan by the KVIC during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49.29	3.96	44.66	2.04	0.00	000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	000
3.	Assam	106.17	13.02	44.65	1.47	67.42	0.88
4.	Bihar	26.37	—	112.68	0.04	91.16	0.45
5.	Goa	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	000
6.	Gujarat	19.38	—	8.79	10,92	0.00	000
7.	Haryana	84.71	8.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.78	—	15.05	3.19	5.00	0.77
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	28.66	0.26	41.56	000
10.	Karnataka	43.16	0.68	31.24	11.77	294.03	000
11.	Kerala	15.49	—	50.06	7.59	26.78	1.55
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14.75	—	62.18	12.32	0.00	000
13.	Maharashtra	8.77	15.66	4.55	11.85	0.00	9.25
14.	Manipur	11.86	0.42	4.10	0.49	3.95	000
15.	Meghalaya	0.23	—	4.96	0.26	1.35	0.04
16.	Mizoram	—	—	0.82	14.00	0.00	000
17.	Nagaland	15.41	—	12.41	0.95	18.52	000
18.	Orissa	3.20	2.30	18.10	35.87	0.00	000
19.	Punjab	60.94	5.00	0.36	0.00	9.62	000
20.	Rajasthan	34.69	1.49	6.27	0.95	20.09	000
21.	Sikkim	—	—	0.29	1.54	0.00	000
22.	Tamil Nadu	22.45	8.06	25.54	5.47	31.54	1.55
23.	Tripura	—	—	3.60	0.00	0.00	000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64.25	36.54	131.15	53.69	80.35	24.10
25.	West Bengal	13.92	1.00	101.75	0.06	52.34	000
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	0.23	—	0.00	000
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	0.00	000
29.	Delhi	—	—	25.96	—	0.00	000
30.	Daman and Diu	5.00	—	—	—	0.00	000
31.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	0.00	000
32.	Lakshadweep	4.20	—	—	—	0.00	000
33.	Chhattisgarh	—	—		—	5.00	000
34.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	5.00	000
35.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	0.00	000
	Total:	609.02	126.84	737.66	174.99	753.71	38.59

Statement-II

State-wise disbursement of grant made by the KVIC during last three years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	627.53	705.15	192.99	327.67	176.78	425.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.40	0.50	3.08	30.10	10.94	30.55
3.	Assam	86.87	0.77	54.31	4.70	76.08	2.68
4.	Bihar	306.36	44.48	323.90	2.38	338.27	18.42
5.	Goa	0.79	—	18.25	40.24	—	80.97
6.	Gujarat	1585.85	12.96	1.023.71	143.75	1202.51	82.97
7.	Haryana	414.44	239.42	459.95	192.20	500.55	243.36
8.	Himachal Pradesh	445.99	26.37	191.40	25.92	346.91	196.98
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.96	20.77	66.64	152.90	81.13	311.58
10.	Karnataka	426.31	756.44	367.94	335.31	296.26	42.78
11.	Kerala	762.62	357.98	291.24	519.61	390.94	275.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	595.37	23.32	266.95	35.27	228.24	38.98
13.	Maharashtra	419.17	444.24	287.19	91.76	351.89	521.66
14.	Manipur	0.40	169.76	2.51	418.26	16.39	3.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	7.42	6.50	12.40	48.83	0.61	0.18
16.	Mizoram	0.99	155.74	0.11	0.50	1.15	90.11
17.	Nagaland	17.48	5.38	12.12	186.45	8.24	123.63
18.	Orissa	116.61	161.67	52.46	15.52	43.68	25.92
19.	Punjab	967.26	158.33	466.26	6.77	359.75	109.04
20.	Rajasthan	879.73	319.85	608.82	99.43	607.89	501.57
21.	Sikkim	—	—	2.70	0.50	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	3874.13	262.07	1908.50	183.04	1877.19	160.11
23.	Tripura	—	1.91	3.72	0.01	3.47	0.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5153.75	514.17	4310.44	412.70	2836.86	676.01
25.	West Bengal	325.78	6.36	208.91	16.39	304.54	133.80
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	0.00	0.50	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	4.36	0.23	0.00	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	0.18	—
29.	Delhi	—	—	253.77	12.99	259.35	258.15
30.	Daman and Diu	354.06	—	0.00	0.00	—	—
31.	Pondicherry	—	—	24.11	1.12	6.68	0.61
32.	Lakshadweep	0.23	0.50	0.00	0.00	—	—
33.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	17.55	2.64
34.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	110.91	1.21
35.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	789.28	20.34
	Total:	17486.50	4466.90	11860.09	20141.58	11244.22	4379.04

Statement-III

Utilisation of funds under REGP during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 upto January 2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Jan. 03)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	381.81	842.04	1307.02	853.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	39.00	11.21	21.44
3.	Assam	15.78	67.94	142.51	100.62

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	22.47	28.65	37.46	4.65
5.	Goa	81.16	160.58	311.95	143.61
6.	Gujarat	22.67	41.47	46.85	26.32
7.	Haryana	218.35	642.28	1130.47	712.71
8.	Himachal Pradesh	124.92	371.67	953.73	83.68
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	105.00	83.95	436.50	135.00
10.	Karnataka	599.38	849.34	1067.94	1444.15
11.	Kerala	761.39	1063.20	1789.10	956.26
12.	Madhya Pradesh	876.67	787.06	1096.50	523.42
13.	Maharashtra	837.13	955.79	1538.08	826.88
14.	Manipur	42.00	0	2.98	0
15.	Meghalaya	75.93	53.12	110.50	58.64
16.	Mizoram	23.00	0	16.83	135.02
17.	Nagaland	4.32	180.74	168.89	0
18.	Orissa	69.74	58.32	292.98	150.19
19.	Punjab	904.74	1093.61	1438.62	1209.04
20.	Rajasthan	1015.24	1133.20	2211.91	1097.56
21.	Sikkim	1.00	11.91	0	2.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	321.02	547.68	567.34	384.28
23.	Tripura	1.14	7.17	49.54	27.42
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1547.73	1917.53	2706.95	1130.56
25.	West Bengal	142.61	191.06	822.20	368.93
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	1.71	22.90	15.41
27.	Delhi	40.05	15.82	19.35	0
28.	Chandigarh	5.06	4.84	47.56	5.44
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	2.47	0
30.	Pondicherry	1.56	9.21	7.06	0.08
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	3.00	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	2.50	0	0
33.	Chhattisgarh	0	2.94	297.99	54.76
34.	Jharkhand	0	12.37	49.34	9.87
35.	Uttaranchal	0	13.98	318.00	53.46

Disivestment of Modern Food Limited

2737. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Modern Food Industries Limited was sold out to the Hindustan Lever Limited alongwith the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) the present market valuation of the assets of the Modern Food Industries Limited;

(c) whether the said private company is trying to close down the Modern Food Industries by declaring it a sick unit;

(d) if so, whether the Government would allow the employees of the above industry to run the company on cooperative basis before allowing closure of the company; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Government of India disinvested 74% of its share in the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited on 31.1.2000 in favour of M/s Hindustan Lever Limited. The balance share held by Government of India was disinvested on 29th November, 2002. The salient terms and conditions are given in the attached statement.

(b) Present market valuation of assets has not been done.

(c) So, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of above, the question does not arise.

Statement

(a) HLL to make a payment of Rs. 105.45 crores to GOI as consideration for the purchase of 91,779 equity shares of Rs. 1000/-each of MFIL, known as purchased shares.

(b) HLL to invest Rs. 20.00 crores in the Company by way of subscription to 17,408 equity of Rs. 1000/- each of MFIL, known as contribution shares.

The total of purchased shares and contribution shares shall come to 74% of the total issued share capital of MFIL

(c) There is a provision for Post Closing Adjustments on account of movement of networking capital amount and debt amount as on the date of closing as on 31.1.2000 *vis-a-vis* the amounts of these two elements as on 31.3.1999 i.e. date of last balance sheet as on 31.3.1999 based on which the bidders had quoted their bids.

(d) There is provision for indemnification, both to purchaser and seller resulting from any breach by Government/Purchaser of any representations/warranties/ covenants/agreements or obligations contained in the SPA/ SHA.

(e) There is a provision for adjustments/payments for other post closing covenants like undisclosed assets, tax liabilities, litigation claims and certain accounts receivable.

(f) There is a provision for employees in the following manner:

> "through the 1st anniversary of the date of this Agreement, any dismissal or termination of employees of the Company from their employment may be undertaken only in accordance with the applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable law, provided however, that no retrenchment of an employee through the 1st anniversary of the date of this Agreement shall be undertaken unless the affected employee is given benefits that are equal to or exceed the Maximum Benefits".

The first anniversary of the Agreement expired on 31st January, 2001. It may be stated here that there has been no retrenchment of any employee in MFIL so far, and this clause has been fully complied with.

Preservation of Heritage of Madhya Pradesh

2738. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the schemes being implemented by the Madhya Pradesh Government to preserve State-heritage;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sanctioned expenditure of crores of rupees towards the repair of ancient-forts, citadels and resorts (Sairgah) of former Maharajas;

(c) if so, whether such properties, under the control of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are being restored back to the erstwhile rulers and their heirs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Rs. 838 lakhs have been released to the Madhya Pradesh Government from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 under the 11th Finance Commission.

(b) Department of Culture, Government of India has released Rs. 1499.90 lakhs for conservation and upgradation of monuments, construction of public facilities, approach roads and setting up museums etc. in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Besides, Department of Tourism, Government of India has released Rs. 528.29 lakhs for the year 2002-2003 for conservation, development of monuments/museums and allied purposes like upgradation of monuments, museums, information and interpretation centers and National Folk Festival etc.

(c) There is no such proposal with Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Drought Condition In Haryana

2739. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought relief compensations have been disbursed amongst the farmers in various States of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that in Haryana Re. 1 or Rs. 3.50 per acre has been disbursed to the farmers as drought relief;

(c) whether the farmers in the State have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 5000 per acre on sowing; and

(d) if so, the relief amount/foodgrains distributed by the Union Government amongst the States for providing relief to the farmers reeling under drought during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

(b) and (c) No report in this regard has been received from the Government of Haryana.

(d) Rs. 34.62 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was provided to Madhya Pradesh for the drought of 2001-02. In addition, 34.32 lakh MTs of foodgrains under the Food for Work Programme (FFWP) were allocated to the drought affected States during 2001-02 for relief employment.

Release of Water to Rajasthan

2740. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to release its share of water to Rajasthan as per the agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The development of water resources in the inter-State rivers passing through the State of Rajasthan is being done within the available inter-State agreements/awards. The status of availability of waters allocated to Rajasthan in the important agreements/awards is as under:-

Status of Ravi, Beas, Sutlej waters:

As per the inter-State agreement dated 31.12.1981 regarding sharing of surplus (i.e. over and above pre-partition utilization totaling 3.13 MARF) Ravi-Beas waters, Rajasthan was allocated 10.61 Billion Cubic Metre (B.cu.m.) 8.60 Million Acre Feet (MAF) water out of mean supply of 21.19. B.cu.m.) (17.17 MAF) of surplus Ravi-Beas waters. The agreement included a provision whereby Punjab was authorized to utilize 0.6 MAF from Rajasthan's share till such time Rajasthan was in a position to utilize its full share of 8.6 MAF. The agreement also empowered the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to take all necessary measures for ensuring deliveries to all concerned States in accordance with their entitlement. BBMB in its meeting held on 3.12.82 decided an *ad-hoc* interim arrangement for distribution of water. According to which the share of Rajasthan's entitlement works out to 8.0 MAF against its full share of 8.6 MAF. Rajasthan has been requesting for the remaining share of 0.6 MAF. The share and deliveries made by BBMB since 1990-91 to 2001-02 to Rajasthan are as below:

Year (21/5 to 20/5)	Share (MAF)	Deliveries (MAF)
1990-91	8.048	9.919
1991-92	7.658	9.457
1992-93	7.925	8.614
1993-94	6.642	6.857
1994-95	8.558	9.960
1995-96	8.241	10.041
1996-97	7.632	10.096
1997-98	8.708	10.209
1998-99	8.568	10.273
1999-2000	8.402	10.495
2000-01	6.841	6.717
2001-02	6.930	7.953

Status of Yamuna waters:

As per the Memorandum of Understanding dated 12.5.1994 reached between the beneficiary States regarding allocation of surface flow of the river Yamuna upto Okhala, Rajashtan has been allocated 1.119 B.cu.m of Yamuna waters. However, Rajasthan is unable to get the allocated share of Yamuna Waters due to constraints of capacity of conveyance system, non-completion of new canal systems in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan and remodeling of existing canals. In order to utilize the Yamuna Waters in Rajasthan, two proposals namely utilization of Yamuna water in Bharatpur district and utilization of Yamnua water in Jhunjhunu and Churu districts submitted by the State Government were considered by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in its meeting held on 7.2.2003 and both the proposals were accepted subject to certain observations.

Status of Narmada waters:

The Rajasthan's share of 616.74 Million cubic metre (0.5 MAF) of Narmada waters will be conveyed through 460 Km long Narmada Main Canal taking off from the Sardar Sarover Project upto the border of Rajasthan and thereafter by 74 kim long main canal and distributaries in the State of Rajasthan. The construction work of the Main Canal by the Government of Gujarat is under progress and the canal upto Rajasthan Border is planned to be completed by June 2005. The entire canal network including distribution system in the State of Rajasthan is planned to be completed by the Government of Rajasthan by 2009-2010.

Narmada Canal Scheme

2741. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narmada Canal Scheme has remained neglected and is lying pending for the past many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Narmada Main Canal off taking from the Sardar Sarovar Project is under active stage of construction. The Main Canal up to 263.175 km (out of a total length of 460 km upto Gujarat-Rajasthan border) is almost complete except one canal syphon. The Main Canal from 263.175 to 357.196 km is expected to be completed by December, 2003. The remaining portion of the Main Canal in Gujarat portion is planned for completion by June, 2005. The construction of Branch Canals and distributaries under Phase-1 (reach 0 km to 144 km) of this canal system are also under progress. Out of the total 74 km length of the Narmada Main Canal in the State of Rajasthan, the State Government has taken up the works in the first 48 km length. The canal works in Rajasthan portion are scheduled to be completed in 2009-2010.

(c) The State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 6639.64 crore and Rs. 209.16 crore respectively upto September, 2002 on the Narmada Main Canal.

(d) The Narmada Control Authority and the Review Committee constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources review the progress of implementation of canal works. The Narmada Control Authority has also constituted a Narmada Main Canal Sub-Committee in the year 1998 to decide the phasing and to co-ordinate construction programmes of the Narmada Main Canal for early completion of the canal works.

[English]

Insurance Claims of Farmers under NAIS

2742. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment to farmers under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is due in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and till date and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the payments made against insurance claims during each of the last five years, State-wise;

(d) the details of the outstanding dues during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) by when the dues are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Insurance claims amounting to Rs. 2512.62 lakh in respect of various States are pending on account of non-receipt of State's 50% share. Statement-I indicating State-wise pending claims is enclosed.

(c) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced from Rabi 1999-2000. Statement-II indicating State-wise Insurance claims paid during last three years (i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-2002) is enclosed.

(d) Statement-I indicating the State-wise details of pending claims during last three years is enclosed.

(e) The pending claims will be paid as soon as share of funds are received from the State Government concerned.

Statement I

Pending Claims under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

State	Season	Claim amount (Rs. in lakh)
Assam	Rabi 1999-2000	0.50
	Kharif 2000	0.75
	Rabi 2000-01	0.17
	Kharif 2001	1.60
	Rabi 2001-02	12.11
Madhya Pradesh	Kharif 2000	12.65
	Rabi 2001-02	1904.38
Maharashtra	Rabi 2000-01	23.45
	Rabi 2001-02	212.39
Andhra Pradesh	Rabi 2000-01	22.18
	Kharif 2001	41.34
Karnataka	Rabi 2001-02	12.07
Kerala	Rabi 2001-02	1.57
West Bengal	Rabi 2001-02	267.46
Total		2512.62

Statement II

State-wise Insurance Claims Paid during last three years

(from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002) under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

S.No.	State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not implemented	3491.65	8839.02
2.	Assam	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	Not implemented	541.32	272.34
4.	Chhattisgarh	Part of M.P.	7988.98	13.31

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	0.10	0.08	2.05
6.	Gujarat	218.02	77313.33	14906.22
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	42.50	0.00
8.	Jharkhand	Not implemented	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	Not implemented	326.94	13431.03
10.	Kerala	29.54	250.40	114.35
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11.33	9772.27	3324.33
12.	Maharashtra	508.32	16752.20	7188.28
13.	Meghalaya	Not implemented	4.21	6.59
14.	Orissa	0.17	10689.59	334.08
15.	Sikkim	Not implemented	Not implemented	0.00
16.	Tamilnadu	Not implemented	50.95	1662.59
17.	Tripura	Not implemented	Not implemented	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Not implemented	784.94	648.05
19.	West Bengal	Not implemented	73.50	75.22
20.	A&N Islands	Not implemented	0.36	0.25
21.	Pondicherry	1.27	56.16	1.88
	Total	768.76	128139.38	50819.59

Note-Information are available upto 2001-02 only.

[Translation]

Growth Rate of Agriculture

2743. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of agriculture in less than one per cent at present;

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

(c) the growth rate of agriculture during the last three years;

(d) the likely growth rate thereof during the current financial year;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the growth rate of agriculture sector; and

(f) the success achieved as a result of the steps taken during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) According to the advance estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of the sector consisting of agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is (-) 3.1 per cent in the year 2002-03. The estimated negative growth in the sector reflects the sharp decline in the production of major crops like foodgrains and oilseeds resulting from the severe drought in the year 2002.

The estimates of growth of the above sector in the last three years are as under:

Growth rate of the sector consisting of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Year	Growth rate (%)
1999-2000	0.3
2000-2001	(-)0.4
2001-2002	5.7

(e) In order to facilitate in the achievement of higher growth in agriculture, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmers for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes, 'Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/ Flood Prone Rivers' and 'Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas'. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth plan would be continued during the Tenth Plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' has been launched in March, 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.

(f) Agricultural production is influenced by changes in weather conditions. However, the trend of growth has been positive over the years due to the sustained efforts made in increasing production. In 2001-02, a record foodgrains production of 212 Million Tonnes was achieved. This was reflected in the high growth rate of 5.7 per cent registered in agriculture including forestry and fishing during 2001-02.

Vacant Post of SCs/STs

2744. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and undertakings of his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of appointments made under the various categories during the said period and current year, till date;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Opening of Underground Passage at Red Fort

2745. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to open the underground passage in the historic Red Fort for the tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith length of this passage;

(c) since when it had been lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether necessary clearance has been given by the security agencies for the use of this passage by the general public;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide risk free passage to the people through this tunnel;

(f) whether the Government have identified other similar projects in various parts of the country to boost tourism; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) There is a water gate under the Khas Mahal and Musamman Burj providing connectivity of the Red Fort with a branch of the river Yamuna which used to run almost parallel to the eastern fortification wall. It is a stepped passage having 43 steps and is 47 meters in length which is now being conserved. Connectivity through this underground passage is under development.

(c) it was lying closed since Red Fort was brought under central protection in 1913.

(d) to (g) There is no need for it, being a protected monument. Adequate security arrangements are being made. The area has not yet been opened to the public. A number of cultural hubs which synthesise elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life are under development in various parts of the country.

Civil Aviation Projects in West Bengal

2746. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the major developmental projects of Civil Aviation currently underway in West Bengal;

(b) whether any timeframe has been fixed for implementation of these projects;

(c) if so, whether the work is going on as per schedule;

(d) the new domestic and international flights proposed to be introduced from Kolkata Airport and Bagdogra Airport;

(e) by when they are likely to become operational;

(f) whether any foreign Airlines have proposed to start their service from these Airports; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At Kolkata airport in West Bengal, works of strengthening, re-construction of 'D' Taxi track and construction of bay nos. 11 & 12 are likely to be completed in December 2003; and work of construction of new Hangar is likely to be completed in March 2003. All the above works are going as per schedule.

(d) and (e) M/s. Sahara Airlines has proposed to introduce new flights from Kolkata to Gorakhpur and Allahabad with effect from 6.3.2003 and M/s. Alliance Air to/from Shillong with effect from 30.03.2003.

(f) and (g) British Airways, Royal Jordian Airlines, Royal Brunei Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Biman Bangladesh and Druk Air (Bhutan) are already routing their International flights through Kolkata during winter schedule 2002-2003. In addition to above, Indian Airlines and Air India operate their flights from Kolkata to Bangkok.

[Translation]

Condition of Farmers

2747. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers of the country has worsened due to huge difference of prices between industrial and agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check the price rise of agricultural equipments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improving the conditions of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The wholesale price index (1993-94=100) of agricultural products has moved much faster as compared to the manufactured products in recent years. The agriculture price index as percent of the index of manufactured products increased from 103.3 in 1994-95 to 118.4 in 2002-03 (April-December, 2000), which indicates that the conditions of farmers has not worsened.

(c) and (d) There is no statutory control on prices of agricultural equipment and these are regulated by the market forces. The assistance in the form of subsidy is available to the farmers under various schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation *viz.* Macro-management of agriculture, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP) etc. for the purchase of various agricultural equipments.

(e) For improving the condition of farmers in the country, the Government has taken several steps such as introduction of the Macro Management Scheme, preparation of common guidelines for Watershed Development Programmes, creation of a Watershed Development Fund, launching of a Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of Seed Bank, enactment of Plant Varieties Act, measures for increasing the availability of farm credit, introduction of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storage and storages for horticulture produce, expansion of the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, launching of a Market Information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions.

[English]

Ground Water for Irrigation

2748. SHRI ANADI SAHU:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lopsided increase in ground water for irrigation has created ecological imbalance in the past many years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose enactments for introducing license system for digging of deep tubewells and mechanized wells;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose mass rain water harvesting structures to recharge the receding level of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Increase in ground water development for various purposes including irrigation has resulted in decline in ground water level in some localized pockets of various parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has declared 11 areas as "Notified" prohibiting further digging of tubewells without prior approval of the CGWA.

(c) and (d) During the IX Plan, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, had taken up demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country, under its Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. The CGWB has also prepared a report, entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water". The details of funding pattern for implementation of this Plan, implementing agencies etc., are under discussion.

[Translation]

Low Income Persons

2749. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether deteriorating employment position during the years 2001 and 2002 has led to an increase in the number of persons eking out a living with low income;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ameliorate the condition of the persons belonging to low income groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As per the estimates available from quinquennial labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), estimated employment has gone up from approximately 374 million in 1993-94 to 397 million in 1999-2000 (latest available) and the proportion of persons living below poverty line has gone down from 36% in 1993-94 to 26.1% in 1999-2000.

(c) Government is implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. These include Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Food for Work programme. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is also being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth.

[English]

Production of Fruits and Vegetables

2750. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during each of the last three years;

(c) the schemes implemented by the Government to promote production of fruits and vegetables;

(d) the details of the schemes to be implemented for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether any possibility has been explored by the Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the quantum of fruits and vegetables exported during the said period; and

(h) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The available State-wise details of production of fruits and vegetables during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans, under which the State Governments can taken up developmental activities for horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables as per the felt needs and requirements. Apart from this, the National Horticulture Board is also implementing a scheme for Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management, under which back-ended capital investment subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost limited to Rs. 25 lakhs is provided.

(d) These schemes are being continued during the Tenth Plan period.

(e) and (f) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance to individuals/exporters for various activities like setting up Infrastructure Facilities, Packaging Development, Human Resource Development, Export Promotion, Market Development and Quality Control for promoting export of horticultural products including fruits and vegetables. Besides, APEDA with the involvement of the State Governments have initiated several programmes under Agri Export Zones (AEZ) for giving focused attention on area based programme for export promotion of horticultural products including fruits and vegetables.

(g) and (h) The quantum of fruits and vegetables exported and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity Exported (in MT)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	387429.5	53605.5
1999-2000	502778.1	64721.5
2000-01	623916.4	84408.9

Statement

State-wise Production of Fruits and Vegetables in the Country

(Production: 000' MT)

S. No.	States/UTs	Fruits			Vegetables		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4589.6	5175.4	5003.4	3541.2	2839.1	3147.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	91.6	93.1	123.1	80.9	80.9	83.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	1249.4	1247.1	1293.8	2834.8	3089.4	2693.1
4.	Bihar	3797.2	3870.7	3237.5	9418.4	9548.8	10219.7
5.	Jharkhand	—	—	265.1	—	—	2109.5
6.	Goa	98.9	99.0	71.5	70.0	70.0	76.0
7.	Gujarat	2293.5	2376.0	2268.2	3255.0	2647.0	3070.8
8.	Haryana	192.4	212.0	232.0	1850.0	2094.5	2191.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	448.1	87.5	438.3	606.9	660.9	734.2
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	881.1	1021.0	837.3	606.9	584.4	757.9
11.	Karnataka	5446.3	5456.1	4819.5	4944.9	6796.9	5763.0
12.	Kerala	1621.2	1184.4	1772.6	2857.2	2857.2	2530.9
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1374.4	1536.1	1740.4	3276.2	3632.0	3501.9
14.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	154.3	—	—	1146.3
15.	Maharashtra	7521.7	8688.5	8680.8	4479.5	4828.6	5142.0
16.	Manipur	115.3	118.1	118.7	45.0	53.1	67.4
17.	Meghalaya	186.4	223.3	186.9	308.7	252.9	303.6
18.	Mizoram	76.8	40.7	66.7	62.4	56.3	47.3
19.	Nagaland	152.0	232.3	290.4	313.3	235.7	253.6
20.	Orissa	1718.4	1202.9	1284.4	10087.1	9096.0	8089.1
21.	Punjab	844.7	418.6	479.7	1906.3	2285.0	2310.0
22.	Rajasthan	310.3	339.3	339.3	396.1	472.6	386.4
23.	Sikkim	8.3	8.6	10.0	42.2	43.0	59.7
24.	Tamil Nadu	5447.6	5939.6	6237.7	5704.8	5660.3	6011.0
25.	Tripura	372.1	372.1	450.8	232.8	232.8	328.1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3097.8	3210.5	2713.0	12680.6	13842.4	13030.4
27.	Uttaranchal	520.4	475.5	541.0	840.7	733.2	1138.1
28.	West Bengal	1536.0	1816.1	1656.5	16367.4	17413.8	17779.4
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16.7	16.7	16.7	15.8	15.8	15.8
30.	Chandigarh	1.2	1.9	1.1	11.5	1.2	1.7
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.1	7.1	7.1	13.5	13.5	13.5
32.	Daman Diu	3.4	3.4	3.4	1.0	1.1	1.1
33.	Delhi	1.0	0.1	1.0	651.9	651.9	862.7
34.	Lakshadweep	0.7	1.3	1.1	—	0.2	0.2
35.	Pondicherry	20.8	20.1	26.7	33.5	32.6	54.2
	Total:	44042.4	45495.9	45370.0	87536.0	90823.0	93921.5

Introduction of New Flights

2751. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new international air service from Kolkata Airport to Singapore, Tokyo and Bangkok; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Operation of international air services from any airport is a matter of commercial judgement of the concerned airlines. Government grants the traffic rights for such services during bilateral talks with different countries at regular interval. Kolkata is already available as point of call to Singapore and Thailand. Japan has not requested for the same. Presently Singapore Airline is directly connecting Kolkata with Singapore. Besides Royal Brunei Airlines are also operating on Brunei-Singapore-Kolkata-Dubai VV sector. Kolkata is also connected to Bangkok by Air India, Indian Airlines and Thai Airways. Air India was operating to Tokyo from Kolkata prior to March, 2000. However, these flights were found to be commercially unviable because of insufficient traffic.

[Translation]

Airport Security

2752. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether expenditure on the security of all the 66 commercial airports in India has increased considerably during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the number of commercial airports of the country where expenditure on security has been increased; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The expenditure on security of 45 airports out of 66 operational airports in India has increased due to deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in a phased manner, in place of local state police for discharging airport security duties.

Lease of Forest Land

2753. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted any forest land to the Adivasis on lease for agriculture and some other purposes;

(b) if so, the area of land allotted on lease in this regard till date, State-wise; and

(c) the number of the people likely to be benefited from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Central Government do not operate any scheme for allotment of any forest land for any purpose.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

It may also be mentioned here that any non-forestry use of the forest land requires prior permission of the Central Government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As a matter of policy forest land is not diverted for non-site specific activities including agriculture.

Research in Soyabean Crop

2754. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has provided any financial assistance to Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur for undertaking research work in soyabean crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated during the last five years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The ICAR has provided financial assistance to Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur for undertaking research in soybean crops.

(b) and (c) The ICAR has provided funds through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Soybean to Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur for developing location specific production technology for

enhancing production and productivity of soybean in the state. This includes development of improved varieties suitable for agro-climatic conditions of the state, development of suitable crop production and protection technologies against serious insect pest and diseases. In addition funds are also provided for conducting front line demonstration (FLD) in the farmers' field. The details of the fund allocated to Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur for undertaking research on soybean for the last five years are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	AICRP Soybean	FLD	Seed Research/ Breeder Seed Production*
1997-98	10.44	1.10	12.88
1998-99	11.41	1.26	14.83
1999-00	14.16	1.64	37.23
2000-01	26.99	3.90	37.01
2001-02	29.94	0.37	30.13
Total	92.94	8.27	132.08

*Under Seed Research/Breeder Seed Production Project research is conducted on all crops including soybean.

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

2755. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) whether many companies in the private sector have evinced interest in taking over the DMS;

(c) if so, the names of the said companies;

(d) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has made an application to the Government for acquiring DMS;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the application of NDDB has been rejected; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Promotion of Fisheries in Orissa

2756. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes, schemes being implemented by the Government to promote the fisheries and other related industries in Orissa during the last three years and in 2003, till-date;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to the fisheries training and extension units during the said period, project-wise;

(c) the achievements accrued therefrom;

(d) whether a survey of fishery potential has been conducted in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(g) whether the Government are aware of the vast scope in promoting inland fishery in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Suicides by Farmers

2757. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers of various States, including the State of Gujarat are not getting remunerative price of their crop and large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years;

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

(d) whether any committee has been constituted to look into the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have recently formulated any scheme to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Raw Cotton (Kapas) each season in all cotton growing states including Gujarat which are remunerative to cotton growers. However, when the market prices of *kapas* touch the MSP level, the cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central nodal agency undertakes price support operation and procures entire quantity of *kapas* offered for sale to prevent distress sale by the farmers. The State Governments including Gujarat have not reported any suicide by cotton farmers.

(c) to (g) To protect the interest of cultivators the CCI procured a total quantity of 8.99 lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each including Gujarat, whose share was 2.22 lakh bales in 2001-02. During 2002-03 the domestic prices of cotton have been ruling above MSP, no procurement has been found necessary. Also the import duty on cotton has been raised from 5% to 10%.

Seizure of Wild Life

2758. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of recent recovery of elephant tusks by Wild Life Department from a farm house in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken under the Wild Life Act against the offenders;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring legislation to make the existing provisions of Wild Life Act more stringent and effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Department of Delhi has seized two complete tusks kept as trophies in a farm house at Jonapur, New Delhi on 9.1.2003. The case has been booked under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(d) and (e) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended recently to provide for enhanced penalties in respect of offences relating to wildlife. An offence relating to poaching of elephants and illegal trade in ivory items shall now be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years and also with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees. The amended Act also provides for forfeiture of any such property as has been acquired out of income derived from illegal hunting and trade of wildlife.

[English]

Kisan Credit Cards

2759. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government made any assessment regarding the benefits of the Kisan Credit Cards in the field of agriculture;

(b) whether fertilizer, seeds and irrigation equipments is being offered as a package to group of farmers if they

form cooperative to cultivate the land collectively within a specified limit of small holdings; and

(c) if so, whether such policy could be considered through a Task Force to offer such benefit during Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have conducted impact assessment studies for obtaining feedback on the benefits of the Kisan Credit Cards.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Fruits

2760. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India accounts for 10% of total production of world Fruit, with an area of 3.80 million hectares under fruit cultivation;

(b) whether the Government are planning to relax ceiling laws so that cultivators acquire bigger plots for productive fruit cultivation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not evolving a practical policy for larger holdings required for fruit growing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. With a production of 45.37 million tonnes (2000-01) India accounts for 9.7% production of fruits from an area of 3.89 million hectares.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In the interest of the Small & Marginal Farmers there is no proposal to relax land ceiling laws for cultivation of fruits.

Development of Animal Husbandry Sector in Karnataka

2761. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had sent any proposal for the grant of Rs. 100 crore for development of Animal Husbandry Sector in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of Karnataka submitted a project proposal under Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding with estimated cost of Rs. 9423.81 lakhs for three years on 24.2.2003. The project proposal has several inconsistencies and State Government has been asked to rectify these inconsistencies and to submit a revised project proposal.

[Translation]

Development of Improved Breeds of Milching Animals

2762. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutes which developed improved breeds for milching animals;

(b) the names and the milching capacity of the said animals;

(c) whether the cost of production of the milk of these animals has been estimated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimate of the annual availability of the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut in collaboration with Military Farms and Kerala Livestock Development Board have developed improved crossbred strains of cattle.

(b) These have been named as Karan Swiss, Karan Fries, Frieswal and Sunandini. Their average total lactation yield is as follow:

	Average lactation yield
Karan Swiss	3597 Kg (Total)
Karan Fries	3688 Kg (Total)
Frieswal	3146 Kg (300 days)
Sunandini	2424 Kg (First lactation)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The strains developed at the institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research are maintained as per requirement of research and surplus animals are sold through public auction/given to various Government Institutions.

[English]

Profit of IA-AI

2763. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss incurred by Indian Airlines and Air India during each of the last three years including the estimated profit/loss for the current year;

(b) the reasons for losses;

(c) the steps taken to improve the position of IA and AI; and

(d) the profit/loss incurred by IA and AI in comparison to the Private Airlines during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Details of profits/losses (in bracket) earned/suffered by Air India and Indian Airlines are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Air India	Indian Airlines
1999-2000	(37.63)	51.42
2000-2001	(44.40)	(159.17)
2001-2002	15.44	(246.75)
2002-2003 (budgeted)	24.50	(98.90)

(b) The reasons for losses by Indian Airlines are mainly due to increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), increase in insurance premium, increase in landing and navigational charges, levy of customs duty on import of aircraft on lease, enhanced security expenditure etc.

Air India after incurring losses since 1995-1996 has started earning profit since 2001-2002.

(c) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have implemented austerity measures and steps to cut expenditure. The measures taken by Air India include abolition of vacant posts, lowering of retirement age, downsizing or closing of foreign stations, reduction in agency commission etc. Similarly, the measures taken by Indian Airlines include freeze on recruitment, reduction in overtime payment, fuel tankering, saving in material consumption, reduction in retirement age etc.

(d) No Such comparison is available with Air India and Indian Airlines.

Closure of Offices by AI/IA

2764. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of Air India and Indian Airlines currently operating abroad:

(b) whether AI/IA has decided to shut down its offices in Europe and hand over the marketing work to general sales agents:

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

(d) whether the new policy runs contrary to laid down norms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Air India presently having 46 online and 41 offline offices abroad. Besides this, they have also 7 sales representatives abroad. Indian Airlines is having 18 offices abroad.

(b) and (c) Air India has already closed down eight offices in Europe viz. Birmingham, Manchester, Rome, Nice, Lyons, Warsaw, Budapest and Prague.

In Birmingham and Manchester, sales and marketing work is being looked after by the consolidators and in other places by the local IATA (International Air Transport Association) approved travel agents.

The airline industry was reeling under the effects of the global economic slowdown during 2001-02, due to

which the international air traffic had been adversely affected. The terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001 in the US compounded the problem further resulting in a crisis situation for the world airlines. Air India too was affected by these developments and in order to effect stringent cost control measures, several steps were taken which included closing down/downsizing of Air India offices.

Indian Airlines in neither operating any services to Europe nor do they have any office there.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

Central Assistance to Rajasthan for Drought

2765. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the drought affected areas in Rajasthan during the last four years, head-wise;

(b) the amount spent by the Government of Rajasthan from their exchequer in the drought affected areas during the said period;

(c) whether foodgrains quota for the drought victims in the State was reduced from 10 kg. to 5 kg. per household; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Assistance provided to Rajasthan during 1999-2000 to 2002-03 (so far) in the wake of drought, which is in addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), is indicated below:-

(Rs. in crore)

1999-2000	102.93 (NFCR)
2000-2001	85.00 (NCCF)
2001-2002 (for drought of 2000-01)	78.97 (NCCF)
2002-2003 (so far)	167.34 (NCCF)

NFCR — National Fund for Calamity Relief.
NCCF — National Calamity Contingency Fund.

(b) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Task Force has, however, adopted a criterion of allocation which assumes a foodgrains component of 8 kg. per person per day in case of 74 worst affected Blocks and 6 kg. per person per day for other Blocks.

[Translation]

Expansion of Airports

2766. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The amount earmarked for expansion and improvement of airports in the country during the past two years alongwith the progress made, Airport-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a scheme worth Rs. 32 crore for increasing the air strip at Kullu by further 500 metres so that ATR 72 aircraft can land safely; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During the past two years, following major works were undertaken at various airports: Strengthening/Extension of runway at Ahmedabad airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.50 crore; Extension/Modification of terminal building and strengthening of runway at Guwahati Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 56 crore; Construction of new Terminal complex at Port Blair airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore; Construction of new terminal building, civil apron, link taxiway car park, safety and security equipment at Tezpur airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 22 crore; Extension & Strengthening of runway at Calicut airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 99.62 crore, Runway and Apron works at Kargil airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.27 crore; Construction of Control Tower, Technical Block etc. at Chennai airport at an estimated Cost of Rs. 23 crore; Construction of Terminal Building, Technical Block-cum-Control Tower etc. at Lilabari airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.45 crore; Extension/ Modification of Terminal Building etc. at Agartala airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 27.61 crore; Upgradation of main runway for ILS Cat. III including strengthening of

main runway and construction of Export Cargo Complex (Phase II and III) at IGI Airport New Delhi at estimated cost of Rs. 85 crore; and aerobridges at bay Nos. 17, 18 and 19 including security hold area at Terminal-IA at Mumbai airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has included a scheme in the Budget for increasing the runway length for operation by ATR-72 type of aircraft. State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requested to undertake diversion of river course and river training work so that some land could be re-claimed for extension of runway.

[English]

Industrial Status to Agriculture

2767. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to grant agriculture, a status of Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Kelkar Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is already extending to the agriculture sector as many benefits as possible similar to those obtaining in the manufacturing sector, such as easy availability of credit and other inputs, and infrastructure facilities for development of agri-business industries and development of effective delivery systems and freeing movement of agro-produce.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The steps taken by the Government on the recommendations of Kelkar Committee have been reflected in the budget proposals and the Finance Bill, 2003.

Comprehensive Coconut Technology Mission

2768. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested early sanction of Comprehensive Coconut Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether any State has availed all the benefits of this Mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits which the farmers are to accrue out of this mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received from Government of Kerala during the current year. Government of India, however, sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme on Technology Mission on Coconut for implementation in all coconut growing States during 2001-2002. During 2002-2003, the scheme is being implemented with an outlay of Rs. 20.00 crores.

The scheme is implemented by the Coconut Development Board in the form of projects with focus on technology development, demonstrations and adoption in the field of the insect/pest and disease management; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. Funds are not released to the State Governments directly. The projects which come under the purview of Technology Mission are considered and approved by Project Approval Committee in the Coconut Development Board on merit. The details of the projects approved/sanctioned by the Board under the scheme are in the statement enclosed.

(e) Through the programmes of the mission, market potential of coconut products have been enhanced which has helped in improving the prices of coconut. The projects under technology development, demonstration and adoption in the field of insect/pest and disease management will directly help the farmers in increasing productivity of coconuts. The projects under product diversification will increase the uses of coconut and reduce dependence on coconut oil which will accrue higher prices to the farmers for their produce.

Statement

Details of the Projects Approved/Sanctioned by The Coconut Development Board under the Technology Mission on Coconut

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Total Cost of the project	Total Amount sanctioned by PAC	Amount so far released	Present status of the project
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Insect pest and disease management					
1.	Development of mycoacaricide for the control of mite-Project Directorate of Biological Control (PDBC), Bangalore	13.310	13.310	6.550	An amount of Rs. 6.55 lakhs (50%) released for Bio safety and Bio efficacy study. Multi location field trials are in progress.
2.	Large scale production of Antiserum for the confirmation of rootwilt resistant palms-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kayamkulam	10.890	10.890	5.450	An amount of Rs. 5.45 lakhs released. The work is under progress.
3.	Adoption of technology for the control of mite in Karnataka-Department of Horticulture, Karnataka.	1660.000	238.00	238.00	The Government of Karnataka has already taken necessary steps for controlling the mite.
4.	Project for containing root wilt diseases in Boarder districts of Kerala-Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala.	4413.132	942.400	94.200	50% of the first year requirement of fund released to initiate the Project.
5.	Increasing Productivity and income in rootwilt affected areas—a farmer participatory demonstration-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kayamkulam.	9.647	9.647	—	Action is being taken to release Rs. 4.824 lakhs (50% of fund) after) executing the MOU.
6.	Modernization of the existing Parasite Breeding Laboratory at DSP Farm, Mandya in Collaboration with Project Directorate of Biological Control (PDBC), Bangalore (Additional amount)-CDB.	16.015	16.015	16.015	Full amount of Rs. 16.015 lakhs released to the Regional Office, Bangalore for procurement of necessary equipments

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Holistic approach for management of coconut waste and Biocides to mitigate pests and diseases of coconut Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneshwar.	29.185	29.185	9.570	First year requirement of fund as per the project is released to Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar.
8.	Sustainable management of proven technology on control of insect pest and diseases in coconut and establishment of "Demonstration-cum-seed production technology"-Kerala Agriculture University, Vellanikkara.	40.00	25.00	—	Action is being taken to release the first year requirement of fund after executing the Memorandum of Understanding.
9.	Survey and Identification of root wilt disease free palms and evaluation of resistant genotypes in coconut through selection and hybridization—Kerala Agriculture University, Regional Research Station, Kayamkulam at a total cost of Rs. 29.20 lakhs for a period of 5 year	29.20	—	—	The committee suggested the Project Coordinator (Palms), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), to review the work done on this by CPCRI and submit a report and authorized the Chairman to approve the Project after examination and modification.
10.	Development, implementation, Training and popularization of IPM of coconut black headed caterpillar *opisina arenosella*)-University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore (Approved in principle).	29.670	29.670	—	Action has been taken to release Rs. 17.51 lakhs, the first year requirement of funds to UAS, Bangalore.
II.	**Product Diversification**				
1.	Development of Technology to utilize coconut oil as alternate automobile lubricant-Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi	9.920	9.920	7.590	Preliminary findings of the investigation on the suitability of using coconut oil as an alternative automobile lubricant has yielded encouraging results. Further investigation is in progress.
2.	Production of dietary fiber from coconut residue—Central Food Technological Training & Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore.	7.000	7.000	2.33	The project is progressing as per approved Technical programme.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Training and demonstration of technologies for coconut processing units of convenient foods-Neyatinkara Paramparagatha Ennayattu Thozhilali Sahakarana Sangham, Thriruvananthapuram, Kerala	5.000	5.000	—	Action is being taken to release the first instalment of fund after executing the MOU.
4.	Adoption of Technology for Integrated processing of tender nut water M/s. Jain Agro Food Products Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore	131.40	22.300	22.300	Full amount of Rs. 22.3 lakhs released and the entrepreneur has already completed all the expansion work of the existing unit for the production of packed tender coconut water.
5.	Establishment of quality testing laboratory at Bangalore-Coconut Development Board in collaboration with Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysore	50.000	50.000	—	Action has been taken to engage the consultant for establishing the lab.
6.	Kerasyam-Value added coconut products	58.500	14.625	—	Action is being taken to release 50% of funds (Rs. 7.312 lakhs).
7.	Establishment of an Integrated coconut processing complex by Kallamkunnu Service Co-operative Bank Limited, Thrisur, Kerala	160.00	40.00	—	Action is being taken to release the first instalment of funds (Rs. 20.00 lakhs)
8.	Establishment of Desiccated coconut manufacturing unit at Kodungallur submitted by M/s. Amrutha Coconut Products, Madavana, Kodungallor at a total cost of Rs. 35 lakhs	35.00	8.750	—	Action has been taken to release first instalment of fund (Rs. 4.375 lakhs)
9.	Establishment of an Integrated Coconut Processing Unit submitted by M/s. Karalam Service co-operative Bank Ltd., Thanissery, Thrissur at cost of Rs. 150 lakhs.	150.00	37.500	—	Action has been taken to release the first instalment of fund Rs. 18.750 lakhs (50%).
III.	**Market Research and Market Promotion**				
1.	Demand, cost and supply of non-traditional coconut products on consumers buying behavior	5.128	5.128	4.615	The first study as per the project is under completion.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	in Tamil Nadu: Market assessment-Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram				
2.	Risk management instruments and capacity building in market intelligent for copra micro enterprises in India—Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore	11.246	11.246	5.623	The field survey under the project is under completion. The final completion of the project is under progress.
3.	Market promotion of Elaneer concentrate through installation of 31 Kiosks at different places.	9.950	9.950	2.487	The project is progressing as per approved Technical programme.
4.	Setting up of copra driers as demonstration units—KERAFED	20.000	17.000	—	Action is being taken to release 50% of the funds after executing the Memorandum of Understanding.
5.	Exhibitions, seminars, meeting etc. including Ahara 2002, International Food fair, Sharjah	47.763	47.763	47.763	An amount of Rs. 47.763 lakh already spent for participating in different exhibitions including the Sharjah for market promotional activities for different coconut products and which has created a very good impact.
6.	Demonstration and adoption of technologies on coconut: Participatory Planning and action through self-Help Associations of Coconut farmers in Dindugal District of Tamil Nadu-Gandigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu	42.550	42.550	—	Action has been taken to release first year requirement of fund after executing the MOU.
7.	Project for carrying out market promotion activities for coconut products—Secretary, Kerala Malanad Karshaka Producer Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., Thiruvambady.	21.150	11.900	—	Action has been taken to release 50% of fund.
8.	Project for Market Promotion activities for coconut products submitted by Managing Director, KERAFED, Thiruvananthapuram.	35.000	14.000	—	Action has been taken to release 50% of fund.

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Participation of Coconut Development Board in AHAAR 2003 at New Delhi.	15.000	15.000	—	Board has taken 328 m.sq. of space in the AHAAR pavilion.
10.	Strategies for Sustainable Development of Coconut Industry-Marketing and Promotion of Desiccated Coconut Power & "Coconut Oil in the emerging scenario" submitted by M/s. Foretell Capital Trust Private Limited, Bangalore at a total cost of Rs. 2.70 lakhs and Rs. 2.20 lakhs respectively.	4.900	2.450	—	Action has been taken to assess the credibility of the Institution as suggested by the Project Approval Committee (PAC) for release of fund.
11.	Market promotional activities for launching the tender coconut-packed tender coconut water by Sakthi Coconut Products.	0.900	0.450	0.450	The product was launched on 7.02.2003 at Chennai.
IV.	**Technical support, external evaluation and emergent requirements**	1.220	1.220	0.726	
	Total	5589.941	1687.869	463.669	

[Translation]

Proposal of African Countries for Agricultural Assistance

2769. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from African countries to make use of Indian Agricultural know-how;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of these countries; and

(d) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

MSP for Crops

2770. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers do not get the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of their crops particularly in Paddy and Jute in many States in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide Minimum Support Price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation

of India (F.C.I-paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.-Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I-Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED-pulses and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking purchase operations in case, the wholesale prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government.

No report of distress sale of paddy conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms has been received during the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2002-03. Sufficient number of purchase centres have been opened to extend benefits of MSP to the farmers and wide publicity is given. The FCI has taken up procurement operations for paddy in some of the non-traditional States like Orissa and Bihar in the current KMS 2002-03. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of MSP are passed on to the farmers by millers, the Government has issued instructions to the FCI to accept delivery of levy rice in respect of areas where the State Government is having effective MSP operations.

No complaint to the effect that farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price of their crop of raw jute has been received. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) in the nodal agency for undertaking the MSP operations. It operates in the country through its 171 purchase centres, spread all over the major jute/mesta growing States. In addition, the MSP operation is also conducted by JCI in association with 68 Cooperative Societies in major jute growing States. The JCI during the current jute year procured around 12.90 lakh bales of 180 kg. of raw jute under MSP operation till the end of February, 2003.

Dues of Hotel Ashok against New Delhi Municipal Council

2771. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hotel Ashok owes New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Rs. 18.75 crores;

(b) if so, whether NDMC has sent any notice to the hotel authorities for payment of dues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, NDMC has sent a Property Tax Bill for Rs. 18.75 crores for the period ending March, 2002. The basis of calculating ratable value has been challenged by ITDC in the Court of District Judge, Delhi and the matter is *sub-judice*.

(c) Does not arise.

Demands of Circus Owners

2772. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Animal Welfare Department has not been following the guidelines/norms of appointing qualified veterinarians;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Association of circus owners have submitted any memorandum to the Government in this regard;

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

(e) whether any procedure is adopted by the Government in the assignment of task for inspectors and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received complaints of harassment by the inspection teams; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Animal Welfare Board has been authorizing persons as per the provisions of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 to inspect the mode of transport, care and upkeep of performing animals.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum by Indian Circus Federation protests against ban on performance of five animals *viz.* bears, monkeys, tiger, panthers and lions. The matter is *sub-Judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Federation has also suggested amendments in the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

(e) to (g) The current procedure of inspection envisages checking to be undertaken by a panel of two experts *viz.* one wildlife expert, and one veterinarian from the panels approved by Central Zoo Authority. Some general complaints had been received earlier requesting for further strengthening of system of inspection.

Diversion of Tributary of Cauvery River

2773. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala propose to divert a tributary of Cauvery river in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the diversion would adversely affect the already water starved Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The State of Kerala has sanctioned a scheme in September, 1997 for utilisation of 0.718 TMC of water of Bhavani river for irrigating 2000 ha. of land and for providing drinking water supply for a population of 22000 in the drought prone areas of Mannarkkad, Anamooli and Thenkara villages of Palakkad district and has taken up the scheme for construction during 2002. According to Tamil Nadu, the State is fully dependent on the water of Bhavani river for drinking and irrigation purposes in the drought prone areas of Coimbatore District. The Government of Tamil Nadu has mentioned that it is getting a number of representations from the farmers in the Bhavani valley downstream that if this Scheme is undertaken by the State of Kerala, their present use will be badly affected and practically no water will flow down below Kerala border in the Bhavani valley. The State of Tamil Nadu has objected to the undertaking of construction of the scheme by the State of Kerala and filed a Petition before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in January, 2003. The matter is before the Tribunal.

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

2774. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government to make all the States self-reliant in foodgrains including pulses by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse-Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse cereals)' were implemented till October, 2000 to increase production and productivity of Rice, Wheat and Coarse-cereals. Now, these schemes have been subsumed under Macro Management Mode alongwith 24 other schemes to provide for flexibility to states according to their priorities. In addition, Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)', "Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)' and 'On-Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' are also under implementation for increasing foodgrains production and productivity.

Death of Leopard in Delhi

2775. SHRI ADHI SANKAR:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a leopard had entered into East Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the manner in which it was caught;

(c) whether it died subsequently;

(d) if so, the causes leading to its death and the persons responsible for it; and

(e) the details of the inquiry conducted in this regard and the follow-up action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) A leopard had entered into a furniture factory in Nab Sarai area in South Delhi recently.

(b) The leopard was caught after tranquilization.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Enquiry instituted in this regard has not concluded.

[English]

Development of Pitchavaram as Tourist Centre in Tamil Nadu

2776. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to develop Pitchavaram and other important centres in Tamil Nadu from Tourism point of view; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned a project for promotion of eco-tourism at Pitchavaram at a cost of Rs. 50.00 lakhs during the year 1999-2000.

During the 10th Five Year Plan, Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided to identify integrated travel circuits in the country each year. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is also proposed to identify one major destination in each State/UT Administration every year in consultation with them for overall development, including in the State of Tamil Nadu.

During the year 2002-2003, the following projects for development of tourism in Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned with the following central financial assistance:

(Rupees in lakhs)

(a)	Development of Mahabalipuram as a destination	— 500.00
(b)	Development of Ginjee Fort	— 37.50
(c)	Dance Festival at Mamallapuram	— 5.00

Development of Fishermen

2777. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand has submitted its proposal to the Union Government for development of fishermen and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to grant facilities to fishermen in Jharkhand like the other States;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Proposals received from Government of Jharkhand for release of central assistance of Rs. 175 lakh for construction of 800 houses, 32 tubewells and 8 community halls and release of second installment of Rs. 31 lakhs pertaining to 300 houses and 12 tubewellls sanctioned during 2001-02 were examined and further details sought from the State Government of Jharkhand are still awaited.

(c) to (e) The development and welfare schemes implemented by the Government of India are applicable to all States/UTs including State of Jharkhand. The Central assistance is extended on receipt of viable proposals as per guidelines of the scheme, Utilization Certificate and progress report pertaining to previous releases from the State Governments.

P.F. Amount Invested In Companies

2778. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring down the interest rate on Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many companies including Private and PSUs in which Provident Fund amount was invested have become sick and referred to BIFR;

(d) if so, the details of such companies;

(e) the total investment made in such companies from Provident Fund account along with the return therefrom during the last three years; and

(f) the impact of such investments on the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) There is no proposal at present to reduce the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Preservation of Tribal Culture

2779. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the preservation and promotion of languages, folk arts and culture of the tribals in the Country including those in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Department of Culture, through seven Zonal Cultural Centres organise programmes for the preservation and promotion of tribal art and culture in different parts of the country. Folk and tribal groups from all the zones are invited to perform during Inter-Zonal and Intra-Zonal programmes and other programmes of tribal fairs/festivals/tribal painting forms etc. are also organized. South and South Central Zone Cultural Centres have been promoting and preserving the folk and tribal art forms like Lambadi, Mathuri, Pandari Bhajana, Guravayyalu Veeranaatyam, Thappeta Gullu, Dheemsa, Koya, Gussadi, Chindu Bhagwatham, Thoorpu Bhagwatham, Burra Katha, Veedhinaatakam and Savara Tribal dance of Andhra Pradesh. In addition to the above, the Department of Culture also grant financial assistance to the voluntary organisations for promotion, dissemination and preservation of tribal/rural art and culture in the country.

Pending Irrigation Projects

2780. SHRI MUNI LALL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many major and medium irrigation projects are pending for more than 10 years, fully or partially funded by the Union Government;

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

(c) whether the Government have funded the Durgawati Jalasai Yojana in the District of Kaimur in Bihar, but the project could not be completed even after a lapse of 33 years; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to complete the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. No major/medium irrigation project is fully or partially funded by the Union Government. However, the Central Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to such ongoing approved major and medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion and an amount of Rs. 9725.59 crore has been released to 155 major and medium irrigation projects in 23 States since inception of this programme in 1996-97.

(c) and (d) The Durgawati project was started in 1976 with an estimated cost of Rs. 25.30 crore. This irrigation project of Bihar has been included under AIBP for its early completion and an amount of Rs. 45.63 crore has been released to this project as CLA under AIBP since inception of this programme in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Effects of Disinvestment on Labour

2781. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Fact Finding Committee visited BALCO and Modern Food this year to assess the effects of disinvestment on labours;

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

(c) the composition of the said committee; and

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its report to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (d) A tripartite team comprising of a representative each from the Workers and Employers' Organisation as well as from the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Labour, was constituted to assess the impact of disinvestment on Labour in BALCO and Modern Foods (India) Ltd. The team has so far visited BALCO on 13-14th February, 2003.

Construction of Guest Houses/Retiring Rooms by ITDC

2782. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) propose to construct guest houses/retiring rooms at Varanasi, Mathura and Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) ITDC's Annual Plan 2003-2004 does not envisage any plan proposal/provision for undertaking such schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

Farmer's Assistance Centres

2783. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of the farmer's assistance/counselling centres being run in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more of such centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the districts in the State where such centres are proposed to be opened; and

(e) by when these centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Thirty two (32) Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)-(Statement-I) and twenty seven (27) Krishi Gyan Kendras (KGKs)—(Statement-II) are working in Uttar Pradesh for the benefit of farmers in the State.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration by the ICAR during the current financial year.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

List of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Working in Uttar Pradesh State

1. Bijnor
2. Rampur
3. Budaun
4. Saharanpur
5. Ghaziabad
6. Shahjahanpur
7. Meerut
8. Muzaffarnagar
9. Pilibhit
10. Bahraich
11. Basti
12. Balia
13. Mau
14. Varanasi
15. Mirzapur
16. Jhanshi
17. Mathura
18. Rai Bareli
19. Fatehpur
20. Aligarh
21. Allahabad
22. Bareilly
23. Lucknow
24. Agra
25. Mirzapur
26. Sultanpur
27. Gonda
28. Chitrakoot
29. Bhanorpur, Sidharth Nagar
30. Unnao
31. Pratapgarh
32. Etah.

Statement II

List of Krishi Gyan Kendras (KGKs) Functioning in Uttar Pradesh State

1. Moradabad
2. J.P. Nagar
3. Baghpat
4. Bulandshahar
5. Bareilly
6. Gautam Budha Nagar
7. Barabanki
8. Gorakhpur
9. Jaunpur
10. Azamgarh
11. Deoria
12. Sant Kabir Nagar
13. Kushinagar
14. Ambedkarnagar
15. Chandauli
16. Sitapur
17. Unnao
18. Farrukhabad
19. Jalaun
20. Hamirpur
21. Hordoi
22. Lakhimpur Khiri
23. Firozabad
24. Eta
25. Pratapgarh
26. Sant Ravidas Nagar
27. Kaushambi.

[English]

Goat and Sheep Rearing

2784. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any field study has been conducted to find out the ecological degradation caused by Goat and Sheep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether corporate houses have taken to goat and sheep rearing in the country; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof indicating the names of the corporate houses?

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

(b) Ministry of Agriculture had constituted a "Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Sheep and Goats Rearing in Ecologically Fragile Zone" under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, former Member, Planning Commission and Professor in the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University in January 1987. The Task Force in its report observed that sheep and goats do not pose a threat to the ecology as is generally believed. The grazing habits, total phytomas consumption, return of organic matter from sheep and goats to the soil, etc., were studied and compared with other ruminants like cattle, buffalo, antelope, etc. It could not be established that sheep and goats are responsible for the degradation of ecology. The Task Force, therefore, recommended that sheep and goats should not be categorized as animals responsible for the destruction of ecology.

(c) Only one corporate house has taken sheep rearing in the country.

(d) M/s. Raymond Limited, Thane, Maharashtra had set up a large scale sheep breeding farm in the year 1970.

Utilization of Narmada and Tapti River Water

2785. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any plan for utilisation of Narmada and Tapti river water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to link both rivers; and

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) As reported by Government of Gujarat, the Narmada waters are being utilised as per the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award and Government of Gujarat has not submitted any proposal for utilisation of Narmada and Tapi river water to Central Government.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basin to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carry out water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. One of these links is Par-Tapi-Narmada link for which feasibility report has been prepared. The proposal envisages transfer of surplus water from west flowing rivers South of Narmada namely Par, Aurang, Ambica and Purna to water deficit areas in North Gujarat. As per the milestone prepared by the Government, implementation of inter-linking proposals is scheduled for completion by 2016.

Integrated Livestock Development Projects

2786. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Integrated Livestock Development Projects have been launched;

(b) whether any such project has been launched in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the said projects have been funded by the Union Government or by any external agency; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. But, National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has been launched from October 2000. Since then 17 States are participating under the Project including Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) 100% grant-in-Aid is provided to the participating States under the Project by the Union Government. A sum of Rs. 829.47 lakh has been released to Madhya Pradesh under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding, so far.

Shifting of Polluting Industries

2787. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and name of private/public sector companies/factories/industrial units in the country including Delhi which have been become dangerous for human health by way of discharging toxic effluents etc. thereby affecting the quality of ground water, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Pollution Control Boards have issued notices to them instructing them for closure or to shift elsewhere;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) the details of those units which have been shifted/ closed during the last three years as well as current year, location-wise;

(e) whether any time bound action plan has been prepared to shift/close the polluting industrial units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (f) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 1551 industrial units under the 17 categories of polluting industries in the country. State-wise summary status of the polluting industries is given in the attached statement. All the polluting units have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment to comply with the prescribed environmental norms.

As per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 2677/85, under the supervision of Nodal Agency, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Development Authority have been directed to close all the polluting units functioning in non-conforming/residential areas. As per the survey conducted by Government of Delhi, there were 38,936 "F" category industrial units operating in non-conforming areas of Delhi. Out of these units, units falling under F/27 and F/23 categories have been closed down.

Statement

Summary status of the Pollution Control in 17 Categories of Industries

S.No.	State/UT	Total No. of Units	Status (No. of Units)		
			Closed	C*	Defaulters**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	173	29	144	00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	00	00
3.	Assam	15	03	11	01
4.	Bihar	44	19	25	00
5.	Chandigarh	17	01	14	02
6.	Goa	06	00	06	02
7.	Gujarat	177	07	170	00
8.	Haryana	43	06	37	00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	09	00	09	00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	08	03	05	00
11.	Jharkhand	18	03	13	02
12.	Karnataka	85	09	76	00
13.	Kerala	28	06	22	00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	61	11	48	02
15.	Maharashtra	335	24	306	05
16.	Manipur	00	00	00	00
17.	Meghalaya	01	00	01	00
18.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00
19.	Nagaland	00	00	00	00
20.	Orissa	23	03	16	04
21.	Punjab	45	06	39	00
22.	Rajasthan	49	06	43	00
23.	Sikkim	01	00	01	00
24.	Tamil Nadu	119	02	17	00
25.	Tripura	00	00	00	00
26.	UT-Andaman & Nicobar	00	00	00	00
27.	UT-Chandigarh	01	00	01	00
28.	UT-Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	00	00	00	00

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	UT-Delhi	05	01	04	00
30.	UT-Lakshadeep	00	00	00	00
31.	UT-Pondicherry	06	01	05	00
32.	Uttaranchal	17	00	17	00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	207	21	183	03
34.	West Bengal	58	17	38	03
	Total	1551	178	1351	22

#Having adequate facilities to comply with the standards.

##Not having adequate facilities to comply with the standards.

Farm Mechanization

2788. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute is currently running any project on long-term strategy for farm mechanization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is delay in completion of the project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute is currently conducting study relating to "formulating long-term mechanization strategy for each agro-climatic/state". This study is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

(b) Details of the project may be seen in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

Statement

1. Background of this Project

The programme envisages to conduct *an in-depth study, at micro-level, of the socio-economic, agro-climatic, infrastructural and other relevant factors prevailing in the different regions* of the country, which have bearing on the spread of agricultural mechanization, agricultural productivity therein; and *formulation of appropriate long-term farm mechanization strategies* for the respective zones. It is likely that for a number of Zones/States, a single set of strategy/programme may not be uniformly conducive to the spread of farm mechanisation and all-round and sustainable agricultural development there. As such, appropriate packages of agricultural mechanisation strategies and programmes for the different Zones/States need to be formulated according to the *present status, potential and future needs* of agricultural mechanisation there.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The study is being conducted for each Agro-climatic Zone/State covering about 20% of the districts representing a mix of developed, developing and least developed pockets. The basic purpose is to have complete insight of the situation and future needs in the direction of achieving full mechanization in a suitable time frame.

The sampling design adopted is *Stratified Multi-stage Random Sampling*. Out of a total of 585 districts in India, a sample of *120 districts* has been selected randomly with due consideration to mechanization index of different districts within strata (State or group of States), following proportional allocation. From each selected district, a

random sample of *40 villages* has also been selected. Accordingly, *the total number of selected villages is 4,800.* Keeping in view the level and adoption of mechanisation (holding-size wise), out of each selected village, a sample of *10 households* has been selected. Hence, *the total number of randomly selected Households is 48,000.* The reference year for the study is *2000-2001.*

2. Objectives of this project

(i) To study the soil types, land topography.

(ii) To study the socio-economic conditions (financial status) of the farmers and farm labourers and assess their capabilities for acquiring and adopting the needed agricultural equipment/ machinery.

(iii) To study the present status, ultimate potential, the gaps, highlighting critical ones; for equipment used in various agricultural operations starting right from tillage to the post-harvest operations.

(iv) To study the types and utility of various agricultural equipment, both conventional and improved ones, presently in use and those needed in future, for different crops/cropping systems in the zones.

(v) To study the impact of farm mechanization on employment of labour.

(vi) To study the cropping pattern, both agricultural and horticultural, in the Zones, yields in relation to the national average, and their growth potential.

(vii) To study and assess the use of farm power per hectare, ultimate requirement, ways and means to fulfil the gaps for various farm operations.

(viii) To study the infrastructural facilities for the manufacture, marketing, after sale service/repairs availability etc. of agricultural equipment.

(ix) To study and assess the adequacy and the requirement of infrastructure at the central and state levels, for planning, promotion, execution and extension of the various plan programmes on agricultural mechanization.

(x) To identify new/improved farm equipment that may be needed by the farmers during next 20 years i.e. by the year 2020, for carrying out different farm operations.

(xi) To formulate strategies and programmes that may be required for mechanization of agriculture during the period 2001-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015, 2015-20.

Progress

3.1 Details of districts from where data has been collected.

The data collection work has been/is being carried out in 22 states covering 120 districts. The State-wise allocation of districts is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the States	No. of Districts	Name of the Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	M.P.	13	Vidisha, Sehore, Bhopal, Raisen Seoni, Chhindwara, Damoh, Nimar, Umeria, Katni, Jabalpur, Rewa, Korba.
2.	U.P.	14	Baghpat, Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Kanpur (Dehat), Lalitpur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Balia, Gonda, Mau, Basti, Gorakhpur.
3.	Tamilnadu	8	Karaikal, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Tiruvanamalai, Coimbatore, Tuticorin, Erode, Salem.
4.	Jharkhand	5	Ranchi, Dumka, Dhanbad, Deoghar, Gumla.
5.	Punjab	4	Gurdaspur, Mansa, Ludhiana, Navashehar.
6.	Kerala	4	Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Alappuzha.
7.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Rangareddi, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal.
8.	Uttaranchal	3	Almora, Bageshwar, Nainital.
9.	Karnataka	5	Haveri, Belgaum, Gadag, Dharwad, Chitradurga.
10.	Goa	1	Goa.

1	2	3	4
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Kangra, Una.
12.	Maharashtra	7	Yavatmal, Akola, Amravati, Thane, Raigarh, Pune, Satara.
13.	Bihar	6	Lakhisarai, Madhubani, Samastipur, Katihar, Vaishali, Siwan.
14.	NEH Region	9	Imphal (Manipur), Jaintia Pahar, East Khasi Hills (Meghalaya), Aizwal (Mizoram), West Tripura (Tripura), Mon (Nagaland), Tawang, West Kameng, East Siang (Arunachal Pradesh)
15.	Orissa	6	Sonpur, Angul, Gangam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur.
16.	Haryana	4	Bhiwani, Faridabad, Kaithal, Sonipat.
17.	Rajasthan	6	Udaipur, Kota, Chittorgarh, Sirohi, Jalore, Banswara.
18.	Assam	5	Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Sibsagar, Golaghat.
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur.
20.	West Bengal & Sikkim	5	Bankura, Hooghly, Midinipur, Burdhman, West Sikkim.
21.	Gujarat	5	Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Valsad, Vadodara, Banaskantha.
Total No. of Districts		120	

3.2 Progress of work

The project has been planned in three phases. These phases are concurrent. The project started from July, 2000. As part of Phase-I, to crystallize the approach and modalities of the study, a Seminar-cum-Group Discussion was organized at the Institute during July 24-25, 2000, under the chairmanship of Dr. B.S. Pathak, Director, SPRERI, Vallabh Vidyanagar (Gujarat). Keeping in view the objectives, status papers on important topics have been prepared.

For smooth functioning and monitoring of the technical, administrative & financial, Progress of the project, a Project Management Committee (PMC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Director, IASRI involving a senior official from ICAR also. So far seven meetings of the PMC have been convened and various important issues, relating to the smooth functioning of the project, have been discussed and decided.

As part of phase-II, a large scale survey, adopting startified multi-stage random sampling design, was planned and conducted in 120 randomly selected districts taking the help of 24 Cooperating Centers of AICRP on FIM; GAU, Gujarat and SKUAST, Jammu. The required funds, as per approved norms agreed by the Project Management Committee, were transferred to all the Centers. Training relating to organization of field data collection work including filling up of the scheduled etc. has been imparted by the Institute Scientists at all the Centers. The Scientists and Field Officer of the Institute assisted the Research Engineers of Cooperating centers of AICRP on FIM in imparting the training relating to the field data collection work, to the hired Field Investigators, at all the Centers. At most of the Centers, the data collection work has been completed while at some Centers, it is still in progress. Completed (filled-in) village and household Schedules have been received from 22 Centers covering 92 districts. Scrutiny, checking and preparation of district profile work are in progress.

The entire information from the filled-in data schedules have to be transferred in digital forms for which a software in MS-Access has been prepared. List of different crops, agricultural operations, fertilizers/manures, plant protection chemical, power sources, farm implements, etc. and their codes have been finalized and transferred in software package for data entry. Lists of selected villages in different districts/states/agro climatic zone along with their codes have been prepared and transferred in software package for data entry. Formats of different output tables have also been prepared.

The processed results obtained through the All-India survey will enable us to assess the present status, potential and gaps in the level of adoption of mechanization etc., which will be used for formulating long term mechanization strategy for each State as well as agro-climatic zone.

Data entry and analysis work is in process. Report writing work has also been initiated and the report is likely to be submitted by 30th June, 2003.

Deputation of Scientists for Conferences

2789. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IASRI, during the last three years has deputed a large number of scientists for annual conferences of the 'Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics' and the 'Society of Statistics and Computer Application'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

They were deputed to either present papers or organise the conference.

(b) Details of scientists deputed for the conferences is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics during 1.1.2000 to 28.2.2003

S. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	27.11.2000 to 01.12.2000
		Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	To attend the 55th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	14-18 Jan, 2002
		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
2.	Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Ex-Joint Director	CIAE, Bhopal	To attend the 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
3.	Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Principal Sci.	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
4.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	27.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
		CIAE, Bhopal	Convenor of Symposium 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
5.	Dr. V.K.Sharma, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
6.	Dr. P.K. Batra, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
7.	Dr. Aloke Lahiri, Senior Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
8.	Dr. R. Srivastava, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sci (SG)	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
10.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
		CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
11.	Smt. Ajit Kaur Bhatia, Scientist (S.G.)	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
12.	Dr. Cini Varghese	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
13.	Dr. S.P. Bhardwaj, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
14.	Dr. Anil Rai, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	to attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.11.2000 to 1.12.2000
15.	Dr. H.V.L. Bathla, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan, 2002
		University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
16.	Dr. Jagbir Singh, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
		CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
		University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
17.	Dr. D.L. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
18.	Dr. G.K. Jha, Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000
		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
19.	Sh. R.S. Khatri, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	25.11.2000 to 1.12.2000
20.	Dr. K.K. Tyagi, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.11. 2000 to 1.12.2000
		CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan, 2002
		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of the ISAS	18-20 Jan, 2002
21.	Dr. Randhir Singh, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan, 2002
		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
22.	Sh. A.K. Gupta, Scientist (SS)	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002
23.	Dr. Ranjana Agrawal, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
24.	Sh. S.D. Wahi, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
25.	Dr. R.C.Goyal, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
26.	Sh. Satya Pal, Scientist (SS)	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
27.	Sh. Amrender Kumar, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
28.	Dr. V. Ramasubramaniam, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
29.	Sh. Sudeep, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
30.	Dr. U.C. Sud, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
31.	Dr. Chandrashas, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
32.	Dr. Ashok Kumar, Senior Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002
33.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh, Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	56th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan., 2002

Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Society of Statistics and Computer Applications during 1.1.2000 to 28.02.2003

S. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	To attend the 4nd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	23-26 Nov., 2001
		Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
2.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh	Tamil Nadu	To attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17.11.2000 to 26.11.2000
		Rajkot	To attend the 4nd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov, 2001
		Udaipur, Rajasthan	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003
3.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	To attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	19.11.2000 to 23.11.2000
		Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003
4.	Dr. V.K. Sharma Principal Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4nd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov, 2001
5.	Dr. P.K. Batra, Principal Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov, 2001
		Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003
6.	Dr. Aloke Lahiri, Senior Scientist	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	To attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	20.11.2000 to 23.11.2000
		Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov, 2001
		Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003
7.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov, 2001
		Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003
8.	Dr. Krishan Lal, Senior Scientist	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech., Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003

[Translation]

Allotment of Mother Dairy Booths to Unemployed Educated Youth

2790. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give preference to the unemployed educated youth in the allotment of Mother Dairy booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of youth likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(d) the criteria fixed for the allotment of Mother Dairy booths?

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

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

(d) As a matter of policy, Mother Dairy enters into concessionarieship agreement with ex-servicemen only whose names are sponsored by the Directorate General of Resettlement, New Delhi, for running its milk booths. Suitability of the candidates sponsored by the Directorate General of Resettlement is ascertained before entering into agreement with them.

[English]

Air Facilities for Senior Citizens

2791. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the senior citizens are being allowed 50% rebated on fares by the private and the public sector airlines;

(b) whether the Government propose to reduce the discount on air fares to the senior citizens;

(c) if so, the number of senior citizens who availed of this facility provided by the Indian Airlines during the last two years;

(d) the amount of loss suffered by the Indian Airlines on account of the discount facility given to the senior citizens; and

(e) the amount to be saved by the Indian Airlines as a result of the reduced discount in air fares to the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines provide a discount of 50% to senior citizens on basic fare. Air Indian provides 25% discount on its market fares on select sectors during the lean season.

(b) The discount given to various categories of passengers by Indian Airlines are under review.

(c) During the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, the number of senior citizens having availed of this facility with Indian Airlines is 204293 and 197560 respectively.

(d) The total impact on account of the discount given by Indian Airlines to the senior citizens during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is Rs. 37.97 crores and Rs. 39.38 crores respectively.

(e) The amount cannot be quantified at this stage.

Distress Sale of Cotton

2792. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the southern and western parts of Orissa, the cotton growers were forced to go in for distress sale of their cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Orissa produced 1.30 lakh bales of cotton in 2001 which came down to 30,000 bales only in 2002;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the production of cotton was 13,000 quintals per acre in 2001 which came down to 4,000 quintals per acre in 2002;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) No distress sale of cotton by the cultivators in southern and western parts of Orissa has been reported. The price of seed cotton is ruling above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level during the current cotton season 2002-03 in all cotton growing States which also includes Orissa.

(c) to (f) The area, production and yield of cotton in Orissa is indicated below:

Year	Area '000 Hectare	Production '000 Bales of 170 Kgs each	Yield Kgs/ Hectare.
2000-01	40.4	65.3	275
2001-02	35.8	59.8	284

The Area and Production of Raw Cotton in Orissa in 2001-02 declined by 11.4% and 275 Kgs/Hectare in 2000-01 to 284 Kgs/Hectare in 2001-02. The decline in area is due to lower prices of cotton in 2001-02 over that of the previous year leading farmers to switch over the other cash crops.

(g) and (h) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 13 cotton growing states including Orissa for increasing cotton production, productivity & improvement in fiber quality. The funding pattern under the scheme is mostly 75:25 sharing basis between the Government of India and the implementing states.

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has also undertaken contract farming programmes in the State of Orissa and signed Memorandum of Understanding with the representatives of farmers of the State for implementation of the programme. This is expected to give a boost to the concept of contract farming and ultimately benefit the farmers in the State. In addition the Government implements the Price Support Scheme (PSS) under which CCI, a central nodal agency, undertakes price support operation in the event of market prices falling below the Minimum Support Price level.

Acquisition of Land for Hyderabad Airport

2793. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of acres of land have been acquired by the Airports Authority of India at Rangareddy district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total land acquired by AAI so far for the new airport being constructed at Hyderabad;

(c) whether the compensation for the land acquired by AAI has been paid to the State Government or concerned persons/agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount so far spent by AAI for the development of the airport at Hyderabad in Rangareddy district and the present status of the development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has completed acquisition of land of 5000 acres for the proposed new Hyderabad international airport.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India is not required to pay compensation as the Hyderabad international airport project is being promoted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. Apart from acquisition of land, State Government has obtained consent for establishment of international airport from Andhra Pradesh pollution control board. Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HAIl) company has been incorporated in December, 2002 for executing this project.

[Translation]

Multi-purpose Dams with Foreign Assistance

2794. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several multi-purpose dams are being constructed in the country with foreign assistance;

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

(c) the time by when these dams are likely to be completed and the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No major multi-purpose dams are being constructed with foreign assistance in the country. However, some medium irrigation projects involving construction of dams in Tamil Nadu are receiving assistance from the World Bank under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project (Cr. 2745-IN) as detailed below:

S.No.	Name of sub Project involving construction of dam	Latest cost Rs. in crore	Expenditure incurred ending 12/02 Rs. in crore	Likely year of completion
1.	Kodumudiar	30.50	22.58	
2.	Mordhana	82.30	79.68	03/2003
3.	Nambiyar	20.50	15.15	

Project has been recommended for extension.

[English]

Ground Handling Works of AI

2795. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a separate subsidiary of Air India for its ground handling operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest steps being taken to prepare a financial restructuring strategy for Air India in order to bring it out of red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ground handling activities in Air India are presently carried out by the Ground Services Department. Air India proposes to set up a subsidiary for ground handling operations with a view to improving efficiency.

(c) Air India is already out of red as it made a profit in the last financial year.

Setting up of Orange Export Zone In Vidarbha Export Zone

2796. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up Orange Export Zone in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the N.R.C. Centre of Nagpur has submitted a proposal for providing infrastructure and other facilities to orange growers of the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for setting up of Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) in the District of Nagpur and Amrawati in Vidarbha region for export of oranges.

(b) The proposal was placed before the Steering Committee on AEZs on 27th November, 2001. Since the State Government commitments were not received, the proposal was decided to be placed before the committee at a subsequent meeting. Meanwhile, State Government was requested to re-examine the market potential of Nagpur oranges as projected by them in the report. A detailed response is awaited from the State Government.

(c) A Nodal agency for AEZ, APEDA in Government of India has not received any such proposal.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Tube-Well Projects In Uttar Pradesh

2797. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the detail of new tube-well projects started in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Minor Irrigation Department in U.P. is responsible for construction of Minor Irrigation works such as Shallow Tube wells, Deep Tube wells, Blast Wells, Artesian Wells, Check dams and Bundhies. Minor Irrigation Department does boring for Shallow & Deep Tube wells. It also provides technical guidance for construction of Minor Irrigation works. All these works are being maintained by individual farmer of Gram Panchayats. It also provides extension support for these works, as well as loan from different Banks & subsidy to farmers. The details of Shallow and Deep tube wells constructed under Private Minor Irrigation Programme during the last three

years district-wise are enclosed as statement. The Programme of constructing Shallow and Deep tube wells is continued during the year 2002-03.

Statement

District-wise Report of Shallow and Deep Tube wells completed during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 under Private Minor Irrigation Programme in U.P.

S.No.	Name of District	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Shallow Tube wells	Deep Tube wells	Shallow Tube wells	Deep Tube wells	Shallow Tube wells	Deep Tube wells
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Merrut	74	—	212	—	31	—
2.	Bagpat	48	—	125	3	234	1
3.	Ghaziabad	180	—	340	—	475	—
4.	Gautambudh Nagar	76	—	170	—	210	—
5.	Bulandshahar	115	—	275	—	507	—
6.	Saharanpur	209	—	489	—	1183	—
7.	Muzaffar Nagar	118	—	445	8	586	8
8.	Agra	153	8	332	26	362	21
9.	Mathura	263	—	772	—	550	—
10.	Firozabad	210	6	517	13	276	25
11.	Mainpuri	466	—	642	—	677	—
12.	Aligarh	857	3	1503	—	1448	—
13.	Hathras	346	2	284	—	724	—
14.	Etah	898	—	1406	—	1389	—
15.	Bareilly	871	6	1002	7	889	13
16.	Badaun	599	9	610	5	988	13
17.	Shahjahanpur	268	2	665	—	664	—
18.	Pilibhit	230	—	685	—	613	—
19.	Moradabad	458	—	1078	—	592	—
20.	Jyotiba P. Nagar	342	—	602	—	153	—
21.	Rampur	247	—	737	5	320	—
22.	Rijnaur	170	—	445	—	218	—
23.	Lucknow	232	2	381	8	780	18
24.	Hardoi	901	—	1475	—	1619	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Sitapur	1605	—	2721	—	2330	—
26.	Lakeempur Kheeri	1230	—	1564	—	2411	—
27.	Raibareli	660	—	2064	—	2048	—
28.	Unnao	418	—	2149	—	2200	—
29.	Kanpur Nagar	810	76	1443	64	1687	216
30.	Kanpur Dehat	149	65	492	67	545	115
31.	Etawah	338	—	852	2	1231	—
32.	Auraiya	255	6	846	7	955	15
33.	Farukhabad	—	—	—	—	174	28
34.	Kannauj	166	—	332	—	535	—
35.	Allahabad	277	10	735	20	2399	59
36.	Koushambi	119	10	152	9	491	41
37.	Fatehpur	323	21	1526	47	1825	61
38.	Pratapgarh	537	—	1588	2	2234	—
39.	Varanasi	172	—	212	5	528	—
40.	Chandouli	181	—	321	1	533	5
41.	Jaunpur	919	—	1095	1	1649	1
42.	Gazipur	305	—	1224	—	1283	—
43.	Mirjapur	73	27	59	12	139	35
44.	Sonbhadra	22	—	13	—	7	5
45.	San Ravidas Nagar	33	3	75	—	129	7
46.	Faizabad	263	—	1176	—	769	—
47.	Ambedkar Nagar	189	—	696	—	774	—
48.	Barabanki	566	1	1906	3	1287	—
49.	Sultanpur	431	—	2188	—	2060	—
50.	Gonda	830	—	2244	—	2285	—
51.	Balrampur	459	—	1299	—	920	—
52.	Bahraich	567	—	1902	—	2326	—
53.	Sharavasti	364	—	1060	—	733	—
54.	Gorakhpur	1049	—	2204	—	2064	—
55.	Maharajganj	548	—	1708	—	1109	—
56.	Deoria	437	—	1480	—	1407	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
57.	Kushinagar	494	—	1755	—	2124	—
58.	Basti	1018	—	2560	—	1831	—
59.	Sant Kabir Nagar	520	—	1240	—	969	—
60.	Sidharth Nagar	678	—	2109	1	1422	—
61.	Azamgarh	968	—	1129	—	1093	—
62.	Mau	217	—	575	—	502	—
63.	Ballia	554	—	1200	—	636	—
64.	Jhansi	126	6	130	14	288	32
65.	Jalaun	118	18	144	33	225	55
66.	Lalitpur	15	24	20	10	39	60
67.	Hamirpur	333	13	466	11	416	82
68.	Mahoba	21	—	28	21	52	13
69.	Banda	199	19	273	23	380	41
70.	Chitrakoot	31	30	44	26	70	12
	Total	27904	367	64191	454	66883	982

Diversion of Drinking Water for Power Generation

2798. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether villages and towns in districts in the command region of Kaiga reservoir in Karnataka are likely to face a severe water crisis with water being diverted for power generation; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to intervene and resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Probably, the Hon'ble member is referring to Kadra reservoir which caters for generation of power from Kadra Power House built at the toe of the Kadra dam with 3 units of 50 Mega Watt. The requirement of water for drinking purposes for Kadra and Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant colonies is being drawn from Kadra dam. The Government of Karnataka has informed that by virtue of building Kadra dam for the purpose of power generation there is no water (meant for drinking purposes) being diverted for power generation.

Srinagar as International Airport

2799. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in the country which were upgraded to international status during the financial year 2002-2003;

(b) whether Srinagar Airport was proposed to be upgraded to the status of international airport;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) by when the Kargil Airport is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During 2002-2003, no airport has been upgraded to international status.

(b) and (c) Srinagar airport belongs to Indian Air Force and Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave comprising of passenger terminal building and apron. There is a plan to expand the existing terminal

building for handling 600 passengers and the apron to accommodate more number of aircraft.

Declaration of an airport as international depends upon the traffic potential and demand from international carriers.

(d) Kargil airport has become operational from February, 2003. Indian Air Force has started flights for transporting civilians along with military personnel connecting Srinagar, Jammu and Chandigarh.

Organic Farming

2800. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government propose to take to promote organic farming;

(b) whether a Task Force has been appointed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) During the X Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, "National Project on Organic Farming' is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The scheme envisages inter-alia the following:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming.
- Capacity building for organic farming.
- Support for commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetables waste compost units, biofertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture, etc.
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(b) and (c) A task Force on organic Farming was constituted in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kunwarji Bhai Jadhav during May 2000. The Task Force had submitted its report during November 2001 and based on the recommendations of Task Force the National Project on Organic Farming has been conceived for implementation during X Plan.

EPFO Investment in IDBI Bank

2801. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation is seized of impending merger of IDBI with the IDBI Bank;

(b) if so, whether EPFO has invested more than Rs. 3200 crores in IDBI Bonds;

(c) if so, whether it would have any bearing on the safety of the investment after the repeal of IDBI Act;

(d) if so, whether the EPFO are aware that many PSUs have recently withdrawn several crores from IDBI; and

(e) if so, the precautions being taken to secure the EPFO deposits with IDBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is keeping watch over the EPFO deposits with IDBI.

Rehabilitation of Dam Oustees

2802. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major dams being constructed in the country;

(b) the number of people displaced or going to be displaced due to construction of these dams; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) There are 475 large dams under construction in the country.

(b) and (c) Irrigation being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. The State Governments being the owners of the dams it is

the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to Resettle & rehabilitate the project affected persons. The data on project affected persons or going to be displaced by construction of the dams are not maintained by the Central Government. Various State Governments have evolved their own Resettlement & Rehabilitation policies in respect of the project affected persons taking into account the local conditions.

MSP for Rabi Crops

2803. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Minimum Support Price of Rabi crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to further increase MSP for the Rabi crops in the States which are affected by drought, cyclone and any other natural calamity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has recently announced the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Rabi Crops for the year 2002-03 to be marketed in 2003-04. The Government has also announced the payment of one time special drought relief, over and above the MSPs fixed for rabi crops, payable all over the country to the farmers selling their produce to the designated Central Nodal Agencies. Details are as under:

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	MSP for 2002-03	One time special drought relief
Wheat	620	10
Barley	500	5
Gram	1220	5
Rapeseed/Mustard	1330	10
Safflower	1300	5
Masur	1320	5
Toria	1295	10

Upper Tunga Project

2804. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for Upper Tunga Project submitted by the Karnataka Government way back in 1997 has not yet been given approval by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Central Water Commission sought some clarifications from the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted the detailed compliance report; and

(f) if so, the reasons for pending the proposal since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (f) The Modified Detailed Project Report of Upper Tunga Project was put up to the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for consideration of techno-economic viability of the project in its 80th meeting held on 7th February, 2003. The project has been accepted by the Advisory Committee subject to obtaining the concurrence of the State Finance Department and compliance to certain technical matters besides obtaining statuary clearance in respect of environment and forest from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Turbo-Prop Aircraft Operation

2805. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to encourage Turbo-Prop aircraft operation in inaccessible and far flung areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any tax incentives and subsidy scheme is being considered to encourage Turbo-Prop aircraft operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Government has taken the following steps to encourage Turbo-prop aircraft operation in remote parts of the country, including the North-East region:-

(i) Pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has been decontrolled with effect from April, 2001.

(ii) ATF sold to Turbo-prop aircraft has been included in the list of 'declared goods' thereby the maximum Sales Tax rate for such sale has been restricted to 4%.

(iii) All routes to, from and within the North-East region, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Leh have been exempted from the levy of Inland Air Travel Tax.

(iv) Alliance Air has inducted four ATR 42-320 Turbo-Prop aircraft (48 seater) on dry lease for a period of 5 years for exclusive operations in and to/from the North East to improve air conductivity. The financial assistance of Rs. 35 crores per annum by way of Budgetary grant from the Department of Development of North East Region (DONER)/North Eastern Council (NEC) is being provided to Alliance Air.

[Translation]

Compensation to Victims of Accidents in Agriculture Sector

2806. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Centrally or State sponsored scheme to provide compensation or insurance money to the victims of accidents in agriculture sector in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such victims compensated during each of the last three years?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Fare in NE

2807. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has sought the Government's permission to increase its fares in the North-East sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on air travel in the remote area of NE?

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

(b) The fares to/from and within the North Eastern Region have been kept at a level lower than the fares in the rest of the country, keeping in view the communication and transportation problems peculiar to the region. As a result Indian Airlines' basic fares in the North East Region are, at an average, lower by about 10% as compared to other comparable sectors in India.

In order to reduce the fare differential in the North East, Indian Airlines has proposed to revise the fares in 17 sectors in the North Eastern Region and bring them at par with sectors of comparable distance in the rest of India.

(c) The proposed increase in fares on the North East sectors is not likely to have an adverse impact on air travel in the North Eastern Region, as per the estimates of Indian Airlines.

[Translation]

Bokaro Steel Plant

2808. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Non-Governmental Organisations, institutions and various societies to which the management of the Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) has provided loans alongwith the amounts provided to each of them and since when;

(b) whether such institutions are regularly repaying the loan instalments;

(c) if not, the names of the defaulting institutions;

(d) whether loans were provided to some institutions which has not even provided annual accounts and without mortgaging their building etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) by when the loan is likely to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Details are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) The educational institutions mentioned at Sl. No. 1, 2, 10. 12, 13 and 16 and the societies mentioned at Sl. No. 17 and 18 referred to in the statement are defaulters. All the other institutions are regular in repayment.

(d) and (e) The loans were provided for starting educational institutions and the question of submission of annual accounts and mortgaging the buildings at that time did not arise. After proper follow-up by Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), three institutions mentioned at Sl. No. 1, 2, and 10 in the statement. have already mortgaged their buildings.

(f) Repayment of loan is being vigorously pursued by BSL and the institutions have been cautioned that continuing default would warrant serious measures, including cancellation of lease.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Schools/Colleges	Total Amount	Month & Year of Payment	Amount Outstanding Incl. Interest as on 31.12.02
1	2	3	4	5
(a)	**Educational Institutions**			
1.	Imaul Hai Khan—Law College	5,00,000.00	July, 92	14,27,243.15
		5,00,000.00	Jan, 93	
2.	Imaul Hai Khan—TTI	5,00,000.00	Jan, 94	12,40,464.48
		5,00,000.00	Feb., 94	
3.	Shishu Shiksha Praband Samiti	5,00,000.00	May'93	3,90,912.36
		5,00,000.00	Sept. 93	
4.	MGM Higher Secondary School	8,00,000.00	Dec'87	9,58,320.92
		4,00,000.00	Oct.'92	
		4,00,000.00	Nov.'92	
5.	Dav School/Dav Trust Girls School	2,00,000.00	June'75	9,00,416.67
		2,00,000.00	Aug.'75	
		2,00,000.00	Nov.'75	
		2,00,000.00	Mar.'76	
		5,00,000.00	Jan.'97	
		5,00,000.00	Nov.'97	
		4,00,000.00	Jan.'78	49,391.39
6.	St. Xavier's School	3,50,000.00	Jan.'67	Nil
		4,00,000.00	Jul.'67	
		50,000.00	Mar.'68	
		8,00,000.00	June, 87	
7.	Holy Cross School	10,00,000.00	Feb.'89	4,94,400.00
8.	Chitragupta Mahaparivar Samiti	30,000.00	Sep.'91	Nil
9.	Ayyappa Public School	5,00,000.00	Jan.'92	17,96,925.00
		5,00,000.00	Mar.'92	
		5,00,000.00	June.'94	
		5,00,000.00	Nov.' 94	
10.	Gyandeep Siksan Sansthan	2,50,000.00	Sept.'93	3,16,940.92

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kairali Cultural Association	30,000.00	Jul.'92	Nil
12.	Visthapit MahaVidlaya	5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00	Aug.'91 Feb.'92	15,58,722.60
13.	Ranvijay Sampark Mahavidyalaya	5,00,000.00 5,00,000.00	Dec.'92 Aug.'93	14,71,195.36
14.	Chinmaya Vidyalaya	8,00,000.00	Mar.'78	1,99,999,97
15.	Govt. Girls Public School	8,00,000.00	Sept.'79	1,97,926.03
16.	B.S.City College***	11,80,383.84	1974	10,92,383.64
(b) Societies				
17.	Bokaro Steel Employees Welfare Society—Apna Bazar.	58,50,000.00	From Aug' 95 to Dec.' 99	1,61,000.00
18.	Bokaro Steel City Central Consumer Cooperative Stores Ltd.	20,00,000.00 1,29,56,000.00	1989-90, 1991-92 from 91-92 to 97-98 revolving loan	8,00,000.00 5,50,000.00 43,57,000.00
		20,00,000.00		18,44,000.00

***Non-interest bearing loan given to B.S. City College.

[English]

Drought affected States

2809. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts affected by drought during 2002, State-wise;

(b) the normal and actual rainfall and shortfall noticed during June to November 2002, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of Kharif crop loss in the said districts and population affected as a result thereof, State-wide;

(d) the relief measures taken and the Central assistance provided so far, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have ensured that relief has reached the drought affected farmers;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have received any complaint from the farmers in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) State-wise details of districts declared drought affected by the respective States is in the attached statement-I.

(b) State-wise details of rainfall during South-West Monsoon period 2002 (June to September) and North-East Monsoon 2002 (October to December, 2002), as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), is in the attached statement-II.

(c) The loss of Kharif 2002 foodgrains production is estimated to be about 19%. State-wise details are not available.

(d) The assistance so far extended to the drought affected States is indicated below:-

(i) Release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 1416.98 crores and in addition advance release of 25%

of Central share of CRF for Rajasthan for 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 44.93 crores.

(ii) Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 1065.95 crores.

(iii) Allocation of 40.53 lakh MTs. of foodgrains for relief employment for current drought.

(iv) Free transportation of water and fodder by Rail.

(v) Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 50.00 crores for assistance to NGOs, for running gaushalas/cattle camps.

State-wise details of release of Central Share of CRF, assistance released so far from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and foodgrains provided so far under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), for current drought, is in the attached statement-III.

(e) and (f) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Districts declared drought affected during 2002-03.

S.No.	State	No. of Districts	Names of Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	Adilabad, Ananthapur, Chittor, Chuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Ranga, Reddy, Srikakulam, Vishakapatnam, Viziangaram, Warangal and West Godavari.
2.	Chhattisgarh	16	Bastar, Bilaspur, Dantewara, Dhamtari, Durg, Janjgir Champa, Jaspur, Kanker, Kavardha, Korba, Koriya, Mahasamund, Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon and Sarguja.
3.	Gujarat	13	Ahmedabad, Anand, Banaskantha, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kuchchh, Kheda, Panchmahal, Patan, Porbandar, Rajkot, Sabarkantha and Surendranagar.
4.	Haryana	19	Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonipat and Yamunanagar.
5.	Himachal Pradesh	12	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kulu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Simla, Sirmur, Solan and Una.
6.	Jharkhand	22	Bokaro, Chatara, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, E.Singhbhum, Garhwa, Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Jamtara, Koderma, Latehar, Lohardagga, Pakur, Palamu, Ranchi, Sahebganj, Saraikela, Simdega and W. Singhbhum.
7.	Karnataka	24	Bagalkote, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore (Urban), Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajanagara, Chickmagalur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttara Kannada.
8.	Kerala	11	Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kasaragod, Kollam, Kottayam, Malappuram, Palakkad, Pathanamthita, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur.

1	2	3	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	33	Badwani, Balaghat, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dindori, Guna, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Katni, Mandla, Mandsour, Morena, Neemuch, Panna, Rajgarh, Raisen, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Seoni, Shahdol, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Ujjain, Umaria and Vidisha.
10.	Maharashtra	33	Ahmednagar, Akola, Amaravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Godhia, Gudchiroli, Hingoli, Jalgaon Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nandurbar, Nashik, Pandara, Parbhani, Pune, Raigarh, Ratnagiri, Sangali, Satara, Sindhdurg, Solapur, Thane, Usmanabad, Wardha, Washim and Yavatmal.
11.	Orissa	30	Angul, Balasore, Baragarh, Bhadrak, Balangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatisinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Maayurbhanj, Nabrangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur and Sundargarh.
12.	Punjab	17	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Muktsar, Nawanshahar, Patiala, Ropar and Sangrur.
13.	Rajasthan	32	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Karauli, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Rajasamund, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Sri Ganganagar, Tonk and Udaipur.
14.	Tamil Nadu	28	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, Karur, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Ramananthapuram, Salem, Sivagangai, Thanijavur, Theni, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Vellore, Villupuram and Virudhunagar.
15.	Uttaranchal	13	Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Garhwal Pauri, Garhwal Tehri, Haridwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi.
16.	Uttar Pradesh	70	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Baghpat, Bahraich, Ballia, Balrampur, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Bedayun, Bijnour, Bulandshahar, Chandoli, Chitrakoot Dham, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Farukkhabad, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Gautambuddh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghazipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Kausambi, Kheri,

1	2	3	4
			Kushi Nagar, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Mahoba, Mainpuri, Mao, Mathura, Meerut, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Oraiya, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Rae Bareli, Rampur, Sahranpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Sawasthi, Shahjahanpur, Siddarth Nagar, Sitapur, Sonbadra, Sultanpur, Unnao and Varanasi.
17.	West Bengal	3	Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore.

Statement II

Statwise Rainfall Distribution

01.06.2002 to 30.9.2002

S.No.	State/UT	Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)	% DEP	CAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A&N Island (UT)	1184.1	1559.5	-24%	D
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1767.8	2263.1	-22%	D
3.	Assam	1441.4	1644.1	-12%	N
4.	Meghalaya	3249.3	5093.4	-36%	D
5.	Nagaland	954.9	1370.0	-30%	D
6.	Manipur	755.1	838.3	-10%	N
7.	Mizoram	1162.3	1649.7	-30%	D
8.	Tripura	1455.2	1446.7	1%	N
9.	Sikkim	1947.7	1694.7	15%	N
10.	West Bengal	1369.2	1375.4	0%	N
11.	Orissa	917.6	1132.4	-19%	N
12.	Bihar	1011.8	1005.6	1%	N
13.	Jharkhand	1106.2	1076.1	3%	N
14.	Uttar Pradesh	650.3	842.0	-23%	D
15.	Uttaranchal	1250.2	1280.4	-2%	N
16.	Haryana	320.9	513.7	-38%	D
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	810.0	845.1	-4%	N
18.	Delhi (UT)	364.8	597.4	-39%	D
19.	Punjab	318.1	499.4	-36%	D
20.	Himachal Pradesh	709.3	881.1	-20%	D

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	408.4	334.5	22%	E
22.	Rajasthan	161.6	445.9	–64%	S
23.	Madhya Pradesh	826.1	1001.6	–18%	N
24.	Chhattisgarh	971.5	1159.3	-16%	N
25.	Gujarat	542.4	720.6	–25%	D
26.	DNH & Daman (UTs)	1776.4	2142.2	–17%	N
27.	Diu (UT)	—	574.2	—	*
28.	Goa	2299.4	2981.2	–23%	D
29.	Maharashtra	895.1	1019.5	–12%	N
30.	Andhra Pradesh	456.9	612.3	–25%	D
31.	Tamilnadu	182.3	329.5	–45%	D
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	196.6	325.4	–40%	D
33.	Karnataka	603.7	958.1	–37%	D
34.	Kerala	1281.6	1964.7	–35%	D
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	536.9	983.7	–45%	D

Categorywise No. of States/UT

Category	No. of States/UTs
1	2
Excess	1
Normal	14

1	2
Deficient	18
Scanty	1
No Rain	0
No Data	1

State-wise Rainfall Distribution

0.10.2002 to 31.12.2002

S.No.	State/UT	Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)	% DEP	CAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A&N Island (UT)	634.6	781.2	–19%	N
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127.6	238.3	–46%	D

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	88.3	186.6	–53%	D
4.	Meghalaya	195.5	313.4	–38%	D
5.	Nagaland	44.1	170.6	–74%	S
6.	Manipur	132.9	170.6	–22%	D
7.	Mizoram	204.9	262.4	–22%	D
8.	Tripura	91.5	208.0	–56%	D
9.	Sikkim	101.4	205.6	–51%	D
10.	West Bengal	120.6	158.3	–24%	D
11.	Orissa	84.0	149.9	–44%	D
12.	Bihar	36.5	77.0	–53%	D
13.	Jharkhand	78.3	96.8	–19%	N
14.	Uttar Pradesh	27.5	55.5	–50%	D
15.	Uttaranchal	27.2	82.2	–67%	S
16.	Haryana	13.7	28.0	–51%	D
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	33.2	65.9	–50%	D
18.	Delhi (UT)	19.3	33.8	–43%	D
19.	Punjab	9.5	40.2	-76%	S
20.	Himachal Pradesh	17.3	103.9	–83%	S
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	28.3	115.1	–75%	S
22.	Rajasthan	5.3	21.0	–75%	S
23.	Madhya Pradesh	45.3	55.9	–19%	N
24.	Chhattisgarh	38.5	74.1	–48%	D
25.	Gujarat	0.7	34..2	–98%	S
26.	DNH & Daman (UTs)	0.0	52.6	–100%	NR
27.	Diu (UT)		47.4		*
28.	Goa	30.0	207.4	–86%	S
29.	Maharashtra	36.1	97.3	–63%	S
30.	Andhra Pradesh	183.1	220.9	17%	N
31.	Tamilnadu	390.1	425.7	–8%	N
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	657.5	900.3	–27%	D
33.	Karnataka	204.7	191.9	7%	N
34.	Kerala	627.1	475.2	32%	E
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	248.6	328.1	–24%	D

Categorywise No. of States/UT

	No. of States/UTs
1	2
Excess	1
Normal	14
Deficient	18
Scanty	1
No Rain	0
No Data	1

Statement III

Details of Assistance provided to Drought Affected States—2002-2003

S. No.	State	Central share of CRF released for 2002-2003 (Rs. in crores)	Total assistance from NCCF (Rs. in crores)	Food-grains released so far ^^ (Lakhs MTs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	163.77	13.72	6.15
2.	Chhattisgarh	22.72	81.52	1.43
3.	Gujarat	133.46	—	NR
4.	Haryana	67.23	—	0.25
5.	Himachal Pradesh	35.96	13.85	0.10
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	28.86	—	—
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	0.40
8.	Karnataka	61.66	189.18	3.65
9.	Kerala	55.60	—	0.10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	51.78	131.93	2.56
11.	Maharashtra	129.99	20.00	1.16
12.	Orissa	90.52	5.29	2.00
13.	Punjab	101.47	—	—
14.	Rajasthan	171.16@	167.34	18.98
15.	Tamil Nadu	84.87	133.06	1.25
16.	Uttaranchal	13.38	—	0.50
17.	Uttar Pradesh	120.95	310.06	2.00
18.	West Bengal	83.60	—	NR
	Total	1416.98	1065.95	40.53

CRF—Calamity Relief Fund. NCCF—National Calamity Contingency Fund.

@In addition advance release of 25% of Central share for 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 44.93 crores.

^^ In addition to 19 lakh MTs released between April to July, 2002 for last year's drought.

Preservation of Ancient Temples and Monuments

2810. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for the proper preservation of ancient temples and other monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such ancient temples and monuments of Madhya Pradesh which are receiving Government's attention; and

(c) the measures proposed for the proper preservation of monuments of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Only 'protected' temples are being preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) and (c) Sixty-nine centrally protected monuments in Madhya Pradesh have been identified for conservation and integrated development under the 10th Five Year Plan. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Name of the monuments included in 10th Five Year Plan in the state of Madhya Pradesh for conservation & integrated development.

Bhopal Circle

	Name of Work	District
1	2	3
1.	Buddhist Stupa, Sanchi	Raisen
2.	Buddhist Stupa, Mural	Raisen
3.	Fort Raisen	Raisen
4.	Udayeshwara Mahadeo Temple, Udaipur	Vidisha
5.	Gadarmal Temple, Badoh-pathari	Vidisha
6.	Jain Temple, Badoh Pathari	Vidisha
7.	Bijamandal Mosque, Vidisha	Vidisha
8.	Tomb of Mohd. Ghaus at Gwalior	Gwalior
9.	Teli-Ka-Mandir, Gwalior	Gwalior
10.	Sas-Bahu Temple, Gwalior	Gwalior
11.	Man Singh Place, Gwalior	Gwalior
12.	Beer Singh Place, Datia	Datia
13.	Ekattarso Mahadeo Temple, Mitaoli	Morena
14.	Gadi Padawali	Morena
15.	Kakanmath Temple at Suhania	Morena
16.	Fort at Ater, Bhind	Bhind
17.	Saivite Temple, Bhojpur	Raisen
18.	Kamlapati Place, Bhopal	Bhopal
19.	Siddheshwar Temple at Nemawar	Dewas
20.	Pre-Historic Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka	Raisen
21.	Painted rock shelters Buddhist stupas, Talpura	Sehore
22.	Buddhist Stupa at Panguraria	Sehore
23.	Pandav Caves, Pachmarhi	Hoshangabad
24.	Western group of Temples, Khajuraho	Chhatarpur
25.	Eastern Group of Temples, Khajhraho	Chhatarpur
26.	Water Palace at Mandu	Dhar
27.	Nahar Jharokha, Mandu	Dhar
28.	Royal Place, Mandu	Dhar
29.	Char Kot at Mandu	Dhar
30.	Carvan Sarai at Mandu	Dhar
31.	Malik Mughith's Mosque at Mandu	Dhar
32.	Gada Shah Place, Mandu	Dhar
33.	Sat Kothari Caves at mandu	Dhar
34.	Jahangirpur Gate, Mandu	Dhar
35.	Ujali Baoli, Mandu	Dhar
36.	Kapoor Talao and Ruins on its bank, Mandu	Dhar
37.	Buddhist Caved Bagh	Dhar
38.	Chand Suraj Gate, Mandhata	Nimar
39.	Hammam Khana Burhanpur	Nimar
40.	Tomb of Adil Shah and Nadir Shah, Burhanpur	Nimar

1	2	3
41.	Mahadeva Temple at Asirgarh	Nimar
42.	Tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan, Burhanpur	Nimar
43.	Mhal Gulara Palaces	Nimar
44.	Sidhnath Temple, Mandhata	Nimar
45.	Vishnu Varah Temple, Karitalai	Jabalpur
46.	Siva and Pataleshwar Temple at Amarkantak,	Shahdol
47.	Old fort at Lanji,	Balaghat
48.	Ram Mukteshwar Temple, Kukramath	Mandla
49.	Temple of Gauri Shankar and Chousath Yogini Temple, Bheraghat	Jabalpur
50.	Kankali Devi Temple and Durgadevi Temple, Tigwan	Jabalpur
51.	Begum Mahal, Chauganding Dindori	Mandla
52.	Chanderi Fort at Chanderi	Guna
53.	Surwaya Gadh,	Shivpuri
54.	Badal Mahal, Gateway Ehanderi	Guna
55.	Koshak Mahal, Chanderi	Guna
56.	Group of temples 2 to 7 at Kadwaha	Guna
57.	Ajaigarh fort and other Remains Ajaigarh	Panna
58.	Chaumukh Nath and Parvati Temple, Nachna	Panna
59.	Virath Temple at Sohagpur	Shahdol
60.	Tomb & Mosque of Balijati Shah, Dhamoni	Sagar
61.	Shish Mahal complex of Garhpehra Fort	Sagar
62.	Fort, Khimalasa	Sagar
63.	Rang Mahal Palace, Hatta	Damoh
64.	Ancient site at Eran	Sagar
65.	Old Temple at Kodal	Damoh
66.	Rani Mahal Dhamoni	Sagar
67.	Buddhist Cave at Dhamnar	Mandsaur
68.	Nav Toran Temple, Khor	Mandsaur
69.	Yashodharman's Pillar of Victory	Mandsaur

[Translation]

Haj Flights

2811. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj Pilgrims ferried by the Air India/Indian Airlines and the Saudi Arabian Airlines from the different embarkation points during 2003 alongwith comparative figures for 2001 and 2002;

(b) the number of flights operated by these airlines for the purpose;

(c) whether the aircraft were adequate enough to ferry all the haj pilgrims to Jeddah;

(d) if so, the average amount spent on fare of each pilgrim alongwith the amount of subsidy provided by the Government per pilgrim;

(e) the number of haj pilgrims to whom the said subsidy was provided; and

(f) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The details are as under:

	2003			2002			2001		
Embarkation Point	Flights	Pilgrims	Operator	Flights	Pilgrims	Operator	Flights	Pilgrims	Operator
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ahmedabad	16	4448	SV	21	5997	SV	22	7215	AI
Bangalore	9	3619	AI	10	4076	AI	16	4988	AI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Chennai	7	2820	AI	7	2786	AI	10	2983	AI
Delhi	42	12175	SV/AI*	44	12884	SV/AI	87	26759	AI
Hyderabad	17	4900	SV	22	4648	IA	13	3847	AI
Kolkata**	15	5872	AI	15	5896	AI	18	5322	AI
Kozhikode	20	7986	AI	17	6951	AI	—	—	—
Kochi	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	6760	SV
Lucknow	38	7509	AI	34	6638	AI	—	—	—
Mumbai	39	10910	SV	49	14025	SV	47	13341	SV
Nagpur	5	1765	AI	—	—	—	—	—	—
Srinagar	36	7717	IA	30	6397	IA	—	—	—
Total	244	69721		249	70298		234	71215	

SV= Saudi Arabian Airlines.

AI = Air India.

IA = Indian Airlines.

*One AI flight from Kolkata routed via Delhi.

**Includes 1511 (pilgrims from Gaya who travelled Gaya/Kolkata on Indian Airlines Flight).

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) to (f) The details are as under:

Year	Fare per Pilgrim (Rupees)	Subsidy paid by the Govt. (per Pilgrim) (Rupees)	No. of Haj pilgrims	Total amount of subsidy (Rupees)
2001	33000*	21000*	71215	149.55 Crore*
2002	35300*	23300*	70298	163.80 Crore*
2003	40685*	28685*	69721	200.00 Crore*

*Provisional.

Rani Avantibai Sagar Dam

2812. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the loan sanctioned by NABARD for construction of a canal along the right bank of the Rani Avantibai Sagar Dam (Bargi) diversion project in Madhya Pradesh under fast track programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during 2001-2002;

(b) whether the canal is proposed to be stretched upto Satna district;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the work is likely to be completed within the stipulated period;

(e) if so, the total funds sanctioned for the Bargi right bank canal project;

(f) by when the construction of the said project is likely to be completed;

(g) whether hydro-electricity is proposed to be generated under the project; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a), (d) and (e) The right bank canal of the Rani Avantibai Sagar Project also known as Barji Diversion Project in the initial reach of 16 km is being funded by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-V) and an amount of Rs. 119.68 crore has been sanctioned to this Project. The work of Right Bank Canal from 16 to 63 km is included under fast Track Programme of the existing Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and an amount of Rs. 98.03 crore has been released to this project during 2001-02. The canal system included under Fast Track Programme is likely to be completed in the next two working seasons.

(b) and (c) Bargi Diversion Project in Madhya Pradesh is a major trans-valley Canal Irrigation Project envisaging construction of a 194 km long main canal from the existing Bargi reservoir to provide irrigation to 3,67,614 hectare annually in Jabalpur, Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh as well as domestic & industrial water supply of 78 Million Gallons per day to Jabalpur and Katni towns.

(f) to (h) The Bargi Diversion Project is likely to be completed in 2014. Rani Avanti Bai Sagar Project envisages generation of 105 Mega Watt hydro-power.

[English]

Pest attack on Sugarcane Crop

2813. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane crop in some parts of the country particularly in Maharashtra have been affected by white woolly aphid pest attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have sent a Central team to Maharashtra to assess the damage;

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted by the Central team; and

(e) the further assistance the Union Government propose to provide to the State Government to face the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sugarcane crop in Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Ahmadnagar and Sholapur districts of Maharashtra and Belgam, Bidar, Bijapur, Bellary and Bagalkot districts of Karnataka has been reported to be affected by white woolly aphid pest in varying intensity.

(c) and (d) The Union Government has already deputed a Central Team to the pest affected areas to assess the situation. The team has already toured the area form 3-6th March, 2003. The report of the team is awaited.

(e) Further action on this issue, including decision regarding assistance to the State Government to face this challenge will be taken on basis of the report of the Central Team.

[Translation]

Restructuring of Environmental Pollution Authority

2814. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to restructure the Environmental Pollution Authority for the National Capital Region (NCR);

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

(c) by when it is likely to be restructured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has restructured the composition of the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for National Capital Region by induction of two new members and has also extended its tenure for three more years vide Notification S.O. 99 (E) dated 28th January, 2003.

Heritage Circuit

2815. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a 'heritage-nature-living beings circuit scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be spent on the above scheme; and

(d) the main objective of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) In order to have integrated development of infrastructure facilities in the country to international standards, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India proposes to identify tourism circuits on an annual basis.

During the year 2002-03, Deptt. of Tourism has identified the following circuits in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) Eastern Region—(Buddhist Circuit) Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Northern Region-(Himalayan Circuit) Route I-Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh. Route-II-Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit-(Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit-(Konkan Riviera Circuit) Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)—Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit-(Backwater and Beach Circuit) Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam)

(vi) North-East Circuit-(Eco-Tourism Circuit) Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)- Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

An amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been allocated for the development of circuits during the current year.

[English]

Yield Per Acre

2816. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite taking many measures the rate of yield per acre in India is very low as compared to the rest of the countries in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the yield per acre in India at present in comparison to countries like China, America and Russia alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures the Government are taking to increase the yield per acre in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) It is true that in respect of some crops, the productivity in India is lower as compared to that of some other countries, but the productivity in India is higher in respect of certain other crops. This will be clear in the statement enclosed.

(b) The yield per acre in India as compared to China, America and Russia in respect of some important crops are given in the statement enclosed.

The productivity varies a great deal from region to region and country to country because it depends on a number of factors such as condition of soils, facilities of irrigation, duration of the crop (gestation period between sowing and harvesting), quality of seeds, timely application of quality inputs, managerial skills of farmers and availability of credit, etc.

(c) In order to improve production and productivity of agricultural commodities in the country, the Government have launched various initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourages farmers to increase production through price policy which

includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States so as to give flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements.

Statement

Yield Rates of some Major Crops in Selected Countries, 1999-2000

(kg/hec)

Country	Rice		Wheat		Total Pulses		Foodgrains		Groundnut		Cotton (Lint)		Sugarcane	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
World	3885	3895	2758	2698	812	770	2878	2819	1361	1449	554	572	65288	65970
China	6334	6234	3947	3729	1472	1477	4831	4792	2959	3329	1028	1080	74960	70843
USA	6575	7037	2873	2820	1981	1879	5674	5810	2989	2801	680	707	79662	78570
Russia	2736	2503	1569	1804	973	962	1442	1595	—	—	—	—	—	—
India	2966	3008	2583	2777	628	564	1976	2026	833	859	229	229	72122	75024

Maintenance of Pollution Control Devices

2817. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industries closed down by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for not maintaining their pollution control devices in Maharashtra till date;

(b) the number of workers affected as a result thereof, unit-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the betterment of those workers and to implement the notices issued by CPCB for maintaining pollution control devices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tourism Projects in North-Eastern States

2818. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism projects undertaken in North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects pending with the Government; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The number of tourism related projects sanctioned to the North Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Number of projects sanctioned
1999-2000	90
2000-2001	106
2001-2002	47

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with the States/ UT concerned. A statement showing details of tourism projects received, complete in all respects, from the North-Eastern States and sanctioned in the current year so far, is enclosed. Besides, the following tourism circuit in North East has been identified for development.

North-East Circuit (Eco-Tourism Circuit)

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Statement

Projects sanctioned during 2002-2003 North Eastern States Including Sikkim

Sl. No.	State	Project Sanctioned
1	2	3
	Assam	
1.		Const. Of facilities for pilgrims at Kamakhya.
2.		Celebration of Majuli Festival.
3.		4 Projects under Integrated Development of Circuits:
		(i) River Front along Brahmaputra.
		(ii) Development of Ethnic Village at Bhalukpung
		(iii) Camping site at Kohra.
		(iv) Signages.
	Arunachal Pradesh	
1.		Solang Festival, Tawang Festival, Bauddha Mahotsava.
2.		Celebration of Ali Aye Ligang Festival.
	Manipur	
1.		Kut festival.
2.		Maha Ras Leela Festival.
	Mizoram	
1.		Chapcharkur Festival.
2.		Pawl Kut Festival.
	Nagaland	
1.		Sekrenyi Festival.
2.		Horbill Festival.
	Tripura	
1.		Const. of Tourist Lodge.
	Sikkim	
1.		5 project under Integrated Development of Destinations:
		(i) Purchase of Paddle Boats for Sikkim.
		(ii) Construction of Tourist Lodge at Chopta Valley in North Sikkim
		(iii) Development of Tourist Infrastructure at Rumtek in East Sikkim.
		(iv) Construction of Tourist Infrastructure at Durpeneydra in West Sikkim.
		(v) Construction of Tourist Information Centre at Lachen in North Sikkim.

[Translation]

Closure of Saw Mills

2819. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any saw-mills have been closed in the country particularly in Rajasthan following a decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative to restart these mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 4.3.1997 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/ 1995 directed the closure of all unlicenced saw mills, veneer and plywood industries in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, on 29.10.2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995, the Court has directed that no State or Union Territory shall permit unlicenced saw mill, Veneer, plywood industry to operate and they are directed to close all such unlicenced units forthwith. Pursuant to the above directions, many saw mills in the Country including Rajasthan have been closed.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has authorised the Central Empowered Committee to grant

permission for opening of the saw mills in the country. The State Government of Rajasthan has already approached the Central Empowered Committee seeking grant of licence to saw mills.

[English]

Diplomatic Gifts of Wildlife

2820. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of endangered species of wildlife are being given away as diplomatic gifts;

(b) if so, the details of protected wildlife given as diplomatic gifts to other countries during the last three years as well as current year and the names of the countries to whom these were given;

(c) the details of such gifts received by the country during the same period; and

(d) the reasons behind such a policy/practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the wild animals/birds given as diplomatic gifts to other countries are as under:

Year of Approval	Animal Given (male:female)	Recipient Country
1999-2000	4 Peafowl (2:2) 1 Elephant (0:1)	Bangladesh Japan
2000-2001	2 Royal Bengal tigers (1:1)	Libya
2001-2002	1 Elephant (0:1)	Morocco
2002-2003	None	N/A

(c) No wild animals have been received as diplomatic gift during last three years and the current year.

(d) Diplomatic gift of animals is given as goodwill gesture on the recommendations of the Diplomatic mission/Ministry of External Affairs. The proposal is examined in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and an animal (s) to be gifted is/are identified from the surplus stock with zoos or elephant camps.

[Translation]

Sacrifice of Animals

2821. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have enacted any new legislation to prevent animal sacrifice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action against the guilty persons is taken by the State Governments concerned under the State, and central legislations. 9 States viz Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have enacted legislation to prohibit animal sacrifices.

[English]

Assistance to Domestic Carriers

2822. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign airlines are exempted from payment of tax on the air fuel purchased in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend the same exemption to domestic air carriers;

(c) if not, whether the Government is considering providing cheaper landing and navigation facilities etc. to make it economical for domestic carriers;

(d) if so, whether Government have received representations from Indian Airlines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. An Act was enacted by the Parliament to exempt

foreign airlines from levy of all taxes and duties on fuel and lubricants filled into receptacles of aircraft of any foreign country, which is a party to the convention on International Civil Aviation or which has entered into Air Services Agreements with India. This was done to meet India's obligations arising out of the bilateral Air Services Agreements and Chicago Convention.

(b) Ministry of Finance had been requested to amend Central Sales Tax Act suitably to treat sale of ATF to Air India and India Airlines for their international operations as "deemed export" so that such ATF will be free from levy of sale tax etc.

(c) to (e): Recommendations of Committee on Rationalisation of Airport user charges which inter-alia includes proposals for reduction in airport charges is under examination.

Review of Discounts by IA

2823. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an attempt to control losses, Indian Airlines has undertaken an active review of the discounts offered by it under various categories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the various discount schemes are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details of the discounts being offered by Indian Airlines at present and its impact on Indian Airlines during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement. No time frame can be stipulated in this regard.

Statement

Concessions offered by Indian Airlines on Domestic Sectors

Name of Discount	% Discount	Annual impact in Crores 2000/2001 (April to March)	Annual impact in Crores 2001/2002 (April to March)
1	2	3	4
Humanitarian Concessions			
Blind Persons	50%	0.08	0.08
Cancer patients	50%	1.02	1
Stretcher	—	0.33	0.57
Locomotor disability	50%	0.07	0.09
		1.50	1.74
Armed Forces & Related Concessions			
Active Armed Forces	50%	11.53	10.28
General Reserve Engg. Forces	50%	0.08	0.1
War Disabled	75%	0.01	0.03
War Widows	75%	Negligible	0.02
Par Military	50%	0.1	0.53
Bravery Awards Ex-Armed Forces	75%	Negligible	0.01
Gallantry Awards Civilians	75%	Negligible	0.06
Police Gallantry Awards	75%	Negligible	0.04
		11.63	11.07

1	2	3	4
Miscellaneous Concessions			
Student Discount	50%	13	11.68
Senior Citizen	50%	37.97	39.38
Family Discount Port Blair	Rs. 250/-	0.25	0.27
Sports Persons North East	25%	0	0
		51.22	51.3
Grant Total		64.35	64.1

[Translation]

Integrated Programme for Development of Spices

2824. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched an integrated programme for development of spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated to the various States during the last two years State-wise, particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices was sanctioned during IX Plan with an outlay of Rs. 142.48 crores. The measures sanctioned for increasing production and productivity of spices under the scheme included production and distribution of quality planting material; area expansion; pest & disease management; establishment of field demonstration plots; minikits distribution; upgrading technical know-how; demonstration-cum-progeny gardens; technology development & application etc. The scheme has been merged under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementing/ Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans" with effect from October, 2000. The scheme provides flexibility to State Government to prioritize the crops and interventions as per the need. The State-wise outlays earmarked for spices development in the Work Plans under the Macro Management Scheme for the years 2000-2002 and 2002-2003 is given in the statement.

Statement

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Outlay earmarked for spices	
		2001-01 & 2001-02	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	244.40	60.00
2.	Bihar	16.50	15.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	33.56	60.03
4.	Goa	4.45	2.50
5.	Gujarat	140.53	70.78
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	22.80
7.	Jharkhand	5.00	—
8.	Karnataka	739.25	150.00
9.	Kerala	883.00	500.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	100.32	50.01
11.	Maharashtra	100.35	65.00
12.	Orissa	75.00	108.67
13.	Punjab	17.00	11.20
14.	Rajasthan	307.35	145.48
15.	Tamil Nadu	484.75	264.41
16.	Uttar Pradesh	35.00	20.01
17.	Uttaranchal	—	49.00
18.	West Bengal	—	5.50
19.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.625	—
20.	Delhi	3.00	2.00
21.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26.00	30.97
	Total	3216.09	1633.36

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

2825. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and undertakings of his ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of appointments made under the various categories during the said period and current years, till date;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

[English]

Malampuzha Dam

2826. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of utilisation of water from Malampuzha Dam in Kerala for industrial purpose by private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water in the dam is insufficient to cater to the irrigation demands of the region; and

(d) if so, the criteria laid down for permitting drawal of water by private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Government of Kerala has reported that no permission has been given to any private entrepreneurs for utilizing water from Malampuzha Dam for industrial purpose.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Funds for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

2827. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allocated more funds for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds likely to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has provided the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 172.10 crores for the development of Animal Husbandry Sector and Rs. 29.90 crores for the development of Dairy Sector for the year 2003-04.

Development of Buddhist Culture and Heritage

2828. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to promote tourism at places linked to Buddhist culture and heritage;

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

(c) whether any task force has been constituted under Director-General, Tourism for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In order to promote tourism at places linked to the Buddhist Culture and Heritage, the Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has identified the following circuits for development, during the current financial year:

(I) Eastern Region-(Buddhist Circuit) Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi. Besides, the following circuits have also been identified which include Buddhist states;

(i) Northern Region-(Himalayan Circuit) Route-I-Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh Route II-Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(ii) Central Circuit-(Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat)

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism had appointed a Task Force in 1986 to identify the places associated with life of Lord Buddha in Bihar and UP for development of infrastructure. The Addl. Dir. Gen. (T) was the Convenor. to identify Budhist Centres in the other States for development, another task force was constituted in June 1987 with Addl. Dr. Gen. (T) as its Chairman.

The Task Force made several recommendations including improvements at places of tourist interest connected with the life of Lord Buddha in various States. The Deptt. of Tourism has identified the above mentioned circuits for development.

[English]

Foreign Assistance Scheme in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

2829. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom agreements signed and proposed to be signed for cooperation in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and in the current year till date;

(b) the details of pending agreements and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the names of the States where foreign assistance schemes are being implemented in this field; and

(d) the progress and present status of the said schemes, State-wise?

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

Representation from Associations of FPI

2830. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from various associations of Food Processing Industries detailing their problems which are inhibiting their growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been interacting with the industry associations on a regular basis. The constraints faced by the food processing industries include lack of infrastructural facilities, low margins, seasonality, high perishability, multiplicity of laws, tax structure, market development, high cost of packaging, etc.

To address the problems faced by the industry with regard to multiplicity of laws, regulatory authorities and standards, Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to recommend an Integrated Food Law, independent regulators and comprehensive amendments to the existing legislations for facilitating fast pace growth of food processing industries. A number of plan schemes and interventions for infrastructure development including cold storage; reefer vans, agri-export zones and food parks have been devised to facilitate food processing industries.

Rationalisation of tax structure is a continuous process and Government has already brought down excise duty on processed fruits and vegetables to zero. In the Budget proposals for the year 2003-04, the Union Finance Minister has announced the following reliefs for the food processing sector:

(1) Excise exemption on processed products of fruit and vegetables would continue.

(2) Excise duty on aerated soft drinks reduced from 32% to 24%.

(3) Excise duty on biscuits, boiled sweets, sugar confectionery (excluding white chocolate) has been reduced from 16% to 8%.

(4) Custom duty on dried grapes and preparations based on odoriferous substances used in manufacturing of alcohol beverages has been reduced to nearest multiple of 5% below WTO bound rate. The customs duty on dried grapes has been reduced from 105% to 100% and on odoriferous substances from 160% to 155%.

(5) Customs duty on refrigerated truck has been reduced from 25% to 20%.

[Translation]

Assistance to NGOs Engaged in Afforestation

2831. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve Non-Governmental Organisations for taking up the afforestation work on the degraded forest land and make change in the forest policy for increasing green belt in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any NGOs have been engaged for afforestation in the country including Chhattisgarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board under Ministry of Environment and Forests already provides financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Agencies for Afforestation, tree planting and eco-development activities under a Central Sector (100%) Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

(c) and (d) A statement showing fund release to NGOs for afforestation, Statewise including Chhattisgarh, during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Statewise funds released to Non-Governmental Organisations/ Voluntary Agencies for Afforestation

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		No. of NGOs	Funds Released	No. of NGOs	Funds Released	No. of NGOs	Funds Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	42.93	26	81.71	31	90.36
2.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Bihar	12	27.47	5	13.86	6	21.90
4.	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
5.	Gujarat	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Haryana	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	9.55	1	2.50	0	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	3.11	1	4.25	3	11.47
9.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	3	7.50	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	5	17.93	13	49.83	10	33.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kerala	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	20.30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0.38	2	8.45	1	4.00
13.	Maharashtra	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
14.	Orissa	2	5.50	1	1.25	4	13.90
15.	Punjab	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	0	0.00	1	2.50	2	7.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	2.50	4	8.25	5	15.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	7	23.25	6	23.06	6	16.12
19.	Uttaranchal	0	0.00	2	2.00	3	11.25
20.	West Bengal	4	9.21	6	11.18	3	5.84
	NE States						
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	8.50	7	23.25	17	41.91
22.	Assam	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
23.	Manipur	7	24.67	18	66.14	12	35.85
24.	Mizoram	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.72
25.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
26.	Nagaland	11	25.00	30	68.53	47	124.52
27.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.00
28.	Tripura	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.00

Oilseed Production Programme

2832. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centrally sponsored pulses and oilseed production programmes under the Technical Mission project are being implemented in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the funds for which the administrative sanction has been given to the State in regard to both the schemes for the year 2002-2003;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has put a demand of Rs. 50 crore for both these schemes in the year 2002-2003; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted their proposal for an amount of Rs. 721.05 lakhs under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and for Rs. 3064.70 lakhs under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) for the year 2002-03. The Central Government has agreed to provide funds as given below including unspent balances of previous years with the State Government:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Amount allocated
NDP	721.05
OPP	2110.44

[English]

Increase in Insect Pests

2833. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per ICAR PDBC Perspective Plan-Vision-2020, there has been dramatic increase in insect, pests following intensification of agricultural due to use of fertilizers and pesticides and HYV;

(b) whether as against a few pest species in pulses today there are over 250 pests in pulses alone leading to decreased production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Although more than 250 pest species are reported to affect different pulse crops in varied agro-climatic situations, only few of them are considered economically important. Among insect pests gram pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) in chickpea and pigeonpea; spotted caterpiller (*Maruca vitrata*) and pod fly (*Melanogromyza obtusa*) in pigeonpea; shoofly in field pea and thrips in vigna group adversely affect production of pulses.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) ICAR is conducting research on development of integrated pest management practices for the control of important pests with *Helicoverpa armigera* in chickpea and pigeonpea. Research on management of pests through the use of pesticides is also being conducted and pest management package have been developed to minimise yield losses. Work is also being done on insect resistance management for effective management of various insect pests.

Maintenance of Lal Gumbad

2834. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Lal Gumbad' at Malviya Nagar, New Delhi is an ASI protected Monument;

(b) if so, whether repairs were carried out on this monument in 2002;

(c) if so, the amount spent on those repairs;

(d) whether the repaired portion peeled off endangering the historical monument and leading to wastage of valuable resources;

(e) if so, whether responsibilities have since been fixed;

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

(g) the measures proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Conservation work on the Lal Gumbad, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi was carried out at a sum of Rs. 2.85 lakhs during the year 2001-2002.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

(g) The Archaeological Survey of India takes due care while taking up conservation measures.

Export of Eggs and Poultry Products

2835. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to promote export of eggs and poultry products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its performance during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have facilitated Tamil Nadu or any other private sector companies to promote the production and export of poultry products and eggs from Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, assistance provided by the Union Government during the last three years therefor; and

(e) the expected production and exports and the actual production and exports made, both quantity and value-wise, during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 2001-02 APEDA has provided financial assistance of Rs. 1.02 lakh to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited for conducting feasibility study on potential of egg exports.

(e) The figures of egg production and export of poultry products from India for the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Egg production in Million Nos.	Export	
		Quantity (in MTs)	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1999-2000	31,500 (Provisional)	8367.93	5425.41
2000-01	32,500 (Provisional)	15836.12	8617.95
2001-02	33,597 (Target)	19876.02	13007.30

Production and Import of Oilseeds

2836. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and per quintal price of various oilseeds in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of edible oil imported into the country during the said period;

(c) whether the prices of oilseeds have registered a continuous fall during this period;

(d) if so, whether the lifting of QRS has resulted in the fall of prices;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of steps taken by the Government to restrict the import of oilseeds in the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details of production and prices of important oilseeds during the last three years are given as statement.

(b) The import of Edible Oils into the country during the last three years is given below:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Import of Edible Oils
1999-2000	41.96
2000-2001	41.77
2001-2002	42.14

(c) to (e) The Annual Average of month end wholesale prices of oilseeds show an upward trend during the period under consideration. The trends in prices of individual oilseeds are given in the Statement. As will be seen from the Statement there has been a steady increase in prices of oilseeds during the last three years.

(f) The import of Oilseeds is not taking place mainly on account of photo sanitary conditions.

Statement

Production in Lakh Tonnes

Oilseeds	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Groundnut	52.58	64.08	68.65
Rapeseed & Mustard	57.88	41.87	50.40
Sesamum seed	04.80	5.18	7.30
Safflower seed	2.60	2.02	2.26
Sunflower seed	6.94	6.46	7.26
Niger seed	1.48	1.13	1.35
Soyabean	70.81	52.76	58.57
Copra	7.23	9.52	NA
Cotton seed	39.20	32.48	34.40

NA: Not Available

Annual Average of Month-end Wholesale Prices in Rs. per Quintal

Commodity	Centre	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
Groundnut with shell	Rajkot (Gujarat)	1218	1508	1985
Rapeseed & Mustard	Kanpur (U.P.)	1250	1394	1553

1	2	3	4	5
Sesamum seed	Hyderabad (AP)	1526	1777	2230
Safflower seed	Jalna (Maharashtra)	1182	1350	1600
Sunflower seed	Khamgaon (Maharashtra)	1314	1554	1648
Niger seed	Ranchi (Jharkhand)	1459	1470	1950
Soyabean	Dewas (MP)	998	1275	1345
Copra	Kozhikode (Kerala)	2335	3179	4100
Cotton seed	Rohtak (Haryana)	1044	1036	1100

Ban on Import of Poultry Products

2837. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that poultry products are imported from the countries where diseases like Avian Influenza are prevalent;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action to ban import of poultry products from such countries;

(c) if so, the details thereo., and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Import of all poultry products are allowed from various countries against Sanitary Import Permit after conducting the Risk Analysis on International Principles as per Notification No. 655 (E) dated 7th July 2001 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898 to prevent the ingress of exotic diseases. However, the import of all poultry products and live poultry has been prohibited from the countries where Avian influenza has been reported as per Notification No. 81(E) dated 17.8.2001 issued under the provisions of the said Act.

(c) and (d) does not arise.

[Translation]

Announcement of MSP before sowing of Crops

2838. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the policy of announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP) before sowing of crops by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.—paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (C.C.I.—Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED—pulses and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. All necessary steps are taken to declare the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) at the earliest.

[English]

Maintenance of Monuments in Maharashtra

2839. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of archaeological monuments in Maharashtra require urgent repairs/restoration and development;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government for repairs/restoration and development of those monuments;

(c) whether necessary amount has already been sanctioned for a number of monuments long back but repairs/restoration work has not yet started; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) There are centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra, which require repairs. The Archaeological Survey of India have drawn up perspective plan of comprehensive conservation and environmental development for monuments during the 10th Five Year Plan. Annual maintenance and upkeep as per available resources is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) All funds sanctioned for a number of monuments during the last three years were duly utilized as per the approved programme.

Scheme for Entrepreneurs

2840. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several schemes to help the small and medium entrepreneurs and agriculturists are pending for implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the beneficiaries in various State, State-wise;

(c) whether pineapple processing is being encouraged in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries gives financial assistance by way of grant upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. Assistance is also extended for the purchase of raw materials from farmers with whom prior agreement is entered into and subject to certain conditions. These schemes have been designed and implemented to help the small and medium entrepreneurs and agriculturists.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Processing of fruits and vegetables, including processing of pineapple, are encouraged by the Ministry and financial assistance is extended to proposals which are considered technically feasible and financially viable.

Fund under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2841. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the salient feature of the Centrally sponsored schemes viz. (i) Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, (ii) Equipment Modernisation and Maintenance, (iii) Introduction of Trades in Industrial Training Institutes, (iv) Setting up of New Women Wing, and (v) Management Information System;

(b) the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme to the States and corresponding Central Share; and

(c) the details of proposals received, fund released and utilized by the State during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme-(i) Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour was formulated by the Government in 1978. As modified in May 2000, the rehabilitation assistance is provided to the extent of Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour. The expenditure is shared by the Central and State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. In the case of North Eastern States and Sikkim, 100% rehabilitation grants may be provided in case these State Governments fail to provide their share (50%). In the revised scheme, Central grants are also provided for conducting surveys of bonded labourers, awareness generation and evaluation studies.

The salient features of other centrally sponsored schemes are as under:

(ii-a) Modernisation of Equipment: To assist States/ UTs in replacing obsolete and outdated equipment in 378 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

(ii-b) Equipment Maintenance System: To establish 19 Equipment Maintenance Workshops in States and 100 Machine Maintenance Cells in (ITIs).

(iii) Introduction of New Trades in (ITIs): To expand 205 existing ITIs by introducing 376 new trades.

(iv) Setting up of New Women ITIs/Wings: To expand the Women's Vocational Training Programme by establishing 100 new women ITIs/ Wings.

(v) Management Information System (MIS): To establish a comprehensive Management Information System by establishing 18 MIS Units in State Training Headquarters.

The central share for the above schemes was 50% of the cost except for the scheme—'Management Information System', which was 100% funded by the Central Government. These schemes have, however, been already closed on 31.3.2002.

(c) The details of State-wise release/utilization of funds during the last three years under the schemes of Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour and other Schemes for the Vocational Training Project are in the attached Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Statewise and Yearwise Release/Utilization of Funds to the States for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour during last 3 years

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	70.84	497.64	0.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	12.80
3.	Haryana	0.00	16.00	0.40
4.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	57.60
5.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.80
6.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	35.00
7.	Punjab	0.00	10.00	0.00
8.	Rajasthan	4.00	25.40	10.00
9.	Tamilnadu	303.82	371.60	384.40
10.	Uttar Pradesh	3.95	0.00	25.00
	Total	382.61	920.64	526.00

Statement-II

Statewise and Yearwise Release of Funds to the States for the Vocational Training Project during last 3 years

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.32	0.25	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	3.53	0.25	1.23
4.	Bihar	2.65	0.31	0.00
5.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Delhi	3.36	0.00	0.00
8.	Goa	0.25	0.00	0.00
9.	Gujarat	21.36	4.32	3.94
10.	Haryana	3.86	0.00	5.38
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2.85	0.50	0.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.42	0.24	0.00
13.	Karnataka	21.05	9.73	0.89
14.	Kerala	7.56	0.50	1.91
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5.36	1.37	1.19
16.	Maharashtra	53.11	7.22	18.13
17.	Manipur	0.38	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	3.02	0.00	0.00
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	4.02	0.12	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	9.00	2.28	2.34
25.	Tamilnadu	8.58	3.35	3.80

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10.41	0.58	0.00
28.	W. Bengal	4.65	0.00	0.00
	Total	170.74	31.02	38.81

Variety of Hybrid Cow

2842. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore University of Agricultural Science has succeeded in developing an excellent variety of Embrew transferred cow in 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this variety of hybrid cow is giving an average quantity of 30-35 litres of milk daily;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial support to these scientists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

Wildlife Conservation Strategy—2002

2843. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002;

(b) whether the recommendations in this regard have since been implemented; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to stop infiltration of wild elephant from Bihar to Midnapore and Bankura district every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The salient features of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002 are:

1. Wildlife and Forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.
2. Diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes from critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitat shall not be allowed.
3. Lands falling within 10 kms. of the boundaries of national parks and sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones.
4. Removal of encroachment and illegal activities from within forestlands and Protected Areas.
5. The settlement of rights in national parks and sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral parts of the wildlife habitat.
6. Law enforcement agencies must ensure quick and deterrent punishment to those indulging in wildlife offences.
7. More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties.

(b) The actions taken to implement the strategy include:

1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended making the punishment more severe under the Act.
2. A National Forest Commission has been set up to look into restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.
3. Prime Minister has addressed all the Chief Ministers of the states regarding urgent need to fill up the vacant posts in Forest Departments.
4. Secretary, Environment and Forests, has written to the Chief Secretaries of all the states regarding declaring forests and wildlife as priority sector and filling up of vacant posts in Forest Departments.
5. Secretary, Environment and Forest, has also written to the Secretary Planning Commission, regarding declaring forests and wildlife as priority sector with earmarked funds.

(c) Elephants migrate into Midnapore and Bankura districts of West Bengal from Jharkhand. Migration is associated with the natural behaviour of elephants and is

largely governed by changing availability of food and water in their habitat. Enrichment of habitat reduces the need for migration. Habitat improvement works like raising enrichment plantations, and, soil and moisture conservation activities, have been taken up in Jharkhand to provide elephants better habitat. Also methods like physically driving away the migrating elephant herd and keeping a constant vigil against migrating elephants during the season, are adopted to keep the elephants away from entering into West Bengal area.

Private Airlines in Kerala

2844. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines have shown interest to operate flights from airports in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Amongst private scheduled operators Jet Airways is operating air services to/from Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum in Kerala. As per the extant policy air service operators including private operators are free to provide air services to specific places in the country depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Loss of Crop due to shortage of Water

2845. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge chunk of standing crops in Tamil Nadu could not be saved due to lack of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have initiated steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that due to lack of water, major crops like paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds suffered 100 per cent yield loss in 283064 hectare and 50 per cent and above yield loss in 307148 hectare.

(c) to (e) Due to the current year drought, the Central Government has released an amount of Rs. 171.66 crore towards agriculture Input Subsidy for damage to the crops.

State Government has taken action to optimize use of available water in reservoirs and farmers have been advised to sow short duration crops like pulses, millets, oilseeds, vegetables and also to follow rice fallow-cotton/ pulses where paddy is under harvest.

Free Air Tickets

2846. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of Artists, Dance Troops and other performers for various cultural events, who were provided free tickets by Air India and Indian Airlines (separately) in commercial interest alongwith the dates of travel, the names of such artists, member of dance troops, other performers and destinations with fares in each case during the year 1999, 2000 and 2001?

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

New Small Aircraft

2847. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 14-sector indigenous light transport aircraft Saras (VT-XSD) has rolled out of the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether it has obtained the clearance from the Director General Civil Aviation;

(c) if so, the result of test flight of this prototype aircraft; and

(d) by when it is expected to be produced commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) First prototype of 'SARAS' (VT-XSD) aircraft built by NAL was taken out of the hangars of NAL on 04-02-03 for the purpose of static display only.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) clearance was not required as the prototype was taken out of the hangars for the purpose of static display only.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Commercial production would depend on time taken to carry out tests on components and various aircraft systems in accordance with DGCA air worthiness requirements, test flight of the aircraft, issue of type certificate by DGCA etc. This is likely to take about two years.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Pulses

2848. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of area on which pulses are cultivated in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether both the total area and the net sown area under wheat, oilseeds, coarse cereals and pulses is less in comparison to the previous year and the total production is also estimated to be less;

(c) if so, the reason therefor;

(d) the demand of pulses in the country alongwith their production; and

(e) the names of the countries from which pulses are being imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details of area under cultivation of pulses in the country, State wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The total area and production of wheat, oilseeds, coarse cereals and pulses in comparison to the previous year are given below:

Area (Million Hectare)
Production (Million Tonnes)

Year	Wheat		Oilseed		Coarse Cereals		Pulses	
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
2001-02	25.9	71.8	22.8	20.4	29.7	33.9	21.7	13.2
2002-03 (provisional)	24.6	68.9	21.5	15.4	26.5	25.1	19.8	11.5

The reasons for less production is less area coverage due to severe drought conditions prevailing during the current year (2002-2003).

(d) For 2001-02, the working Group has estimated production requirement of pulses at 17.20 million tonnes. The consumption requirement has been estimated at 13.90 million tonnes based on normative approach and 16.25 million tonnes based on behaviouristic approach.

The production of pulses during last three years is given below:

Year	Production (in Million tonnes)
1999-2000	13.42
2000-2001	11.07
2001-02	13.19

(e) The name of the countries from which pulses are being imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply are Australia, Canada, Hungary, Tanzania, Myanmar, China, Turkey, Syria, Nepal and Mexico.

Statement

State-wise area of Pulses during 2001-2002

State	Area (Thousand Hectares) 2001-2002
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1907.9
Arunachal Pradesh	6.8

1	2
Assam	118.5
Bihar	704.6
Chhattisgarh	823.3
Goa	9.4
Gujarat	730.0
Haryana	188.5
Himachal Pradesh	33.9
J&K	26.9
Jharkhand	116.1
Karnataka	1893.0
Kerala	13.2
Madhya Pradesh	3827.9
Maharashtra	3387.3
Manipur	6.0
Meghalaya	4.7
Mizoram	2.5
Nagaland	35.0
Orissa	728.8
Punjab	53.7
Rajasthan	3357.3
Sikkim	6.5
Tamil Nadu	679.4
Tripura	9.1
Uttar Pradesh	2698.1
Uttaranchal	29.9
West Bengal	249.2
A & N Islands	0.4
D & N Haveli	4.6
Daman & Diu	1.3
Delhi	0.4
Pondicherry	1.3
All India	21655.5

Seizure of Skin of Wildlife

2849. SHRI ADHI SANKAR:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether skins of wild animals like tiger, lion, elephant, leopard and reptiles like snake etc. have been seized in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal and other parts of the country from November 11, 2002 till-date;

(b) if so, the details of each of such cases;

(c) the places from where such skins were seized;

(d) whether any international gang is involved in this racket;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the value of these skins in the domestic and international market;

(g) the number of persons arrested so far; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to apprehend the people involved in this illegal act and eradicate this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Non-Utilisation of Land by SAIL

2850. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its Report No. 4 of 2002 (commercial) has pointed out the non-utilisation of 36218.60 acres of land for the purposes for which that was acquired out of the total of 113307.26 acres by the four integrated plants;

(b) if so, whether non-utilised land was either leased out to other agencies or transferred to the Government agencies or is still lying vacant;

(c) whether sub-lease of land was not permissible without prior approval of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for acquiring land that was not required by the steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Water Reservoir Development Schemes

2851. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Water Reservoir Development Schemes being implemented in the country including Karnataka and Maharashtra at present;

(b) the funds allocated/released by the Union Government as well as by the World Bank and other international financial institutions for these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Flats for EPF Subscribers

2852. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered to purchase 10,000 flats lying vacant with DDA for the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) subscribers under "Shramik Awas Yojna";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these flats had not takers due to lack of amenities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such information has come to the notice of the Ministry of Labour.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2853. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared any blue print for development of tourism in the State in collaboration with WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided/proposed to be provided to the State Government for the implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has obtained the services of World Tourism Organisation for preparing Perspective Tourism Plan for the State which includes an action plan for development of tourism regions and circuits, infrastructure development, education and training programmes, marketing programmes, etc.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 9.64 crores for 41 projects as central financial assistance during the years 1998-99 to 2001-02 for the development of tourism in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Nagarjuna Sagar has been identified for development as a destination and Pochumpalli for a Rural Tourism Project.

[Translation]

Rates of Milk in DMS

2854. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had revised the rates of milk during 2000-2001 to make up the annual loss suffered by the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rate at which the DMS has been buying milk alongwith the quantum thereof from the rural areas and contractors of milk, respectively during each of the last four years;

(d) the rate at which milk is supplied to retailers and the expenditure incurred thereon, per litre of milk; and

(e) the details of profit and loss to DMS during the said period alongwith the efforts made so far to make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The rates of DMS milk were revised with effect from 1-3-2000 as under:-

(Rupees per litre)

Type of Milk	From	To
Toned Milk	7.00	14.00
Double Toned Milk	6.00	11.00

(c) DMS has not been procuring milk directly from the rural areas as well as contractors of milk during each of the last four years.

(d) The rates at which milk is supplied to retailers & cost of production per litre for the last four years is as under:

(Figs. in Rupees)

Year	Average Sale price of milk (per litre)	Average cost of production (per litre)
1998-99	7.00	13.04
1999-2000	7.00 (upto 28.2.2000)	13.43
2000-01	14.00	16.38
2001-02	14.00	16.60

(e) The losses incurred by DMS during the last four years are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

1998-1999	76.14*
1999-2000	76.72*
2000-2001	19.58*
2001-2002	16.07*

*Provisional

The Delhi Milk Scheme is adopting professional approaches in different areas of operation such as marketing, transportation, reduction in operational losses etc.

Water Supply and Sanitation Project of Delhi

2855. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Government has submitted any Water Supply and Sanitation Project to Central Water Commission for approval; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Delhi Government has submitted to Central Water Commission the project proposal envisaging construction of carrier lined channel from Munak to Haiderpur Treatment Plant for carrying drinking water for Delhi.

(b) The time by which the proposal is likely to be accorded approval is dependent upon the satisfactory compliance of the observations of various Central appraising agencies by the Delhi Government.

[English]

Judicial Enquiry Commission Report

2856. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Judicial Enquiry Commission has submitted its report on Bagdighi Colliery accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Court of Inquiry has observed that the workings of the Bagdighi Colliery No. 7 seam punctured the waterlogged Jairampur Colliery in the same seam. Survey map prepared after the accident indicated that the workings of Bagdighi colliery had undergone a variation to the tune of about 35 degrees in directions and thus the workings had proceeded in a totally different direction from the originally projected plan. To avoid recurrence of this type of accident in below ground mines in future, the Court of Inquiry has made following recommendations:

(i) dewatering of old workings;

(ii) application of latest geophysical methods for probing the barriers/partings;

(iii) change of managerial pattern at the colliery level;

(iv) greater authority to the internal safety organization;

(v) conducting of periodical check survey;

(vi) improvement of surveying organization at mine and Directorate General of Mines Safety;

(vii) increasing the frequency of general inspection by Directorate General of Mines Safety officers by improving the existing manpower structure;

(viii) greater constructive role of trade unions.

The Agent, Manager, Safety Officer and Assistance Manager of Bagdighi Colliery and the Inspecting Officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMs) under whose jurisdiction the mine fell have been held responsible by the Court of Inquiry.

(c) The report submitted by the Court of Inquiry has been accepted by the Government and it has been published in the Gazette of India. The comments of the Ministry of Coal and Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) on the recommendations made in the report have also been called for.

[Translation]

Publicity of Ajanta and Ellora Abroad

2857. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for publicity of Ajanta and Ellora abroad to attract foreign tourists at the heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Promotion of various tourism products of India including Ajanta and Ellora is an on going process which is undertaken through India tourism offices overseas. The publicity in key markets is done through dissemination in fairs and exhibitions etc.

(c) Foreign exchange earnings generated by publicity and promotion of a particular monument cannot be quantified. However, the foreign exchange earnings through tourism in the year 2002 are estimated at Rs. 14420 crores.

[English]

Night Landing Facility at Trichy and Madurai

2858. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the need for the installation of a night landing system at Trichy and Madurai airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Night landing facilities have already been provided at Trichy and Madurai Airports. High Intensity Runway light System, 'PAPI' for both approaches and Apron Flood lights are available at both airports. However, simple approach lights are available for both ends at Trichy airport and the same is likely to be provided at Madurai airport after acquisition of land.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Mother Dairy in Surendra Nagar

2859. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) propose to set up Mother Dairy in Surendra Nagar district in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up?

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

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

Information System for Agricultural Field Experiments

2860. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute has built up an information system for agricultural field experiments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plant breeding experiments and experiments dealing with bio-assay, biometry were conducted using any standard designs; and

(d) if so, the details of such experiments and designs?

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

(b) The Agriculture Field Experiment Information System aims at systematic maintenance of data of field experiments conducted on various aspects of agricultural

technology at a central place and retrieval of information on selective basis as per the requirement. The purely varietal trials have been excluded from the system. The various items included in the database are: objective of experiment, design, cultural practices followed, general crop conditions, summary results and/or plot-wise data.

Data of agricultural experiments conducted at research stations of various organizations engaged in agricultural research are collected by technical staff of Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi posted at different regional centers of the project. The database contain details of 17,000 experiments and is updated periodically.

(c) Not known Sir, as IASRI does not collected details of plant breeding experiments.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Amendment in Contract Labour Act

2861. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to end the Contract Labour System by making amendments in the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act;

(b) if so, the details indicating the amendments to be made in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be done alongwith the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) At present there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to end the Contract Labour System by amending the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

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

[English]

Special Tariff Package

2862. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce a special tariff package in collaboration with the Alliance Airlines;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether a meeting with the representatives of Alliance Airlines has been convened to take a final decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. alliance Air is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines and follows all special tariff packages and promotional fares announced/offered by Indian Airlines.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Role of CACP

2863. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission (CACP) in determining the prices of the foodgrains;

(b) whether the Government are ignoring the recombination of this commission;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers; and

(e) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various foodgrains at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is an expert body, entrusted with the task to advise on price policy of agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of producers and consumers.

(b) and (c) By and large, the Government concurs with recommendations but at times improves upon the recommendations keeping in view the interests of the farmers.

(d) The Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation India (F.C.I.-paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.—Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.—Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED—pulses and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking purchase operations in case, the wholesale price fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. There has been a record procurement of agricultural commodities in recent years.

(e) A statement showing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of agricultural commodities for the 2002-03 crop year is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices of Agricultural Commodities for the 2002-03 Crop Year

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Prices	Special Drought Relief Price
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Paddy	Common	530	20
		Grade 'A'	560	20
2.	Jowar		485	5
3.	Bajra		485	10
4.	Maize		485	5
5.	Ragi		485	5
6.	Wheat		620	10
7.	Barley		500	5
8.	Gram		1220	5
9.	Arhar (Tur)		1320	5
10.	Moong		1330	5
11.	Urad		1330	5
12.	Masur (Lentil)		1320	5
13.	Sugarcane@		69.50	—
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1675	20
		H-4	1875	20
15.	Groundnut in Shell		1355	20
16.	Jute		850	—
17.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1330	10

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Sunflower Seed		1195	15
19.	Soyabean	Black	795	10
	Soyabean	Yellow	885	10
20.	Safflower		1300	5
21.	Toria		1295	10
22.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	28.00	—
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	30.00	—
23.	Copra	Miling	3300	—
	(Calener Year)	Ball	3550	—
24.	Sesamum		1450	5
25.	Nigerseed		1120	—

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 percent increase in recovery above that level.

Production of Khadi under KVIC

2864. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the contribution of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in every State including Bihar in the total production of Khadi in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are taken any steps to encourage KVIC in the country particularly Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The State-wise details of Khadi production and its percentage share to total production in the country including Bihar is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) To encourage the Khadi and Village Industries the Government is already implementing Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country including Bihar. Under this scheme, 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections, margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%.

Moreover, for strengthening the Khadi and Village Industries sector in the country, 'Khadi package' was announced by the Government on 14.05.2001, which inter-alia provides for Insurance over to Khadi artisans, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, technology upgradation, quality control etc.

Statement

Statewise Production of Khadi and percentage share of States

S. No.	States	Production (Rs. in lakhs)	Share in %
1	2	3	4
\1.	Andhra Pradesh	1856.46	4.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.18	0.01
3.	Assam	403.39	0.96
4.	Bihar	1543.81	3.70
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	1857.24	4.46
7.	Haryana	2007.16	4.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	296.92	0.71

1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	702.36	1.68
10.	Karnataka	3273.55	7.86
11.	Kerala	992.73	2.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	339.30	0.81
13.	Maharashtra	3489.91	8.37
14.	Manipur	35.00	0.08
15.	Meghalaya	1.60	0.00
16.	Mizoram	40.80	0.01
17.	Nagaland	5.89	0.14
18.	Orissa	221.89	0.53
19.	Punjab	1063.41	2.55
20.	Rajasthan	1847.80	4.44
21.	Sikkim	8.73	0.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	5408.04	13.00
23.	Tripura	3.40	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9920.86	23.80
25.	West Bengal	4612.38	11.07
26.	Chhatisgarh	584.22	1.40
27.	Jharkhand	154.24	0.37
28.	Uttaranchal	808.64	1.94
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman Diu	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	106.96	0.26
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	28.93	0.07
	Total	41668.80	100

Change in Structure of ICAR

2865: SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the organisational structure of Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for development of agriculture and to make it more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for reformative changes in the said institution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The ICAR Review Committee has proposed changes in the organisational structure of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Administrative arrangements have been made to process the recommendations for decisions including the time-frame for implementation.

(b) A copy of the Summary of Recommendations of the Report of ICAR Review Committee are attached as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Statement

Summary of the recommendations made in the report of the ICAR Review Committee:

1. The composition of the Government Body should be revised to include representatives of two State Governments, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Chairman, APEDA. The representation of Vice Chancellors of SAUs and Directors of ICAR Institutes should be reduced to four from six. The tenure of members from these categories be fixed for a period of three years and the positions should be filled up by rotation. (Para 2.4)

2. An annual conference of the Agriculture Ministers of all the states should be convened under the Chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister with the specific agenda of reviewing the research priorities of the ICAR. (Para 2.9)

3. Five of the DDGs currently at headquarters should be moved to 5 geographical regions of the country with substantial delegation of powers to handle both research and administrative issue

concerning ICAR Institutes located within the region. They should be responsible for integrating the research work within the region. (Para 2.10)

4. The number of DDGs at headquarters should be frozen to 4. Thematic areas be merged into Plant Sciences, Life Sciences and Human Resources to be handled by three DDGs. The fourth DDG will be responsible for strategic planting, policy formulation and monitoring etc. The DDGs at headquarters should act as advisers to DG and deal with larger national issues concerning policy thrusts, strategic planting, interaction with external agencies, international cooperation etc. in their respective sectors. They will be assisted by the ADGs for specific thematic areas. Detailed job descriptions for these positions should got prepared by ICAR and if necessary, a small task force should be created for this purpose. (Para 2.11)

5. The Regional DDGs should be assisted by thematic ADGs whose specialization should depend upon the regional needs. (Para 2.12)

6. The Regional DDGs should head the Regional Committees already created by ICAR. (Para 2.13)

7. Non RMP scientists should not be posted to headquarters and existing set of such officials should be reverted to laboratories and Institutes. (Para. 2.14)

8. An Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICAR with Secretary, DoA & C or his nominee, DDGs at headquarters, a representative of DARE, Secretary, ICAR, Directors of NCAP and IASRI, one eminent scientist, a representative of IIMs as members and DDG (Policy & Planning) as Member-Secretary should be constituted for strategic planning, implementation and monitoring. This committee should meet once a quarter. (Paras 2.16 & 3.11)

9. Marketing and IPR being important areas, should be supervised by DDG (Policy & Planning) with earmarked ADGs to handle each of the subjects and to ensure that commercialization is accorded its due priority in the organization. (Para 2.17)

10. Institutes located within the same city having same or similar mandates with independently built infrastructure should be merged. A small committee headed by an eminent scientist should be set up to examine the rationale of continuing NRCs in the present form. (Para 2.18)

11. IASRI and NCAP should be integrated/merged and assigned the role of policy adviser. (Para 2.19)

12. ICAR should take an early decision on the proposals received about delegation of administrative and financial powers to IMCS, National Institutes and other Institutes. While operationalisation of the delegations, it should be ensured that delegation is precisely delineated. (Para 2.22)

13. ICAR should consider adopting CSIR model regarding performance linked budgeting with suitable modifications wherever necessary. (Para 2.23)

14. National Institutes which have a much better scope for generating resources should be mandated to generate a predicted percentage of resources and they should be allowed to retain it over and above the budgetary allocations. (Para 2.24)

15. The National Professor Scheme should be reviewed and the necessity of continuing it should be examined. (Para 2.25)

16. The Regional DDGs may be delegated powers to approve foreign deputations in such cases where government funds are not involved, directly or indirectly, except those cases where inter-ministry coordination is necessary. (Para 2.26)

17. A review should be carried out at every Institute's level to ensure that the human resources available are rationally and optimally deployed. This work could be entrusted to regional DDGs. (Para 2.29)

18. The scientific monitoring of the work of ICAR Institutes should continue to be done by ICAR. ICAR should also continue to exercise administrative control over them. (Para 3.9)

19. Small teams should be constituted by the Executive Committee to make field visit to ICAR Institutes to assess the progress of scientific work and interact with farmers to assess the impact of the work being done by the Institutes at the field level. This team should provide inputs to the Executive Committee. (Para 3.14)

20. The QRT Reports should be placed before the Executive Committee. Action Taken Report on the QRT recommendations be placed before the Government Body. (Para 3.16)

21. The financial support from ICAR to SAUs should be raised gradually over a period of 5 years to 20% of the funds available with ICAR. (Para 4.17)

22. The State Government should be urged to levy a 1% cess on agricultural produce marketed. The additional resources so generated should be passed on to SAUs. (Para 4.18)

23. 20% of the financial assistance given by ICAR to SAUs should be linked to reforms within the SAU system. Objective criteria, which may include rationalization of structure, elimination of wastes and duplication, right sizing of staff etc. should be evolved for this purpose. (Para 4.19)

24. Opening of new SAUs and creation of new facilities, bifurcation of an existing SAU etc. should be strongly discouraged. There should be a moratorium on construction of new buildings in SAUs. Any new facility should be created only if State Government provides funds to meet expenses for first five years. (Para 4.21)

25. PG course in any discipline should normally run only at one place. If any SAU has it at more than one place, situation should be reviewed. If any faculty does not conform to norms, then financial support for it should be discontinued. (Para 4.22)

26. The necessity of increasing internal resource generation should be impressed upon SAUs. Possibility of increasing resource generation through selling of improved seeds, constancy Possibility of increasing resource generation through selling of improved seeds, consultancy services, reserving seats for NRIs and foreign students etc. should be explored. (Para 4.24)

27. SAUs should be permitted to exploit commercially technologies developed by them which are not to be directly passed on to the farmers. (Para 4.25)

28. SAUs should be asked to increase their resources by reduction in expenditure and additional resource generation by at least 5%. This can be raised to 10% after 5 years. (Para 4.27)

29. KVKs should be asked to conduct entrepreneurial development training programmes in the villages for which small registration fee could be charged from the participants. (Para 4.28)

30. It has been observed that for certain crops. AICRP, Directorate and Institutes are working with an element of duplication. In such cases AICRP should be merged with Directorate/ Institute. (Para 4.32)

31. The SAU extension agency and the state extension agency should have adequate linkage. The scientists of KVK should be fully involved in this. (Para 4.36)

32. ICAR should undertake systematic human research planning exercise both at the national level and at the level of Institute. (Para 5.11)

33. The mismatch between priority research areas and the number of scientists working therein should be removed. The Institutes and the regional DDGs should be involved in such an exercise which should lead to an action plan. (Para 5.12)

34. Each Institute should prepare in advance, a one year, 5 year and 5 to 15 years plan of activities in core areas. The human resource planning should correspond to these plans. (Para 5.13)

35. It is important to ensure that narrow specialization does not lead to inter-disciplinary segregation and proliferation of Institutes. Attempts should be made to build inter-disciplinary research and collaboration and integrate related areas to encourage holistic approach to problems and solutions. (Para 5.14)

36. Recruitment should be based on specific needs of the Institutes. Scientists working in areas which have ceased to be focus of work in any Institute should be relocated to such Institute where such work is of interest. (Para 5.15)

37. The centralized recruitment of scientists by ASRB should be based on the need/vacancies assessed by DDG (HR)/Institute in the context of proper human resource planning. Appropriate changes should be made from time to time in the technology/methodology and syllabi of examination conducted by ASRB to reflect the changing development in agricultural sciences and priorities of ICAR and its Institutes. (Para 5.17)

38. The post of Director. NAARM, Hyderabad which is of the rank of DDG should be downgraded to the level of ADG and transferred to headquarters and renamed as DDG (Human Resources). The Director, NAARM should report to DDG (Human Resources). DDG (Human Resources) should be responsible for all human resource management functions. (Para 5.20)

39. ASRB should be restructured to serve better the goals and missions of ICAR. DDG (HR) should review and evolve human resource management policies of ICAR and monitor the implementation of such policies. (Paras 5.18 and 5.21)

40. Promotions in ICAR should be based on proper assessment of performance. Flexible complementation system should be adopted once again. The serving scientists may be given option to carry on with the present system or being covered under the flexible complementing system. (Para 5.23)

41. There should be incentive for a scientist to continue to work in research area. A cool off system for scientists occupying RMP be introduced. A scientist working on RMP should be considered for another RMP after complementation of tenure only if he has worked in research area for th.ee years. (Para 5.25)

42. The draft Performance Appraisal Report Developed by ICAR should be reviewed as it requires changes. (Para 5.28)

43. The IVLP has performed well in some Institutes. Scientists who volunteer to work in IVLP should be suitably rewarded. (Para 5.29)

44. NAARM does not seem to meet the future requirement of training. Additional infrastructure should be created at headquarters to meet the future needs. (Para 5.30)

45. Every Institute should prepare an annual calendar of training programme for its officials to ensure that scientists and others are given training in the latest developments at sufficient intervals. The training should be linked to the goals and objectives of the Institute. (Para 5.33)

46. Scientists who are chosen to taken on administrative/managerial positions should be given adequate training in management skills, accounting etc. Similarly all officers in the area of finance and administration should be trained to sensitize them to the specific nature of scientific administration. (Para 5.34)

47. Training in Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques should be imparted to scientists. NAARM should be equipped to handle this training. Other organizations like Centre for Rural Studies attached to LBSNAA, Mussoorie, NIRD, Hyderabad and National Centre for Values and Ethics could also be involved in imparting this training, considering the large numbers to be trained. (Para 5.35)

48. Integration of administrative and finance cadres at headquarters and field should be done. Also the two cares should be merged. In the short run posts on administration and finance sides could be kept separate but in due course even the posts should be combined. (Para 5.39)

49. Each regional DDG should be assisted by a Director (Finance & Administration), one Deputy Secretary for Finance and one for Administration and two Under Secretary level officers. In the short run, officials from the organized service cadres within the region may be taken to fill up the post of Director. In the long run ICAR officials should be groomed for this post. (Para 5.40)

50. An experienced officer in personnel function from civil services or from within the ICAR of the rank of Director may be posted to help DDG (HR). (Para 5.41)

51. There should be accent on developing younger scientists in the ICAR. A scheme may be framed for training young scientists below 40 years of age in frontier areas of agricultural science. A minimum number of 200 such scientists should be trained over a period of 5 years. (Para 5.42)

52. The country should take steps to achieve a leadership role in frontier areas of agriculture science and technology. A world class institution in agricultural science technology should be set up. A small Task Force should be set up to give a concrete shape to this concept, working out the financial implications, method of financing, the areas of activity etc. (Para 5.43)

53. For taking decision on the recommendations of the Committee within reasonable time frame, the report and views of DG, ICAR on the recommendations should be placed before ICAR Society within about a month. Matters requiring Cabinet approval should be put upto it within one month of the decision of the Society. (Para 6.2)

54. An institutionalized arrangements should be made for monitoring the implementation of decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. A cell under senior Director level officer be created within ICAR for this purpose. (Para 6.3)

[English]

River Erosion in West Bengal

2866. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to check river erosion in several districts of Water Bengal;

(b) if so, whether his ministry has received any scheme from West Bengal Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management chemise are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical catalytical and promotional in nature.

State Government of West Bengal have intimated that they have taken a number of measures to check erosion in several districts of West Bengal by taking up these works through the State Plan fund and other sources as per availability and criticality of the erosion problem.

Planning Commission had constituted an Expert Committee in 1996 which had suggested various short term and long term anti-erosion measures in West Bengal. To enable the State Government to take up prioritised schemes, an additional fund of Rs. 30.00 crore was released by the Planning Commission in 1998 to the State Government. The State Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 78.57 crore upto March, 2002 on schemes relating to anti-erosion measures. The Farakka Barrage Project Authority (FBP) has also incurred an expenditure of Rs. 10.4 crore on anti erosion works on upstream and downstream of Farakka Barrage.

Subsequently with a view to provide further financial assistance to the Ganga basin States including West Bengal, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was approved by the Government of India in January 2001, wherein 4 schemes submitted by Government of West Bengal were included. In order to take up the above four schemes, the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 22.15 crore to the Government of West Bengal. The above CSS will also continue during 10th Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) In addition to above, the Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) had cleared nine number of schemes received from Government of West Bengal during the year 2001-02 and five number of schemes were cleared during 2002-03. Further, 14 number of schemes received from the State Government were examined and necessary comments have been furnished to the State Government, replies to which are awaited. Two number of schemes were scently received in GFCC for technical examination.

Onion Intervention Scheme—2000

2867. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Onion Government Intervention Scheme-2000;

(b) whether the Union Government have agreed in principle to share the loss suffered by the Government of Maharashtra under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received request from the Government of Maharashtra to release the Central share under the scheme;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have released the share; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Central Government had sanctioned Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of 65,000 MTs Onion in Maharashtra from 20.01.2000 to 29.02.200 at the Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs. 250/- per quintal. 65,000 MTs of Onion were procured under the schemes. As per the guidelines of the Scheme, the loss, was shared by the Government of Maharashtra and Central Government on 50:50 basis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. the Central Government share of reimbursing loss amounting to Rs. 4.875 crore has been released to the Government of Maharashtra.

(f) Does not arise.

Flights to South Korea

2868. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights being operated by the South Korean Airlines and the Air India to and fro India and South Korea;

(b) whether the airlines of the two countries propose to increase the number of flights;

(c) whether any bilateral agreement in this regard has been signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the additional flights to be operated by the two countries to and fro?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Presently, Korean Air and Asian Airlines are operating two services each per week from Seoul to Mumbai and Delhi respectively. Air India has a code share cum seat-block on the two Asian Airlines flights between Delhi and Seoul.

(b) to (d) During the last round of bilateral air services talks held between the two countries on 15-17 January, 2003 in New Delhi, the capacity entitlement for the designated airlines of each side was increased by two services per week in each direction. However, actual operations are matters of the commercial judgment of the airline concerned.

Tourism Development in Uninhabited Islands

2869. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scope to develop tourism in Uninhabited Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to develop these Islands;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any consultations has been held with Ministry of Environment and Forests and home Affairs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of Ministries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UNDP/WTO submitted a study report to the Department of Tourism, Government of India in 1996 which has identified potential areas for development of tourism. The report includes uninhabited Islands such as Cinque Islands, North Passage Island and Ross & Smith Islands (Ross Island is uninhabited and Smith inhabited).

(c) to (f) The Andaman Administration has approached the Ministry of Home Affairs for opening Cinque Islands, Ross Island and Barren Islands as well as few inhabited Islands for day and night halt of foreigners. Clearance has also been sought from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for development of Eco-friendly tourist resort on 22.2 hectare land at Merk Bay, North Passage Islands. Ministry of Environment and Forest has desired that an Environmental Impact Assessment study and cost benefit analysis be carried out.

[Translation]

FPI in Jammu and Kashmir

2870. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to give a special package to various States in the country including Jammu and Kashmir for setting up food processing industries.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) A special package by way of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture already exists for the North-Eastern States including Sikkim. Extension of the technology mission for North-Eastern States now envisages coverage of States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Similar Technology Mission has also been announced for Jammu & Kashmir.

Under the existing Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, higher quantum of financial assistance is extended for projects in difficult areas, which include the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Uttaranchal,

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Availability of Fodder for Livestock

2871. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane bagasse can be used as feed/ fodder for livestock after steam treatment;

(b) if so, whether Philippines, Cuba and some others are using bagasse as feed;

(c) if so, whether the MNES has been giving incentives to burn this valuable resource to generate power;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Planning Commission in this report on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for Tenth Five Year Plan has estimated requirement and availability of dry/green fodder;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether crores of tonnes of dry fodder is burnt in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(h) if so, the concrete measures taken to bridge the gap and ban burning/diversion and utilisation of sugarcane bagasse after some treatment?

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

(c) and (d) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting optimum cogeneration from bagasse in sugar mills for generation of surplus power for the grid. A surplus power capacity of 304 MW has been installed, and a further capacity of 312 MW is under installation. However, out of 418 sugar mills, this cogeneration from bagasse takes place only in 34 sugar mills. The programme provides for Central Financial Assistance by way of interest subsidy for various types of projects in cooperative, public and private sector sugar mills. Fiscal and promotional incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, soft loans etc. are also available for these project.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Details are as under:

Supply and demand of green and dry fodder—Projected estimated.

(in million tonnes)

Year	Supply		Demand		Deficit %	
	Green	Dry	Green	Dry	Green	Dry
1995	379.3	421	947	526	59.95	19.95
2000	384.5	428	988	549	61.10	21.93
2005	389.9	443	1025	569	61.96	22.08
2010	395.2	451	1061	589	62.76	23.46
2015	400.6	466	1097	609	63.50	23.56
2020	405.9	473	1134	630	64.21	24.81
2025	411.3	488	1170	650	64.87	24.92

(g) and (h) States practicing combined mechanized harvesting have been advised not to burn the straw/ stovers. Central Government provides funds to the State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme to supplement their efforts for augmenting the fodder production. Besides, under Central Minikit Programme quality fodder seeds are supplied to the State Government for onwards distribution to the farmers free of cost.

Promotion of Tourism in Orissa

2872. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote tourism in the scheduled districts in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the untapped tourist potential in these districts in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism promotes India as a whole including the State of Orissa through production of publicity material and dissemination of information through India tourism Offices in India and abroad.

Promotion of tourism district-wise falls within the purview of the State Government. Infrastructure Development projects to promote tourist visits to the region have also been taken up with the State Governments for this purpose. A some of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for development of rural tourism in Raghurajpur village of Puri District in Orissa during 2002-2003.

Water for World Population

2873. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of South Africa has called for co-operate in and partnership with India and other countries to provide safe drinking water;

(b) if so, whether the Government of South Africa has agreed to help India for providing safe drinking water;

(c) if so, whether any agreement between the two countries have been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Japanese Aid for Upkeep of Heritage Monuments

2874. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has received any aid-package from Japan for restoration and upkeep of heritage monuments;

(b) if so, the monuments covered by the said aid, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop heritage sites in Karnataka;

(d) if so, whether privatisation projects for restoration and upkeep of national monuments/heritage sites have proven to be successful; and

(e) if so, the plans of the Government to replicate such arrangements in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Government has received loan assistance to the tune of 3745 million Yen from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase I). The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 127.50 crores approximately in March, 2002. Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Approximately Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are: Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora Caves, Aurangabad Caves, Bibi Ka Maqbara, Daulatabad Fort, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej, and Kolvan in Maharashtra.

(c) Integrated development of centrally protected monuments in Karnataka has been undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) and (e) No monuments under the charge of Archaeological Survey of India have been given for upkeep or their restoration to private sector. However, Private-public participation is encouraged to develop basic amenities in the towns/regions where tourist destinations are located.

Schemes Implemented by N.C.D.C.

2875. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the loans/central assistance sanctioned/released for various agro projects in co-operative sector to each State during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding misutilisation of central assistance by the State agencies; and

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

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

[Translation]

Schemes for Flood Control

2876. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government for flood control in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the quantum of funds allocated/released for implementation of said schemes alongwith expenditure incurred thereon during the same period;

(c) whether the funds allocated were adequate;

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

(e) the allocation of funds during the Tenth Five Year-Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance that are technical catalytical and supportive in nature. With a view to provide financial assistance to the States, the Government of India has formulated various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector schemes. Details of funds allocated/released in respect of various such schemes in the flood sector by Government of India during the 9th Plan are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) Funds have been allocated to the State Governments based upon the progress and the utilization of amount released for the purpose.

(e) Details of outlays provided in respect of various Schemes in the flood sector by the Government of India during the 10th Plan are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Funds allocated/released in respect of various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector schemes in the flood sector by Government of India during the 9th Plan (Statewise).

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	State	Funds released during 9th Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar	Bihar	2.37
2.	Maintenance of Flood Protection Works of Kosi & Gandak Projects.	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	15.6 2.7
3.	Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States.	Bihar U.P. Uttaranchal West Bengal	22.08 10.89 1.00 17.88
4.	Raising & Strengthening and Extension of Embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati & Khando rivers.	Bihar	4.80

1	2	3	4
5.	Pilot scheme, namely, "Clearance of sediment deposits at the confluence of river Kiul Harohar with river Ganga and widening of outfall width".	Bihar	1.54
6.	Pagladiya Dam Project.	Assam	14.70
7.	Grant in aid to Brahmaputra Board.	Assam	77.23
8.	Flood Control in Brahmaputra Valley.	Assam	51.00
9.	Harrange Drainage Development Scheme	Assam	10.92

Statement II

Outlays provided in respect of various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes in the flood sector by the Government of India during the 10th Plan

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	State (s)	Outlays for 10th Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Flood Proofing Programme	Uttar Pradesh Bihar West Bengal Orissa Assam Andhra Pradesh	20.00
2.	Maintenance of Flood Protection Works of Kosi & Gandak Projects.	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	35.00
3.	Critical anti erosion works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States.	Maritime States/UTs.	30.00
4.	Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States.	Bihar Uttar Pradesh Uttaranchal Jharkhand West Bengal	192.00
5.	Raising & Strengthening and Extension of Embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati & Khando rivers.	Bihar	60.00
6.	Improvement of Drainage in the country including Mokama Tal Area.	Country based scheme	50.00
7.	Pagladiya Dam Project.	Assam	250.00
8.	Grant in aid to Brahmaputra Board.	Assam	102.00

1	2	3	4
9.	Flood Control in Brahmaputra Valley.	North Eastern States including Sikkim & areas of West Bengal falling in the Brahmaputra Board	150.00
10.	Harrange Drainage Development Scheme	Assam	20.00
11.	New schemes for Majuli Island in Assam, Dibang Project etc.		
	(a) Avulsion of river Brahmaputra at Dhola hatighuli		10.47
	(b) Other Schemes		31.53

Shallow Tubewell Project

2877. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not approved Shallow Tubwell project for low line areas (tal areas);

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

(c) the details of irrigation facilities available at present for low line areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No

(b) and (c) 1. The Scheme "Million Shallow Tubewell Programme" was approved in March, 2001 for the State of Bihar and is being implemented in North Bihar since March, 2002.

2. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "On Farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India" was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation. Govt. of India, during March, 2002 for implementation in the ten eastern Indian States viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is approved for being implemented during the X Five Year Plan period also. The Scheme is being implemented in these States, where the ground water is not low and remained un-exploited.

Subsidy to the extent of 30% of the average unit cost from Government of India is being given to the farmers of all categories for the components of the back ended credit linked schemes as follows:

- Assistance for construction of Shallow Tube Wells with pumping sets to individual/group of farmers.
- Assistance for community Lift Irrigation Points (LIP) to a group of farmers.
- Assistance for diesel/electric pump sets to individual farmers, and.
- Assistance for dug wells only in plateau regions.

This scheme is being implemented in collaboration with NABARD.

[English]

Funds to Organisations engaged in Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2878. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of organizations in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim working for prevention of cruelty to animals and provided assistance during 2001 and 2002, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government inspect these organizations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) 15 organizations working for prevention of

cruelty to animals in the North Eastern States and Sikkim were given assistance, as indicated below, under various schemes being implemented by this Ministry during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto 4.3.2003):-

State	Number of organizations given assistance
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	4
Manipur	5
Tripura	1
Nagaland	1
Sikkim	1
Total	15

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a well laid down system for inspection of organizations before & after release of funds by designated inspecting agencies. No funds are approved without an inspection report certifying the credentials of applicant. Officers of State and Central Governments also carry out inspections from time to time.

[Translation]

Khejarli Martyr Spot in Tourism Map

2879. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Khejarli Martyrs located in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan in tourist map; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Soil Erosion

2880. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether constant soil erosion has resulted in any consequential change in the alignment in Indian Border with Nepal;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The India-Nepal boundary has been jointly agreed to be identified on fixed boundary principle as per jointly agreed basis maps. Thus, any shift in the course of river/erosion would not result in any consequential change in the alignment of India-Nepal boundary.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Registration of Saw Mills

2881. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the saw mills in the country are to be registered compulsorily with an appropriate authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of saw-mills registered till date, State-wise;

(d) whether no saw-mill is permitted to operate within 5 kms of the border of a reserve forest or game sanctuary; and

(e) if so, the details of the guidelines framed on the location of saw-mills near reserve forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Issue of saw mill licence in different States/Union Territories is governed under the provisions of the concerned State Forest Act or Indian Forest Act as amended for the States. However, Hon'ble Supreme Court by its order dated 29th October 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 has directed to close all unlicenced saw mills forthwith.

(d) and (e) The minimum distance from the boundary of the forests for the location of the saw mill is governed by the rules and regulations framed in this regard by the concerned States/Union Territories under the provisions applicable under State Forest Act or Indian Forest Act. No rules, uniformly applicable in the country, have been framed in this regard.

Anti-Poaching Mechanism for Tigers

2882. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to hold a meeting with leading environmental NGOs to devise measures to tighten the anti-poaching mechanism for tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various anti-poaching measures to save tigers in the country have proved to be ineffective in the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the matter has also been discussed with various State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) As indicated in the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) synergy with Non Governmental Organisations forms an integral part of conservation initiatives of the Union Government to ensure people's support and participation, with their representation in various committees including the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Since implementation of wildlife conservation schemes is done by states, such issues are discussed with State Governments time and again for appraisal and review, followed by directives from the Union Government as and when necessary.

(g) The action taken by the Union Government are as follows:

The safeguards taken by the Government to conserve wildlife and its habitat in Tiger Reserves include:-

(i) Assessing the impact of any development project on wildlife and its habitat.

(ii) According legal protection to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Providing financial and technical help to States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection and improvement of habitat for wild animals.

(iv) Empowering the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vi) A National Conference of Forest and Environment Ministers of State Governments was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001, wherein it was resolved to organise the existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control within and outside protected areas.

(vii) During IX Plan period, the area of Tiger Reserves has increased from 33,167 sq. km. to 37,167 sq. km. to 37,761 sq. km.

Vacancy of Reserved Posts

2883. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in appointment and promotion in autonomous institutions as well as attached offices like Indian Airlines, Air India, Alliance Airlines, Airports Authority of India coming under his ministry particularly in the Gazetted jobs or Class I and Class II employments;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the reserved category;

(d) whether the Government find it difficult to fill up the Class I and Class II vacancies designated for the purpose belonging to SC/ST and OBC; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reservation in recruitment/promotion in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its various organisations is being done scrupulously as per Government of India's guidelines/instructions, as applicable from time to time. However, in Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd., a time bound promotional policy exists and hence reservation in promotion does not apply. In the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, most of the gazetted posts are filled up on deputation basis where reservation is not applicable.

(c) As and when vacancies arise, steps are taken in accordance with extant rules and reservation policy to fill up the posts. Special recruitment Drives were also undertaken to overcome the shortfall in various offices/ Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(d) No, Sir, except in some highly technical and specialised licensed categories.

(e) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Water by Private Players from Periyar River

2884. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private players to draw water from Periyar river in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith conditions and the period for which sanction given;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the river is facing acute water shortage and intrusion of salt water from the sea;

(f) whether this would further aggravate the situation; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Government of Kerala has reported that there is no proposal allowing private parties to draw water from the river Periyar in Kerala.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) During the dry season the flow in the river gets reduced and there is intrusion of salt water to a certain extent.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank In Tourism Sector

2885. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank and Asian Development Bank have provide any financial assistance in tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the tourists spots likely to be developed with the said assistance State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. This Department has not received any financial assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Dues against Private Airlines

2886. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of the Government money is outstanding against the private airlines:

(b) if so, the names of such airlines alongwith the total outstanding amount against each of them;

(c) whether some private airlines have embezzled these outstanding dues and closed their operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover outstanding amount from these airlines; and

(f) the details of amount paid to the government as licence fee or fees under some other head by private airlines during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per information available, details of the amounts outstanding against private airlines payable to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Air India (AI) are as under:-

Payable to AAI:

		(Rs. in crores) (As on 31.12.2002)
1.	Jet Airways	31.39
2.	Sahara Airlines	7.36
3.	Blue Dart	0.69
4.	Bengal Air	0.40
5.	Visa Air	0.50
6.	Others	1.06
7.	East West Airlines:	18.31
8.	NEPC Airlines	2.96
9.	Skyline NEPC	1.91
10.	Elbee Airlines	0.92
11.	Mesco Airlines	1.27
12.	Continental Aviation	1.26
13.	VIF Airways	0.61
14.	Others (less than 50 lakhs)	1.08
Payable to Air India:		
Jet Airways		20.11

(c) and (d) The Airlines listed at Sl. No. 7 to 14 in Part (b) of the answer have closed their operations and the proportionally passed on to AAI towards airport charges.

(e) AAI has filed legal suits in various courts to recover its dues.

(f) AAI charges licence fee for space from the airlines. The details of amount received by AAI from private airlines as licence fee during the last three years are as under:-

	(Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	8.62
2000-2001	9.36
2001-2002	9.94

Anthropological Survey of Medara's

2887. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anthropological Survey of India has completed a survey on the Medara Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas surveyed;

(c) whether the report has been finalised; and

(d) the details of the representation and origin of the petition for the study on Medaras?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first survey was conducted during the year 1985-86 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The second survey was conducted in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh in 2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a part of an All India Research Project entitled 'People of India', the first survey on the Medras was conducted by the Anthropological Survey of India. The Survey received a request from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs enclosing therein a letter of Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu with the request to send a report on the Socio-economic condition of the Medara community. A letter of Dr. P. Pullarao has also been received in this regard.

National Aeronautical Policy

2888. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to update national aeronautical policy integrating civil and military aviation facilities; and

(b) if so, the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not formulated a National Aeronautical Policy for integrating civil and military aviation facilities. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement, which lays down the procedure for training, examination and grant of licences to the Defence personnel in the field of aircraft maintenance and operation so that they can acquire civil licences issued by DGCA while in service.

Onion Export Zones

2889. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Onion Export Zones in various districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance made available in this regard; and

(c) the estimated earnings from the said Zones every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The proposal received from State Government of Maharashtra for an Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for Onion covering Districts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara and Solapur, has been approved by Government on 18th November, 2002. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed with the State Government on 16th January, 2003 having the following financial projections for various schemes as R&D, infrastructure, Marketing Promotion etc.

(Rs. in crores)

State Govt.	Central Govt.	Pvt.	Total
12.99	6.13	13.12	32.24

(c) The Govt. of Maharashtra has estimated the following foreign exchange earnings (year-wise) from zone:

(Rs. in crores)

Ist yr.	2nd yr.	3th yr.	4th yr.	5th yr.	Total
10.15	20.14	30.37	39.93	53.90	154.90

[Translation]

Production and Requirement of Milk

2890. SHRI MAHESWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and requirement of milk in the country during the last year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any gap; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the shortage of milk as compared to its requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of production of milk in the country during the last year, Statewise are as given in statement enclosed.

Estimates of requirement of milk are not available.

(c) During past five year plans, several measures have been initiated by the Government to increase the productivity of livestock, which has resulted in significant increase in the milk production. The thrust of the government policies and programmes is concentrated on control of animal diseases, creation of disease free zones, scientific management and upgradation of genetic resources, increasing availability of nutritious feed and fodder. As a result, the per capita availability of milk has increased from 194 g per day in 1994-95 to 226 g per day during 2001-02.

Statement

Table: Estimates of Milk Production— 2001-2002 State-wise

(000 tonnes)

S.No.	States/UTs	2001-02*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5145
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55
3.	Assam	894
4.	Bihar	4068
5.	Goa	47
6.	Gujarat	5573

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	4976
8.	Himachal Pradesh	810
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1088
10.	Karnataka	5357
11.	Kerala	2907
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6091
13.	Maharashtra	6024
14.	Manipur	73
15.	Meghalaya	71
16.	Mizoram	11
17.	Nagaland	54
18.	Orissa	865
19.	Punjab	8375
20.	Rajasthan	6330
21.	Sikkim	46
22.	Tamil Nadu	4629
23.	Tripura	53
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16506
25.	West Bengal	4079
26.	A&N Islands	25
27.	Chandigarh	46
28.	Daman & Diu	11
29.	D&N Haveli	1
30.	Delhi	321
31.	Lakshadweep	1
32.	Pondicherry	38
	All India	84570

*Anticipated Achievement.

Source: State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments.

Indo-Bangla Joint Commission

2891. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indo-Bangla Joint Commission meeting was held recently in Dhaka on Teesta river water sharing; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fifth Meeting of Joint Committee of Experts of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission on sharing of Teesta waters and other common rivers between India and Bangladesh was held at Dhaka on 21st and 22nd Jan., 2003. The issues relating to (i) Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Joint Scientific Study on the availability and requirement of Teesta waters between Bangladesh and India concurrently with the Joint Scientific Study, were discussed. Since there were difference of opinion between the two sides with regard to the above two issues, the Committee agreed to further discuss the same in its next meeting.

[English]

Promotion and Development of Agriculture in Maharashtra

2892. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated and implemented any Central Scheme for promotion and development of agricultural sector in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide incentives to small and marginal farmers of the State;

(d) whether a special programme has been launched to check frequent droughts in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is a proposal to set up a centre at the Panchayat level to provide agriculture related information; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A list of major Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation for the promotion and development of agriculture sector in the State of Maharashtra is as follows:

1. Macro Management Scheme
2. Technology Mission on Cotton
3. Oilseed Production Programme
4. National Pulses Development Project
5. Accelerated Maize Development Programme
6. Investment in Debentures of Land Development Banks
7. National Project in Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers.

(c) The benefit of the Schemes implemented by the Government of India are extended to all category of farmers including small and marginal farmers. These Schemes provide assistance in various components and some of the components give special consideration to certain category of farmers such as small and marginal farmers. The Government also implement Schemes for price and market support which help in strengthening the farm income and economic conditions of the farmers. These Schemes cover all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(d) and (e) Major programmes like national watershed development project for rainfed areas, soil and water conservation for enhancing agricultural productivity of degraded land in the Catchments of river valley projects and flood prone rivers under the Macro Management Scheme are being implemented in Maharashtra which help in mitigating and drought proofing in the State.

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

Expansion of Civil Aviation Infrastructure

2893. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake certain projects for expanding and strengthening infrastructure network of Civil Aviation in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the current and next financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount involved in each project, year-wise; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In Andhra Pradesh, strengthening of runway for operation of wide-bodied jet aircraft with minimum load penalty has been taken up at Hyderabad airport at a cost of Rs. 70 crores and the work is likely to be completed during 2004-05. After completion, more number of airlines will get the benefit to operate their aircraft with less pay load penalty.

Action has already been initiated for construction of a new runway of 10,000 feet length, civil and naval apron alongwith ground lighting facilities and Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Vishakhapatnam airport an estimated cost of Rs. 158 crores jointly by Indian Navy, Airports Authority of India and State Government of Andhra Pradesh. After completion, wide bodied aircraft would be able to operate on international sector also in all weather conditions which will certainly give boost to the economy of the area.

In Uttaranchal, subject to the availability of land by the State Government, work is likely to be taken up for upgradation of Dehradun airport for B-737/A-320 type aircraft during 2003-04 at an estimated cost of Rs. 64 crores. After completion, operation of B-737/A-320 type aircraft will give boost to development of tourism and economy in the area.

Decline in Price of Toor Dal

2894. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the price of "Toor Dal" has come down in the open market in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of purchase centres have already started buying "Toor Dal" at a fixed rate (remunerative prices) at various places in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The open market rate of Toor Dal is above the minimum support price fixed by the Central Government at Rs. 1320.00 per quintal for 2002-2003.

The Market Prices of Toor Dal are detailed below:

Month	Rupees per Quintal
November, 2002	1400-1500
December, 2002	1450-1500
January, 2003	1550-1650
February, 2003	1650-1770

Karnataka Government has opened seven procurement centers in two major Toor growing destricts namely, in Gulbarga and Bidar for procurement at a fixed rate of Rs. 1650 and Rs. 1600 per quintal for Grade-I and Grade-II respectively. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) appointed by the Central Government as a Nodal Agency for procurement of Pulses under the Minimum Support Price scheme, has not procured Toor Dal in Karnataka at the minimum support price announced by the Central Government.

National Research Centre for Banana

2895. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Research Centre for Banana has developed a technology for banana based carbonated RTS drink;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan proposed to be adopted by the Government to encourage this technology;

(d) the places where such plants are likely to be set up; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

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

(b) The enzyme clarified banana juice is dispensed into Ready-to-serve (RTS) beverage, then pasteurized and aerated with carbon dioxide at suitable levels and crown corked on a carbonating machine. The product was found to be acceptable by the taste panel.

(c) to (e) This technology is ready for transfer to anyone interested to set up the business/industry.

Decline in Production of Pulses

2896. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of pulses has come down in each of the last three years till date despite spending crores of rupees on the research;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of quality pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The production of pulses remained fluctuating over the last few years depending upon the behaviour of the monsoon. The production of pulses during the last three years is given in the following table:

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
1999-2000	134.18
2000-2001	110.76
2001-2002	131.91

(c) To enhance the pulse production in the country, pulses have been brought under the purview of Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses. A scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented for this purpose. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided for critical inputs like production & distribution of seeds, seed minikits, improved farm implements, rhyzobium culture, micro-nutrients, Integrated Pest Management and distribution of sprinkler sets, Gypsum, Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV) etc. In addition, frontline and block demonstrations are also organized on farmers' fields for transfer of technology.

Threat of Virus to Cash Crops

2897. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the threat of virus posed to some major cash crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the crops; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the menace of virus and to save these cash crops?

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

(b) Following are the main virus diseases of major cash crops:

(i) Leaf Curl Virus in cotton.

(ii) Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) and Tobacco Leaf Curl Virus (TLCV) in tobacco.

(iii) Sugarcane Mosaic Virus in sugarcane.

(iv) Jute Mosaic in jute.

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to check the menace of virus diseases in order to save these cash crops include:

- Development of virus resistant varieties;
- Management and control of vector and alternate host to curtail the spread of the viruses;
- Creating awareness among the farmers through the conduct of Farmer's Field Schools (FFSs) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) measures.

Depletion of Saline Forests

2898. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the severity of cyclone in Orissa was due to depletion of saline forests on the coast line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for plantation in the super cycline affected area of Orissa and to raise saline forests on the coast line of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The saline forests do have significant role in mitigating the impact of cyclone in coastal areas. Accordingly, Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified development of Mangroves and Coastal Shelterbelt plantation as Thrust areas for priority action after the Super Cyclone in Orissa. Under the Scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, Bhitarkanika, Mahanadi, Subernrekha, Devi, Dhamra and Chilka in Orissa, Coringa, East Godavari and Krishna mangrove areas in Andhra Pradesh and Sunderbans in West Bengal have been identified for intensive conservation and management. Financial assistance is extended to the concerned States for implementation of Management Action Plans on the identified mangrove areas as well as for Coastal shelterbelt plantation.

Promotion of Dairy in Orissa

2899. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to promote Dairy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to promote Dairy in Orissa;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether any Central scheme has been sponsored for Orissa;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to promote day in the State during the last three years particularly in the KBK districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Apart from various Dairy Development Schemes/programmes being implemented by the respective State Governments, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Integrated Dairy Development Project" (IDDP) in Non Operation Flood (O.F.), hilly and backward areas of the country on 100% grant-in-aid basis to the State Governments based on their requirements. This Ministry is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely "Assistance to Co-operatives" for rehabilitation of sick milk Unions/Cooperatives on 50:50 sharing basis with the respective State Governments.

(c) to (g) Government of India has sanctioned four projects for the State of Orissa under IDDP since 1993-94 at a total outlay of Rs. 2480.58 lakhs. Projects III & IV are presently under implementation with outlays of Rs. 621.84 lakhs and Rs. 784.53 lakhs, sanctioned during 1998-99 and 2000-01 respectively the IDDP Project-I was implemented in KBK districts besides other districts of Orissa. The III Project also covers KBK districts.

Visit of Tourists to Gujarat

2900. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether visit of tourists of Yatradham in Gujarat has declined after the communal disharmony;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to attract foreign domestic tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign/domestic tourists:

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Development sustained and effective market plans and programmes;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

Post of Director in I.C.A.R.

2901. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR rules/guidelines stipulate eligibility of the Director to apply again for the same post after completing full term of 5 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for violating the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The ICAR rules/guidelines relating to forwarding of applications of the Scientists holding Research Management Position including Directors of ICAR Institutes do not preclude them to apply for the same post after completing full term of 5 years.

(b) An extract of relevant guidelines as per statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Forwardal of application by the Scientists holding Research Management Positions (RMPs)

(a) Applications of Scientists holding Research Management Position (RMPs) for another equivalent Research Management Position under the ICAR system may be forwarded after he/she has rendered two years service in the existing Research Management Position held by him/her. However, scientists not holding Research Management Positions may apply any time for equivalent posts involving research management.

[8(4)/86-Per. IV dated 6th August, 1992]

However, this provision will not be application to incumbents of the posts of Directors of IARI/IVRI/NDRI/CIFE/NAARM/DDGs and ND, NATP

[1(12)/2001-Per. IV Dated 6th December, 2001]
[1(12)/2001-Per. IV Dated 31st December, 2001]

Projects Run by IASRI

2902. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of statistical methodology for conducting agricultural experiments/investigations is part of work-mandate of Indian Agricultural Statistic Research Institute; and

(b) if so, the number and details of such projects conducted during last three years?

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

(b) There are total 44 projects taken during last 3 years as per details as statement enclosed.

Statement

During the last three years the Institute has initiated the following research projects

1. A statistical investigation on the long term effects of fertilizers on productivity of cereal crop sequences
   - To estimate the overall fertilizer treatment effects for each crop sequences
   - To study the effects of long-term fertilizer use on the yield of different crops
   - To develop methodology for determining optimal fertilization practice for each the crop sequences
   - To develop yield prediction models for crops included in different sequences
2. A diagnostic study of Design and Analysis of Field Experiments
   - To conduct a diagnostic survey of several experiments for identifying different experimental situations so as to provide appropriate methods of analysis of data for each possible situation as well as to develop methodology for data analysis are not available or suitable
   - To evolve appropriate and modified methods of combined analysis of data from experiments conducted at different locations and/or years by using the concept of nested models
   - To use the concept of multivariate analysis of variance to analyse the data of experiments with multiple responses
   - To develop an appropriate but exact method of estimation of variance components from an unbalanced data obtained from block designs with possible unequal block sizes and verying replications
3. Statistical Investigation on the fertilizer use efficiency in relation to cultural practices
   - To carry out the combined analysis of cultural cum manurial experiments over years/locations for various crops
   - To develop fertilizer response models based on cultural cum manurial trials
   - To obtain output input ratios at a various levels of cultural practices of crops
4. Design and Analysis of on Station and on Farm Agricultural Research Experiments: A Revisits
   - To develop suitable methodology by using data of uniformity trials and past experiments in deciding the shape and size of irregular plots and blocks for future experimentation.
   - To develop efficient designs and appropriate methods of analysis of data by exploiting the principle of resolvability, fractional factorials and nested models for experiments on Farm Research.
5. Three-associate class partially balanced incomplete block designs and their applications to partial dialled crosses
   - To obtain some methods of construction of three associate class partially balanced incomplete block designs and to prepare a catalogue of the available PBIB (3) designs along with those constructed
   - To develop a computer module to catalogue, generate and analyse three associate class partially balanced incomplete block designs
   - To identify the efficient plans for partial dialler crosses obtained through schemes and develop computer modules for generation of these plans along with their analysis in completer and/or incomplete block settings
6. Statistical study on completion effects among neighbouring units in field experiments
   - To study the characterization properties of the designs for investigating competition effects among neighbouring units.
   - To obtain (construct) designs for estimating competition effects in one-way and two-way elimination of heterogeneity settings.
   - To study the optimality aspects of the designs obtained for competition effects and to prepare a catalogue of the optimal (efficient) designs for these situations.
   - To study the competition effects among neighbouring units using the data generated through simulation techniques.

7. Design and Analysis of Agroforestry Experiments

   - To evolve and document general methodologies for the statistical analysis of data already generated through agroforestry experiments.
   - To obtain appropriate designs alongwith the layout plans and methodology for the analysis of the experiments under agroforestry system to be suggested to the collaborative centre(s).
   - To study the relationship among the various components (trees and crops) in agroforestry.

8. Planning, Designing and Analysis of Experiments relating to Soil Test-Crop Response Correlations

   - To improve the existing methodology for analysis of on-going STCR experiments.
   - To carry out planning and resigning for the conduct of new set of experiments and subsequently to carry out the analysis of data.
   - To develop data base for STCR experiments

9. Planning, Designing and Analysis of Experiments planned on stations under the Project Directorate for Cropping System Research

   - To identify the suitable statistical designs for conduct of experiments according to the technical programme formulated in the annual workshop of the project.
   - To develop suitable method of analysis for the identified designs.
   - To statistically analyse the data of experiments conducted at 37 cropping system research centre.

10. Planning, Designing and Analysis of 'On Farm' Research Experiments planned under Project Directorate for Cropping System Research

    - To provide suitable sampling plan and design for layout of experiments on cultivator's fields.
    - To identify the appropriate statistical methodology for the analysis of data collected under the programme of experiments on cultivator's field and to undertake the analysis of the data of experiments conducted.
    - To finalise the results of experiments conducted on cultivator's fields for inclusion in the Annual Report of the project.

11. Planning, Designing and Statistical Analysis of data relating to Experiments conducted under AICRP on Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments

    - To plan and design long-term experiments.
    - To try alternative approaches for analysis of data.
    - To coordinate the work relating to statistical aspects of the project and also to provide necessary information to the Project Coordinator (LTFE) and ICAR.

12. Study of Land Use Statistics through integrated modelling using Geographic Information System

    - To obtain land utilisation statistics with the help of survey and remote sensing technique.
    - To study the qualitative aspect of land utilisation statistics obtained through different sources *i.e.* Census, Survey and Remote Sensing.
    - To develop model for integration of statistics obtained through different sources.

13. Development of GIS based technique for identification of potential agro-forestry area

    - To identify the important factors responsible for growth of agroforestry.
    - To construct the suitability index using Spatial-Analytic Hierarchy Process.
    - To compare the above mentioned index with the Composite development index.

14. Pilot study on forecasting of brood-lac yield from Buteamonosperma (Palas)

    - To identify the factors affecting yield of broodlac.
    - To develop models for forecasting the yield of broodlac from palas tress.

15. Forecasting Sugarcane Yields Using Multiple Markov Chains

    - To develop models for forecasting sugarcane yields based on higher border Markov Chains.
    - To develop feasibility of use of data of more than one point of time through growth indices and Principal Component Analysis.
    - To investigate the usage of lumable Markov Chains in forecast models.
    - To investigate the behaviour of the proposed and also the existing models for forecasting

sugarcane yields after increasing the size of the baseline data set.

- To forecast the sugarcane yields from the developed models and compare them with those obtained from the existing methods.

16. Forecasting the loss in yield due tow weeds

- To examine the growth behaviour of weeds which affect significantly the crop yield under study.
- To find out the relationship between crop yield and weed parameters and to develop methodology for forecasting loss in yield.

17. Development of weather based forewarning system for crop pests and diseases-NATP Project

- To generate weather based forecasting models for insect pests and disease development.
- To validate the forecasting models.

18. Studies on bioecology and population dynamics of major pests of mango (hoppers, fruitfully webber & inflorescence midge and guava (fruit-borer) (In collaboration with CISH, Lucknow)

- Identification of the underlying law the fruitfly follows in natural way of its own.
- The establishment of the relationship of fruitfully population with various relevant lag weather variables/fruitfly population by fitting appropriate models.
- Development of final model by using individual functions fitted above.

19. Assessment of harvest and post-harvest-losses-a mission mode project

- To conduct a pilot study to assess the harvest and post harvest losses of oilseeds, milk, wool, meat, eggs and poultry meat, marine and inland fishery at different levels (Producer, consumer and market).

20. A pilot study on cost of production of Coconut in Kerala-Funded from Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala (Collaborative with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala)

- To build reliable and efficient estimates of cost of cultivation of coconut.
- To study the agricultural practice in Coconut.
- To utilise the information collected in the objective (to study the agricultural practice in Coconut) on input details to formulate more remunerative cultivation practice.

21. Estimation of wool production-emerging data needs and a methodological reappraisal (Collaborative with Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute (ICAR), Avikanager (Rajasthan)

- To modify the existing sampling methodology for estimation of wool production.
- To estimate the breed-wise sheep number, average wool yield and total wool production at district/state level with a reasonable precision.
- To study the socio-economic status of farmers engaged in sheep rearing.

22. Jai-Vigyan National Science and Technology Mission on Household Food and Nutritional Security for Tribal, Backward and Hilly Areas

- To document socio-economic conditions and food security status of the targeted population.
- To assess cost of differential technological interventions in various target domains.
- To identify possible constraints for diversification and wider adoption of improved life support crop species and lied enterprises.
- To quantify the potential benefits of improved technologies and diversification on poverty alleviation, food security, income and sustainability of resource base in the target domain.
- To assess implications of improved technology interventions on gender related issues, and
- To examine role of Government intervention through on-going programmes for wider adoption and larger impact of improved technologies in tribal, backward and hill areas.

23. Study of Lac Marketing in India

- To study existing marketing channel and price spread in lac marketing.
- To examine extent of market integration in lac markets.
- To suggest remedial measures for improving marketing environment of lac in India.

24. An econometric study of technological dualism in egg production

- To study the extent of technological dualism and change in egg production.
- To study effect of technological dualism and technological change on functional income distribution.
- To examine allocate efficiency under different levels of technology.

25. Study to formulating long term mechanization strategy for each agro-climatic zone/state Funded by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture

- To study the soil types, land topography.
- To study the socio-economic conditions (financial status) of the farmers and farm labourers and assess their capabilities for acquiring adopting the needed agricultural equipment/machinery.
- To study the present status, ultimate potential, the gaps, highlighting critical ones; for equipment used in various agricultural operations starting right from village to post-harvest operating.
- To study the types and utility of various agricultural equipment, both conventional and improved ones, presently in use and those needed in future, for different crops/cropping systems in the Zones.
- To study the impact of farm mechanization on employment of labour.
- To study the cropping pattern, both agricultural and horticultural, in the Zones, yields in relation to the national average, and their growth potential.
- To study and assess the use of arm power per hectare, ultimate requirement, ways and means to fulfill the gaps for various farm operations.
- To study the infrastructural facilities for the manufacture, marketing, after sale service/repairs availability etc. of agricultural equipment.
- To study and asses the adequacy and the requirement of infrastructure at the central and state levels, for planning, promotion, execution and extension of the various plan programmes on agricultural mechanisation.
- To identify new/improved farm equipment that may be needed by the farmers during next 20 years *i.e.* by the year 2020, for carrying out different farm operations.
- To formulate strategies and programmes that may be required for mechanisation of agriculture during the period 2001-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015, 2015-2020.

26. Technical Efficiency Analysis of Rice Wheat System in Punjab

- To estimate the farm level technical efficiency of rice-wheat system in Punjab.

27. On some robust estimation heritability

- To examine the influence of non-normality and other assumptions on the estimation of heritability.
- To study the effect of aberrant values on the estimates of heritability.
- To identify and develop procedures for robust estimation of heritability.

28. Empirical investigations on the influence of fixed effects on the estimates of heritability

- To study the effect on non-genetic factors on the estimation of heritability and its precision.
- To compare the different methods of correction of data by applying the method of fitting constants.
- To compare mixed model technique with the above methods for estimation of variance components and consequently heritability.

29. Studies on data processing techniques for statistical analysis of large field variability in hilly and salt regions

- To consolidate on a comprehensive manner the data processing techniques for statistical quantification of the large field variability in hilly and salt affected soils.
- To finalise the algorithms and develop softwares for computerised data processing of the natural variability present in the plantations carried out in uncultivable lands.
- To develop computerised techniques for the construction of the fertility gradient maps of examined soil characteristics field variability obtained by using different concepts of statistical methodology.

- To formulate computerised data processing technology for correlating the plant growth traits performance with that of soils characteristics.

30. Study of Nonlinear time series modelling in agriculture

- To study relative merits and demerits of various tests of linearity.
- To investigate properties of autoregressive conditional heterosedastic, self-exciting threshold autoregressive and bilinear model from the family of parametric nonlinear time series models.
- To develop relevant computer programs for fitting of above models and to apply these to react data from the fields of entomology, fishery, agricultural economics etc.

31. Studies on growth pattern and heritability of fitness traits in Indian breeds of goats

- To compare different methods of estimation heritability of fitness traits.
- To compare the adequacy of different non-linear models utilized for studying growth pattern.

32. Development of statistical procedures for selecting genotypes simultaneously for yield and stability

- To construct new indices for selecting genotypes simultaneously for both yield and stability.
- To make comparison among the indices developed, based on standard statistical techniques and on techniques involving simulation.
- To develop a computer program for judging desirable genotypes.

33. Development of Software for Online Information System on Personnel Management in ICAR

- To design and develop databse required for manpower of ICAR set up.
- To design and develop user interface for online data entry and updating.
- To design and develop reports and queries for manpower information management.

34. Development of web-site for National Seed Project (N.S.P.)

- To identify the information to be kept on web.
- To design and develop the database.
- To design and develop the web application.
- To configure network for website and database server.

35. Agricultural Field Experiments Information System

- Collection of data of Agricultural Field Experiments from.
- Different Research Stations/Agril. Universities/ ICAR Institutes in the country.
- To develop various software for creation, validation and updation of database and for retrieval of information.
- To maintain the database and update it at regular intervals.

36. Institutionalization of Research Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation and Networking of Social Scientists

- Development of monitoring mechanism.
- Development of monitoring indicators at different operative levels.
- Development of Project Information and Management System (PIMS) and linking it with Internet.
- Training and workshops on monitoring and PIMS Establishing network of agricultural statisticians and economists.

37. Integrated National Agricultural Resources Information System (INARIS)

- To integrate existing databases of crops, plant genetic resources, horticultural and plantations crops, spices, animal genetic resources, fish genetic resources, socio-economic resources, agro-forestry system, water resources, agricultural farm mechanization etc.
- To develop and develop comprehensive data base on the above agricultural resources.
- To develop resource maps based on various databases through GIS.
- To develop warehouse of the above databases.

38. Expert System of Extension

- To categorize agriculture in sub-areas and collect relevant information of these areas to feed into database (At IARI).

- To make decision rules to process the information (At IARI).
- To design & develop the web based expert system in extension (At IASRI).
- To provide required information to the farmers and extension workers to take decisions before starting the agricultural enterprise (At IARI).

39. National Information System on Agricultural Education on Internet (NISAGENET)
    - Development of a computerised information system related to National Agricultural Education in India with a data bank containing data collected from all the SAUs and Deemed Universities of ICAR.
    - Specification for how best the data collected from primary and secondary sources be stored in the database.
    - Development of suitable modules for updation, modification and expansion in the database structure.
    - Development of application programs for different Report and Queries to meet users requirements.
40. Short Term Training Programs in Information Technology
    - To train manpower in the field of information Technology.
    - To expose the scientist of NARS to lates Development in Information technology.
41. Development of Statistical Package for Agricultural Research (Windows Version)—SPAR 2.0
    - To design and develop the windows version of the SPAR1
    - Development of few additional modules which are not available in the SPAR1.
42. Development of Expert System on Wheat Crop Management (EXOWHEM)
    - To collect and compile the information from the experts for Wheat Crop Management.
    - To develop the knowledge base for the Expert System.
    - To develop inference engine for the expert system.
    - To develop and implement expert system on Wheat Crop Management.
43. Statistical Evaluation of Agricultural Field Experiments conducted in Maharashtra State
    - To prepare indices for evaluation of different types of agricultural field experiments.
    - To suggest corrective measures for increasing the precision of the experimentation on the basis of indices.
44. Statistical Package for Animal Breeding Data 2 (SPAB 2)
    - The immediate objective or Phase 1 of the project will be to develop Window based Version of SPABD using a Programming Language, which should make the software platform independent.

Promotion of Poultry and Fowling Industries

2903. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to promote poultry and fowling industries in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the performance during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to promote poultry and fowling industries in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the assistance provided by the Union Government during the last three years; and

(e) the expected production and the actual production realised during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) This Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry Farms" in all the States/UTs of the country during the Xth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) for encouraging rural poultry. The pattern of assistance is 100% for North Eastern States including Sikkim and on 80:20 Centre to State basis for other States. Under the scheme one time financial assistance is provided to selected State poultry farms on suitably strengthen them for strictly maintaining low-input technology breeding stock. The assistance provided to the States under this scheme are as under:

State	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)
Assam	170.00
Chattisgarh	68.00
Himachal Pradesh	59.87
Jharkhand	25.48
Kerala	55.00
Mizoram	70.00
Rajasthan	54.65
Uttaranchal	68.00
West Bengal	68.00

(c) The scheme is being implemented in all the States in the country including Tamil Nadu. However, no proposal has been received under the scheme for the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Integrated Flood Management Commission

2904. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an Integrated Flood Management Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the recommendation of the commission to control floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Flood Control Programme of the X Plan (2002-07) in its report submitted to the Planning Commission had recommended that "It would be desirable to consider setting up an Integrated Flood Management Commission to go into all the details and make review of the flood management programme in the country".

However in 1976 the Government of India had set up Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) which had examined the problem of floods in the country in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of RBA which formed the framework for flood management strategy in the country had been forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation. The Ministry of Water Resources has already constituted an Experts' Committee on go into the present status of implementation of the recommendations of Rashtriya Barh Ayog, ascertain and bottlenecks faced by the State Governments in its implementation and suggest suitable measures. In view of this, there is no proposal at present to set up another Commission.

Schemes for Development and Utilisation of Bio-Fertilizers

2905. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of programmes and schemes being implemented in various States particularly in Rajasthan under the National Scheme for development and utilization of bio-fertilizer sponsored by the Union Government; and

(b) the mediums through which the said programmes are being run in the country for the last five years and in the current years alongwith the total funds allocated in the said period, scheme/programme-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Govt. has implemented a National project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizer as a central sector scheme during IX Plan. Under this project a National Biofertilizer Development Centre was established at Ghaziabad along with its six regional centers each at Hissar, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar and Imphal, with following objectives:

- Production and distribution of biofertilizer.
- Organizing training programmes for extension workers/agricultural officers and field demonstrations for increasing awareness about importance of biofertilizer.
- Augmenting biofertilizer production facilities by providing financial assistance.
- Quality control of biofertilizers.

Under this scheme Govt. has provided non recurring grant-in-aid of Rs. 20 lakhs through State Governments for setting up biofertilizer production units upto 150 MT capacity by agro-industries, cooperatives, public sector fertilizer undertaking, NGOs and private agencies for production of biofertilizers. So far funds have been released for setting up 77 biofertilizer production units

which includes one unit in Rajasthan. The details of funds released for setting up biofertilizer production units during last five years are as under:

Year	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	80.00
1998-99	50.00
1999-2000	159.00
2000-01	127.50
2001-02	56.00
Total	472.50

[English]

Encroachment near Monument

2906. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "The Tomb Raider" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 26th, 2003;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to get this encroachment evicted immediately;

(d) whether the Government has directed the State Governments to submit comprehensive report on encroachments near monuments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bara Lao Ka Gimbad, a Lodhi period tomb located behind Vasant Lok market in the DDA park in Vasant Vihar is not under Central protection. However, the Government of NCT Delhi has decided to maintain this monument and has asked the DDA to remove the encroachment and to handover the monument to the Department of Archaeology, Government of NCT Delhi. The land on which the monument stands belongs to the DDA.

(d) and (e) During the State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 5.9.2002 the State Governments were requested to ensure that encroachments should not come up in the vicinity of heritage sites as it creates adverse image in the mind of visitors. In the New Tourism Policy thrust has been given to the civilisational issues as well as issues pertaining to civic and good governance. In major tourism projects the State Government are being requested for relocation of the encroachments.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Premises of Civil Aviation

2907. DR. BALI RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent under the head-maintenance and carrying out new works relating to horticulture in the offices and other places of civil aviation in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) whether the said work at airports, offices, colonies, parks, in Delhi in not satisfactory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 2.57 crores (approx.) was spent on horticulture related activities by various offices/organisations located in Delhi under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) No, Sir. The work is satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Development and Beautification of Kaliakhan

2908. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received Development and Beautification proposal of Kaliakhan Project at Sangli of Maharashtra in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been cleared by the Government;

(d) if so, the details of budgetary allocation of the project;

(e) whether the project will be executed during 2002-2003; and

(f) if not, by when the project is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Land acquired for Bokaro Steel Plant

2909. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired for Bokrao Steel Plant (BSP);

(b) whether a major part of the land was not utilised for the purposes for which it was acquired;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the total area of land transferred to the individuals, Non-Governmental Organisations, educational institutions and traders out of the land acquired for the BSP;

(e) whether the land has been allotted on lease basis to the beneficiaries;

(f) if so, the period for which the land has been allotted on lease and the rent rates thereof;

(g) if not, the method adopted for allotment of land;

(h) whether provisions of the land Acquisition Act, 1894 has been violated;

(i) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(j) the area of land or quarters given on lease during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Total area of land acquired for Bokrao Steel Plant is 31287.24 acres.

(b) No, Sir. Land has been utilised for the purpose it was acquired for.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details of the total area of land allotted on Lease basis are given below:

1.	Individuals & traders	:	44.30 acres
2.	Non-Govt. Organisations		116.32 acres
3.	Educational Institutions	:	206.11 acres
	Total		366.73 acres

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The land was allotted on lease basis for a period of 30-33 years. The land rent in respect of commercial plots was 1% of the applicable premium and rent is 1% of the applicable premium for all categories.

(g) Goes not arise.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

(j) The area of land given on lease during the last three years is 31846.76 Square Metre and quarters allotted on lease basis from June 2001 to 05.03.2003 are 4579 in numbers.

[English]

Labour Relations Management Bill

2910. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft for Labour Relations Management Bill;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

Promotion of Agricultural Forestry and Orchards

2911. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote agricultural forestry and orchards in the country especially in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State for the purpose during the last three years and also in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Land Resources is implementing a Central Sector Scheme 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, including Maharashtra. Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing in All India Coordinated Research Project on Agro-Forestry in the country through 27 State Agricultural Universities and 10 ICAR Institutes. 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 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 the country.

(c) The State-wise details of financial assistance provided by the Department of Land Resources and the ICAR is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Funds released under various projects on Agro-Forestry

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UTs	Department of Land Resources		ICAR		
		1993-94 to 2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (Release upto 19.12.02)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.10	17.55	18.00	10.01	10.00
2.	Assam	—	—	9.00	12.30	3.00
3.	Bihar	—	—	8.00	4.80	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	22.76	—	3.00	6.49	6.00
5.	Gujarat	—	—	10.00	14.74	13.00
6.	Haryana	20.06	—	12.00	12.42	11.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	13.00	12.94	7.75
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	4.00	7.62	8.00
9.	Jharkhand	—	—	9.00	6.25	5.00
10.	Karnataka	—	—	10.75	11.00	6.45
11.	Kerala	—	—	9.50	12.97	4.00
12.	Maharashtra	15.44	—	49.00	57.14	40.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	12.00	11.05	12.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Meghalaya	7.20	4.87	—	—	—
15.	Orissa	70.48	—	6.00	9.90	11.00
16.	Punjab	—	—	15.75	13.15	7.00
17.	Rajasthan	—	2.21	8.25	8.50	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	19.28	—	15.00	23.25	17.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	25.22	31.22	20.00	29.25	17.00
20.	Uttaranchal	9.97	5.50	6.00	16.00	6.00
21.	West Bengal	—	—	10.00	9.52	12.00

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in North-Eastern States

2912. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in North-Eastern States including Sikkim at present;

(b) the estimated cost involved therein, project-wise;

(c) the irrigation potential of such projects;

(d) the funds sanctioned/released by the Union Government to the State Governments; and

(e) the steps taken to complete projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The details of ongoing major and medium irrigations projects depicting their estimated cost, irrigation potential, funds released by the Central Government to the State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the Project	Category	Estimate cost (Rs. in crore)	Irrigation Potential (Th. Ha)	Funds Released under AIBP till Feb. 2003 (in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
ASSAM					
1.	Dhansiri	Major	355.02 (2001)	83.366	28.820
2.	Jamuna Modernisation	Major	60.27 (1996)	42.014	2.355
3.	Integrated Kollong	Major	113.93 (2003)	34.400	11.857
4.	Bordikarai	Major	48.03 (1998)	34.042	7.013
5.	Champamati	Major	128.67 (2000)	24.994	10.830
6.	Borolia	Medium	69.33 (1999)	13.562	7.937
7.	Pahumara	Medium	48.43 (1997)	12.955	4.310
8.	Rupahi	Medium	8.20 (1997)	5.668	0.655

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Buridehing Lift	Medium	27.40 (2001)	5.054	3.724
10.	Hawaipur Lift	Medium	14.93 (1997)	3.887	3.965
			Sub Total	259.942	81.466
MANIPUR					
11.	Thoubal Multipurpose	Major	390.00 (1997)	33.400	45.340
12.	Khuga Multipurpose	Major	249.22 (2001)	15.000	36.910
13.	Dolaithabi	Medium	63.10 (2000)	7.545	1.500
			Sub Total	55.945	83.570
MEGHALAYA					
14.	Rangai	Medium	57.07 (2000)	4.775	4.000
			Sub Total	4.775	4.000
TRIPURA					
15.	Gumti	Medium	59.00 (1998)	9.800	11.278
16.	Khowai	Medium	67.00 (1998)	9.320	7.778
17.	Manu	Medium	52.00 (1998)	7.600	9.815
			Sub Total	26.720	28.871
SIKKIM					
	There is no major and medium projects				
			Grand Total	347.382	198.087

(e) Being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Government out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The Central Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme provides Central Loan Assistance in a phased manner for completion of identified components of the irrigation projects. For the States in North East including Sikkim the loans are being provided at a liberalized rate of 3:1 (Centre: State) Since 1999-2000 compared to all India rate of 2:1 (Centre : State). The expeditious completion of these projects depends upon the priority attached to it by the concerned State Government.

Uniform Co-operative Act

2913. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in a uniform Co-operative Act on the lines of Panchayati Raj Act after consulting State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Schemes in Bihar

2914. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the centrally sponsored schemes implemented relating to Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development in Bihar; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government for the preservation, protection and development of animal breeds and eradication of diseases in Bihar during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of Central Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the State of Bihar and the funds released during 2002-03 is as statement enclosed.

Statement

Schemes being implemented in the State of Bihar and the funds released during 2002-2003

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breed Programme	0.00
2.	Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder	0.00
3.	Assistance to States for Poultry/Duck Farm	0.00
4.	Modernisation/Improvement of Slaughter Houses/CUC	0.00
5.	Integrated Sample Survey for Livestock production	15.70
6.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases Control	6.72
7.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	0.00
8.	Professional Efficiency Development	0.49
9.	Integrated Dairy Development Project	56.79
	Total	79.70

Maintenance of Embankments of Ganga River to Private Sector

2915. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to entrust the upkeep and maintenance of embankments of Ganga river to private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Department of Tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

EPF dues of Closed Textile Mills

2916. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge arrears of payment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dues remain to be paid to former workers of closed textile-mills;

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of such dues, specifically with respect to closed textile mills of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh indicating the EPF arrears cleared since their closure; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the clearance of EPF dues of former textile workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of closed textile mills alongwith the outstanding dues, State-wise are given in the attached statement. Amount recovered from the closed textile mills in case of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are Rs. 33.42 lakhs and Rs. 3.14 lakhs respectively.

(c) In all cases of default all possible action is taken to expedite the clearance of EPF dues.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Closed Textiles mills	Outstanding dues (Rs. In Lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	1381.33
2.	Bihar	Nil	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	5.97
4.	Delhi	Nil	—

1	2	3	4
5.	Gujarat	33	751.46
6.	Goa	Nil	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	—
8.	Haryana	8	107.81
9.	Jharkhand	Nil	—
10.	Karnataka	5	56.29
11.	Kerala	2	135.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	1302.82
13.	Maharashtra	10	982.80
14.	Orissa	26	2578.45
15.	Punjab	5	44.74
16.	Rajasthan	20	133.10
17.	Tamil Nadu	7	270.71
18.	Uttaranchal	4	707.60
19.	Uttar Pradesh	9	3079.76
20.	West Bengal	6	181.12
21.	North East Region	Nil	–

World Bank Loan for Irrigation Projects in Orissa

2917. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission (CWC) had cleared certain fresh irrigation projects in Orissa for getting World Bank loan;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought; and

(c) the irrigation projects likely to be completed with the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No fresh proposal has been submitted by Government of Orissa to Central Water Commission for getting World Bank loan in the recent past. However, the Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project under implementation with the World Bank assistance of SDR 194.800 million since 05.01.1996, has been extended for 18 months beyond September, 2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Families of Jurala Project

2918. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families displaced by the execution of jurala project near Raichur in Karnataka;

(b) whether such families have not yet been rehabilitated;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh 715 families are displaced in Karnataka by the execution of Jurala project. The Irrigation Department of the Government of Karnataka is taking up the work of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R & R) of the displaced families as per the agreement reached between the States. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing funds for land acquisition and R & R to the Government of Karnataka. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has deposited an amount of Rs. 6.47 crore with the Government of Karnataka for these works. Further, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has accorded sanction to desposit Rs. 15 crore with the Government of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Setting up of Bio-Agent Laboratories

2919. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Bio-agent Laboratories set up in the country especially in Jharkhand in the last two years, till date;

(b) the number of requests received from the State Governments including Jharkhand for setting up of Bio-agent Laboratories; and

(c) the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) During VIII Five Year Plan, 30 State Biocontrol Laboratories were sanctioned for being set up in 26 States and for Union Territories including one at Patna in Bihar. Most of these Laboratories have been completed during VIII and IX Plans. No new Bio-control Laboratories has been set up in the last two years.

(b) Two Requests have been received from State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka for setting up of bio-agent laboratories during the last two years. However, no request from Jharkhand State has been received.

(c) Government of India's policy is to encourage the use of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents and Union Government is implementing a scheme for giving grants-in-aid to states for setting up/strengthening the bio-control laboratories under the Integrated Pest Management programme of Government of India.

[English]

Civil Aviation Projects during 10th Plan

2920. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the civil aviation development projects approved for Karnataka to be undertaken during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the projects completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the projects where the work is in progress as on date;

(d) the projects where the work has not progress as per the schedule alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to speed up the pending projects; and

(f) the funds sanctioned and released for the purpose during the last three years and current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The scheme-wise details of the Tenth Five Year Plan in respect of Civil Aviation Sector have not been finalized.

(b) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Reforms in Agricultural Sector

2921. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to adverse situation in agricultural sector, central statistical organization has forecasted a mere 4.4 per cent growth in G.D.P. in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether the C.S.O. survey indicates the need for reforms in agricultural sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the proposals of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the advance estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) for the year 2002-03, the estimated growth rate of GDP is 4.4 per cent. The contribution to GDP from the sector consisting of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is estimated at (-) 3.1 per cent by CSO for the year 2002-03. The estimated negative growth in the sector reflects the sharp decline in the production of major crops like foodgrains and oilseeds resulting from the severe drought in the year 2002.

(b) CSO have not conducted any survey on the need for reforms in agricultural sector.

(c) Does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Papers are to be laid always before anything else. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are Members from the Ruling Party. You know that Papers are always laid before you raise any matter. Please sit down. Shri Jag Mohan.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7123/03]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7124/03]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7125/03]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7126/03]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7127/03]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7128/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7129/03]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7130/03]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 104(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend three notifications mentioned therein.

(ii) The CENVAT Credit (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 105(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 811(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 52/2000-CE., dated the 19th October, 2000.

(iv) G.S.R. 70(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying NOIDA Special Economic Zone, Madras Special Economic Zone, FALTA Special Economic Zone and Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone as Special Economic Zone.

(v) G.S.R. 71(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 64/2001-CE (N.T.), dated the 13th September, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7131/03]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs act, 1962:—

(i) S.O. 1287(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.

(ii) S.O. 1367(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.

(iii) S.O. 1368(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.

(iv) S.O. 95(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.

(v) S.O. 96(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.

(vi) G.S.R. 810(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 137/2000-Cus., dated the 19th October, 2000.

(vii) G.S.R. 78(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding seeking to exempt goods of the description specified in column (2) of the Notification, when imported into India, from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(viii) G.S.R. 103(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 12/97-Cus., (NT) dated the 4th April, 1997.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7132/03]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1970 and 1980:—

(i) The Dena Bank (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. IR/AMEND/02/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2002.

(ii) The Central Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. CO:PRS:LEGAL:MISC-3559-SAK:02-03:367 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2002.

(iii) The Canara (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. IRS:22BA:3812:RS. in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2002.

(iv) The United Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 2/2002. in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2002.

(v) The Punjab and Sindh Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. P.S.B./PEN/AMEND/06/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2002.

(vi) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P/2/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2003.

(vii) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. OSR/18 in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2002.

(viii) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PL:MR:POL:91 in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2002.

(ix) The Canara Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PWPM:5680:78:VR: in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2002.

(x) The Canara Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PWPM:5163:78:VR: in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2002.

(xi) The Syndicate Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 2336/0089/PD/IRD(O)/REG. in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2002.

(xii) The Syndicate Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 2334/0089/PD/IRD(O)/REG.38 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2002.

(xiii) The Punjab and Sindh Bank Officers Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PSB/DAC/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003.

(4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) and (ii) of item No. (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7133/03]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:—

(i) S.O. 164 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Punjab)" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1997-1998 subject to certain conditions.

(ii) S.O. 165 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund, Government of Kerala" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.

(iii) S.O. 166 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

(iv) S.O. 167 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Punjab)" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1998-1999 subject to certain conditions.

(v) S.O. 168 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Congregation of Christian Brothers in India, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-1993 subject to certain conditions.

(vi) S.O. 169 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.

(vii) S.O. 170 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Adhiprasakthi Charitable, Medical, Educational and Cultural Trust, Melmaruvathur" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

(viii) S.O. 171 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Marwari Relief Society, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993 subject to certain conditions.

(ix) S.O. 172 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "India International Centre, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 subject to certain conditions.

(x) S.O. 173 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Shri Ram Chandra Mission, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.

(xi) S.O. 174 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Child Relief and You (CRY), Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

(xii) S.O. 175 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Bombay Humanitarian League, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999 subject to certain conditions.

(xiii) S.O. 176 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Defence Civilians Medical Aid Fund, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999 subject to certain conditions.

(xiv) S.O. 177 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.

(xv) S.O. 178 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1995 subject to certain conditions.

(xvi) S.O. 179 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 subject to certain conditions.

(xvii) S.O. 180 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.

(xviii) S.O. 181 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Indian Association of Women's Studies, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

(xix) S.O. 182 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Children Book Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 subject to certain conditions.

(xx) S.O. 183 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Kerala Motor Transport Workers Welfare Fund Board, Kollam" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-1987 to 1988-1989 subject to certain conditions.

(xxi) S.O. 184 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Kerala Motor Transport Workers Welfare Fund Board, Kollam" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1990-1991 subject to certain conditions.

(xxii) S.O. 185 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Petrotech Secretariat, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

(xxiii) S.O. 186 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 containing corrigendum to Notification No. 233/2002 dated 3rd September, 2002.

(xxiv) S.O. 187 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Afro Asian Association of Petroleum Geo-Chemists, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of

the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.

(xxv) S.O. 188 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "K.D. Malviya National Oil Museum, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.

(xxvi) S.O. 189 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Diocese of Aurangabad, Aurangabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-1993 to 1994-1995 subject to certain conditions.

(xxvii) S.O. 190 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Maharashtra State Women's Council Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

(xxviii) S.O. 191 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Maharashtra Energy Development Agency, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 subject to certain conditions.

(xxix) S.O. 192 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "LRJ Ranganayaki Ammal Charities, Coimbatore" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

(xxx) S.O. 193 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Association of Metropolitan Development Authorities, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxi) S.O. 194 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Maharishi Ved Vigyan Vishwa Vidya Peetham, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxii) S.O. 195 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January. 2003 regarding exemption to the "Tagore Society for Rural Development, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiii) S.O. 196 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Bengal Social Service League, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiv) S.O. 197 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Swami Ramananda Tirtha Memorial Committee, Hyderabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxv) S.O. 198 Published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Asiatic Society of Bombay, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxvi) The Income-tax (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 138(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7134/03]

(6) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the Hundred Rupees (Containing Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5%) Fifty Rupees, Ten Rupees and Two Rupees (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) coined in memory of "Sant Tukaram" Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 252(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7135/03]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 7 of section 9A of Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 79(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to make certain technical corrections in the numbering scheme, description of goods etc. in the eight digit customs classification code adopted *vide* the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 w.e.f. 1st February, 2003.

(ii) G.S.R. 98(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two notifications mentioned therein.

(iii) G.S.R. 106(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on non-brass metal flashlights, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and imported into India as recommended by the Designated Authority.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 7136/03]

(8) A copy of the Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) (Amendment) Rules, 202 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1091(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

(i) The Magadh Gramin Bank, (Name of the Bank) (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2002 (year) published in Notification No. MG 13/611/01 in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2001.

(ii) The Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. RKGB/HO/PERS/KS/1377 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7137/03]

(11) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

(i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 831(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2002.

(ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 854(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31th December, 2002.

(iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 855(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31th December, 2002.

(iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 33(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003.

(v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 34(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7138/03]

(12) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7139/03]

(13) A copy of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Distribution of Surplus) Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. I/IRDA/Reg./12/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7140/03]

(14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) G.S.R. 16(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 558(E) dated the 27th July, 2001 issued under Depositories Act, 1996.

(ii) G.S.R. 17(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 559(E) dated the 27th July, 2001 issued under SEBI Act, 1992.

(iii) G.S.R. 18(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 560(E) dated the 27th July, 2001 issued under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7141/03]

(15) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—

(i) Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagadh.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7142/03]

(ii) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7143/03]

(iii) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar.

(16). Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for not laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7144/03]

(17) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 35(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing Shri B.K. Mishra, Director-General (Safeguard), as Director General (Specific Safeguard) for the purposes of Customs Tariff (Transitional Product Specific Safeguard Duty) Rules, 2002 issued under sub-section (8) of section (8)(c) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7145/03]

(18) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 823(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to the taxable services provided by a consulting engineer to a client on transfer of technology from so much of the service tax leviable thereon, as it is equivalent to the amount of cess paid on the said transfer of technology under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7146/03]

(19) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (11) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949:—

(i) The Nedungadi Bank Limited (Amalgamation with Punjab National Bank) Scheme 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 113(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st January, 2003.

(ii) The Benares State Bank Limited (Amalgamation with Bank of Baroda) Scheme, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 648(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002.

(20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) of item (19) above.

(21) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949:—

(i) S.O. 114(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2003 specifying the 1st day of February, 2003 as the prescribed date in relation to the Scheme for the Amalgamation of the Nedungadi Bank Limited, Calicut, Kerala with Punjab National Bank.

(ii) No. S.O. 649(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002 specifying the date on which the Benares State Bank Limited (Amalgamation with Bank of Baroda) Scheme 2002, shall come into force.

(22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for not laying the papers mentioned at (ii) of (21) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7147/03]

(23) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7148/03]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce

Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1991-1992.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1991-1992, along with Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 7149/03]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7150/03]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7151/03]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7152/03]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2001-2002.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7153/03]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7154/03]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Bhavnaben D. Chikhalia, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7155/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7156/03]

(2) A copy of the Airports Authority of India (Manner of Investment of Funds) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1258(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002 under section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 together with an explanatory note.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7157/03]

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Sixty-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sixty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Sale of Centaur Hotel Mumbai Airport.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a constitutional crisis has been created in Madhya Pradesh. The Government is not following the orders of the Election Commission there *...(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): We will raise our issue in Zero Hour first *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the Zero Hour, I am going to permit both the issues.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government is violating the orders of the Election Commission *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a privilege notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I was talking about you only. Please listen.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I had announced that those Members who wanted to raise the issues will be allowed to raise them. As you are all aware, the procedure has been that first comes the Privilege Notice. Two Privilege Notices have been received. One is from Shri Chaubey and the other notice is from Shrimati Renu Kumari. I had promised them on Friday itself that on Monday, I would allow them to speak. After talking up the Privilege Notices, the issues of those Members who have given the Adjournment Motions will be taken up.

When we start 'Zero Hour', as I have said already, Shri Shivraj V. Patil will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit on both the issues during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am just completing it. During Zero Hour, I am going to permit Shri Shivraj Patil and thereafter Kumari Uma Bharati.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can be rest assured.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The situation in Madhya Pradesh is very serious. There is a constitutional breakdown. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

The situation in Madhya Pradesh is very serious *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker,

[Translation]

Sir, there is a constitutional breakdown in Madhya Pradesh. The orders of the Election Commission are not being followed there *...(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the orders of the Election Commission are being violated by the Madhya Pradesh Government. This is a very serious issue. Therefore, it should be taken up first *...(Interruptions)*

12.07 hrs.

(i) RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice of question of privilege dated 27th February 2003, from Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, against the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kaimur, Bihar for allegedly obstructing him from attending the sitting of the House.

I have already called for the facts from the State Government of Bihar which are yet to be received. Two reminders have already been issued to them. When you had raised the matter in the House on 3rd and 6th March 2003, I had assured you that if facts are not received from the State Government by Monday, I would allow you to raise the matter in the House. You may now raise the matter. The State Government would be requested to expedite the factual report within a week's time failing which, I will consider to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was coming to attend the sitting of Lok Sabha on 20 February. But I could not catch a flight from Babarpur airport due to arbitrariness of the police officers of Kaimur district and I could not reach Delhi on time. And I have to travel by the Sampoorn Kranti to reach Delhi. Due to this reason, I could not attend the sitting of Lok Sabha on 20 February.

Sir, I am from Kaimur district. I had gone there to attend a social function. After participating in that function, I thought that I will catch a flight from Babarpur on returning from Bhaguwa. The flight was scheduled to take off at 3.00 p.m. I had called for a vam at 10.00 a.m. and the person who was driving the van to pick me up was stopped by the jeep of SHO in front of the Chainpur thana and then they began to drive that jeep ahead of my van to a very slow speed. When they were told that this jeep is for fetching Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, MP in order to enable him to catch the flight, the SHO misbehaved with the driver of the van and started shouting and said be him an MP or the President, the police jeep is driven like this only. This way they not only held my car but also obstructed me in attending the sitting of Lok Sabha since I could leave Bhaguwa only after 2 p.m.

Sir, I doubt that the SHO Ajay Pratap Singh indulged in such misbehaviour at the instance of a senior police officer of Kaimur *i.e.* the Superintendent of Police himself, following which I could not attend the sitting of Lok Sabha that day.

Sir, I want to raise this issue in this august House and seek permission from you to refer this case to the committee of privileges because I feel that the police forcibly obstructed me from attending the sitting of the House that day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an incident occurred 4-5 months back and I do not conceal anything as is my habit. There was a meeting in Bhabhuha, one youth who was a barrister was killed while entering the house. He was worker of the Samata Party. 80-85 thousand people participated in that meeting.

There I put the things in a straight forward manner about the attitude of the police and the functioning of the administrators there and about developmental activities also. And also spoke about George saab and Nitish Kumar Ji who presented the data of development which were far from the reality. On hearing these things from me there was a loud applause from the crowd present there since I spoke the truth but the officers present there became very angry. I was not worried about that.

[Shri Lal Muni Chaubey]

I did not think that time as to what would be its fall out. When all this happened, I also came to know that the police jeep pushed my car one time from backside.

Sir, I was elected as an MLA in 1972. Barring once, I never lost the elections and I always remain present in the House during its sittings. I never supported anything concerning crimes or criminals. First, police pushed my car. Secondly I was called at the police station and I was asked as to why tinted glasses have been fitted in the windows of the car. They said that tinted glasses should be removed. My son was also there among the boys present there. He said that the tinted glasses of others cars should also be removed. On hearing this he said not of others cars. You do what you are being asked to do. Then my son said, all right I would get them removed. I called for a van and when there was delay in arriving the van, I walked upto the patel crossing. I was thinking that if my car did not arrive, I would miss the train ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have narrated the incident in the House and I have given a ruling on that. If they do not send a reply within a week, I will refer the entire case to the committee of privileges. And you can submit all facts before the Committee.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just listen to me one minute. He said to me to see the SSP but I replied in negative and said that I could miss the train.

[Translation]

I will be back from Delhi 21st *i.e.* on Friday and meet the S.P. on 22nd and that they may please allow me to leave then. When we came back from there. There was no possibility of catching a train because it was thirty minutes past five by that time. I arrived here by Sampoorna Kranti. I reached there on 21st which was Friday and leave to meet the S.P. on 22nd. S.P. was not there. He was no leave for three days. I requested Shri Muni Lalji, M.P. from Sasaram Parliamentary Constituency to talk to S.P. Saheb and ask him about the reasons for his being on leave. When he asked about his whereabouts, he was told that the S.P. had left for Kanoor. He had gone to Adhaura with a warrant of seizure in order to seize goods or to entrap the Naxalites. I asked him thrice to frankly tell me what was the matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Please state clearly but he said nothing important is there. You may take the action you want. I asked, whether this is his reply. He said yes and ask me to take only action in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari is not present in the House. Therefore, I will take her subject tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, democracy has been murdered in Madhya Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You, please first let me complete my point when your turn comes, I will allow you to speak, how can I allow you right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak but only as per the procedure.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, you please hear Uma Bharati ji for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to give you two minutes, but not right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Uma Bharatiji, if you want to speak about Madhya Pradesh, I will allow you after a while because you know that I have to go by the laid down procedure of the House. You have to wait for sometime.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation is such that I urge you to please suspend the procedure and listen to my submission ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that I will allow you. But for the moment if you will co-operate with me in taking up the agenda lying before me, your subject may be taken up next and then you can have the opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Election Commission has issued instruction to the State Government, regarding irregularities in the voters' list. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow everybody. I will allow you also.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, this is the most important of all subject ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. I can give you permission after 10-15 minutes. You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, how many times a member can given notice for adjournment motion. Everyday attempts are made to hinder the functions of other members by moving such motions. He repeatedly presses for this motion ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has the right to give one notice per day. I would be better if you ask for a change in the rule. You may give notice to that effect.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The national flag is being subjected to disgrace in various parts of the country. I too have given a notice regarding that. First we should be given a chance because disgrace is being shown towards national flag in the entire country. Lok Sabha has passed a bill and made a provision therein that whosoever is found guilty of showing disgrace to national flag or national anthem, will be awarded one year's imprisonment. This is happening at several places ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

Whatever he is saying now should not go on record. I have received a proper notice from Shri Ramji Lal Suman and, therefore, his issue will be taken up now.

[Translation]

however length you may speak, but unfortunately, that will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Wheat worth 32 billion rupees has gone in pilferage from the FCI godowns in Punjab. This time the quantum of wheat in FCI Godowns of Punjab was 288.30 lakh tonnes in January and it got reduced to 213.21 lakh tonnes in February. This has been going on for several years. Even the Vigilance Department of the Ministry has failed to check it. The investigation report presented by the hon. Minister of Food is lying with Mr. Manoranjan, the financial advisor of the department. On one hand the starvation deaths have been taking place in the country, while on the other nothing except corruption and mismanagement prevail in the FCI system of functioning. Today, the situation has taken such a turn that there seem to be no relevance of the PDS. FCI purchases wheat at MSP rate of rupees 6.10 per kg. and sells it at around rupees 9 per kg. Thirty two billion rupees have been stolen, this is a serious matter. There is the need to order CBI inquiry into the matter. The department officers have also written to the Government of India regarding the need for the CBI inquiry. We, therefore, request through you to conduct a high level inquiry into the matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am permitting Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to raise the issue concerning the demolition of houses in Tughlaqabad.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): I am also willing to speak on this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I would allow you after 10-15 minutes. Please see, everything is going on well. A member makes his point within 2-3 minutes. I will allow you also.

12.17 hrs.

(ii) RE : DEMOLITION OF HOUSES BY D.D.A. AT TUGHLAQABAD, VILLAGE, DELHI

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this important issue especially, when Jagmohanji, Shri Khurana Saheb and Shri Sahib Singh Verma are also present here. The matter which I am raising, belongs to Tughlaqabad, the Parliamentary Constituency of Shri Sahib Singh Verma. Khurana Saheb went to the constituency to stage dharna there. The matter involves fifty thousand people of Tughlaqabad. There are more than ten thousand houses. The case took a serious turn in 1995 when the Government was formed in Delhi and Delhi was accorded statehood. At that time, Delhi Government handed over the entire village to Archaeological Survey of India. As a result thereof *...(Interruptions)* We have moved adjournment motion and this village *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have the notice of adjournment motion. I am giving opportunity to speak.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, constitutional crisis of such a vast magnitude has emerged in Madhya Pradesh, but you did not allow the issue to be raised here. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, he has named me as well as Jagmohanji. I have talked to the hon. Minister. No notice is being served to the village. The entire matter is being settled. We have talked to Shri Jagmohanji *...(Interruptions)* We have talked to Shri Khuranaji. No notice is being served now, no house is being demolished. Entire matter has been settled and the villagers have been informed *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you are replying on behalf of the Government, I will permit you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): How can a Minister interrupt like this?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is very unfortunate. Why is the Minister interrupting like this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with what you are saying.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not correct. Being a Minister, he cannot get up like this on every problem *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As a representative of the Government, you can always reply. But let him complete first.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Let us listen to Shri Ram Vilasji, hon. Minister can give statement thereafter.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am also saying.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very disciplined Member having restrained temperament. When I was new in the House, I used to rise to speak frequently. I obey your orders. Had you called Shri Ramanand Singh ji or Uma Bharatiji, I would not have stood up. But when I have risen to speak they should listen to me. No party matter is involved in it. What is being stated by Shri Sahib Singh Verma will be countered by Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Hence, hon. Minister should take care of the sentiments of the electorate of his Parliamentary Constituency. I will be brief of while speaking. Gyasuddin had laid the foundation of Tughlaqabad. The entire village participated in the freedom fight of 1857.

Consequently Britishers besieged the entire village but nobody was evacuated. In 1921 the issue relating to wall was referred to the Archaeological survey of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I am concluding in one minute. In 1947 the Sikhs migrated from Pakistan were rehabilitated here. In 1960 the Union Government provided electricity and water here and in 1964 the remaining land of this village was allotted to the people. In 1965 property tax was levied here. In 1983 the Vice Chairman of Delhi Development Authority ordered construction of roads and drainage in that area. In 1995 when BJP came in power in Delhi, this area was transferred to the Archaeological Survey of India though the State Government was not empowered to do so. In Delhi subjects related to land and police are under the Union Government but the then Delhi Government transferred the entire village to the Archaeological Survey of India. Whereas this authority lies with the Union Government. A notification is issued for the purpose but it was transferred without issuing any notification. Yesterday there was a meeting of the Panchayat members

of the said area and Shri Khuranaji also attended the said meeting. Every political party is supporting it. There is resentment amongst people on this unilateral action. This matter relates to Delhi and I have documentary proof with me and if you wish I can produce the proof as to what extent Delhi Government went to exploit the people and transgressed its limits. I demand from you to constitute an all party committee to go into this matter. Shri Khuranaji, Shri Sahib Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister and we all should be included in that committee. I think such a committee can do justice to the people of that area. If the entire population of 50,000 of that area is thrown on the road in this manner, I warn that there could be bloodshed in Delhi. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here and he should respond to it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I have been there so I may kindly be allowed to speak for a minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Patilji, I will call you after one minute. Let Shri Khuranaji make his point first.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Had I not met the hon'ble Minister in the morning today I would have also delivered a similar speech as you have delivered. Yesterday, I have told the people that I will fight for their cause. On reaching here we three leaders *i.e.* myself, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Sahib Singh Vermaji went to see the hon'ble Minister and talked to him in this regard. He has assured us that neither any house will be demolished nor any house is being demolished there. No such activity is going on there. The hon'ble Minister himself can say this here in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Why it was transferred to the Archaeological Survey of India. Do you feel it is justified?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Delhi Government Congress party is doing it.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want any controversy in this matter. You have made your points in this regard and the hon'ble Minister would consider it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to say that the Minister should clear the situation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister wants to say something.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The hon'ble Minister is sitting here in the House.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, whatever may be any technical position, it was transferred by State Government to the Archaeological Survey of India in 1995. Archaeological Survey of India is a part of the cultural department. People have met me in this connection. My friends have also met me in this regard. I have assured them all that the old population, as per the aerial survey of 1993, will not be disturbed at all.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am raising a very serious issue. It would have given us an opportunity ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Whether the discussion on adjournment motion is over ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Sir, the issue relating to Madhya Pradesh is very important ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thereafter I am taking up your issue.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if the issue would have been discussed ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, every time the Members from the Treasury Benches are questioning your decision ...*(Interruptions)* ... It has become a daily practice. Every day, they question you decision ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, it is very important issue. We will take it up first.

MR. SPEAKER: How it can go on like this. I am allotting limited time for this issue also.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Fortunately, since you are all cooperating, three issues have been taken up in the House. This is the fourth issue which I am trying to take.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will strictly go according to the convention. I do not want to reject any issue for any personal reason. The issue of Madhya Pradesh is important. The Members are agitated. I am going to permit them.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: It is not only important but it is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious and important issue, as I said. That is why I have given it a priority. After Shivrajji Patil, you will be able to raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am raising a very serious issue, and I hope that all the Members in the House will consider it in a serious manner. It would have been better if we could have discussed his issue under some other provisions of the law and the rules available to us. The war clouds are gathering in the sky over the entire world, and the world is worried. If the war breaks out, it would affect the entire world and all countries including India.

That is why we are interested in knowing as to what kind of stand the Government is going to take with respect to certain matters which have appeared before us *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, we would like to know from the Government as to what the stand of the Government of India is with respect to the change suggested in the regime in Iraq. What is the stand of the Government of India with respect to the Second Resolution which is being tried to be passed by the Security Council? What is the stand of the Government of India with respect to the timeframe within which the inspection has to be done by the inspectors appointed by the United Nations? What is the timeframe within which this task has to be completed? The task of destroying the weapons of mass destruction has to be done.

Now, the issue of unilateral action is also very important. What is happening there? If there is a war, whether terrorism in the world will be contained or it will be continued. What is the stand taken by the NAM in the Conference which took place in Malaysia? What can India do to ease the situation? Is there any possibility of India playing a role even not being the Member of the Security Council? But India is one of the important members in the United Nations.

Now, is India prepared to meet the contingencies of war if unfortunately it breaks out? So, all these issues with respect to protecting its sovereignty, with respect to meeting the contingency of economic fall outs, are very important issues.

The Government has made some statement but there is a lot of divergence in the statements made by the Ministers at different times, on different occasions. The Parliament is in Session now. NAM Conference was held in Malaysia. In view of all these facts, it would be necessary for the Prime Minister to come to the House and make a statement on the issue. If no statement is made, then what is happening in the world *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is happening in the House, Sir *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except whatever Shri Shivraj Patil says, will go on record. I am taking on record only what Shri Shivraj Patil is saying. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Parliament is in Session. We know what is happening in the world. When the Parliament is in Session and what is happening in the world is known to us, if we do not discuss these issues and if the Government does not take an unambiguous stand on what is happening in the world, then we would not have discharged our duties. That is why we are requesting the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and make a statement in clear terms on all these issues and other issues also which he thinks are important and about which information should be given to the House.

Sir, I have been very precise and clear. I have asked the Prime Minister and the Government to make its stand clear to us on different issues and we would expect him to come here and make the Government's stand clear *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I had made a request to the hon. Prime Minister. The crisis is such that there should be a unanimous resolution condemning what is happening in the world. We should condemn the United States action *...(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This House should pass a Resolution against war. This House cannot approve the attitude of the United States and UK. This House would be guided by the voice of India and not by any party ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what is this he starts to make his point at any point of time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsiji, Shri Malhotraji is on his legs, please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is something where we feel we should express our views collectively. Why is the Government keeping quiet? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we shall not be guided by Mr. Blackwill, sitting in Chanakya Puri. We shall be guided by the wisdom of the Indian people.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Shivraj V. Patil has said here that there is tension in the world at present. It is a very important matter. The situation may further deteriorate. That is why the hon'ble Prime Minister has called a meeting of leaders of all party. He is well aware of this and their leaders have also been invited in this meeting ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You are being guided by America. You party is guided by America ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Do not say that ...*(Interruptions)* You are betraying the Indian people. Sir, they are destroying what Jawahar Lal Nehru had founded ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On an important issue like this, I would advise the entire House to speak with responsibility. I would ask the House to take it seriously.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I wnat the Members to take this issue seriously. I do not want to unnecessarily create tension in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think the issue being raised in the House is extremely important and, therefore, it should be tackled carefully.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. At least on important issues there should be unanimity in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, so far as this problem is concerned there has been near unanimity in the House. A discussion was held here before the Prime Minister went to the NAM Conference and the hon. Prime Minister participated in that discussion. We have already had discussion on this subject in both the Houses. Today the hon. Prime Minister will take everyone here in the confidence. Moreover, if the need be, other options on open. Since we have three more days left of the session. It is not proper to make it into a political issue ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not talking about the Congress Party.

[Translation]

I would like to know from him as to why Soniaji has made no statement in this regard.

[English]

Why has she not spoken on it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Congress Party made it clear to the world that it will stand by the United Nation's Security Council Resolution ...*(Interruptions)*

The Congress Working Committee and the Marxist Party passed the first resolution of this country to seek support for the Resolution of the United Nations ...*(Interruptions)* He does not read anything. He only reads Shri Togadia's documents ...*(Interruptions)* Why did BJP not condemn the statement of Mr. Blackwill? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why do you say like this?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is on the point of information.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I appreciate what Shri Malhotra is saying excepting that the President of the Congress Party has not made a statement on this ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not yielding. Let me complete ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will be allowed to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not even allowed to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shri Malhotra make his statement. Before that, I am not going to allow anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot make me sit down by force. I will sit only when I and directed by the Chair to do so ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There can be discussion on this matter after the statement is made by the Prime Minister.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would once again like to submit that the Prime Minister has taken initiative in this matter. He attended the NAM Conference and thereafter a joint resolution was passed by NAM. The resolution clearly stated that it would be unfortunate if war is waged against any country without being sanctioned by the Security Council. Thus, a number of initiatives were taken. Last time when this matter came up for discussion, certain political parties supported it and I do not want to refer to what they said in their statements ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You please deal with Pakistan and not me ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, you please put forward your views only.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The hon. Prime Minister has called a meeting of leaders of all the political parties today evening. Before that it is not proper to raise any such issues. Any difference of opinion on other thing may be raised in the House after that meeting. We have no objection. It is not proper to try to take political mileage out of this issue before the meeting of the Prime Minister is over. We condemn any such attempts ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, clarification has already been given regarding what has been said about the Congress President by the hon. Member. It is good if the hon. Prime Minister is holding a meeting with the leaders of different political parties but it is also important to take the Parliament and the people into confidence. He said that he would welcome it. But my point is that the hon. Prime Minister should also take the public representatives, specially the Lok Sabha into confidence. Otherwise in the background of the deteriorating situation, some unpleasant statements can be made ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The subject was not brought before me. I have allowed Uma Bharatiji let the matter first come before me, thereafter I shall decide. You may please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you provided, I listen to her subject.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the irregularities in the electoral rolls in Madhya Pradesh as has been detected is unprecedented in the history of Indian democracy, that is why when the issue of such irregularities was brought to the notice of the Election Commission, the Madhya Pradesh Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is speaking without giving prior notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have with me her notice.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you the notice ...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking only after giving notice.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, we also have given notices.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you all. You may please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Uma ji, I am the Speaker, you should address the Chair.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise. Ireegularities have been committed in the electoral rolls in Madhya Pradesh. The whole issue was brought before the Central Election Commission. The Election Commission recommended action to be taken against the collectors of four districts of Madhya Pradesh including their suspension. But the State Government and the State Chief Minister have gone on record saying *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am on a point of order. Article 324 of the Constitution says *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, but if somebody speaks against the Constitution, then we can raise it. You please look into article 324 of the Constitution *...(Interruptions)* What she is saying is against article 324 of the constitution *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no point of order during the Zero Hour *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all please sit down.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government has refused to comply with the instruction of the Election Commission. This has led to a constitutional crisis in Madhya Pradesh. The State Chief Minister has openly violated the sanctity of democracy. The Madhya Pradesh Government is not complying with the order of the Election Commission. Non-compliance with the order of the Election Commission has created a constitutional crises *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the entire authority is in the hands of the Election Commission and is not with the Chief Minister *...(Interruptions)* Article 324 is very clear about it *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request that you should take up this issue of Madhya Pradesh by putting aside all other day's business in the list. It is very important to ensure that the directions of the Election Commission are followed by the State Government. The State Government is not doing so *...(Interruptions)* Madhya Pradesh Government should be asked to comply with the directions of the Election Commission *...(Interruptions)* I am not violating the decorum of the House. What I am saying is quite under the rules *...(Interruptions)* Through you I would like to say that the Madhya Pradesh Government should be asked to follow the order of the Election Commission. Madhya Pradesh Government does not follow this order, then resolution should be passed here *...(Interruptions)* There should be a discussion in the House on this matter.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Madhya Pradesh Government is violating the orders of the Central Election Commission *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): We demand that the concerned collectors of Madhya Pradesh should be suspended and the matter should be investigated. The sanctity of the Election Commission and the Constitution must be protected. This is a very serious matter.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government says that there is no justification of the instructions of the Election Commission and that they are not bound to follow that. The Election Commission is a constitutional authority and it would be a violation of the constitution if the directions of the Election Commission are not followed. That is why I say that you should issue an order. If the Election Commission has got constitutional authority then directions must be followed. There have been gross irregularities in the electoral rolls concerning 41 assembly segments. The State Government must sack the said four collectors and must protect the sanctity of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you have given Adjournment Motion.

[English]

"Alleged irregularities in the utilisation of MPLADS funds and reported directive by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to contribute to party funds from it."

[Translation]

I do not admit it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, some new facts have come to light. Now the Members of Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let this political issue be settled in political arena. Please sit down

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Adjournment Motion which we have moved there is a mention about the statement of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Miss Mayawati ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected the Adjournment Motion of Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and all other Adjournment Motions have been refused. Now we go to 'Zero Hour'. Shri P. Mohan to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: She has brought disgrace for the Members of Parliament under MPLADS. Moreover, she has created a new record of corruption. Corruption charges are being levelled against the Members of Parliament. This is a very serious matter. I would request you to first of all withdraw this MPLADS and the matter should be investigated by the CBI ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, environmental protection and conservation of forests are the responsibilities that lie with the Union Government. Hence, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to these aspects. ...(Interruptions)*

River Bhavani forms the basis to Coimbatore and Erode districts and a vast tract of forest region surrounding them. But unfortunately, the Government of Kerala has started constructing a dam across river Bhavani near Mukkali. If that dam comes up it will lead to the diversion of Bhavani waters. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this would result in denial of water to more than 5 lakh hectares of land both in Coimbatore and Erode districts. The forest region around them comprising lakhs of hectares of land would also dry up in due course. This would be detrimental to irrigation and drinking water supply to the two districts. The ecological balance will also be greatly offset. The ongoing irrigation projects like Lower Bhavani scheme, Thadappalli scheme, Arakkan Kottai and Kalingarayan schemes will all be rendered meaningless. Since river Bhavani merges with river Cauvery, the irrigation potential of river Cauvery will also be depleted. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Jayalalitha, the Puratchi Thalaivi, has taken up this with the Kerala Chief Minister but to no avail. Kerala has not responded so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. He is speaking in Tamil.

[Translation]

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN: Sir, as such Cauvery water flow in Tamil Nadu has become a mirage. Agricultrists are hard hit. The Centre must immediately intervene to impress upon the high-handed upper riparian States how dangerous their move could be ...*(Interruptions)*

I urge upon the Union Government to put an end to the move by the Government of Kerala to construct a dam across river Bhavani at Mukkali in Kerala.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking in Tamil.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You played your role.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVART CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, I am not getting a chance to put forward my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everything has gone on record.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

If you all stand up they will not allow you to speak. You did not allow them to speak. If you now stand up, they will not allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow one Member out of you to speak. One of you should speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow only one Member out of you to speak. All cannot speak together.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Kaliappan says *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No slogans will go on record. And whatever Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is speaking now should not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, you take your seats. I have not allowed anybody to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to adjourn the House now. We would meet again at 2 p.m.

12.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

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*Not recorded.

14.01 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled at one Minute past fourteen of the clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to make a submission before you. Today when Kunwar Akhilesh Singh ji was raising a question in the House in regard to Uttar Pradesh then an hon. Member from BSP made a very objectionable remark against the leader of our parliamentary party hon. Mulayam Singh ji. You can see the record of the proceedings of the House in this regard *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove that remark from the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, Sir, this kind of behaviour against the leader of our party is absolutely intolerable and merely expunging that remark from records of the proceedings will not do. You must ask that hon. Member to apologise in the House. He must apologise and that objectionable remark should be expunged from the record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove it from the record if it is unparliamentary.

14.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to construct four-lane over-bridge on railway line at Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a single lane overbridge in Mohan Nagar on the railway line from Ghaziabad to Delhi. This route links Delhi (Anand Vihar, ITO). Being extremely narrow there are frequent traffic jams on this flyover. Seventy per cent of the vehicles coming from western Uttar Pradesh to Delhi pass through this over-bridge. The inordinate number of vehicles on this single lane over-bridge coupled with

[Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

the problems of break down of vehicles cause frequent traffic snarls. At times this jam extend from the overbridge upto Vasundhara and Vaishali and it takes several hours before this jam clears. It not only causes inordinate delays and wastage of time but also wastage of thousand litres diesel/petrol which leads to pollution. Common man particularly employees, traders, officers and leaders daily face these jams and cannot reach their office in time. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to construct four lane over bridge at Mohan Nagar railway line so as to get rid of the problem of daily jams.

14.04 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

(ii) Need to link Narmada, Kshipra and Chambal rivers with a view to solve drought situation in Malwanchal

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr Chairman, Sir, Malwanchal, particularly all the districts of Ujjain division are reeling under severe drought for the last several years. The water table in this area has fallen upto 400 Metres and has fallen 4 to 6 metres further during the last one year and it appears that this region is gradually heading towards becoming a desert. If this position continues then extremely difficult situation would arise. In such a situation there is a need to link Narmada, Kshipra and Chambal rivers under the river linking scheme of the Union Government. Preliminary work of conducting a survey by the State Government under the scheme of linking Narmada, Kshipra and Kali Sindh has been done for the last 10 years. Follow up work is required to be done in this regard. Simultaneously, there is a need to link Parvati, Betwa and Chhoti Kali Sindh rivers and other rivers and other rivers in the surrounding area. The State Government, Central Government and River Linking Scheme Commission have taken some action in this regard and alongwith this draft is being prepared for the implementation of Kali Sindh project (Ranjit Sagar). The above said three schemes are imperative to tackle the drought situation. Therefore, I would urge the Union Government to accord approval for the implementation of these three schemes.

(iii) Need to release additional funds to State Government particularly to Government of Haryana for construction of railway over-bridge

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (Mahendragarh): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Railways towards a railway policy. The Union Government provides 50 percent of the funds to the State Government for construction of over bridge and the remaining 50 percent is given by the State Government. In the absence of 50 percent of the funds not being provided by the State Governments in several States overbridges are not being constructed due to which a lot of inconvenience is being faced particularly by Haryana. People get stranded in traffic jams for hours as a result of which serious patients are not able to get timely medical help and students face difficulties during examinations.

Therefore, I would urge the Union Government to allocate maximum funds to the State Governments so as to facilitate the construction of maximum overbridges in Haryana and other States of the country.

(iv) Need to introduce a direct train between Dhule and Mumbai

SHRI RAMDAS RUPLA GAVIT (Dhule): Sir, my parliamentary constituency Dhule (Maharashtra) comes under Central Railway but the people of that area are hardly getting any railway facilities. People find it difficult to commute since there are not many trains. There is Amritsar-Dadar *via* Chalis Goan train from Dhule to Mumbai but only two sleeper bogies are attached to the train from Dhule which is not sufficient for the people here.

Therefore, I would urge the Minister of Railways through you to introduce a direct train from Dhule to Mumbai. If this is not possible then four more bogies of AC-II tier and III tier be attached to the train from Dhule to Mumbai instead of two bogies.

(v) Need to name Rajkot Airport after Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, on 26th February, 2003 the entire country celebrated 179th birth anniversary of the person who visualised for the first time the concept of Swaraj and who was the pioneer of social revolution and champion of renaissance-Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. The contribution of Swami Dayanand Saraswati has been unparalled in uprooting the social evils eradicating untouchability igniting the spark of independence creating a sense of respect for Swaraj, Swadharm, self respect, mother tongue, individuality and national pride. Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Shrimati Annie Bessent, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, all have praised the works and thoughts of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. That Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati was born in Tankara (Mauravi-Rajkot) Guajrat.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to name Rajkot Airport after Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati in his memory.

(vi) Need to develop Chakia in Champaran district of Bihar as a tourist resort and ensure proper maintenance of roads connecting it

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Sir, Chakia is an important place in the 'Karmabhoomi' (centre of activities) of Mahatma Gandhi which falls in my parliamentary constituency Motihai, Chakia which is located on the National Highway No. 28 meets National Highway No. 104 at Sitamarhi, the birth place of Sita Mata. There is a road from Chakia to Kesaria on which world's biggest Boudh Stupa is located, but this road is in dilapidated condition. A road from Kesaria to Kushinagar district across Gandak river goes *via* Chandisthan, Areraj Nandangarh, Lauria. This road is in extremely decrepit state. There is a grand Manovihar is Chandisthan, the famous Someshwar temple of Bihar in Areraj and Ashok Pillar in Lauria. This route is very important from tourism point of view. The famous Chinese travellers Haun-Tsang and Fahien also came through this route. Lord Buddha travelled *via* this route to Kushinagar with Samant Kumari of Vaishali where he attained Mahanirwana (salvation).

Therefore, I request the Minister of Tourism to construct a tourism route by developing this place tourist point of view.

(vii) Need to provide potable water to all the people in the country

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): It is a matter of grave concern that India's position figures in the range of lowest among nations in respect of the quality of water available for its citizens. Among 122 nations, India is given 129th rank in the first ever United Nations evaluation of global water resources, in the World Water Development Report entitled "Water for People, Water for Life."

Our country can take no solace when the Report says that 50 per cent of the population of developing countries were exposed to polluted water sources and that Asian rivers are the most polluted in the world with 20 times more lead than those of industrialised countries.

What India can do even at this belated stage is to make a determined bid to turn the situation, no matter how many years it might take. But the work must begin.

I request the Union Government to take corrective measures in this regard.

(viii) Need to set up one more Kendriya Vidyalaya in Madurai city, Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Madurai city in my constituency is second largest and the second most populous city in Tamil Nadu with many Central Government offices. The children studying in the schools are young cultural ambassadors of our country as their parents are having All India Service liability and are transferable to any part of India. Recently the priority in admission to the children of the employers of BSNL and Airport Authority of India was withdrawn though they have AISL under a corporate umbrella. The fortunate general public is also happy with quality education provided by the Kendriya Vidayalaya. There are 1200 students in KV, Madurai now and this year there are more than 700 admission sections as against a mere 300 last year. Hence, I urge upon the Union HRD Ministry to start from the ensuing academic year another Kendriya Vidayalaya in Madurai city, as it is a 'must' investment for the future of the country.

(ix) Need to formulate a water management policy in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the World Water Development Report of the United Nations in regard to water in India is an issue of serious concern. The quality of water in the country is at 120th out of the 122 countries of the world which means that India is followed by only two nations in terms of poor quality of water. Likewise out of 180 countries of the world in regard to availability of water India ranks 133rd nation. Actually, the problem is neither of purity of water nor its availability. The Indian rivers originate from the clean ranges of Himalayas and Vindhyachals and from the point of view of rivers, Indian rivers overflow with waters much more than the necessity. But owing, to the mismanagement of water in the country the situation of water crisis is arising. Mr. Chairman, Sir, water is life and our negligence of this fact has driven the country to face this problem. Therefore, the Government will have to assign top priority and work in this direction. Even in the 2003-04 budget proper attention has not been paid to irrigation. Out of the annual budget of more than Rs. Four lakh crores only Rs. 443 crores have been allocated to water arrangement. Likewise, in the matter of river linking besides the constitution of a task force no other concrete measure has been taken so far.

Therefore, I would request the Government to accord top priority for making the unutilised water fit for human use by formulating a water management policy.

(x) Need for construction of a National Highway connecting Jhansi-Khajuraho-Kalinjar-Chitrakut and Allahabd

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the southern part of Uttar Pradesh and the northern bordering area of Madhya Pradesh is known as Bundelkhand. This land comprising of several districts of both the states is inhabited by crores of people. This hilly and forest covered area is extremely backward and suffers with dearth of transportation. There are absolutely no roads while there is world famous Khajuraho temple, Kalinjar Fort and religious place Chitrakut, Rajapur, the birth place of Goswami Tulsidas author of Ramcharitmanas etc. all important tourist spots are located in Bundelkhand. The demand of linking these famous places with a new national highway is being made for the last so many years.

Therefore, there is need to construct a new national highway from Jhansi to Allahabad *via* Khajuraho-Kalinjar-Chitrakut-Rajapur which will be linked with other national highways, on both ends *i.e.* Jhansi and Allahabad. If will facilitate foreign and national travellers with the facility of road route in absence of rail route.

(xi) Need to expedite East Coast Road Project between Cuddalore and Tuticorin

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, Ramanathapuram District from which my major Parliamentary constituents lie, happens to be not only the most backward in every respect but also chronically drought prone, despite its age old cultural and historical heritage and background. It needs all round development.

In this connection, (i) the second phase of East Coast Road Project from Cuddalore to Tuticorin *via* Tiruvadanai, Thondi, Ramanathapuram, Kilakkarai, Kadaladi, which is in snail pace now has to be expedited; (ii) the proposal bypass road of Ramanathpuram connecting the National Highway may be speeded up; (iii) the State highways from Trichy to Rameswaram *via* Pudukottai, Tirumayam, Thondi, etc. may be upgraded as National Highway so that pilgrims to Rameswaram will have direct access from Trichy apart from the direct access through Madurai.

I request the Government of India to make extra efforts to complete the East Coast Road Project by sanctioning the entire allocation at one stroke and fixing time for completion, besides taking up the other proposals mentioned therein.

(xii) Need to expedite construction of Tamluk-Digha Railway line in Contai Parliamentary constituency, West Bengal

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, the present situation regarding construction of Tamluk-Digha Railway line in Contai Parliamentary constituency. I had the occasion to see the work in progress on the rail track up to Contai. It is felt that a degree of urgency is needed to complete this work up to Contai by the end of this month so that trains can actually ply up to Contai by March as promised by the hon. Minister. Everything should be done to make it sure that promise is honoured.

I gather that the contractors who are involved in the remaining part of the project, that is, from Heria to Contai and beyond to Digha are not discharging their duties properly. I do not know whether they are suffering from cash crunch or whether they are not organisationally equipped to handle the work on an emergency basis. But it seems that the pace of work is very slow.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to take immediate action so that work is completed on time in public interest.

14.17 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 2003-2004— *GENERAL DISCUSSION* DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2003-2004 DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2002-2003 DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 2000-2001—*contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Items No. 14 to 17 together, that is, further discussion on General Budget.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. On behalf of the All India Anna DMK Party, I would like to express my views on the Budget presented by the Finance Minister.

Sir, I start with a couplet from Tirukural, which is more than 2000 years old literature:

"Iyatralum Eattalum Kathalum Katha
Vahuthalum Valladhu Arasu"

I translate it in English.

"Producing, saving, protecting, regulating and equitably distributing are the salient features of governance."

It is the duty of the Government to collect the revenue, to administer the country, to deliver goods to the common man. We are concerned with common man, the electorate. In the words of Gladstone, what the Budget means is:

"Budgets are not merely the affairs of arithmetic, but in thousands of ways go to the root of prosperity of individuals, the relations of class and strength of Kingdom."

This is in relation to the Budget. I would like to express my views on the background of the Budget. Sir, one has to understand the strength and weakness of the Budget.

The Finance Minister may be knowing it. But I have to say this. The strengths of the Budget are inflation, soft rate interest, large foreign exchange reserves, low external debt servicing, healthy export growth.

Sir, as far as the weaknesses are concerned, there are lower levels of investment demand, higher fiscal and revenue deficits inhibiting LIT, PIT factors, and small scale reservations. So, the opportunities, and many other factors have been enumerated by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech.

Sir, after the presentation of the Budget by the Finance Minister inside this House, we felt that agriculture, which is the basic economy of our country, and the agriculturists, have to be protected. The price of fertilizers had to be rolled back.

Sir, about two years back, there was a similar hike. There was a discussion on the hike in fertilizers prices, and the demand for reduction in price by Members of Parliament on this floor, and the Government ultimately reduced the price. So, at this juncture, I would like to urge the Finance Minister to roll back the price of fertilizers. It is because the All India Anna DMK Party General Secretary and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Jayalalitha has welcomed the Budget. We have also welcomed the Budget but the painful features are "Firstly, the price of fertilizer has to be reduced, Secondly, the diesel price has also to be reduced.

Sir, there is a mention that the common man will be on a good economic path. I would like to say that the issue for consideration is personal tax. It was announced by the Prime Minister. I want to know whether the issue with yield any result. Can you make more money available in the hands of individuals, in case the purchasing power of the consumer stimulate the demand? Sir, we have the personal taxation limit of Rs. 50,000. The Finance Minister may be knowing the exemption limits of other countries. I am constrained to state that in South Korea, it is 4 lakhs, in UK it is 1.42 lakhs and in Singapore 1.35 lakhs. Please consider the increasing basic exemption limit from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. By doing so, Sir, the regular taxpayers, the salaried sections of the society, the Government servants, should be given a premium for the correct and timely payment of taxes.

Sir, there is fiscal deficit. In order to raise the economic resources by the State Governments themselves, the States have not been given free hand, and the restrictions have not been removed.

Sir, in June, 2002 a Memorandum was submitted to the Finance Minister, and the Prime Minister by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in person wherein a number of economic reserves and economic demands were made. That was a request for one time assistance to the State Government to manage the prevailing financial crisis, for allocation of funds for Railway projects, to reduce the price of cement, and to reduce the effect on enhancement of royalty on lignite, on par with coal. So, Sir, a number of Demands were made by the State Government headed by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jayalalitha.

Sir, the Securatisation Bill has become an Act. Even last time, while passing that Bill, I made the Demand. Sir, did that Securatisation Act yield good result to the Government. It is because the Government is reclamating the affected, the economically weaker banks like Indian Bank.

Sir, in the list of defaulters brought out by the All India Bank Employees' Association, it has been mentioned that so many people have taken loans of over Rs. 100 crore and some have taken Rs. 500 crore loan. Did the Government recover those loans? What effective remedial steps have been taken by the Government to recover those loans from those chronic defaulters who are leeches and parasites on the society? They are actually leeches. The common man is struggling for his life. An agriculturist is struggling for his life. In that list of defaulters, there was one big man, and, I think, he owes about Rs. 250 crore to the Union Bank of India. Sir, he has a dozen Benz cars. What did you do? Every year, I have been raising this matter. Were you able to recover the money from him? The same matter was raised by Shri Adi Shankar. I do not want to refer to that defaulter's name. The Finance Minister should take stringent steps to recover that money from him.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Gingee N. Ramachandramn is sitting behind. He might be knowing him because that man is hailing from his district. He is having Rova, Benz and BMW, all new cars. That man is leading a posh life. The Government is not able to recover the loan amount from him and give it to the common man. That is why, I started with a couplet from *Thirukkural*. The Government has to protect the common man.

There is a couplet about the Ministry also. You all must know how the Tamil literature envisaged these types of Ministries about 2,000 years ago. It says:

"Padaikudi Koozhamaichu Natparan Aarum
Udayan Arasarul Eru."

I will translate it in English. Warriors, worthy citizens, wise counsels, warm friends, wealthy and vantaged force are making of a leader among the ruler. You must be a good ruler. Ruling the common man and not leaving the rich man, getting the common man into a common fold and leaving the rich man—that should not be there. About, 2,000 years ago, this was envisaged in Tamil literature.

Then, I would like to say that for savings, the interest rate has been reduced from four per cent to three per cent. What inclination people will have to save? Nobody will have any inclination to save. Then, they will be forced to go to NBFCs. Already they have been cheated by NBFCs. If they are forced to invest in private financial firms, all these people will be suffering again. So, I would like to point out to the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India that it is their hard savings. If a common man, a public servant or a salaried class person wants to invest in banks, the Government should come forward to help them. Let them not be penalised. You cannot reduce the interest on savings from four per cent to three per cent. But, for a defaulter like that South Arcot man, you will say, "Avail one time settlement. We will waive interest. If it is Rs. 250 crore, you can give Rs. 100 crore. This is one time settlement." This is for a rich man. For a poor man, you are giving only three per cent on his savings in banks. Who will have inclination to save? Without these savings, the Government cannot thrive. Without the common man's investment in banks, saving certificates and other schemes, the Government cannot survive. The poor man is financing the Government but the rich man is eating. The rich man is parasite on the Government but the poor man is not a parasite on the Government.

The poor man is not a parasite. The poor man is not a leach. There are leeches, there are parasites, and those parasites should be identified before the society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will take some time.

Now, at the macro level, we must contain the fiscal deficit and control the expenditure on the cost of governance. In Tamil Nadu, we have taken into consideration the cost of governance. Suppose, you are rich, you will have two drivers or three drivers or four drivers. If you are not able to maintain three drivers, you will have one. If we are not able to maintain even one driver, we will drive. In that way, the Government should spend the money. The cost of governance should be proportionate to the income that is coming from the from the people, from the common man. The cost of governance should not exceed much. If the cost of governance is more, the common man will not get any help from the Government.

As far as the agriculturists are concerned, they are not table to fix their own price. We fix it. The manufacturer fixes the price of the car but the agriculturists are not able to fix the price of their produce. The price of the agricultural produce is not fixed by the producer, whereas a car manufacturer can hike the price of his car. Even now he has reduced it by Rs. 50,000. In that why, the common men suffer. I am saying common men because I am equating the agriculturists to common men because they are living for their livelihood. When you put a spoke in the way of their livelihood, where will they go? What can they do? Who will support them? It is an unorganised sector. These are all the matters which we have been raising for the last four years, but they turned into the deaf ears. So, these matters may be looked into by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time will you take?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will take five minutes because we are not economists. We study and present it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): When the Government cannot control the expenditure, how can he control the time? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: We disinvest the public sector undertakings and give them to the private investors. This corporate wealth, this public wealth is being turned into a private monopoly. To cut down the public monopoly, you are disinvesting even the profit-making industries and giving them to the rich man. He may be even a defaulter. I know who has quoted how much money. He owes so much money to the Government. Let the public wealth not be converted into private wealth. Let the corporate wealth not be converted into a private man's properly.

Without sweat, he becomes rich. Without any time for earning, he becomes rich.

Sir, I read two books. Even it was published in one newspaper. The worth of one industrialist at the age of 36 is rupees one lakh crore. His father was an ordinary schoolteacher. I have been practicing as a lawyer for the last 32 years.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Are these all in Tamil Nadu only?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: It is in India and it is in your place.

So, how did he accumulate that richess? All of sudden, the God has not given that amount of richness to him. I do not know what amount of manipulation he has done, what amount of wrongdoing he has done and what amount of money he owes to the Government. The theory is one cannot become rich unless he cheats the Government; unless he cheats the Department; unless he cheats the common man; unless he cheats his own men. Nobody can become rich. Rich is not born. At the age of 36, without an investment, he became rich and his worth is rupees one lakh crore. We are not able to get in that way because everybody here is having the experience in public life for 30 years. So, you must have surveillance over those filthy rich people. All of a sudden, how has he become rich? The CBI and the Department should have an eye, surveillance over all these people, these businessmen. How did he become rich?

How much money he owes to the bank? Why did he not give it back? The officials in the cooperative bank would say: "Look here, we will attach all your properties and we will arrest you". Then, in that way, he will be treated like a common man. If he is not able to give back that money, then the cooperative bank officials, for his loan in the cooperative bank, attach all his properties.

The Budget is a welcoming measure. The developed countries such as Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the USA, the UK, etc., provide incentives to simultaneous investment to stimulate investments. Here, where is the stimulus? There is no stimulus. The interest on small savings is three per cent. Where will I have stimuli to save? Where will I have stimuli to invest? Actually, it is not encouraged here.

The Kelkar Committee has also advocated for abolition of MAT. This practice of MAT is not prevalent in other countries. Should we have that provision in our country? So, I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to think over this matter.

Now I come to the revival of the capital markets. The reintroduction of Section 80-CC to give boost to the primary capital markets was introduced in 1978 and was later withdrawn in 1993. Now, what are the issues for consideration before the Government and before this House for the revival of the capital markets? All our capital markets like the UTI and stock exchanges had suffered. What happened to the stock scam? I was in that Committee ...*(Interruptions)* All of you have signed unanimously. Now you are talking something else here. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not a Chartered Accountant. We have to safeguard the interests and life of a common man. Will this Budget be enough to give life to a common man? I leave this question to Parliament and to the hon. Minister of Finance to answer.

Sir, I support the Budget because it has to be supported. Actually, under the Constitution, you can oppose and you can give your views, but it should not fail If it is failed, then no money can be appropriated from this Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.H. Pandian, please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: This is a legal question. ...*(Interruptions)* I welcome the Budget on behalf of my Party, the AIADMK. I ask the hon. Minister of Finance to ponder overall these deliberations and supplement with his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I lack words to appreciate the 2003-04 budget presented by hon. Minister of Finance. He has tried to resolve the smaller and bigger problems in this budget that is why I welcome the budget and he is being congratulated by people from all over the country.

Sir, hon. Minister has expressed special concern for health, education, housing and small scale industries sector. He has waived 5 percent surcharge on income upto Rs. Eight and a half lakh. Senior citizens who are pride of the country have been given income tax exemption upto Rs. 20 thousand. Nine per cent concession has been given to people retiring from Government Service. The freeze on LTC facility has been revoked. Similarly increasing the standard deduction till Rs. 30 thousand has been announced.

Hon. Minister has announced Rs. 60 thousand for inter-departmental projects including 48 new road projects particularly for cement and steel sector. An expenditure of Rs. 40,000 crore will be incurred on to launch these projects generating new employment opportunities for engineer, mechanical, skilled and unskilled labour.

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

To keep the flag of self respect of the country ever hoisting hon. Minister has announced 14 per cent *i.e.* Rs. 65,300 crore cover. It has inspired over jawans a great deal. To award international status to Delhi and Mumbai airports and for two major posts of the country, Rs. 11 thousand crore scheme has been formulated which will not only give impetus to import and export but will also increase the number of foreign tourists. The assurance given by hon. Minister of constructing private airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi deserves applause. And Rs. 40 thousand crore package announced for 40 road projects for linking Kanyakumari with Srinagar and Porbandar with Silchar also deserves applause. This way entire country can be connected encouraging trade and commerce in the country. It may also curtail likely expenditure on petrol and diesel.

It is said the state of youth can be imagined of the country, the children of which are starving. Children are the future of this country. Hon. Minister has announced and a package under the Antyodaya Yojana for fifty lakh families living below poverty line in villages and cities. People belonging to poor category are happy with the concern expressed by the NDA Government for them. Handicapped people have been given Rs. 50 thousand to 75 thousand Income Tax concession and they are contented. The country which is replete with three basic ingredients food, cloths and shelter, thrives. The custom duty on textile machinery has been reduced from 24 percent to 5 percent. It will give impetus to textile Ministry. It is said.

[English]

"East or West, home is best."

[Translation]

A person many go east or west but when he comes back home he gets pleasure, peace and satisfaction there. The continuation of deduction till Rs. One lakh fifty thousand on payment of instalment of the loan for house building and the interest thereon has been announced. the construction of 20 lakh houses per annum that has been announced for the poor people will facilitate the people living on roads, footpath along the nalas to dwell in a house of their own. Since children I have heard that

[English]

"Health is the wealth".

[Translation]

With a view to achieve this end hon. Minister has given exemption in custom duty. Alongwith this Rs. 500 crore allocation has been made under the Self Health Scheme for poor farmers. The poor farmer living in the village can draw benefits from this scheme. For appearing women and children excise duty on pressure cooker and biscuits has been reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent. Our women folk have a passion for jewellery. Even the poorest of all would like to adorn herself with a nose pin. Efforts have been made by the hon. Minister to fulfill their expectations by reducing custom duty on gold jewellery. I congratulate him for this.

"Chandan hai is desh ki mati, tapo bhoomi har gaon hai, har bala devi ki pratima, baccha-baccha Ram hai."

Our land belongs to Sadhus and sants, it belongs to courageous man who have laid down their lives. Here we have immortal legends of Shivaji, Rana Pratap and Rani of Jhansi on one side and echoes of martyrs like Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev on the other where this land belongs to saints like Swami Vivekanand, Shri Ramkrishna Pramahans, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Jagatguru Shankarcharya, Maharishi Karve, Vishmarya Sant Jalaram, Shri Narsinh Mehta, Mirabai on one side, we have statesmen like Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Ravinder Nath Tagore, Subhash Chandra Bose, Pandit Shyama Prasad Mukherji, Dr. Hegdewar, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. They are countless. Our land is replete with saints and bravemen. Hon. Minister has offered several sops and incentives to tourism industry with a view to attract tourists visiting these places.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hotel industry has been given impacts for upgrading facilities and improving conditions in big hotels. Earlier we used to import wheat from Australia which was not fit for human consumption. There has been a revolution in the country. The foodgrain reserves are replete with grains. We are exporting foodgrains to 15 countries. Earlier we used to plead with different countries asking charity. The Government headed by hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is providing assistance in the form of precious exchange to twelve different countries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, basic infrastructure is being given impetus by increasing public funds through private sector participation with the help of which 2 lakh handpumps have been installed in arid areas and schools and one lakh conventional water sources are being revived in villages. NDA Government has also shown concern for education. Provision for compulsory education for children between the age group of 6 to 15 years has been made. New schemes for middle, higher and women welfare are being launched. The benefit of Insurance scheme is being accrued to general category. This more has been unprecedented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Crop Insurance Scheme should be made more comprehensive. Rate of industrial growth is increasing day by day. It will improve our economy and GDP. It is a country of villages if the villages will prosper so would the country. Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched to link each village with main road. Earlier one had to give bribes to obtain LPG and telephone connections but now one can get it immediately after applying for it. Assurance has been given for linking villages with WLL system till 2004. Earlier one could see huge lines in front of fair prices shops but now they are negligible. Wheat, rice, kerosene oil are available. Out country was under heavy foreign debt since independence but today for the first time we have been able to pay off our debts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have certain suggestions to make which the Government may deliberate upon like providing employment to unemployed persons giving importance to agriculture, including rabi crop in the Crop Insurance Scheme, providing financial assistance to complete the Narmada Scheme and providing out standing amounts to the Gujarat Government through recovery from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, establishing hostels for students belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and increasing their scholarships, encouraging studies in foreign countries etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, irregularities have been committed in the Cooperative banks of Gujarat and its Chief Minister has given assurance to the depositors for giving risk cover to the depositors money. But the Union Government should also provide assistance to the State Government to ensure proper functioning of the cooperative banks. Gujarat has witnessed drought, suffered earthquake and communal riots.

"Kitna accha hai yeh budget

nahin badhaya kahin bhi rate

bal, vridh bachat karenge net

kar payenge apna kharch set

LTC se nischit hogi ghumne ki date

Naukri per nahin jayenge ab yeh late

Berojgaron ke lye khula naukari ka gate

Pahli April se lagoo hoga VAT

Aaj budget bana hai sabhi ka pet

Kitna accha bana hai yeh budget."

With these words, I conclude by congratulating hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to start with what one of the best known former Finance Minister of India, Shri Manmohan Singh had to say about this Budget. He said:

> "The challenges for our country today are that for the last five years the growth rate has been decelerated, industrial growth rate has been much below the potential, and the per capita agricultural input has declined. Besides, employment situation has worsened in the last three years and the fiscal situation has been worsening year after year since the BJP Government came to power at the Centre. So, the real challenges are to have a strategy which will reverse this dismal track."

I do not blame the present Finance Minister for all that has happened. He is holding this baby for the last few months only. Probably realising that things were getting out of hand and elections were approaching, the Prime Minister thought it necessary to have a change of guard and to bring in some kind of a new strategy into the whole issue of economic revival and for restructuring of the economy.

I will just give a few basic facts which I suppose are obvious by now. The growth rate, which was envisaged to be much higher, has been admitted now to be 4.4 per cent in 2002-03. The Finance Minister now very expectantly says that it would be between six and seven per cent during 2003-04. Low capital investment was responsible for this fall. It was far below the projected levels and, therefore, let to the low growth rate of last year. I would like to ask the Finance Minister if he expects it to be any higher this year.

Drought in large parts of the country has hit agricultural incomes in 17 States. Fall in interest rates on savings is going to totally erode the desire, as my colleague has said, for savings. The capital markets have been shaken up with the scams—which all of us have sat and investigated and presented a report to Parliament on—plus the inflation rate of five per cent. I would like to ask the Finance Minister if he thinks that things would improve by simple commitments to infrastructure development. He stated that Rs. 60,000 crore will go into infrastructure. Yet, in his Budget, he had provided only Rs. 2,000 crore. Does the Finance Minister really believe that the rest of this gap can come from—what you people put as—Build Operate and Transfer (BOT)? Where is the money going to come from? That is why perhaps Shri Chidambaram has very interestingly yesterday called the Finance Minister the 'Greatest Magician of Modern India-P.C. Sorcar of the BJP Government'.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

The Government had envisaged Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestment. What has it been able to mop up? It is Rs. 3,360 crore. The Government has run out of its capacity to disinvest in spite of the hype and the support from people like Shri Pandian and others who are talking about everything that you do as being perfect. The fiscal deficit this year is at 5.6 per cent of GDP.

We are in a debt trap. Huge demands on debt servicing are facing the country. The States are going in for reckless borrowing from round the world In spite of his efforts now in his Budget at debt swapping and debt management measures, I am constrained to say that the economy is heading for catastrophe.

About the infrastructure development, they have no policy. The *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana,* the Central Road Fund (CRF) are all ridden by politics and populist demands on the Government from the States which are either their partners or which are their supporting parties. There is no rationale behind it. Within the States it is: 'might is right'. Those who can corner the CRF are cornering it at the cost of development into areas where it is most needed.

Sir, besides that, now they have announced 48 road projects. I would like to ask them where are the jobs being created in these projects. All the conditions that they are laying down are for large consortiums to come in and to do the building of roads. I am not against quality. I am not against more effieicent management. But in an economy where unemployment is growing, if employment is not generated through all these programmes, where is the job opportunity going to be created? Conditions that are set for tenders and for other things are such that no small local person can participate or get any benefit out of it.

Secondly, there is no coordination when you decide on these projects. There is no coordination between the roads and the airports; and the railways and the ports. For instance, in my own State, there is the Hassan Railway line. For 10 years, it is lying that way. The Mangalore port is dying. They have abandoned the Mangalore port. They do not complete this railway line. Now, they think of modernising Kochi port or some other ports. It is not that modernisation of those ports should not be done. But unless there are feeder railways and unless there is infrastructure which is coordinated and integrated, all these investments are not going to change the economic scenario.

Sir, now, I come to the public sector. Everybody has talked about it. There is reckless and senseless sell-off of all the public sector units. Assets of the people built over 50 years are being auctioned like junk in the market place. Pandit Nehru had called them "the new temples of India". They are busy these days burying their heads excavating the ancient temple sites and leaving the PSUs in shambles and in ruins.

I suppose and I hope that he has made provisions in his Budget this time for massive programmes on excavations of ancient sites to discover what lies below. Perhaps, we should have a special head also for excavating what was below Parliament House and what was below Rashtrapati Bhavan sooner or later!

Sir, the *Business Standard* reports and I quote: "PSUs registered a 66 percent growth in profits last year"—correct me if I am wrong—"with a turnover growth of Rs. 20,941 crore. Their contribution by way of excise, customs duties, dividend, interests on loans, etc., rose by 2.81 per cent. And, yet they are sold. Even the profit-making ones are just thrown away at next to no prices."

Of cource, as has been said everywhere, their Government is of commissions and omissions as far as the public sector companies are concerned. Commission publicly denied but privately received. I would say that the private sector on the other hand gets all the support and the sops.

About the NPAs, they had brought in a new Act. We have supported it to be able to recover from those who have been responsible for the NPAs. But Sir, with your permission, I wish to point out a headline in the *Asian Age* this week. They say: 'PM's star advisors rip-off IFCI'. A special council of 14 industrialists was created by the Prime Minister to advise him on economic policies.

15.00 hrs.

Here are their names, appearing on the front pages. All of them put together owe a stunning Rs. 1,577 crore to IFCI. These are the advisors in the Prime Minister's Council. This is not a Report, this is the answer given in Parliament to a question asked by an hon. Member. These are the figures given by the Ministry of Finance, your own Ministry. The whole list of names has been published one after another. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has gone through this list. I know that in the name of the new Act, your bank people are attaching houses of small investors. They are attaching their small-scale units, but what about these big sharks in the Prime Minister's Council? I would like to ask the hon. Minister to tell the Parliament what has he done to attach their assets. Are you planning to liquidate their companies, and take over these companies so that the people's money, in these various companies, is recovered.

As far as Economics is concerned, your whole policies are to help the rich and to deny the small people their constitutional rights.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please be brief.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to take another five or ten minutes, Sir. It is because I have not gone even through half of my speech. Sir, oil, fertilizers, power, steel, now even defence, all of them are being sold to private companies, and the disinvestment money is being used for gap-filling exercises in the Budget. The FDI cap in banks has been raised to 74 per cent. What more do you want?

As far as agriculture is concerned, we all know the crisis. Everyone has spoken about it. You talked about agriculture being a thrust area, and yet what is happening? Shrimati Indira Gandhi had promised that we would never beg for food again. Food security was the basis of our Agricultural Revolution. After that, we had the White Revolution; we had the Oilseeds Mission, the Water Mission, to help rural India.

Sir, today there are farmers who are committing suicides. There is no policy direction. The food chain has been destroyed. The PDS has been wound up. The prices of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides are raised. The prices of diesel and crude oil have also gone up. How would the farmers survive?

There was a famous Queen during the French Revolution who said: "If the people cannot have bread, let them eat cakes." And here our hon. Minister is saying if the farmers are dying, we have a new Central Sector Scheme worth Rs. 50 crore. He gives: "hi-tec horticulture, and precision farming." Then there are the green houses, bio-technical, foodstuffs and green goods for the people. Who are the people in the country who eat green food? They are asking for rice to fill their stomach, and we are talking about hi-tec horticulture and hi-tec agriculture.

Sir, please come down to earth. About eighty per cent of India is on the rural side. Your big companies and your big corporates are not going to be able to feed India. It is the farmers who have fed this country, and it is not the big multi-nationals who think they can export rice and grain to you and destroy your food security, so carefully built up.

Sir, now, I would come to tea, coffee and rubber. We are told now that there is a Price Stabilisation Fund of Rs. 500 crore for these big plantations. But I am asking you this. Why have you left out areca and why have you left out coconut? It is because some are to be pampered. The real smaller people who grow areca and coconut are totally left out of the Stablisation Fund. Why? My own area has the real problems, because of the import of these items. They are literally cutting down and burning their trees. Sir, there is drought in 17 States. Food for Work has been promised. We are told that godowns are full. But there is no coordination between FCI, Railways and the Food Ministry. I raised this yesterday in the House that godowns in Belgaum are empty; the PDS stocks have dried up.

We are told here,

[Translation]

a lot of things are there. We will talk to the railways. We will manage to get rakes from them and transfer it.

[English]

Till when people are to wait? It is till three or four Ministers sit together? In fact, you have multiplied the Ministers to so many that probably one does not know what the other is doing. There is no coordination of any kind. Food is rotting but there are no railway rakes to transport it to the places where they need food for work.

There has been 13.6 per cent fall in foodgrains in the country because of drought. The Finance Minister has expressed his dissatisfaction with the functioning of Regional Rural Banks. What is the solution? The solution according to you seems to be, do not improve their functioning but hand them over to private sector. Give it to the private banks which will open branches and solve the problem.

You have spoken about rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation. The problem is that all these items are handled by too many Ministries. I have been trying to get one project to my constituency for which I have gone to six Ministries. Water is handled by six ministries and one says,

[Translation]

every one passes the back

[English]

I was just moving in circles till I finally went to the Planning Commission and asked where should I go. This is the problem. You need coordination before you can implement these policies. You need a coherent policy, a long-term strategy to deal with agriculture, rural poverty,

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

farmers' problems, diversification and food chain security.

I am not going into the details. The Ministers of Agriculture had made detailed recommendations in their Conference. I have them with me but I have no time to go into them. Not one of them has been implemented. I would like to know what the Minister is doing about these recommendations.

I have one suggestion to make. You must put together all the *Rozgar Yojanas*, anti-poverty programmes and drought relief programmes and only have one-point programme, geared-up to watershed management and rainwater harvesting. Let the traditional water sources be de-silted and be made viable so that there is one time effort at providing water in the rural side.

Sir, you will not stop me at this stage. I want to say something about how the women have been ignored in this Budget. I said to the Finance Minister the other day that I always thought that he had a soft corner for us but we are more than disappointed. In the priority sector, the banks tell us very openly when we go in the Committee on Empowerment of Women, the target is five per cent for women. During Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, 30 per cent of priority household had to be women. I was the Minister for women then. Today, banks are fifty per cent of the population and our needs are greater than those of men. Why is there this discrimination?

Secondly, we have been totally ignored in the Budget. The Minister says that prices of Utensils, kitchen knives, tablewares have been reduced in the Budget. Do you want to put us back in the kitchen and tell us,

[Translation]

that our place is there? Utensils and other kitchen items have become very cheap. I go to kitchen and cook but money is needed to cook. What the women will cook?

[English]

What have you given them as an incentive at a time of drought and despair?

With regard to the working women hostels rupees three-and-a-half crore have been reduced in the Budget when more and more women are going out to work. Support systems, which existed earlier, like the day care centres and others, are disappearing. There were 75 units in the small-scale sector, which used to help women and used to create employment for them, they have been taken off the list. There is no protection for food processing because imported items have become cheaper. Cosmetics, garments and all of them have become uneconomical for women's units. Diamonds, gems and gold, I am told have become cheap.

[Translation]

I want to ask you as to who have the money and for whom that money is with them?

[English]

There is one point which I would like to make here about the self-help groups. Repeatedly we are being told that the solution for women is, 'provide self-help groups'. Let me point out something which probably nobody has done before. Earlier, when women were made to save and deposit their money in the banks they were getting four per cent interest. Now, it has been reduced to three or three-and-a-half per cent. But when the same group goes back to the bank for credit in order to start their micro enterprises, do you know the interest that they have to pay?

It is 12 per cent to 13 per cent. You give them three and a half per cent as savings interest and you charge them 12 per cent to 13 per cent while the big companies are getting loans at six to seven per cent interest. Why are you doing this? I am saing to the Minister that he is using the savings of grassroots women to subsidise NPAs of the big companies and those who are looting the banks. We want justice for the women. This cannot go on.

Sir, maternity benefit allocation has been reduced by Rs. 22 crore in this Budget. The scheme for women labour has been cut by Rs. 8 crore in the present Budget. I want to know what the Minister has done for women at this stage. The Government is closing the public sector units and people are without jobs and the great incentive is VRS.

[Translation]

benefits under V.R.S. are tax free so take V.R.S. and sit at home.

[English]

I would like to know whether the incentive which you are offering is for two children. You are giving education expenditure exemption upto Rs. 12,000 per child. I would like to know how many parents are there in this country who are paying Rs. 1000 a month for the fees of their children. It can only be those of certain sections who pay Rs. 1000 a month for their child. I never paid

Rs. 1000 for my children when they went to school or college. Who are the people you are giving the concession to? They are the rich and the super rich people. Sir, if there are four children in a family and both parents are working, the mother will claim for two children and the father will claim for another two and they will get exemption of Rs. 48,000. Let me tell you that this is for the rich and the super rich, and not for the common people of this country.

As far as the pension scheme is concerned, I may say that you make such a big thing about it but there are different ages of senior citizens that you have talked about. For some schemes, it is 65 years; for some schemes, it is 60 years; and for some schemes, it is 55 years. Please tell me into which category we fall. Let there be a uniform definition of old age, for schemes at least, in your Government.

[Translation]

you don't know from where does it start there is a single denomination from 55 to 80 years.

[English]

What is the common denominator for getting the benefit? It is 55 or 60 or 65 years? Let there be one age fixed and say that above that age you are senior citizen.

Sir, I welcome the concessions given to tourism but there are problems. On the one side, we have CRZ and the Forest Act on the other. There is no uniform criteria adopted and none of these benefits that you have given will reach really the new areas or backward areas where tourism is possible. It will be cornered by those who have Five-Star Hotels and big complexes. It will not go to eco-tourism or the other sectors. You please stop indiscriminate imports, and protect domestic industry. As regards paper, you have reduced the duty on paper from 35 per cent to 25 per cent. This is 15 per cent below what is provided by the WTO guidelines. Whom are you protecting? Whom are you helping with these tax concessions? All the rich people have been benefited and they are hailing you but you have neglected the poor and the weaker sections. That is my complaint.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member Shri Rajo Singhji is laying his speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman Sir, due to paucity of time I am laying my speech on the Table of the House. I request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to kindly go through it.

*Sir, after the presentation of the budget for the year 2003-04 media and representatives of the rich people of the society have tried to give an impression to common man that this is a good budget and efforts have been made to benefit every section of the society while preparing the budget. But if we go through the budget provisions meticulously. We will come to know that this budget has been prepared keeping in view the interest of only two per cent people belonging to the elite class. The budget has disappointed the remaining 98 per cent people of the country.

Sir, this budget has been prepared keeping in view the interest of the people who speak English, cannot live without air conditioners. Who go in good restaurant for breakfast and in a five star hotel for dinner. We see that airconditioners, refrigerators, colour televisions, foreign tours, audio CDs, computers, consmatics, costly toys, cars, jems and foreign liquors have been made cheaper. Whether the budget in which luxury items have been made cheaper and the commodities like sugar and tea used by common man which have been made costly can be considered practical and in the interests of the common man? This budget talks about poverty eradication, development of resources and agriculture and boosting of export but these are mere words. There seems to be no seriousness about these issues. Sir, through this House I would like to ask from the hon'ble Finance Minister as to what is his intention in regard to providing employment, shelter and health care facilities for the poor people. There is no categorical mention of these basic things in the Budget. The hon'ble Prime Minister himself has accepted in this very House that his Government have not been able to fulfil its commitment of providing employment to one crore people.

Sir, on the one hand this Government has shown its inability in providing two square meal to the poor people and on the other hand there has been manifold increase in the Government expenditure. Sir, I would like raise the same issue once again in this House which was raised way back in sixties in this House by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. At that time daily income of a common man in India was three 'Anna' (18 paise) whereas daily expenditure of the Government on the then Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru was fifteen thousand rupees per day. At that time his agony was justified. Today if expenditure on the President, the Prime Minister and council of ministers is worked out, it will stunn everybody. Today daily income of an average Indian citizen is about Rs. 29.50 which is 14033 times less as compared to expenditure being incurred on the President, the Prime Minister and the council of ministers. Similarly the daily

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Rajo Singh]

expenditure on the Prime Minister's office comes to Rs. 2.38 lakhs which is 7694 times more as compared to average daily income of a citizen. The daily expenditue on the central council of ministers is Rs. 15 lakh which is 47736 times more of the daily income of an average citizen. We will have to consider as to what the President, the Prime Minister and his council of Ministers are giving to the country keeping in mind that 70 thousand times higher expenditure as compared to the income of common man of the country? In order to curtail the Government expenditure several restrictions are imposed on the Government employees but this ever-increasing expenditure is not being contained.

Considering the situation prevailing in the field of education in the country we would find that no remarkable progress has been made in this field during the last five years. Last year a budget provision of Rs. 4174 crore was made for the primary education, it is very sad to say that budget provision under this head has been curtailed by Rs. 300 crore for this year. This shows the indifferent attitude of the Government towards education. By giving exemption in income tax on the expenditure incurred on education the Government have caused more damage than any good. It will encourage the public schools which have made education a lucrative business. They will charge more fee from the parents. On the one hand teaching in Government schools is not upto the mark and on the other hand the Government have added to the burden of common man by imposing tax on the tuition bureaus. A common man cannot afford tuition to his children to make up their study loss. The Government should ensure that this surcharge should not be recovered from the common man. It should be recovered from big players in the field of education such as education mafia.

Sir, how we can term this budget farmer friendly budget when the prices of agricultural inputs like fertilizers and pesticides have been increased? This Government is reducing subsidy frequently on fertilizers. It is not fair. The subsidy on fertilizers in other countries of the world is many times more. In India it is Rs. 1000/- per acre per farmer whereas in Japan it is Rs. 23580 and in America it is Rs. 2580 per acre per farmer. I would like to request the government not to treat the subsidy on fertilizers as an alms and atleast *status quo* should be maintained in this regard. Neglecting agriculture is a serious question which we should consider in this regard. I would like to cite an example in this regard. In economic review Bihar has not been included in the list of drought affected states whereas everybody knows that Bihar has been in the grip of severe drought and has also experienced devastating floods. I condemn this stepmotherly treatment being meted out to Bihar. It could be either the hon'ble Finance Minister has not gone through this document or this state has been deliberately left out of the list of drought affected states.

The Government are taking undue credit by reducing the rate of interest on house and car loans being given by the banks. How this decision can be beneficial for the farmers and poor of the country. I am pained to say that even today compound interest is being charged on the loans advanced to the farmers to purchase tractors which amounts just double of interest on other loans. Why the Government are indifferent in this regard. The farmers are getting trapped in loan due to arbitrary interest rate. Today Banks have become moneylenders and exploiting the farmers. Perhaps the Government are not aware that due to faulty system the farmers have lost their interest on producing foodgrains. They are not getting remunerative prices for their produces like foodgrains and fruits. There is no buyer and the Government have added to their misery by giving relaxation on import of fruits. Now-a-days imported mangoes and other fruits are being sold in the market instead of indigenously grown mangoes and other fruits. The hapless farmers are looking as to what the Government which gave the slogan of 'Swadeshi' is doing. The Government should read the writing on the wall, there is a message in their silence. The day on which the farmers of the country would awake you will lose your sleep. The Government have no concrete scheme for development of agriculture.

The Government have tried to take credit by restoring LTC facility to the Government employees which is not something to be welcomed. The condition of the Government servant is like that of a work horse which is over burdened. Though on paper he is being shown well paid but twenty per cent of his salary is taken back as income tax. It is like a dirty joke. In these days of soaring prices it is almost impossible to save something and if someone anyhow saves something from his hard earning that too is not encouraging as the rate of interest on small savings and general Provident Fund has been reduced. It is further disappointing to the employees. In other words the Government has ruined their present as well as future.

Sir, I therefore, condemn this budget because this budget has been prepared keeping in view the rich people. This budget will further add misery to the poor people and ruin the farmers and will become a matter of concern for the house-wives and worsen the condition of the Government employees further. We cannot accept this budget keeping in view that it serves the interest of only two per cent population of the country.

The climate in India is favourable for production and processing of fruits. In this era of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation the whole world has become a village. Evidently our people have also started concentrating on quality and nourishment. Variety of high yielding and quality fruits, growing population, shrinking fertile land, indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources coupled with import of fruits under the open general licensing have compelled the Indian farmers to commit suicide rather then making them competitive in the present era of globalisation.

Our middle class population is about 200 million which can buy nutritious fruits. Out of this 200 million middle class population only 60 million people live in cities. The present Government is formulating all its policies keeping in mind only this 60 million urban population due to which the rural farmers are compelled to lead a life of hardships.

Advanced countries process and export about 70 to 80 per cent of their agriculture produces. This ratio in our country is only two per cent. On the one hand an attempt is being made to discourage the farmers to give up the agriculture as their occupation by hiking the prices of chemical fertilizers and on the other hand the hardworking farmers who want to set up fruit processing units are also getting no facilities. India grows eleven metric tonnes of mangoes annually which constitutes 63 per cent of mango production of the world. The Government can set up the small and cottage industries for boosting its export and thus provide employment to a number of people. But the figures in this regard show something else. Indian share of export of mangoes is only 11 per cent. Secondly we export mangoes only to the countries of European Union *i.e.* to Britain, France, Germany and Italy etc. now they have decided to levy 3.8 per cent import duty on mangoes which makes the Alfanso mangoes costlier in the country as compared to mangoes like Lusia imported from America and Caribbean countries. After all where will our farmers go?

On the one hand apple crop has not been good in the country and on the other hand the Government have allowed import of apple under the open general license.

Today, there is abundance of American and Australian apples in the south Indian markets and the markets in the north India are full of apples imported from South Africa and Newzealand. The Government says that imported apples are costly but it is not the reality. A box of apple imported from America costs Rs. 1050 similarly a box of apples imported from Australia costs. Rs. 1100 to Rs. 1200 whereas a box of apples grown in Shimla/ Kashmir costs Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1100. One box of apple contains 150 apples. These figures are made available by the Koemped fruit market.

Perhaps the Government are not aware that how much subsidy the Government of those countries are providing to the fruit growers. If fruits will be imported at large scale, definitely the prices will come down. It will not only marginalise our fruit growers but we will have to spend foreign exchange on it.

In India litchi is grown over an area of 60,000 hectare. Out of the said 60,000 hectare area of land 74 per cent is in Bihar. You talk about boosting of export. Last year 400 tonnes of Litchi was exported. The farmers have done this at their own. The Union Government have not provided any facility for this.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, I welcome and support this Budget. The DMK Party believes in decentralisation of powers. Presently, they are vested enormously with the Centre. We believe in making all the national languages as official languages of the country.

Sir, the DMK Party believes in providing rights to States to determine the Reservation Policy in line with the principle of social justice upheld by the Dravidian movement.

Sir, the DMK Party believes in bringing about progress in the lives of the backward and middle class and especially the poor and the down-trodden masses. Our Party also believes in the protection of the minorities and safeguarding social unity along with communal harmony and humanism.

Sir, now I would like to put forward my views on this year's Union Budget. We must not forget the importance of giving an impetus to the noble efforts of ushering in an Egalitarian society where caste and creed may not disunity our society. Saint Thiruvalluvar Kural impresses upon us that all are equal by birth. But still the society is divided due to casteism and communalism and we all should strive to overcome these hurdles by paving the way for economic prosperity.

Sir, the DMK Party, which is a member of this National Democratic Alliance, strongly believes in thrift and savings in society guided by social justice. This is a long-cherished tradition of the State of Tamil Nadu. These are the lofty ideals and principles followed by our dynamic leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. We would, in his footsteps, like to dedicate ourselves to overcome poverty without violence. We would like to establish a society based on equality where there is no over powering, hegemony. We would like to make this commitment to the great Indian people who have patiently waited so

[Shri Adhi Sankar]

long for the right measures to be provided by the democratic institutions.

Sir, the Budget is all about what you gather and spend. But the Budget of a household and that of the country are alike in many respects as they deal with Receipts and Expenditure. A good housewife is considered to be adept in handling family accounts. She has to take care to curtail expenditure in a manner that it does not exceed the means. A Good Finance Minister is one who broadens the bases to have more receipts to match with the ever-increasing needs for expenditure. A good housewife can do much about controlling expenses and ensuring savings. Similarly, a good Finance Minister can also do much about mobilising more funds to meet the increasing the needs. It is a tight rope walk either way.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his earnest attempt to streamline the tax system to ensure compliance and for better collection of revenues. It is generally perceived that the business class and the middle class do not have much to grudge about. But we cannot wish away the fact that agriculturists are worried. They form the backbone of our economy. They are neither enthused nor are happy with this year's Budget. About Rs. 1,000 crore have been withdrawn from this year's allocation on farm subsidy as compared to last year. At the same time, there is also a proposal to increase the price of fertilizers, petrol, diesel and also kerosene. These moves may seriously affect the farmers and agricultural labourers in the rural areas. On behalf of my Party, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to the withdraw the proposed hike in the prices of agriculture.

Sir, it must not be forgotten that it is only in the stability of good prices and in accelerated release of food stocks that would help us to maintain the inflation from going up further. Our record food production has helped our economy to steer clear of the drought conditions in many parts of our country. That also has helped us to avoid fluctuation in the rate of inflation and in the overall growth rate.

Sir, the Budget is not just a statement of income and expenditure of the Government. It is an instrument of economic and social development. The most important thing is to create employment. This Government promised to provide employment to one crore persons every year. But this promise has not been fulfilled.

Development of the farming sector does not indicate that the problems of it are clearly understood by the Government. The rate of growth in agriculture has declined from 5.7 per cent to 3.1 per cent. Many States in the country are suffering because of unprecedented drought conditions. Agriculture depends upon irrigation facilities available to it. But, in most of the places ground water level has gone down. The river-linking project is good. But it takes a long time. Let the dams and canals be constructed in such a manner that they would form part of the river-linking project.

The credit facilities which are available to agriculture are not at all adequate. The Government has given directions to the banks to provide 18 per cent of credit to the farming sector. But the banks are not giving that kind of credit to the agricultural sector. Therefore, the Government should pay more attention and give better credit and other facilities to the farming sector. The climatic condition should be protected and preserved. The Government should give more attention to the climatic conditions.

Agro based industry and food processing industry can help agriculture. But these industries are in very bad shape and these industries are not modernised. They are getting closed down. The Government has not taken steps to establish agro based industry and food processing industry on a large scale. The result is that agriculture in general and farmers and consumers in particular are suffering.

In Tamil Nadu, whenever Budgets were presented by our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, he used to hold pre-Budget consultations with the representatives of farmers' associations. I wish that the Union Government also enlisted the views of the farming community.

Wasteland Development is taken up with vigour in Tamil Nadu. The then DMK Government evolved schemes to take up this in a big way to ensure better utilisation of land and to avoid soil erosion.

I urge upon the Government to take up cashew cultivation in a big way in the coastal and hinterland belt in Tamil Nadu like Ponruti and surrounding areas. These are traditional cashew cultivation areas. This cash crop augmentation would benefit our economy also.

How are we to weather through an impending war in the Gulf region and the continuing drought conditions that may directly and indirectly affect our economy? I would like to know from the Finance Minister his long-term strategy to sustain the pegging in inflation rate and accelerating growth rate. I am afraid, both the Economic Survey and the Budget are silent on this. I hope our Finance Minister would explain our strategy for the future.

The common agenda for governance that NDA has given to itself includes the DMK's point of view. We have to evolve suitable schemes and plans to ensure good health and longevity of people, increased literacy and higher education facilities with better standard of living. These are strategies to ensure human resources development in a populous country like ours where human potential will contribute to the strength and power of the country. In order to bring about this progressive growth, we need to have a responsive, responsible and transparent Government with the participation of people from all over the country. I think our NDA Government strives to achieve this goal. I am happy to note that our hon. Finance Minister strides the path.

There was a controversy about generating employment. While taking care to overcome fiscal deficit and widening tax base, our Finance Minister must make it apparent to the people that jobs are being created.

I welcome the impetus given to the management of Pension Funds which is an essential social security measure. The Government must ensure that the welfare measures are properly monitored before being adequately funded. It is necessary to improve the quality of life of the citizens. The land and labour laws need reforms still. The reform agenda is still before us all. We need to implement vigorously many other social security measures. Capital formation in farming is an area which needs to be improved further.

Disinvestment is taking a back seat slowly. I welcome this because the Government is the biggest service provider when it comes to telecom, electricity, oil, air travel and posts and telegraph also. We must be careful in withdrawing from these areas that touch the common people in so many ways.

The GDP growth rate which was expected to be 5.5 per cent is estimated to be 4.4 per cent for 2002-03. This picture that emanates from the Economic Survey is not being properly attended to in the Budget. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister will throw light on this and I do not want to sound pessimistic. One per cent drop in growth rate means a lot.

At a time when the interest rates are modified so vigorously in the banking sector, the banks need to be helped way of tax exemptions on Non-Performing Assets. This comes in the way of rebuilding the collapsing financial institutions. We need to build investors faith at a time when our rate of interest on deposits is brought down.

I would like to thank the Finance Minister for restoring LTC to Government servants and removing five per cent surcharge on income tax. The Finance Minister has rightly observed that public servants are good tax compliers.

Finally, before I conclude, I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to ensure more of investment. I would help us to provide not only Foreign Direct Investment for infrastructure development but also the domestic savings come handy to handle developmental projects.

I would request the Finance Minister to raise the MPLAD funds by Rs. 1 crore more. I expected Shri Pandian, the Chairman of the Committee on MPLAD to say something on this matter but he has not said anything on this point. I request the hon. Minister to raise the fund from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: (Tirunelveli): Sir, since all the hon. Members are requesting, on behalf of all the hon. Members, and as Chairman of the Committee on MPLAD, I request the hon. Minister to enhance the amount from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore. Let the UP affair not spoil the climate.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to express my compliments to the hon. Finance Minister. This time, I came to know that he himself has written his Budget speech and did not allow the bureaucrats to prepare it for which I would like to express my compliments. You have also reduced the volume of papers. We normally used to have part 'A' and part 'B' separately from the Ministry of Finance.

15.28 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

This time, he has avoided part 'A' and part 'B' and he has brought them as one in his speech. I do not want to minimise the concern of the Finance Minister to identify the areas of priority. He has made sufficient exercise in situations of drought and flood. When the country is facing many problems, he has tried his best to identify five priorities for which I must compliment the Finance Minister. We may go through the expenditure budget to find whether proper allocation has been made to reach his goal or to achieve his objective which he intends to show as priorities.

In the Expenditure Budget, I tried to find out the allocation that he has made to the areas—according to him the five priority areas—in order to reach the goal. The allocation is not at all satisfactory. I would like to go one by one by taking a little time of this House.

In the first stage, the Budget was presented. In the next stage, there was so much of applause and excitement from those people who are going to receive

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

the tax bonanza. Naturally they have to praise the efforts of the hon. Finance Minister. Some people gave 100 per cent marks. I am not going to say that he does not deserve it. In some sectors, like creating employment opportunities and creating infrastructure, he has taken some decisions. Naturally, it goes to help the affluent sections of the society or the industrialists or the services sector people who are in services and the business people. These are some of the people, who naturally had to express their happiness. Their excitement is due to certain concessions that he has given in his Budget.

Madam Chairman, in a situation like this, everybody has to ponder over as to how you should mobilise the resources. The question of raising resources is not the concern of the Government alone. It is because I have seen both the sides. I sat there also for some time. When we try to make some efforts to raise the resources, naturally there would be a lot of criticisms from the other side. In everything, we like to mix politics. This is not going to help in overcoming the resource problem. We have now adopted new economic philosophy and new economic reforms. It was initiated by the previous Government. But under what circumstances was it initiated? It was initiated when the country was facing such a bad situation, when we were caught in such a debt trap. In 1990 the country was forced to pledge the gold. Subsequently, when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister, the same situation was prevailing. At that time we wanted to change our economic policies.

After the experience of twelve years, we have now come to the conclusion that we are unable to remove unemployment and we are unable to solve the problems of the farmers. Farmers are in distress. The situation is so worse. This is not a political issue. This is an issue that is concerned with all of us. The entire House should ponder over, particularly on this issue.

Now, we cannot come out of the WTO or the economic philosophy which we have adopted in 1990. I would like to take the valuable time of this House in order to mention one important thing. One of the Economists, who has worked in the World Bank, has written about his own experience. He is called Mr. Joseph Stiglitz. He was the Chief Economist of the World Bank until January, 2000. Before that, he was the Chairman of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors. He is currently the Professor of Finance and Economics at the Columbia University. Hon. Finance Minister, you might have read this book.

I would just like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to this. What is the effect of globalisation? In these contents, he has narrated his own experience. He has worked as an Advisor to former President Mr. Clinton. I would like to quote:

> "This is surprising given the awareness of the issues within the developed countries themselves. Europe defends the agricultural policies not just in terms of those special interests but to preserve rural traditions. People in small towns everywhere complain that the large national retailers and shopping marts have killed the small businesses and their communities."

This is the result of globalisation, liberalisation and the market economy. I would just like to quote one more paragraph ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The World Bank Economists become wiser only after they leave the Bank! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Please hear me. Do not try to undermine the views expressed by an Economist. He worked with the former President Mr. Clinton and narrated his own experience.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I know about it.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Yes, you may know it. You may be an Economist. We are all farmers. Why I am quoting this is that we should know that it is the primary responsibility of all of us concerned to mobilise our own resources. We cannot go on living with borrowed money.

He concludes with one more thing. For everything, we try to mix politics. I do not want to hurt the feelings of anybody. When my Andhra Pradesh friend tried to increase the power tariff, there was so much of protest from the other side. Similarly, when the States ruled by the BJP or the Congress try to do this, other political parties would try to take advantage of it. This is how we try to bring politics at every stage. We are unable to mobilise the resources within the country itself. He further says and I quote:

> "Hence, the developing countries must assume the responsibility for their well-being themselves. They can manage their Budgets so that they live within their means, meagre though that might be and eliminating projectionist barriers. While they may generate large profits for a few poor consumers to pay higher prices, they can put in place the strong regulation to protect themselves from speculators from the outside or corporate misbehaviour from the inside. Most important, developing countries need effective

Governments with strong and independent Judiciary, democratic accountability, openness, transparency and freedom from corruption that has stifled the effectiveness of the public sector and the growth of the private."

My friend has said that after this economist left the World Bank, he might have written this book. It may be so.

But he has narrated his experience in this book; the problem the country is facing today. The farmers are committing suicide. We are suffering from unemployment. The hon. Finance Minister has tried with all sincerity to identify some of the priority areas. How to make good the resources to meet this challenge? This is the basic issue about which all of us are concerned, on which all of us have to ponder over, and all of us have to apply our mind collectively. That is all my appeal. I do not want to mix politics. We have seen enough. We can score a point by debate but that is not going to help us.

Madam, I do not want to question the intentions of the hon. Finance Minister, but as External Affairs Minister he improved the country's image. After the two Pokhran tests, our image suffered before the Western World. He also tried to improve our relationship with our neighbours. I have been watching closely his contribution as External Affairs Minister and this nobody can minimize. I would like to congratulate him. I would not like to blame him but as Finance Minister we expected much more from him. Why? What is the reason for him to give so much concessions to those people who are salaried class and who are well-to-do people? Was it necessary? If such type of concessions are going to generate employment opportunities, and are going to generate the resources, then I have no objection. In my opinion, it is not going to generate employment opportunities; it is not going to generate the required resources to meet our other obligations.

Previous Government had also done some mistake by accepting the Fifth Finance Commission Report. I am sorry for that. A question was posed in the very same House by the Opposition or by the supporting parties regarding this. During that time, I said I am not prepared to accept the Pay Commission's Report. I have constituted an Official Committee, and after the Official Committee gives the Report, then I will call all the Chief Ministers, whether they belong to 'X' party or 'Y' party and then by taking their views, I will take a final decision. This was the stand I took on the floor of the House when the supporting parties were putting pressure on me. That is the issue where the trouble started. Then again what you have done? You tried to appease one section of the people. You increased the age limit from 58 years to 60 years and the University Grants Commission's recommendation was accepted and a lecturer who just entered a college is now getting Rs. 15,000 as his salary. These are some of the mistakes committed by successive Governments. It is not the question of who committed the mistakes and who has not committed the mistakes. That is not the issue. We all should apply our mind that how we went wrong to appease one section of the people and denigrate the other suffering masses. That is why I was totally opposed. After I demitted the office, my successor has accepted that because of pressure. What is the financial implication? That recommendation made by the Finance Commission was for Rs. 12,000 crore additional burden but ultimately when the Commission's Report was accepted, the total financial burden was Rs. 19,000 crore. Almost all the States have to suffer because of this adverse effect and today no State is now having any resources to meet not only their own salary component, but also the pension burden. After meeting all these things, where is the money left for developmental work?

It may not be even seven or eight per cent. I do not want to quote Statewise figures here and waste the time of the House. On some of these issues, I strongly oppose the idea of our hon. Finance Minister. Some people tried to draw their own conclusions about his Budget. Someone has said that this is only an eye on the vote bank. Every political party sitting in the Government tries to win back their vote bank. That is the normal feature, but I never expected this from the Finance Minister because he has applied his mind on the burning issues, tried to find out which are the areas where he should give priority. All these things are clearly indicated from his opening remarks in his Budget Speech. So, I never expected him to yield to the pressure put by his friends. After the Budget was presented, the next day, the CII friends tried to pressurise him on service tax and other things. I do not want to quote again as to how he has reacted to that and consume the time of the House.

Madam, I do not want to list out the concessions that he has given to some section of the people. Was the concession necessary for the car manufacturers or car users? Are they poor people? If he thinks that it is going to increase employment opportunities, I am sorry, I am not going to accept that. We have seen in the last 10 or 12 years that this is not at all going to increase employment opportunities. He may think that the car industry, the cement industry and the steel industry may flourish from the thrust that he has given to them. He may think that the housing and the infrastructural projects may be revived. I do not dispute that, but at what cost.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

Is it going to help the poor people? No. Again, our hon. Finance Minister may claim that giving certain concessions to these people will improve the industry or the industrial growth, but I am not going to accept that.

Madam, on the housing sector, the Finance Minister has given certain concessions. He has given exemption from income tax upto Rs. 1,50,000 for the interest deductible from housing loans and that too, he has given that concession with retrospective effect. I would like to read that particular paragraph. I do not know what exactly is the reason for the Finance Minister to give that concession with retrospective effect. That concession was earlier given by Dr. Manmohan Singh. I quote:

> "To maintain its present momentum of growth, it is proposed that interest deductible under income tax up to Rs. 1,50,000 for construction or purchase of a self-occupied house/property be continued. In addition, it is proposed that income from housing projects for construction of residential units of prescribed specifications approved by the local authorities upto March 31, 2005 will now be exempted from income tax, thus, not only has the limit with regard to year of sanction earlier frozen at March 31, 2001 now been extended but the benefit of the scheme also made available irrespective of the year of completion."

Was it necessary? I never expected this from him. Was it necessary to give such benefits from retrospective effect? I do not know what was the pressure. I do not want to drag the name of Shri Rajnath Singh who had been appointed to review the Kelkar Committee's Report. I do not want to drag his name and state what his recommendations were. That is not my concern. My only point is, when he wants to tide over the problem of resource crunch and when he wants to overcome the problem of unemployment, these are not the sort of concessions that one should give in the Budget.

If you create opportunities to create infrastructure, there is no need for these types of concessions to be given to some of these friends who have sufficient income at their disposal. Is it going to help a person who is going to construct a house under the *Indira Awas Yojana* or the *Ambedkar Awas Yojana* in the rural areas? Is it going to help a person who lives in huts and slums, namely, the urban poor, the urban tongawalla or whoever he may be? Is it going to help the people living in the villages? I do not know. These are only the people belonging to the salaried class or those who are paying income-tax—the rich people, the affluent people, and the business people—who may get benefited. To give a retrospective effect for them is not called for. It is unjust. That is my sincere opinion.

About diamonds and gold, you have said that your dream is to create a gold market in India. You say that. It is all right. We read in our school days that in Hampi, where Krishna Devaraya was ruling, the gold and diamonds were sold in the streets. We have read that in books. But we have not seen that. If you want to create such an international gold market, then India should be covered. I have no objection.

But, first of all, the basic problem is how to solve some of the problems in areas which you have identified. We have to cooperate with you. I have no objection even allowing certain additional taxes. I am sorry to say that Dr. Manmohan Singh had given certain concessions. For construction of a house, there was no tax for one person. Here, they have further extended it. The real estate people, the owners and the builders can construct a number of houses. They can sell flats. The construction operators will do that. They will get all these concessions. I do not know. What is necessary?

Again, you may incline that you have made certain efforts to give certain benefits to the weaker sections of the society like the health insurance. There is one thing you can incline about: *Indira Antyodaya Anna Yojana* for 50 lakh people. Some of the good schemes are there. But ultimately, in my opinion, the health insurance is not going to give the expected results. You have said that for card holders who are below the poverty line, you are going to contribute Rs. 100 per year. It is all right. If a family member gave Rs. 1, Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 2, depending on the size of the family, you have said that he was going to get a benefit of up to Rs. 30,000. Let us apply our mind honestly. Is it going to help a heart patient? Is it going to help a cancer patient? Is it going to help a patient suffering from AIDS? Is it going to help a person who has to undergo kidney transplant? All these deadly diseases are not at all going to be covered by this insurance scheme.

The officials, bureaucrats, politicians, MPs and MLAs or whosoever they may be, are not going to gain. Whatever may be the expenditure, we are going to get reimbursement. But your intention for the poor people is good. You have made a beginning. I appreciate that. But this scheme alone will not help those people who are suffering from deadly diseases. That is may request. You may apply your mind to improve the scheme further, if you can. My friend, Shri R.L. Jallapa is here. In fact, when we were in Karnataka in 1995 we had made a scheme. I would send it. I would just like to read from it.

> "All types of cancer cases, major cardiac illness, major nephrological problems requiring kidney transplantation, major neurological problems requiring

neuro-surgical treatments, such as head injuries, brain tumours, etc."

This was the decision taken by our Government at the State level, of course. At the national level, if he can improve, he can. I will only make the suggestion and hand-over this paper to the hon. Finance Minister, if the hon. Chair permits me.

"The cost of the investigation and treatment of such ailments will be reimbursed from the interest accruing from the Chief Minister's Medical Relief Fund—that is we wanted to created a Rs. 100 crore corpus fund. The entire money should be reimbursed for such deadly diseases for those people."

Who are those people who are going to get the benefit? That also we have classified.

"They are persons, whose annual family income is not more than Rs. 20,000. Priority will be given to socially and economically weaker sections, such as landless, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

This is the idea which we have thought over that time. Now, the hon. Finance Minister has introduced the health insurance for the entire section of the poor people in this country for the first time. But if he wants that it is going to be beneficial for all those people who are suffering from whatever type of disease, he may kindly ponder over some of the suggestions that I have made and on the lines of what we have done in Karnataka. If it is useful, he can consider that.

Madam, another important issue that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister is the other areas where he tries to give importance to his *Paanch* Priorities. Only on his *Paanch* Priorities, I would like to draw his attention. He has stated about the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and in the Budget he has put for an increase of Rs. 134 crore. That is Demand No. 11. With regard to Demand No. 99, it is only because of Metro Rail Project that Rs. 800 crore is included in this. Last year, it was Rs. 3,159 crore and this year he has brought it down to Rs. 2,470 crore. Why I am telling this is because poverty alleviation is also included under this Demand. How does he justify this? If you remove this sum of Rs. 800 crore for the Metro Project, this will be much less. On the Metro Project we do not want to take credit because he is also supporting our Government. Just I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance. Shri Verma is not here, he was the Chief Minister when it was sanctioned.

It is stated that, "The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 17th September 1996—Its final seal of approval of this much needed and long awaited project of Government of NCT of Delhi—and approved this project on 24th July 1996." What is the time schedule that they have fixed? The time schedule we have fixed was—I read it in newspapers that there was so much of competition for the Inaugural Function and I saw that competition and tried to dig out my old file—that 'from December 22 onwards, Delhi Metro will ply between Shahdara and Tis Hazari from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.' This is the time schedule that we fixed. There is nothing new.

The hon. Minister has provided a sum of Rs. 800 crore for that and if he removes that whether this poverty alleviation programme is going to be successful. That is all I want to ask.

I can quote a number of instances. Take the case of agriculture. I am not going to deal with this subject in detail today. I will take it up on 13th because there is a discussion on this under Rule 193 on that day and that day the hon. Finance Minister will not reply to that debate.

16.00 hrs.

You are not going to reply to that discussion on 13th. I would like to mention only one word. In respect of the agricultural sector, last year, out of the total allocation of Rs. 2,187 crore, the amount spent that year was Rs. 1,687 crore. This year, the allocation is the same, that is Rs. 2,187 crore. How are you going to achieve your goal, priorities? You have identified the priority sector, *panch* priorities. In there any additional effort to find out the resources? The answer is, 'No'. On the one side, as you have said, the direct tax concession is more than two thousand nine hundred and odd crores of rupees. Who is going to get that benefit? You have given Rs. 2,955 crore tax bonanza for rich and middle class direct tax payers, and you have raised revenue of Rs. 3,294 crore from indirect tax payers. It is ultimately going to burden the common man. If you raise the indirect tax revenue, it is going to hurt the common man, and the poor man is going to suffer. And much more than that, I would like to mention another two points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Madam Chairman, I will not take much time. Before I conclude, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to, which you have quoted, the *Business World*. It says:

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

"Neither the Economic Survey nor the Budget have any idea about what needs to be done about agriculture, which is in a shamble."

This is number one. The other point is the Value Added Tax. Almost all the Chief Ministers had agreed, when the Prime Minister had called a meeting, in April 2003 on the Value Added Tax. The Central Sales Tax is coming down by two per cent. You are going to bring in the Value Added Tax system. You have said that we are going to make a move. You have also pronounced as to in what ratio you are going to give for first year, second year and third year. I would just like to ask, where is the provision? In the Expenditure Budget, is there any provision for all these things? On infrastructure, you have given Rs. 60,000 crore. That is a good idea. It is only by way of diesel and petrol cess of 50 paise, that a sum of Rs. 2,600 crore is going to come. Out of that, a sum of Rs. 2,000 crore is going to be provided this year. Is that going to solve the problem? No. Why I am harping on these things is that it would be difficult for you to achieve your *panch* priorities without making sufficient allocation for these programmes in the Expenditure Budget. That is my concern. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri, Deve Gowda, you have to conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I will conclude now. There are various means to mobilise resources. If you bring those measures, we are prepared to co-operate with you. That is all I want to say. I do not want to say anything more.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Sir.

Before I call the next speaker, I wish to make an appeal to the hon. Members. There are 32 more speakers. I would request the Members to limit their speech to 10 minutes only, and even that will require six hours more.

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Madam Chairperson, can I place my speech on the Table?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are welcome to do so.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Madam, before I start my speech, you have made this announcement. So, I would like to be as brief as possible. Without narrating the details of what others have mentioned several times, I would say that our Finance Minister has very generously made the Budget for almost all the sections. ...*(Interruptions)* Maybe, it is excepting *kisans*. He has also managed to give almost all the sections of the people a little or something. He has tried to please all, but overall, the *panch sutras* have covered almost all the sections of the society.

The Budget is an exercise to trigger the growth of the economy. Ultimately it should trigger the growth and the country should prosper. There should be surplus left over to remove poverty.

He has rationalised the excise duty by making it to 8, 16 and 24 per cent. He has brought down the customs duty. He is on the path of further bringing it down. He has brought it down to 25 per cent. He has also taken care of the power sector, which has not developed so far, by bringing down the customs duty on high voltage transmission power projects. It is very much needed in the country. He has also rightly given some concessions for drinking water management by removing the duty on the import of the capital goods that are required for drinking water projects.

He has also given a major concession to the State Governments for a debt swap. It is a very significant step. The States will be benefited by paying the high cost debt and they will be coming down to the low cost debt. Almost about Rs. 81,000 crore of interest rebate is given to almost all the States. It is a very welcome sign. Regarding poor people, he has extended the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* to further 50 lakh families from the 1st of April this year. Some people were criticising about extending the income tax concession of Rs. 12,000 per child for education, but we should take it as an incentive for bringing down the growth of population. He has given a concession of Rs. 12,000 per child up to two children. I suggest, if they stop it with one child, we should give the concession up to Rs. 24,000. So, it will be an incentive.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But your forth child can get it because the wife's income tax will get concession for two children and the husband's income tax will get concession for two children. So, it is for four children.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Do you want four?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. Under the present rule, each income tax payee can claim for two children. So, if both the husband and the wife are income tax payees, then they get concession for four children.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI: Each one can get. Both of them put together, they can club this amount of Rs. 24,000 and give it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: They will get Rs.48,000.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: The income tax people may get that. Otherwise, how many are there? *...(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: This is showing the path to others. This Government will show the path to others. This is an ideological path so that others can also follow that.

Regarding health insurance, about which Shri Deve Gowda was mentioning, I would say that it is a beginning. As they say, it is for the poor people. If you give one rupees per family, then they will be covered. The majority of the illnesses and loss of earnings have been covered. So, this is a good scheme. But if you want to further extend it to major illnesses, then there are hon. Prime Minister's Relief Fund, etc. If you want to give more concessions for health to cover major illnesses, then the insurance premium will be very high, which the poor people may not be in a position to pay. So, this is a beginning for small illnesses and they can be covered in the insurance. However, I must say that the hon. Minister of Finance has left more money in the salaried people's pockets. The rebate of Rs. 24,000 is also there for education. So, it is very good that he has provided an incentive to educate the children.

Ultimately, the test is, what will be the growth with the implementation of this Budget? There is a fiscal deficit of 5.7 per cent. This should not dampen the growth. The borrowings may be difficult. We should see that the infrastructure development work that has been very ambitiously announced in the Budget is a reality and the mopping up of Rs. 60,000 crore should not be left behind. It should be taken care of and a plan should be properly drawn. There is also some criticism that non-foscussed attention is there on the fiscal consolidation in this Budget because so many things have been left uncovered. It is ultimately leading to fiscal deficit, which is to be taken care of.

Sixty-six per cent of the people depend on agriculture. However, we are talking about the balance 33 per cent of the people who are involved in other professions, either in the salaried profession or in the industry. But very little has been talked about the agriculturists that constitute two-thirds of the population. The hon. Minister has given two per cent rebate on brrowings by the farmers, but the farmers are not getting the required credit. The banks have to give credit to the agricultural sector to the tune of 18 per cent. However, it has not been given so far. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. It is more than ten minutes. I leave it to the House. I think, we will be sitting here up to midnight.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M.V.V.S MURTHI: Out of that 18 per cent, majority of the funds have been disinvested with the NABARD instead of giving directly to the farmers *...(Interruptions)* The Government should address the labour intensive growth areas. They need to identify the agro-based small scale industries. On the one side they say that they have given some concession to the small scale industries and on the other hand, majority of the reserved category items have been dereserved. Now it is very difficult for the small scale industries to survive. The small scale industry is the main source for providing employment. So, it should be protected. In our country, the employment generation is very important, which is lagging behind today. It is because most of the people are involved in agriculture. So, without converting them into other sectors, we may be leaving these farmers poor. *...(Interruptions)*

16.15 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

If you really want to take care of the farmers, who constitute about 66 per cent of the population, then you have to make sure that the banks must compulsorily provide 18 per cent of their net credit limits to farmers. This must be implemented so that the farmers should get this credit instead of leaving the balance to be unloaded to the NABARD. *...(Interruptions)* So, whatever has to be given, the banks should give it to the farmers and also all the eligible farmers have to be provided with *Kisan* Credit Cards so that the credit could be made easier. They have fixed some targets, but the *Kisan* Credit Cards are not reaching most of the farmers. So, you have to see that all the eligible farmers must get these *Kisan* Credit Cards on a time-bound programme.

Now I come to crop insurance. You may say that it is a complicated process, but to protect the farmers from the vagaries of nature, the crop insurance is a must. You must think ways and means as to how you can give this protection to the farmers and it can be given only through the crop insurance. Likewise, irrigation projects should be a time-bound programme. The inter-connecting of rivers is a must. Unless we inter-connect the rivers, we may not be in a position to make the projects into any reality. So, inter-connecting of rivers is a must. *...(Interruptions)*

[Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi]

The Government will get a very little amount from the token increase of the price of fertilisers. Fortunately, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. At present, about 17 States are facing a serious drought condition and majority of the farmers are suffering. So, is it mandatory that you should increase the price of fertilisers at this present juncture? I, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to drop the idea and restore the prices that were prevailing before the Budget. It is not much, but the farmers will feel happy and they will be grateful to you.

The farmers are suffering because of debt. The cooperative banks have lent money to them. Our hon. Prime Minister has promised that they would not be charged with the interest burden on the loans that have been given to the farmers. But so far there is no clear direction whether this interest has been totally removed or not so that they can borrow fresh loans. So, this has to be taken into consideration.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is also suffering under severe drought condition and we have requested for some food subsidy. We have asked for about 25 lakh tonnes of rice, but we have been given only 5 lakh tonnes of rice. So, I request that the Centre should look into the matter. The supply of rice meant for Food for Work Programme is important because it is only sustaining them in the next three or four months. So, kindly look into this aspect that wherever it is required should be done immediately. The supply of rice for the BPL families should be released at the earliest.

Now I come to rural telephones. This is another very big difficulty that has come into the rural agricultural families. The pulse rate of three minutes has been brought down. You want to give a telephone connection to each and every one and you want to bring them nearer to the communication facility. But, at the same time, the rental charges have been increased. Kindly see that the rental charges should be brought down for the farmers who are living in the villages. The pulse rate also should be made to three minutes instead of two minutes so that they will use more telephones. Otherwise, what will happen? They will remove the telephone connections.

The popularity of the telephone will come down instead of going up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude now. I have given you enough time.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I am concluding. This country has to drive towards growth and to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and health problems. This Budget will prove that you can eradicate problems in some of these areas I have mentioned, by proper monitoring system. Otherwise, this Budget should not remain a dream Budget. It should translate into a reality.

I sincerely congratulate hon. Finance Minister for the efforts he has made in presenting a good Budget.

*SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): I take this opportunity to speak on the Union Budget on behalf of the combined strength of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the chief political party and voice of Sikh people and the Punjab.

I wish to state that the Hon. Finance Minister has presented a Budget that only pleases the middle class, big industry, business houses and the ultra-nationalist forces in the country by making big concessions to luxury goods and increasing the military Budget by over 16%.

In a country where half the population lives under the poverty line, our party thinks that such squandering of the country's wealth on unprofitable ventures is not only heartless, insensitive but a retrograde step which will push the country into two violently opposed groups—the haves and the have-nots. By presenting such a partisan Budget, the BJP may have satisfied its constituency but it has not addressed the major issue of saving the common man from impoverishment, starvation, deaths by suicide and forcing his women-folk to go into prostitution. For any proud, self-respecting and an honourable people, with a recorded history of 3000 years-one of the oldest civilization on earth—this is a shameless Budget.

For the Punjab, the Budget is our death knell. There has been no investment in our State—a border State which throughout history and even after 1947 has faced the onslaught of the aggressor, whether it be Pakistan or China.

No money has been allotted to make Rajasansi Airport at Amritsar, a state-of-the-art airport to serve the needs of Jammu & Kashmir, the Punjab and Himachal. You have allocated funds to two airports in the country to develop them and bring them up to world standards. Vast funds have been given to develop Cochin and Bombay ports into international importance. Our Punjab is land locked, we have no opening to the sea. Efforts should now be made to give us handsome funds, if need be to pull out money from the two airports and two sea-

*Speech was laid on the Table.

ports to make our Amritsar Airport an important destination so that our small scale industrial goods, horticulture, vegetables and floriculture produce can be exported. Out airport must begin handling heavy aircraft traffic so that international flights touch down at Amritsar from all over the Globe. It can also be used as an advanced military base, besides using it for Haj pilgrimage for our Muslim populace in the North.

We have no natural resources for producing hydro-electricity or coal for generating thermal power. To keep our agriculture in a high state of development and our small scale industry in top gear, we dirly need nuclear power to generate electricity. The European Union, Western democracies and advanced economies are all on the nuclear grid. Without this investment, the Punjab and its all-round economy faces total ruin.

Our party also wants the Wagah border with Pakistan to be opened for trade, commerce, pilgrimage and tourism to the Islamic world in Central Asia, Gulf, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our agriculture produce must find its marts in this part of the world for our very survival and economic revival. It will not only benefit the Punjab but the entire country, besides lessening our animosity with the Islamic peoples.

We have about eighteen lakhs of unemployed youth in Punjab. The Budget does not speak of how we will overcome this problem of great magnitude. It is making our youth restless and targets for anti-social activists which will pose a great threat to stability and peace in our region besides opening the doors to lawlessness.

The Budget has imposed a great burden on our agriculture which is our mainstay by withdrawing the subsidy on fertilizers and imposing a heavy hike on diesel oil. This must be undone immediately. The Union Government's image by taking these anti-farmer steps have been tarnished. Farmers in our State are up in agitation. It effects economically the state of health of our peasantry and working class. We oppose the plan of the Union Government to withdraw the M.S.P. for crops.

The alarming hike of 16% and more in the Defence Budget has shown the ultra-nationalist and jingoistic complexion of this Government. The border district of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Feozepur of our State have suffered the most by the bad blood between India and Pakistan. The deployment of the Armed Forces and laying of land-mines for fourteen months, has spelt doom for our farming community and land-labourers, besides upsetting trade. Yet the union has not compensated our farmers and labourers for the long development of the Army or our State for the damage of our roads in the border districts have suffered due to plying of heavy army vehicles on roads not built to handle such heavy traffic. Besides the heavy economic loss, the Punjab has suffered due to the war-like situations. The hiked Defence Budget only takes care of heightening tensions amongst our neighbours without letting the citizenry know how the Union Government will defend the country, if the U.S.A., Western powers and N.A.T.O. want to divest India of its nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry or weapons of mass destruction as they have come to be called? The Punjab being a front line State, in any confrontation, we want the Union to sanction funds for construction of nuclear shelters in all our 13,000 villages, cities and towns. This step must be taken on priority because of the devastation we face with the possession of these weapons of mass-destruction by Pakistan, China and India.

In the field of education, the most sensitive sector of our State, the Union Budget has again not shown any consideration and investment. Some 26 M.Ps. of Punjabi origin have requested the Hon. Prime Minister to set up the Defence University at Anandpur Sahib. Besides the entire State has no I.I.T. of national importance. Being a front-line State, we definitely need the lion's share in allocations made for education. We also require advanced seats of learning for Sanskrit, Persian, Hindi, Urdu and Brij Bhasa as all these languages have their influence on our language, culture and religion. Besides these academies of languages will lead to greater integration of our border-State society.

Our party, the Shiromani Akali Dal, strongly opposes the river-linking policy of this Government as we stand for greater autonomy and federalism. This linking project will frequire amendment to the Constitution as waters are a State Subject. We strongly want the Union to stick to the riparian principle. We also oppose and jettison the Rajiv-Longowal Accord and call upon the Union to abandon the SYL project. We also want to our head-works of Bhakra and Pong Dam to come within the framework of the Constitution. Tinkering with the Constitution to put waters on the Concurrent List will hurt the Sikh psyche and the advent of a new bloody era which our Party wants to avoid at all costs.

Our Party also feels that the Union Government is adopting an anti-Punjab stance by giving special incentives to our border and near border States like Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal and Uttaranchal, thereby enticing away our industrial wealth to these States. The same incentives must also be given to the Punjab for reviving our sick industry. Out State is yet to be paid the drought relief given to other States. Our small scale

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

industry is in dire straits and needs massive aid for its revival.

There are some 30,000 Sikhs in Jammu & Kashmir who have remained stateless persons since 1947. We demand full computerisation and citizenship for them. We also want 'one rank-one pension' for our ex-servicemen. We want crop insurance of our farmers and life insurance for our people living under the poverty line.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am to speak against the budget and I am against this budget. I know that every Government reduces the prices of luxurious items and items used by rich people and increases the prices of the items of common use by the poor and common people in every budget. As such I am against this budget. How do these people say that this is a good budget? These people have done totally wrong thing by mere appreciating the last budget presented by Yashwant Sinha ji ...*(Interruptions)* Now again they are repeating the same thing but what is the rational behind their calling this budget a good and appropriate budget? It is mentioned in the Constitution of India that we should call India as Bharat. Now our country Hindustan mingles two ideologies—one is India and the other is Bharat. The people having black money came under the category of those calling the country as Indian and they will term this budget as good one but the people coming under the other category, for whom this country is Bharat cannot say that this is a good budget. The prices of gold, Air-conditioner, foreign liquor and motor vehicles have been reduced. What is the percentage of those people the prices of the items of whose use have been reduced whereas the prices of the items of use by the poor people have been increased. In this way the country Hindustan has been categorised into two categories. As such I am against this. Economists right from Dass Smith to Marshall, Akins and then Amartya Sen are on the other side. Kirit Somaiya is a C.A. and it is a C.A. who becomes an economist later on and Kharabela Swain was expressing his thanks. C.I.I. gets money for organizing seminars from the Government of India. If anyone comes forward to organize a seminar of the farmers and poor people, then the Government does not extend help worth a penny. ...*(Interruptions)* As such my first objection is that this is an anti-farmer budget. How these people are supporting this budget? Who are supporting this budget? These are only the Dalals, capitalists and the members of the Cabinet. How the budget is approved by the Cabinet? Whether the people are allowed to see all that or not? The party and Shri Advani ji issued a circular that all the people cannot speak against the budget. As such their mouths have been shut. Only the allies are serving them. People are forced to extend their support to this Government.

The Minister of Agriculture is sitting here, ask him whether the is in favour of this Budget? He has also given a statement. Hukumdeo Babu has also given a statement that this is an anti farmer budget. Then what compells you to support this budget. Now-a-days the farmers are suffering due to natural calamities and distress caused by the Government. The farmers are in grave misery and they are committing suicide. Despite that you have increased the prices of diesel and fertilizers. There is nothing for the farmers in this Budget. Only five priorities have been mentioned which include Health, Education etc. in the beginning of the budget, five priorities have been mentioned and the rest is just a routine budget. Only one or two things are good.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): At least appreciate those two thing.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: there is nothing good in it. Unless something in favour of the farmers is not included in the budget, till then no budget can be called a good budget. The prices of Diesel and fertilizers used by farmers have been increased, that should be rolled back otherwise a widespread agitation by the people would be there. We would start our struggle from the gross root level and raise our voice for the people. You can cast your vote here in favour of the budget but you must speak in favour of the people. You have been instructed not to speak even the right thing and therefore you are not speaking. All the people have been instructed to keep silence but we are saying that it is in anti farmer budget. The prices increased should be rolled back otherwise a mass agitation would take place. When the finance Minister comes for reply tomorrow, then he should announce the things in the interest of farmers.

In this budget not a single word has been uttered about the black money and no suggestion has been made as to how this black money would be checked and seized. In 1953, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had invited Professor N. Kaldar of the Cambridge University for assessment of black money in the country. According to him, the country had black money to the tune of 600 crore rupees at that time. After that K. Wangchoo Committee was constituted in 1971. That committee inquired into the matter and assessed that there was black money worth 1400 crore rupees in the country at that time. In 1967, there was black money upto 4.2 per cent of the gross domestic product in the country. Thereafter in 1976-77 Professor

O.P. Chopra had calculated that there was 10.5 percent black money of the GDP that means 8095 crore rupees in the country at that time. After that Dr. Shankaracharya told that black money is increasing and it may be in between 31,000 crore rupees to 36,000 crore rupees. Then Professor Surajbhan Gupta investigated the matter and stated that there was black money ranging between 85977 crore rupees to 149297 crore rupees *i.e.* upto 50 per cent of the GDP is black money. Then in 1982-83, the international Monetary Fund gave the statement that there was black money to the tune of 72,000 crore rupees in India. Thereafter the standing committee of the Parliament stated that black money has reached to about three lakh crore rupees. Now Professor Arun Lal of the Jawahar Lal Nehru University has said that there is black money worth seven to eight lakh crore rupees in the country. But according to the present estimates, there is black money to the tune of about 11 lakh crore rupees in the country. It means that it has exceeded even the GDP. The people appreciating the budget should tell whether this budget is in favour of the black money or it is against the black money? Now the black money has even exceeded the GDP. No check is being kept thereon and on the contrary property of the country is being sold and it is being stated that there is shortage of money in the country. Only the persons giving rise to the black money can do so. The control and check on the black money and its seizure is not taking place. The people occupying the treasury benches should reply as to why investigation is not being made into the increase of black money in the country. Why any commission is not being constituted in this regard so that black money could be seized?

These people are reducing the price of gold. The people in the villages are loudly saying that the BJP people are reducing the price of gold ...*(Interruptions)* because it is the people belonging to BJP who use gold. The poor and the common man has nothing to do with gold. They need food, clothes and shelter and if they get these things, that will be enough for them. As such I demand that the Government should constitute a commission to investigate the constantly rising flow of black money in the country and if you do not set up a commission then you should reply whether or not you want to control the black money? Why the discussion on black money does not take place?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the non-performing assets in the country have reached from 82 thousand crore rupees to 1.5 lakh crore rupees. Why the action is not taken against the persons who have taken the loan and are not repaying it? If a village farmer takes loan and fails to repay it, then his oxen and house is auctioned but here the capitalists are responsible for the bad debts which is to the tune of 1.5 lakh crore rupees as non performing assets. Besides it, an amount of 62 thousand crore rupees of tax is outstanding against the rich people, the capitalists. Why the tax is not recovered from them. Do you want to increase your income by selling the property of the country. Will you not take any action against these people? Fiscal deficit is increasing. Their deficit has reached up to 1 lakh 53 thousand crore rupees whereas GDP of the country is declining and that has come down to 4.4 per cent. The interest on the PPF meant for employees has been reduced by one per cent. UTI has looted the poor people and rate of interest on the bank's deposits has also been reduced by one per cent. Where the poor and the common people would go?

It is said that 50 lakh rupees have been provided under *Antyodaya Ann Yojana* which is meant for the poor people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the 1991 census, there are about 6 crore families Below Poverty line in the country. They have said that one crore families are the poorest of the poor families. You should tell us which these families are. 6 crore families are living below poverty line. They are adding 50 lakh more families with the poorest families. Then on whose shoulders have you put the burden of 4.5 crore families under the *Antyodaya Ann Yojana*. Whether you have passed the burden to be borne by us or in the hands of destiny.

You can see the situation prevailing on the economic front. The rate of wheat was fixed at rupees nine per kilogram for the people living above poverty line. When they did not purchase it, the rate was reduced to 8.5 rupees a kilogram. Even then people did not purchase. Then it was further reduced to 6.5 rupees a kilogram. And they are sending the wheat abroad at the rate of four rupees and twenty paise or four rupees thirty paise per kilogram and here in the country, they are selling it at higher rates. There is a limit to everything but here there is no limit. They are sending it abroad at the rate of four rupees twenty paise a kilogram and here in our country the people living above poverty line are purchasing it at the rate of eight rupees fifty paise a kilogram. There is a limit to everything. But in their regime, there is no limit to anything ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If we deem a family consisting of five members, then there are 20 crore families. As per the 1991 census, there are 16 crore families in the country. Out of the 16 crore families, 6 crore families live below poverty line and 10 crore families live above poverty line. Out of the 6 crore families living below poverty line, only 1.5 crore families have been covered but 4.5 crore families have been left. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I allow Shri Hassan Khan to lay his speech on the Table.

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): I have already laid it on the Table, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, the regional disparity is on the increase in the country. No attention has been paid in the budget towards it. There is a demand of separate Harit Pradesh in Uttar Pradesh there is a demand of separate Vidarbha state in Maharashtra and there is a demand of separate Telangana state in Andhra Pradesh. Apart from it, there is disparity amongst the states *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this Raghuvansh? I have been appealing to you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will conclude within sixty seconds. Please give me one minute, Sir.

[Translation]

Sir, the population of Bihar is eight crore. Thousands of crores of rupees is spent on the centrally sponsored schemes of the state but the state does not get is share. It is because of this disparity that we, the members of Parliament, have given a memorandum that Bihar should be given a financial package and the loans given to the state should be waived. Likewise flood, drought water logging and river erosion are the four major problems of Bihar State. The Central Government is not serious to solve these problems. Besides the condition of the National Highways and other Highways is also not good. The charges of various tests undertaken in the AIIMS have been raised by eight times. In such circumstances where the poor people will go? I demand that a hospital on the lines of AIIMS should be opened in Bihar State.

While concluding my speech, I would like to say that this is an anti-farmer budget and it can give rise to the unemployment. As such I strongly oppose this budget.

[English]

*SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): I support the Budget in the form it is presented. Apart from *'roti, kapada aur makan"* all other necessities of life like health, education, social securities, drinking water, power, rural and urban life, senior citizens, disabled, salaried class, airports, roads, in short all sector of life has been taken care of a balanced manner. I don't want to repeat all these one by one. I submit few points for kind consideration of the Hon. Finance Minister.

(a) Ladakh is exempted from income tax but poor salaried class people transferred from there to other places of the State/Centre have to pay income tax when actually his expenditure increases due to double establishment as he always keeps his family at home in Ladakh. Such local employee whose permanent establishment continues there must be exempted on transfer out of Ladakh.

(b) Subsidy for ATR services like North East. Kargil is connected by air through medium aircrafts till the present airport is extended. Subsidy may be given to airlines for running ATR services there as Tiger Hills, Tololing, Batalik, Mushkun in Kargil have become new places of pilgrimage to the people of our country due to exemplary bravery of our Jawans. Apart from local services, lot of people are invested to visit Kargil to see these places. Kargil remains cut of from rest of the country for more than seven months in a year.

(c) Ceiling be relaxed on P.S.Y. and I.A.Y. for far flung and hilly areas in view of the cost of materials and transport charges.

(d) Funds may be allotted for laying transmission lines between Srinagar-Kargil and Leh to connect the region with Northern Grid. The State Government has already submitted a proposal in this behalf.

(e) Sufficient funds may be provided for the under constructional small hydro electric project in Ladakh to accelerate completion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Sir, I support the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance for the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

year 2003-04 in this House. Hon. Minister of Finance has presented this budget in the House after consulting the most efficient financial experts, secretaries of his secretariat, industrialists, officers of chamber of commerce and people in business world. Hon. Minister has formulated and presented a good budget keeping in view the prosperity of the country and the sentiments of the people. He has also accorded priority to the ideals of Saint Vinobaji. The order of our priorities should be—first of all the hungry people, then the miserable people and lastly the happy and prosperous ones. I have gone through this budget. Hon. Minister of Finance has accorded topmost priority to the people of our society affected with starvation and poverty. Hence, he made provisions in the budget to provide facilities to fifty thousand poor families under "*Antyodaya*" and 'Annapoorna' Schemes. It was planned earlier to provide this benefit to one crore people. It would have been better had the benefits been provided to six crore families. But hon. Minister of Finance, probably found himself unable to cover them in view of the financial problems being faced by the entire country. It was all the more necessary to take care of these fifty lakh people with the earmarked 500 crore rupees. One and a half crore people have been covered and in total two thousand crore were needed for the six crore people. It would have been better, had the minister taken care of these six crore people.

Hon. Minister of Finance has accorded priority to health, accommodation, education and employment related issues in addition to poverty alleviation in his budget. Due consideration has been given to infrastructure development. The Government has announced to remove successively the hurdles coming in the way of tax-reforms, strengthening fiscal position and also reforms relating to creation of additional excise duty and has also announced to introduce VAT at state level from first of April. He has paid attention towards improving work efficiency in the field of construction by promoting irrigation, exports and boosting reforms process. He has stated one more point that there is the need to lay emphasis on the green revolution. I would like to appeal the hon. Minister of Finance here that if he is willing to promote the green-revolution then he should consider upon rolling back the increased prices of fertilizers. Indira Gandhi Government too had provided many facilities as well as subsidy for the green revolution. Our Government continued with that trend and provided subsidy. This should be increased further because the farmers are central to our economy. The economy of the entire country can not progress without the development of farmers. Otherwise also the farmers at present are facing crisis following drought famine and natural calamities. Therefore, the prices should be rolled back.

Tenth Five Year Plan has found a mention here. This is not matter of concern only for the hon. Minister, but the budget should at least indicate as to what our priorities are in this initial year of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Several irrigation projects have been lying incomplete for the last 25-30 years in the country. While inaugurating the Ban-Sagar-Irrigation Dam in Madhya Pradesh in 1978, Shri Morarjibhai announced that the dam would be completed in six years time. Since then 25 years are about to elapse. So far canals of Ban-sagar have not been completed. Rani Awanti Bai dam, which has been called Bargi dam also, has been completed. It is full of water. Left side canal has been completed while the work on right side canal, which has to be constructed upto my Parliamentary Constituency, is yet to be initiated even after the lapse of 18 years. These major projects should be taken up in the Tenth Five Year Plan. In that way also, hon. Minister of Finance is committed to fulfil the target of 8% increase annually, which also speaks of the far sightedness of the hon. Prime Minister during the Tenth Five Year Plan. He also started working towards achieving the target of 8%.

All states are reeling under the power crisis at present. Delhi is the capital of the country. Despite this fact there is crisis of power. There is shortage of two thousand of megawatts in Madhya Pradesh. During the last ten years of Shri Digvijay Singhji not a single megawatt unit of power has been generated. Madhya Pradesh has been experiencing an acute crisis of power after the creation of Chhattisgarh. Farmers, students and business class is facing hardships on account thereof. There is a acute power crisis in the state. It would have been better, had some provision been made in the budget for finding solution to the power crisis. I hope that hon. Minister of Finance shall pay attention towards boosting power generation in Madhya Pradesh and other backward states in the budget or supplementary budget. It would have been better, had some effective measures been taken to solve the problem of unemployment.

These educated unemployed persons are not insignificant. We have the potential to provide employment to the uneducated but the student after having been through the modern system of education for 25-26 years, one cannot go for a job involving physical labour. If we want to provide work for him. We should change the system of education. After more than 55 years of independence, Minister of Human Resource Development has taken initiative in this regard. We are hopeful that the ministry of Human Resource Development will evolve a system which will guarantee every person employment and creative work for the educated sections of the country. The dejection among the educated youths is not good

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

for the country. Hon. Prime Minister of our country is a leader of national stature. In order to encourage youths, he should provide them employment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are eight more speakers to speak from the BJP.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state one point about population control. The growth of population in the country has reached an explosive stage. This growth has been consuming all the benefits of our schemes In addition to UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, new states Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh are also on the verge of population explosion. Southern states have achieved the target of population control of 2.9% but these North Indian states are registering growth at the rate of 4-6%. Provision should be made in the budget to control it. I would like to give a suggestion that the representatives beginning from the village panchayat level upto Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, should enact legislation. Only then we will be able to fight the population growth, follow the norm of family planning and the person having more than two children, could be disqualified from contesting elections and finding Government job ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: In the same manner as I am giving suggestions, I would like to suggest that this provision should be made in the budget to encourage inter-caste marriages and to diffuse the much hullabaloo being created over conversion. Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Gandhi ji also advocated encouraging interacts marriages. If we want to set up a new society, we will have to take some new steps. I am saying so because what the hon. Minister of Finance stated in the beginning of his speech, is important from that point of view. He stressed upon minimising the social and economic inequalities. How the social inequalities can be minimised only by opting far interact matrimonial relations. We have to break the barriers of caste system. It would have been a start for the better, had the provision been made in the budget to provide Government service and a place in society to the individuals opting for interacts marriage. I hope that the hon. Minister of Finance shall pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi used to clean latrines himself but despite the fifty five years of independence, the practice of carrying night soil is still in vogue. I have made a special provision in the budget, when I was the Minister in charge of local self Government in Madhya Pradesh in 1978 for eradicating the practice of carrying night soil but it would have been better, had the provision been made in this budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some steps worth appreciation have also been taken in this budget. Fifty lakh families below poverty line have been given benefits of Annapporna Scheme. Under Golden Quadrilateral Project, road stretching over three thousand kolometres out of the total forty thousand kilometres is being completed this year. Provision of rupees eight thousand crore has been made under National Railway Development Scheme. A sum of rupees 7500 crore have been provided for air-ports and sea-ports. A provision of rupees forty thousand crore has been made under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken ten minutes more.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: I am concluding. Please give me two minutes more. Prior to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, in fact long time before that Shershah Suri got Grand Trunk Road constructed and in present times our hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has formulated this scheme. Shershah Suri linked Peshawar with Calcutta. But Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in connecting the entire India from North to South and from East to West.

For drinking water purpose, watershed scheme has been launched with a component amount ranging from 5-10%. The Government are going to pay rupees 1,15,663 crore of foreign loan assistance before the expiry of the time bound ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to say that nothing should go on record. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Setting up a commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu for interlinking rivers, is a welcome step in itself. Moreover, I would like to request in regard to small scale industries

that the banks be asked to ensure timely disbursal of loans to the unemployed youths under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana.

I, therefore, welcome this budget and hope that this budget will determine the future political direction of India.

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): Sir, I rise to support this growth-oriented Budget. The Finance Minister and his team are very much optimistic. They have laid a road map for the future development of our country which is having a vision of achieving more than eight per cent growth. It has its own problems and only time will tell how far we would be able to achieve it. I appreciate the Finance Minister for his good vision. It is acclaimed that it is a people-oriented Budget. There is something for everybody and it has been appreciated in many quarters. I too feel that the Finance Minister has contributed much and has helped the poor also in a small way but not in a big way. The poor people still need further help from the Government. This Budget has helped the middle class and the upper middle class to a great extent. I think more than 11 crore people have been benefited out of it. It has aimed at creating effective demand. The economist, Lord Keynes had suggested that to activise the economy, you should put more money in the hands of the consumer. Likewise, by adopting different ways, the hon. Finance Minister has put more money into the purses of the people by reducing the prices of cars and other things. It will create effective demand and it will have a multiplier effect. It will further improve the investment and the employment opportunities also.

I would also appreciate the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* which would cover about 50 lakh new families who are living below poverty line. In the course of time, it can be increased. I would very much appreciate the Universal Medical Scheme also.

Now I want to say a few words about the development of infrastructure. With the support of the hon. Prime Minister, we have initiated big schemes like 48 new road projects amounting to about Rs. 40,000 crore. I think it is a great achievement. When we go to foreign countries, we are very much impressed by the roads. So, I think roads would bring more foreign investors in the course of time.

Now, I come to the development of tourism. It is a silent but a successful industry. The Finance Minister has allotted Rs. 325 crore as against Rs. 225 crore last year, but I think it is not sufficient. It is a big industry. Kanyakumari is a part of my Constituency. It needs to be developed. We can make it *Maha* Kanyakumari. Now, thousands and thousands of people go there. If it is developed, lakhs and lakhs of people would go there. I would appeal to the Finance Minister and the Government to adopt such places like Kanyakumari and spend more money on it. We are spending a lot of money in Kashmir. Instead of that, we should spend more money in Kanyakumari. We can adopt it. You change the policy of 50 per cent contribution from the State Government and 50 per cent from the Central Government. The State Government is not having money. So, please do not depend on the State Government. I appeal to the Central Government to adopt such places like Kanyakumari and make it *Maha* Kanyakumari.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The places like Kuttalam, Madhurai, Rameshvaram, etc. should also be developed.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: As regards water management, I would really appreciate our Prime Minister as he has formed a Task Force for this purpose.

Sir, I have a vision that the water of the Ganges should also be channelised to a place like Kanyakumari. It can be channelised through the Cauvery and then through Tamravarani to Kanyakumari. The people of Kanyakumari should also have the opportunity to have a taste of the holy waters of the river Ganges. This, apart from promoting national integration, could be used for many other purposes, like water navigation and things like that.

Sir, another thing is about unemployment. The Finance Minister has done something about it. But he still has miles to go. In my constituency there is a project that was started two years back with the efforts of Hon'ble Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran and our leader Dr. Kalaignar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the foundation stone was laid there.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Sir, the Central Government must take care of that project. The completion of this project could provide employment to more than one lakh people. The important task of the Central Government is to provide employment. If this is not encouraged, then there will be a crisis in the country. The Government must give importance to this problem of unemployment and also to alleviating poverty.

Sir, I come from the southern part of India. It is my duty to make a mention about the Seethusamudram project. I would just like to say a few words about it. The project is the need of the hour and we need to complete

[Dr. A.D.K. Jayaseelan]

this project. Like everybody else, I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to roll back the prices of urea. Generally, the Budget has been applauded by all. It is a useful Budget. I convey my best wishes to the Finance Minister. I support the Budget.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Sir, at the outset I am in a fix whether to hail this Budget or wail at this Budget! I have got a mixed feeling. The idea of the Finance Minister seems to be very good, but I do not know whether his actions would be good or not. He has a good vision but I do not know whether his mission would be good or not. This is the observation that I would like to make.

Sir, the Finance Minister has been absolutely right in fixing the *pancha* priorities by way of his objectives, namely, poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, fiscal consolidation, agricultural diversification and reforms. All these are well taken. In order to achieve these objectives, the hon. Finance Minister intends to contain the fiscal deficit at 5.6 per cent. There is no levy of surcharge. The standard deduction on income tax has been increased. Various tax reliefs have been given. There has been a pension plan. Insurance cover has been given for the common man. There has also been reduction in the Central Sales Tax. There has also been abolition of dividend tax for shareholders and there is also exemption on capital gains. All these are well taken. As a result of this, we all are very much amused and happy to hear what the media has written about it. There have been captions in the Media, like 'This Budget is hailed as a Budget to please all—a people-friendly Budget'; 'a feel good factor Budget'; 'an innovative Budget'; 'a growth-oriented Budget' 'Rs. 60,000 crore to boost infrastructure development'; 'a Budget to revive the capital market', 'a widely welcomed Budget', etc. These are the captions that we have been reading about the Budget in the papers.

On the other hand, our critics, including many of our colleagues, have criticised the Budget saying that this is an anti-poor, pro-corporate Budget, this Budget has been unfair to the small-scale industries sector; it is a directionless Budget and has ignored the farm sector; the basic issues have been ignored; the corporate tax, in spite of the efforts of the Finance Minister, has been pitched upon at 36.75 per cent which is the highest in the world. It is thus, it is critised so, on a careful analysis of the Budget, one I could see is that Budget is interested in pleasing the difficult and vociferous sector of society. We normally try to silence them first. But this job has been well done in this budget.

17.00 hrs.

On the other hand, a voiceless silent society like the farming sector and the agriculturists have been ignored. As rightly said by many of our colleagues, the urea price has gone up and you have increased the price of petrol and diesel which has got a cumulative effect on the agricultural sector. As a result of it, it is the uniform opinion from all Members, irrespective of their Party affiliations that this should be rolled back. To be plain with you, Sir, even the Agriculture Minister and some other Cabinet colleagues of yours are not for the increase in fertilizer price. So, we should wholeheartedly see that it should be totally rolled back. The maximum quantum of employment can be generated only in Agriculture Sector here. But, unfortunately, this very sector is in doldrums now. As such it cannot be employment generating sector.

Again, as rightly said by some of or colleagues, this Budget has been very much silent insofar as the growth of employment is concerned. Gandhiji said that we do not need mass production; on the other hand, we need production by masses. One must ensure how the employment potentiality, how the growth of employment can be safeguarded. Therefore, my first plea in the light of the observation and the request of our beloved leader, our popular Chief Minister, Madam J. Jayalalithaa, is that this hike in petrol and diesel prices as well as hike in fertilizer price should be rolled back.

Your Budget has not pleased the poor. Your Budget has not pleased the unemployed or the under-employed. Your Budget has not pleased the small scale sector either. On the other hand, you have been fairly very considerate to the other side, namely refrigerators, cars and many other luxury items by way of giving tax relief.

Coming to the very important point which was also raised by you, Mr. Chairman in your speech that the fiscal deficit is Rs. 1.53 lakh crore, out of which it will be surprising to note that the arrears of direct taxes are Rs. 59,425 crore and that of indirect taxes are Rs. 42,798 crore. If you add up both, it amounts to more than one lakh crore of rupees as against Rs. 1.53 lakh crore of deficit. You can collect these arrears which are due for the Government. It is in the hands of so many rich people. Over and above, a huge amount of money has gone abroad by illegal means. If you add all those things, your fiscal deficit is nothing. Your fiscal deficit can be easily bridged provided you are able to collect these arrears. This is the point I want to make.

As far as tax relief is concerned, I agree that we do get some income by way of the tax relief. Out of this income, one must enjoy. But, what happens is that, if my previous experience is repeated, whatever saving that I can afford to make by these concessions is getting set off by the price increase. Last year's experience is that the price increase on certain items was to the extent of fifty to seventy-five per cent. So, what is the use of giving tax relief if one has to shell it out because of the price increase?

Very importantly, when our Chairman was making his speech he mentioned that all States, including Tamil Nadu, are in dearth of finances. They are in doldrums due to the earlier mismanagement by the previous govt. Every State Government has been in trouble and is in need of finances. The Finance Ministry has said nicely that there is a scheme debt swap to help the States. How is it going to help the States? In fact, our State Government wanted at one stroke Rs. 3,000 crore. But there has been no response to it at all. There would be no real relief unless you make States financially sound?

Coming to the Budget, I am constrained to make an important observation. When we look upon the finance, I am able to see that all the schemes are underfunded. You need around Rs. 15,000 crore avoid underfunding. You have said that Rs. 60,000 crore are set apart for infrastructure development. How do you set apart this amount and where do you get this money from? How do you proceed with the States share?

Secondly, you have set apart no provision for central sales tax. There is no provision for Value Added Tax to the States while your internal resources are also limited. Sometimes it is very bleak. How are you going to manage? The Government is forced to go in for more and more borrowings. If that be the case, then, how do you set apart funds for these schemes? Therefore what all said is only on paper. In reality, will you afford to implement them?

My core submission is about the great Sethu Samudram Project about which not only I myself but the entire people of Tamil Nadu, and particularly the Chairman, are very much concerned. In fact, it is about one-and-a-half century old project. Several expert reports have already come. Luckily, this Government has taken up this project a little seriously. When the Defence Minister went to Rameshwaram and when it was raised before him, he has said that this project will take off. Subsequent to that, the Prime Minister of the country went to Chennai and when this issue was raised there, he openly, in the midst of the huge crowd, said, "Yes, the Sethu Samudram Project will certainly come through." The same issue was raised during the last Budget discussion also. I think the Chairman also would remember it. Then the Finance Minister openly said, "Yes, we are pretty serious about the Sethu Samudram Project and we are going to have it in a few months after receipt of feasibility report" What all has been done thereafter? Last year, they set apart Rs. 4 crore and odd for the feasibility or economic viability. One year is over. Nothing has been mentioned in this Budget. Whether the promise given by the Prime Minister of the country, whether the promise given by the Defence Minister and the promise given by none other than the then Finance Minister on the floor of the House can afford to be treated like this? At least now, I hope that the Finance Minister who had been a very nice high ranked service officer in those days and a well informed Minister will certainly oblige to say that all these promises would be fulfilled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: While replying, the Finance Minister will say on this point.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Finally, I come to the subject of our Chairman, namely, the MPLAD Scheme. Some of my colleagues have also said about the MPLAD Scheme. It is one of the best useful schemes which is very nicely implemented by many of the MPs, particularly those belonging to South India and Tamil Nadu. It is a popular scheme. I do not know what is being done elsewhere. But with experience in Tamil Nadu, I can certainly vouch that it is a very nice and useful scheme. If that be the case, thanks to the steps taken by the Speaker, we are given to understand that the fund for this year is going to be enhanced from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore. That was the message even the Prime Minister before the Press could hint.

I would like to appreciate the concern of the Minister who has been very nice enough to convene a meeting of the MPs and hold a detailed discussion. He processed it in a beautiful way and projected it very well. With all that, I do not know whether ultimately he has succeeded or not. So, we would very much appeal through the Chair to the Minister to see that this enhancement is certainly given.

Without taking much time, I would conclude here. Sir.

*SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): Hon. Minister of Finance by presenting this year's Budget has intended to serve many faceted problems encountered by our vast country. The Hon. Minister while delivering his Budget speech said he will give importance to the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Prabhat Samantray]

management of expenditure which hitherto remained sans a thrust. As I understand providing funds for all round development by generating funds from tax to loan may not be the solution rather managing properly the allocated funds from Budget is going to play a more significant role in shaping the country's developments.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has provided a whopping amount of Rs. 60 thousand crores in the infrastructural sector for new roads development of man-power for construction of all such projects. The Hon. Minister also enhanced the number of people covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana from 1 crore to 1.5 crore thereby bringing large number of under-privileged people to provide food for themselves. Excise duty has also been standardised. Other aspects of consideration through tax reforms progressively eliminated the other taxes. Agriculture and related aspects of irrigation increasing manufacturing efficiency and enhancing of exports gives a clear directive what the Budget is intended for. By removing 75 items from the list of de-reservation, the Hon. Minister also has met the long-felt demand of the industrial sector.

Despite presenting a good Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has not dwelt on sick industries and Public Sector Undertakings. Generation of engagement through infrastructural development does not provide employment and in the absence of a healthy Public Sector through good management, this endemic unemployment problem which is multiplying by the day in the country cannot be tackled. I would, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister to give a fresh look to this problem.

Contrary to popular aspirations, the Budget is said to be a disappointing one. Branded cooking oil is to bear additional excise duty, the price of LPG is being increased. Petrol and diesel are to shoulder developmental cess and cost more. VAT is proposed without removal of other taxes. Much is stated to be made of the subsidy being provided for petroleum products but the subject matter is silent on imposition of duties, excise, sales tax and the like. Kelkar Committee's recommendation to rationalise direct taxes has been made a mockery on the aspirations of common man. Income Tax exemption remains a paltry of Rs. 50,000.

I would now draw attention to the Hon. Minister to the emerging worrying trends in my State of Orissa which remains perennially victim of natural calamities, be it cyclones, recurring floods or severe droughts over and above State's reeling under debt trap of a whopping amount of Rs. 24,000 crores. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Finance have been approached on several occasions by the Members of Parliament (Orissa) besides the Government of Orissa for moratorium on capital debt as well as waiver of interest.

Requests have also been made for a special category status for Orissa to meet the eventuality. The Budget has provided for restructuring of the finance of the States facing serious debt conditions. This will not improve the situation. I may not be wrong when I say that Orissa Government's financial health is very bad which is already known to the Hon. Minister. It is a known fact that the State Government has been surviving by depending on overdrafts. A State being ravaged and trampled under natural calamities needs special attention to help it improve situation. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that even most of the Central Schemes enlarged for welfare could not see light of the day solely on grounds that the share money meant for State is not available for the purpose. So many welfare schemes of the Central Government allocating funds for development of the State and its people are lying unutilised. Undoubtedly the State is rich with mineral resources and on its utilisation the Central Government earns revenue whereas the State Government has to be kept satisfied with a pittance of royalty. All types of minerals from iron-ore, coal, chromite, boxite to nickle is available in abundance in Orissa but unfortunately the revenue generated out of exploration of these minerals has not travelled down to the poor people of Orissa. Despite assurances, KBK Yojana has not been funded adequately and in the process the project meant for the most deprived people of that area., is not satisfactory.

In the light of my submission above, I would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance for a special package for the State of Orissa for its financial improvement and at the same time maintaining a constant monitoring of its proper expenditure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: About 25 hon. Members are to speak on this subject. The time of almost all parties is over. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members to be brief or else lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I rise to oppose this Budget very vehemently because the Budget is directionless. It has not indicated the destination it wants to reach. This Budget is not growth oriented. It would not be able to eradicate illiteracy and poverty. It would not be able to ensure education for all and health for all. That is why I oppose this Budget. I would like to

know as to how this Budget will overcome the weaknesses of the Budget, like low levels of investment demand, fiscal and revenue deficits. We have these weaknesses. If they are not overcome, our economic growth will not be to the extent that we expect it to be.

Hon. Finance Minister has announced *panch* priorities. They are poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, agriculture growth and diversification, faster industrialisation and tax reforms. But what is the situation now-a-days? day by day, poverty is increasing. I think more than 27 crores of people are living below the poverty line. No direction has been laid out to alleviate poverty. He has only announced that such and such project will be implemented. Only this much has been said. So, on direction has been clearly spent out for eradication of illiteracy, removal of poverty and unemployment. In our country the main problem is unemployment. This has not been addressed to at all. What we have seen is that day by day our external borrowing is increasing. It is more than US$ 100 billions, which is about 20 per cent of our GDP. Exports and the Balance of Payments have remained stagnant. Then, how can economic growth take place in our country? It is not possible at all. To generate employment, certain specific steps should be taken. But nothing has been spelt out and nothing has been uttered for that in this Budget. That is why we say this Budget is not growth oriented. It would create a lot of problems in our economy.

Sir, why are we saying and terming that this Budget is anti-worker and anti-people? It is because the rate of interest on PF has been reduced. Poor people and the poor workers will be victims of this situation. Not only that, our small investors who invest something in the post office etc. will also become the victims because there also the rate of interest has been reduced. So, poor people are the victims of this Budget. Workers have been totally victimised in this Budget. That is why we call this Budget as anti-people and anti-workers.

Sir, today I have seen in *The Times of India* that BALCO is not clearing VRS dues. Only twenty per cent of the VRS dues has been cleared. Eighty per cent of the dues has been still kept. The workers are not getting their dues nor are they assured of getting any interest on these dues.

So, in this backdrop, the Government is also planning for disinvestment of BPCL and the HPCL which are the profit-making units. They are making huge profits. They are giving huge dividends to our national Exchequer. In spite of this, the Government is planning to privatise these two important public sector, profit-making units. In this Budget, no direction has been given. It has not said anything about the funds collected from the disinvestment; how it would be invested and what will be the fate of the other public sector units. I think, the Government has targeted that it would collect huge money out of disinvestment to meet the deficit. As I said earlier, nothing has been said as to how this collected money would be invested and for what purpose it would be utilised. It is only to meet the deficit in the Budget. It is not to generate employment in our country. So, I think, the huge assets, which have been created by the workers, engineers and the professioals, are being looted by the private players. It is not serving any interest of our country and economy. So, this is a very important issue. I would like to impress upon you about this.

It is not only this. As you know, because of the freight equalisation, the western part of our country is benefited. We do not object to this because the nation is one. We should see that the whole nation grows equally. The important point is that a balanced economic development should take place. What happens now? The Eastern Region at the moment is lagging behind. Gas is an important aspect of economic growth. At the present moment, no steps have been taken to ensure supply of gas in the Eastern Region. But there is a scope for providing gas in the Eastern Region. Gas can be brought from Bangaldesh, Tripura, Myanmar and from other parts of the country also. We have been told that in the Bengal Basin, there is a huge gas and oil reserve. But step has not been taken to explore this oil and gas. As a result of this, the Eastern Region is lagging behind economically.

It is not only that. I think in the matter of infrastructure also, the Eastern Region is lagging behind. So far as the national highways are concerned, connectivity of bridge is concerned, I think the Eastern Region is not taken care of to that extent. The Government has not taken care of the Eastern Region.

Sir, you know that in Bengal, there are two Ports. But I think no fund has been allocated for the development of the Ports. For the Port connectivity, step has not been taken to that extent. Between two Ports, if we want to develop connectivity, we should build a bridge on the river. Rail connection from Calcutta to Haldia should also be developed. The Government of West Bengal has submitted a proposal to construct one bridge

[Shri Lakshman Seth]

on the Hooghly river between Riochak and Kukrahati for better connectivity from Haldia to Calcutta. Haldia is now the leading industrial hub of our country. The West Bengal Government has proposed to include it under the JBIC. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to give priority to this. This is my humble submission to him.

It is not only this. Rail connectivity should be improved. I think the feasibility study has started for better connectivity between Uluberia and Calcutta through the Hooghly bridge by constructing a bridge on the Hooghly river. If it is possible, if the bridge is constructed on the Hooghly river between Budge Budge and Uluberia, the railway line can be extended up to Haldia. So, better connectivity will be there between Haldia and Calcutta. This could also be taken into consideration.

I would like to make some suggestions to the hon. Minister for eradication of illiteracy, poverty and unemployment. ...*(Interruptions)* The Land Reforms are to be implemented seriously. The PDS has to be strengthened. Also, education for all and health for all should be ensured because if people are educated, if we have healthy people, the people can build a strong nation.

The country can be self-reliant. Only by depending on the foreign countries, our country cannot be developed. Sir, there is only one question I want to raise before the hon. Minister. Our country is big in geography. We are having a huge population.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Shri Lakshman Seth, your time is over. Your party's time is over. I have given you so much time.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Our market is huge. Is there no industrial growth in our country? Are we ready to fight against the onslaught of globalisation? We are saying that we are supporting globalisation. Technologically and financially we are not prepared to fight back the onslaught of globalisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat Shri Lakshman Seth.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Our country will be a colony of the multinationals. All these issues should be addressed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Till this time I tolerated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: How will you recover black money? How will you recover bank debts?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want me to say that nothing should go on record. I have given the floor to Shri Devendra Yadav now. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the debate is being held on the General Budget. Budget is not merely a document of accounts.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Jayaseelan, you cannot just speak and go out. This is a not a court you come, argue your case and go out.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The budget reflects the direction and economic condition of the country. We want to know as to what is the priority in this Budget as the Hon. Finance Minister says that the efforts have been made for infrastructure development. I am ready to accept that this budget is good for India but it is not good for Bharat. India lives in Bharat and similarly Bharat also lives in India. India lives in Delhi but Bharat also lives beyond the India Gate of Delhi, where 16 per cent population lives in Jopharies and slums, and 70 per cent population here depends only on agriculture and therefore, this budget is not good for Bharat. I have high regards for the hon. Finance Minister and the manner in which he was running the Ministry of External Affairs I had also high hopes of him but he is adamant on the issue of fertiliser subsidy 70 per cent population is dependent on agriculture. The economic condition of the country can be improved only when the condition of farmers who constitute 70 per cent of this country's population is ameliorated. We have to see as to what facilities and concessions we are providing to them. What concessions are there for them in this budget. For whom concessions have been provided in this budget?

17.23 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Gold could be an item for ornaments but it has no match with bread. Gold and ornaments have nothing to do with the farmers producing foodgrains and bread who use gold, AC, India made foreign liquor car and C.D.? It's a big question before us? Therefore, it's a good budget for

*Not recorded.

India but it is not a good budget for Bharat. The issue of subsidy on fertilisers was being discussed in the House just now and it was being said that 60 per cent of subsidy goes to the fertiliser company. Therefore, we are not able to do re-thinking on this issue. As per my information the fertiliser subsidy was to the tune of Rs. 13800 crore in 2000-01 which came down to Rs. 12800 crore in 2001-02 and in 2002-03 this has further gone down to Rs. 11000 crore. Whether these figures are correct or not, it would be spelt out by the hon. Finance Minister during his reply. But it has been going down. A discussion on the WTO was going on. The conditionality of WTO is phasing out of subsidy on agriculture, farming and fertilisers and also reducing MSP and this indicates very clearly that in the process of reducing subsidy, the farmers will have to bear a burden to the tune of Rs. 700 crore every year.

The prices of fertilisers have gone up Rs. 12 per bag and the prices of diesel have also gone up. All these things will affect farmers. The farmers who have more than two and half acres of land are only five per cent and the remaining 95 per cent farmers have less than two and half acres of land. And this is a practical thing that the increase in the prices of fertilisers would affect small and marginal farmers and increase in the prices of diesel would also affect pump sets and thrashers which are run on diesel. Besides that the smaller hauler mills (Hauler chekkis) would also be affected by this. A notice has been put on in the Central Hall wherein it is mentioned that the hon. Members would be given a pocket computer. I do not want to go into that but I want to speak about the things. The pocket computer which costs Rs. 31,000 would be provided to the Lok Sabha Members on payment of Rs. Seven thousand to the Rajya Sabha Members, it would be provided free of cost. The Members hailing from village background constitute 70 per cent of the total members. If you want to give us something, then give us power tiller or provide power driver tube wells in villages. It costs Rs. One lakh. That will enable farmers to get water and small farmers will also be able to till their land. Therefore, we should concentrate first as to what should be our priorities. Today diesel and petrol are more important and increasing their prices cannot be justified at all. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to immediately to roll back the increased prices of diesel and petrol. And the taxes should be levied on the luxury items like car and air-conditioner since the people who use things constitute only 2 per cent in the country. Economic disparity between the rich and the poor has widened in our country which has given rise to terrorism and people talk of AK-47. So long as there will be economic disparity, there cannot be prosperity and peace in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude immediately since the time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I know the time allotted to all the parties is over. I would like to put forth my views in regard to loans. The hon. Finance Minister knows that 90 per cent of money deposited in the country is deposited by the farmers but the farmers get only 19 per cent loan in proportion to that. The farmers have to pay interest ranging from 14 to 19 per cent for purchasing agricultural equipments but if you buy a car, the banks provide loan at the interest rate of 6 to 9 per cent. Thus, the loan for purchasing a car is cheaper and farmers have to pay interest ranging from 14 to 19 for purchasing agricultural equipments, tractor fertilizers or seeds and he has to pay compound interest on the principal loan amount. Sugarcane growers payment is delayed by 15 days or more than that but sugar mill owners do not pay any interest for that period of delay.

Similarly, I would like to say something about taxes. Similarly the State Governments also levies taxes if a farmers uses canal water for irrigation, the State Government levies a tax. Similarly if a bullock-cart enters a city, the municipal corporation charges Rs. 15 as tax. Likewise, if the son of a farmer enters in municipal area with his bicycle, he is given a receipt for Rs. 10 as tax. All these taxes are levied by the State Government. Both the Central Government and State Governments levy taxes. The Central Government levy a cess on diesel, the State Government levy tax on vehicles and also on water. If any farmer owns a tractor, he has to pay tax. Rs. Five thousand and seven hundred are to be paid annually as tax for having a tractor in Bihar. All sorts of taxes are levied on farmers such as road tax, vehicle tax, health tax, education tax etc.

Today buyer is considered as consumer. You can purchase clothes or other items of your choice from market since you pay for them. But what a farmer gets in return in payment of taxes, he gets drought and floods. You will not find a consumer like a farmer all over India who pays taxes but in return he gets starvation and taxation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, rising above the party affiliations, I would like to say that be in the State Governments or the Central Government, all these Governments are proving a burden for the farmers. Farmers will have to collect taxes by themselves now for constructing canals and digging wells. Farmers would have to resort to civil disobedience movement to save themselves and villages as well. Farmers and villagers are on the receiving end from all quarters.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

The WTO has lifted quantitative restrictions since 2001. Suppose MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 620 in the country but if it is Rs. 400 or Rs. 450 per quintal in the international market, and if they start dumping it in our country, has the hon. Minister increased custom duty or import duty on it to prevent our country to safeguard the interest of the farmers and prevent our country from becoming a dumping ground for foreign produce. There is a provision for that and you can do it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the plan size for backward states like Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh is supposed to be worked out on the basis of Gadgil formula. But that does not happen.

[English]

on the basis of needs, poverty, population and backwardness of the concerned states and not on the basis of internal resources of that state *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

After creation of Jharkhand only sand and water is remaining in Bihar. We had staged a demonstration in Delhi for finding a lasting solution to flood and drought in Bihar. An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been earmarked for preparing a DPR but no time limit has been fixed for preparation of a detailed project report to find out a lasting solution to flood and drought.

As long as there is no proper utilisation of water in any state, the state cannot become prosperous. Therefore, the plan size for a state is very important *...(Interruptions)* if the country has to be taken forward, the Government will have to change its attitude. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Economic Survey, 2002-2003 represents an extremely important milestone on the path of economic reforms. This is because if you take the reforms process as having begun in 1991, then from 1991 to 2003 is a period of 12 years of reforms of which six years were of uninterrupted increase in the rate of growth. 1991 to 1997 and 1997 to 2003—the next six years—have been a great disappointment we have witnessed a collapse in all the hopes that we vested in the reforms process.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to a single column in the Economic Survey that tells the whole story. This is the last column of statistical table 1.6 in the Appendix to the Economic Survey which sets out what has been happening to the real gross domestic product at factor cost from 1951-52 right down to our present day.

The whole story of India's economic development is told in just that one column. What it shows is that when the economic reforms process started in 1991-92, our rate of growth in the next six years rose from 1.3 per cent to 5.1 per cent. Then from 5.1 per cent, it rose to 5.9 per cent. From 5.9 per cent, it rose to 7.3 per cent, where it remained the following year and then in the year 1996-97, it rose from 7.3 per cent to 7.8 per cent.

In this period of six years, the economy was taken from a rate of growth of 1.5 per cent to a rate of growth of 7.8 per cent—not a miracle rate of growth but a great relate of growth an optimistic rate of growth, a growth rate at which it was possible to forecast that within a decade or so, within a reasonable period of time, we would be able to overcome poverty in this land of ours.

Then the crash occurs. Look at the performance from 1997 to 2003, the last six years. It began with the collapse of Chidambaram's miracle budget, we went down from 7.8 per cent to 4.8 per cent. We just plummeted. In the following year, the first year of the NDA Government, there was a recovery to 6.5 per cent and then a fall to 6.1 per cent. Then a complete collapse in the first year of this millennium to 4.4 per cent. Then the pendulum swung upwards to 5.6 per cent and in this last year, that is, 2002-03, the pendulum has swung down again to 4.4 per cent.

The reforms were supposed to achieve two objectives. First increase our rate of growth and, secondly make the growth rate stable. Has either of this happened in the last six years and did either of this happen in the first six years? The answer is that in the first six years, our rate of growth increased every single year from 1.5 per cent all the way up to 7.8 per cent. And what happened in the next six years is that we have plummeted from 7.8 per cent. And what happened in the next six years is that we have plummeted from 7.8 per cent to 4.4 per cent and, in between, the stability achieved in the first six years has been completely lost because one year we go up and another year we come down. What is even worse is that if you look at the performance in the pre-reforms decade—what I call the last decade of socialism—one finds that there were years when our performance was extremely poor. But the following year, we used to make up for it with dramatically improved rates of growth.

Let me give you but one example. It is again taken from exactly the same page of the Economic Survey. In the year, 1987-88, we had a terrible drought all over this country. There was hardly a single State that was not affected and States like Rajasthan were experiencing the fourth successive year of drought. In that year, our rate of growth was 3.8 per cent but because there was a serious problem, the Prime Minister of the time applied himself to the problem and we had a recovery, we had a rejuvenation of the economy, which is unprecedented in the economic history of India. In a single year, from 1987-88, from 3.8 per cent, we rose to 10.5 per cent the following year. It is the only year in the history of India that we grew at double-digit figures, that we grew at a miracle rate of growth.

Yes, there are problems that this Government faces, which are beyond our control. Nature is not always kind to a tropical country. But when things went wrong in one year, what did they do to make it go great the following year? What have they done to compensate for a bad year with an outstanding performance in the following year?

From the record, it would appear, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that they have done nothing. The consequence is this. I would like you to please take note of it. If you take the annual average rate of growth for the period 1980-81 to 1989-90, that is, the 10 years which constitute the last decade of socialism, in the last decade, our annual average rate of growth was 5.8 per cent. Please note this figure. In the 11 years of reforms, from 1991-92 to 2002-03, our annual average rate of growth of real domestic product, as revealed in the Government's own Economic Survey for 2002-03, was 5.9 per cent. Sir, was it to increase our annual average rate of growth by a derisory 0.1 per cent per annum that we entered this brave new world of economic reforms?

You have discredited reforms when Dr. Manmohan Singh was in charge, if you look at the first six years of reforms, we had raised the annual average rate of growth from 5.8 per cent to 6.7 per cent. There was a one percent increase in growth. Every year, growth was increasing faster. In the terminal year of that quinquennium, 1992-97, we raised the rate of growth to 7.8 per cent. We were on the edge of breakthrough. But over the next six years, that 6.7 per cent has collapsed to 5.3 per cent. We are today, if you take the last six years, even worse off than the 80. If you take the last five years of this NDA Government, our growth rate was lower than it was in the last decade of socialism. Then, why do we have reforms?

I charge this Government with having discredited the reform process. We no longer have confidence that reforms under the NDA will give us progressively higher rates of growth. We no longer have confidence in the NDA that they will be able to supply us with stability in the economy. We no longer have confidence in the NDA that they will compensate with exponentially higher rates of growth in the succeeding year for poor performance exogenously induced in the previous year. There is just despair gathering all round. When you take the figure of Gross Domestic Product, it masks a number of realities. These realities include a complete stagnation in employment figures as a whole, accompanied by a precipitate collapse in employment for the poorest of the poor in sectors like agriculture, khadi and silk handlooms where ordinary people are employed.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I think, has correctly put this finger on the pulse. It is their priorities that are wrong. They are targeting a small section of Indian society which controls the newspapers and the media, and the delighted at receiving encomiums from big fat capitalists and salaried middle class people, who are looking for tiny tax benefits. The dumb millions are, what Mahatma Gandhi called, the masses of India. The dumb millions do not appear on Television. The dumb millions do not write newspaper headlines. The dumb millions of India are not coming out on the streets to applaud the performance of this Government. The dumb millions are using the only mode of expression they have, which is their vote, which is why the BJP holds but two States in India, in one of which it has come into power by climbing a staircase of corpses, and in 15 States of India at least, the Opposition Parties, that is the non-NDA members are running the Government.

It is clear to the unread; it is clear to the unwashed; it is clear to the illiterate; it is clear to those who are suffering the depths of poverty that their economic being is being ravaged by the policies of this Government. At the same time, it is abundantly clear to the CII, as it is to the CIA, to FICCI, to ASSOCHAM that this is a Government after their heart because it concerns itself only with the interests of the rich and is completely unconcerned with the fate of the poor. This tragedy is written into this rather technical document, this rather dull document, this document which is so difficult to peruse, but where every drop of ink hides behind it a teardrop. I think it is incumbent upon the hon. Finance Minister to explain to this House now he justifies the collapse in the performance of the economy under the tender care of, first his predecessor and then himself. I recognise that as Finance Minister he has been in office only for a few months. Therefore, obviously he cannot carry the burden

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]
for the Government as a whole for his predecessor, but under the principle of collective responsibility, the Government to which he belongs is the Government that has been in office for the last five years. Why over such a long period of time, as five years, has the NDA Government failed to get its act together?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mani Shankarji, I am not interrupting you, but if you could be brief that would be better because members of other parties will not get time like this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you need not ask to be brief. I am putting a last question before the hon. Finance Minister. The question is that he should give us an explanation as to why there has been no development at all in the last 5-6 years and there is no sign of stability in sight. We have lost those expectations which we had. The Prime Minister of this Government says in America that they will not achieve growth rate of 7 or 8 per cent but they will achieve 9 per cent growth rate. And in the 10th Five Year Plan they have envisaged an annual growth rate of more than 8 per cent and your former Finance Minister every year used to say that they would have a growth rate between 7-8 per cent and even more than that. But what happens in reality? The growth rate hovered around 6, 5 or sometimes 4 per cent and it never rose to 7 per cent in all these years. What is this drama, is this a Government or a circus? The Hon. Finance Minister should explain.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a request. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has informed us that due to some engagement the Finance Minister would not be available in the House after 7 o'clock. The Members of the ruling as well as the opposition parties are accommodated against the time allotted to parties. The time limit is over, but there are several members left who have yet to speak. I would like to request that members of the BJP or the Congress Party or of any other parties speeches should be allowed to do so. However, they should not be forced, so that all the members get a chance to put forth their views. Earlier, it was decided that if needed we should sit here till late. So no member should be stopped from putting his views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not stopping any member. I have only asked them to be brief.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Finance Minister cannot attend the House due to preoccupation then some other Minister on behalf of the Government can take notes here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as was decided the time was allotted for the members of all the parties and accordingly names of the members of different parties came in the list to which some more names were also added. So, now it has to be decided how long the House would sit today. In my opinion, this debate should be finished at 7 o'clock today. It would be better if some members make adjustment to the situation and rather lay their speeches. That would be convenient to all. I do not want to be party specific. I just suggest to the members to be brief. This is what I want to request.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All the Members would be brief. But I would like to add that no time limit such as 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock was fixed earlier. What was decided was that after three days of this debate, the hon. Prime Minister would make his reply on 11th instant and that if needed the debate can be stretched to late evening. If members belonging to this or that side are now, as I see, more interested to speak on the Budget, they can be allowed to do so by laying their speeches. But my point is that no members should be stopped from putting forth his or her views.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I lay my speech concerning the budget on the table of the House.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on my behalf and a on behalf of my party I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views on the Budget. I rise in support of the Budget 2003-04 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. I would like to appreciate the Finance Minister as he has taken care of industries, rural roads, tourism, textile industry, health insurance, housing, salaried employees etc. while preparing the Budget. I am really thankful to him for that.

But one thing I must say is that it seems the Finance Minister has held special consultation with the industrialists. This is evident from the Budget. The Finance Minister has taken care of the business class and the people belonging to other classes, but definitely he has neglected the interests of the farmers, labourers and jawans. The Budget clearly reveals that these people in general were not consulted while preparing the Budget. It is a hard budget for farmers. By hiking the prices of fertilizers and diesel, the labourers and common people have been put to face difficulties.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was promised to the Ex-Servicemen that they would get the benefit of 'one rank one pension'. This is a long pending demand. But this is not reflected in the Budget. I would like to say that 65% people of the country are dependent on farming. Yet financial burden has been put on them through this budget. On the other hand, prices of items like air conditioners, foreign liquor, computers have been brought down. Very few people of the country are using these things. Our top most priority should be to encourage farming. It is very important to make the farmers financially strong. They need special attention. Therefore, in foreign countries subsidies are being given on framing. But on the contrary in our country, farmers are being made to suffer. The Finance Minister should have taken care of this thing. I would like to request him to roll back the provision which go against the interests of farmers.

Similarly, the Government should pay special attention towards rural sector. Rural Banks should be opened in rural areas so that people living in the rural areas may be benefited and they may not migrate of cities. We observe that people from rural areas are going towards urban areas to settle over there. If the same people are provided opportunities to run small industries in the villages by keeping the importance of agriculture intact, them their exoduses towards urban areas may be checked. They will stay back in rural areas rather than going towards urban areas. The Government must give special attention to this aspect while preparing the Budget.

Moreover, crop cycle should also be taken care of. There should be special provision in this regard in the budget. Otherwise farmers cannot be prosperous. Moreover, the Government should take special care of the marketing aspect. Similarly, horticulture, animal husbandry, vegetable farming etc. should also be taken care of and there should be some arrangement to ensure export of those items so that farmers may be prosperous.

What we see is that on the one hand there are floods in the country whereas on the other hand farmers are hit by droughts in some other parts of the country. Simultaneously last year there was drought in 14 states. The farmers had hardly recovered from the drought situation when the Finance Minister inflicted further burden on them by hiking the prices of agricultural inputs and diesel. The rivers of the country should be so linked that farmers get maximum benefits. Moreover, special attention should be given to drip irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you should conclude. Several other hon. Members have yet to speak.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH BARWALA: I am concluding. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to speak on several other issues including the subjects of education and unemployment. The problem of unemployment in the country is increasing which is likely to become gigantic in future. The youths of the country will be the worst affected by it. The Finance Minister should give special attention to this problem and should do something to provide employment opportunities to them.

In the last, I must ask the Finance Minister to roll back increased prices of fertilizers and 'one rank one pension' may be introduced for the ex-servicemen. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I rise to support Budget 2003-04 presented by Hon. Finance Minister. Sir, very well known and much reputed 'The Hindu Daily' has stated in its editorial this Budget as a 'Cautious Budget' and the another well known daily 'The Tribune' has described it as 'An Innovative Budget' and 'The Pioneer' as 'Visionary as People-Friendly'.

Sir, I have heard the Opposition members who have criticised this Budget. But, Sir, I fail to understand that what crime Finance Minister has committed when he has taken care in his Budget for middle class, salaried class, poor people and people living below poverty line.

Sir, for the first time in history of our democracy this Government under dynamic leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Finance Minister has made provision for poor by expanding Antoydaya Anna Yojana from April, 2003 to cover an additional 50 lakh families raising the total coverage to more than a quarter of all below poverty line families during the year 2003-04. The additional budgetary expenditure on this account will be Rs. 507 crore.

Sir, I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for rationalising all rural development, rural industries and artisans and poverty alleviation in urban areas and other similar schemes. he has proposed a Committee headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, to examine all schemes having a bearing on poverty alleviation and rural development and recommend their practical convergence.

Sir, I thank for the first time, proper care has been taken for poor people and people living below poverty

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

line in the history of democracy. Finance Minister deserves congratulation of crores of such people for making 'health insurance scheme' for them in this Budget.

Finance Minister has stated in his Budget that for large majority of our less advantaged citizens for whom easy access to good health service is just a dream. To this type of situation, Hon. Finance Minister has envisaged scheme by encouraging public sector General Insurance Companies to design community based universal health insurance scheme during 2003-04. Sir, under this scheme what would be premium rates?

(a) Re. 1/- per day (Rs. 365/- per year) per individual.

(b) Rs. 1.50 per day for a family of five, and

(c) Rs. 2/- per day for a family of seven which entitle them:

(d) To get reimbursement of medical expenses upto Rs. 30,000 towards hospitalisation.

(e) To cover for death due to accident Rs. 25,000/-; and

(f) Compensation due to loss of earning at the rate of Rs. 50/- per day upto maximum of 15 days.

Hon. Finance Minister has also made this scheme more affordable to below poverty line families. For them he declared in Budget that in such cases Government should contribute Rs. 100/- per year towards their annual premium.

Sir, Hon. Finance Minister has also taken care for disabled and handicapped persons by declaring deduction of Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 75,000/- for severally disabled from income tax.

Further, he has declared to reduce the customs duty on hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, walking frames, tricycles, brallers and artificial limbs to only 5% without special additional duty.

Sir, Hon. Finance Minister has also taken care of our about 76 million senior citizens and pensioners who are expected to increase because expectancy of life in India is increased to 100 million in 2013 by providing tax rebate of Rs. 20,000/- as a result their income upto Rs. 1.53 lakh will henceforth become fully exempt, over and above they will also get relief of the tax rebate under Section 88.

Sir, I congratulate hon. Finance Minister for introducing insurance pension scheme viz. For pensioner or for any citizen above 55 years of age, could on payment of lumpsum amount get benefits calculated at 9% per annum.

Sir, over and above all these schemes, Hon. Finance Minister has introduced number of other schemes for:

(a) Ex-servicemen, our veterans,

(b) For, burden of education for children by providing education expenses upto Rs. 12,000/- per child for two children, will be made eligible for rebate under section 88 of Income Tax Act.

(c) For games and sports; and

(d) For housing.

Sir, now I will make few suggestions to Hon. Finance Minister which I request him to consider while giving his reply.

Sir, I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for introducing 'Desert Pasturage Development'. A special programme 'Maru Gaucher Yojana' proposed to be taken up for desert districts of Rajasthan.

Sir, my request to Hon. Finance Minister to extend this Yojana to my constituency, *i.e.* Kutch which is a desert district of Gujarat.

Sir, half area of Kutch is a desert and it is the victim of almost all kind of natural calamities, two worst cyclones in 1998-1999 and lastly world's worst killer earthquake which has destroyed whole economy of Kutch district.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Finance Minister to include desert district Kutch in this Maru Gauchar Yojana.

Secondly, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayeeji during his visit to Earthquake devastative Kutch on 3.2.2001 had assured for excise duty exemption to the entire production occurring in Kutch, but Sir, notification issued by the department did not translate the spirit of announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Tax holiday Notification No. 39/2001, dated 31.7.2001 for Kutch is at variance from the declared intent of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Notification does not provide for excise duty relief to industries, it discriminates between the investment on industries less than or more than Rs. 20 crore.

Sir, this discrimination may please be removed.

Thirdly, Sir, request for extension for starting production before 31.7.2004, may please be extended for further period of one year as many industries require more time for their gestation period.

Fourthly, Sir, in Kutch tax-holiday exemption is only for the period of five years, which also requires to be extended for further period of five years that means it should be totally for 10 years.

Sir, now I request Hon'ble Finance Minister to extend the deal line of utilisation of the donation for relief and rehabilitation for earthquake victims in Gujarat, which expires on 31.3.2003, be extended for further period of two years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2005 as construction of new houses in four cities in Kutch, Bjuj, Anjar Bhachau and Rapar where permission for starting construction work under town planning scheme has been accorded only before two to three months that means it is not possible to complete rehabilitation work of more than about one lakh houses before 31.3.2003.

Sir, my few suggestions about avoiding unnecessary hardships to citizens that limit of Rs. 20,000/- for payment of deposits, receipts, acceptance etc. should be only by cheques in business transaction be enhanced atleast to the limit of rupees one lakh for such payments.

Advocate or chartered accountant be allowed to remain present at the time of raid, search or seizure from any assessee u/s 132 of Income Tax Act and discretionary powers of income tax officials be curtailed and they may be directed to have fair behaviour.

Sir, specific and special provision of advance ruling or correct advance interpretation on some ambiguous questions relating to act notification etc. be made so as to avoid further inconvenience and litigation to be faced by so perplexed assessee. This would avoid and curtail the wrong exercise of powers on the part of Income Tax Officers and further avoidable long litigation for assessee as well as department.

Sir, I would like to submit that in our country organised service class or employees forms only 3 to 4% of our population. Sir, this class is very much vigilant and always cautious about their perks and rights, but experience of all of us is that they are not similarly vigilant for cautious for their duties.

Sir, we do not mind even if this class are paid still more pay and other perks but at the same time if they found negligent in their duties, their services should be terminated by summary proceedings and not after years of long period of trials. In short, for such class the policy of 'Hire and Fire' requires to be adopted and for that necessary amendment requires to be made.

Sir, due to unprecedented and unbearable 135% hike in railway freight on edible salt in railway budget of 2002-2003. Salt industries in Gujarat and particularly in my area *i.e.* Kutch are on the verge of closure and more than one lakh labourers, who were getting their jobs from this industry, have lost their jobs. To revive this industry sir, provision of special transport subsidy or any other relief requires to be made to keep this industry alive.

Sir, in our country many social and religious institutions are providing free meals to thousands of needy and poor citizens and thus, they are rendering social services, are being asked to pay more *i.e.* more than double charges for cooking LPG gas. The provision requires to be made for providing such LPG gas as they were getting before, such enhancement in rates of cooking LPG gas.

Sir, I request Hon'ble Finance Minister to review the levy of 8% excise duty on labelled and branded edible oil, which has created heavy burden on middle class and people living below poverty line. This duty may please be removed and Government of Gujarat be allowed to import palmolien oil without duty for distribution to below poverty line families.

Sir, one proposal from Government of Gujarat is pending with Govt. of India for seeking clearance.

To assistance from Japan Bank for international co-operation to Govt. of Gujarat for it.

Gujarat Forestry Development Project—for protection and conservation of forest in Gujarat. Sir, this proposals pending since 14.2.2000, and last reminder was also sent to F.M. on 11.6.2002.

Sir, I request F.M. to accord this clearance immediately.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

Sir, our hon. Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh has placed this Budget in our august House. I think, this is not only the maiden Budget placed by him, this might be the last Budget in this august House that is placed by him. He has generously placed this Budget in view of the Prime Minister's dream. The Prime Minister's dream is all right. The dream is good, but the Budget is worse. This Budget is worse instead of getting better.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Sir, while presenting the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister boastfully proclaimed *panch* priorities—five priorities—but the funds allocation is in no way in tune with the objectives. It is said but it is not done. Whatever that is there is only a rhetoric in the run up to the elections. Apparently, it tries to woo the middle class and the salaried persons for strengthening their vote bank, but essentially, it follows and expedites the spirit of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation formula. So, what is said, it might be seen good apparently, but in essence, it is worse.

18.00 hrs.

It is said that

[Translation]

"Madhutishthtiragra Hridyatulal".

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panda ji, please take your seat for one minute. It is 6 o'clock and several other members have yet to speak. So if the House agrees the time of the proceeding may be extended by one hour.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: But, Sir, I have not started, yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was going to ask for extension of time.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if we can conclude the debate in one hour's time, we have no objection. But, if the Members want to speak even further, it is all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the time allotted for this debate be extended up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It will be the pleasure of the House. If the Minister has anything else to do, he can take the notes that are being recorded here. We shall have no objection to it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so. I want your cooperation, if you speak briefly, maximum members can be accommodated.

[English]

The time is extended up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Thank you, Sir.

In the course of the last Budget Speech, the former Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha boastfully proclaimed "*Kisan Ki Azadi*" which caused more problems and increased sufferings of the *Kisan* communities. The present Prime Minister also, almost ignored the *Kisans*. Not only the Members of the Opposition, but even a lot of Members sitting in the Treasury Benches have also pointed out the weaknesses. Even some hon. Members who were supporting this Budget as one of the best Budgets, had also pointed out that agriculture is almost neglected.

Sir, we are talking about hon. Prime Minister's dream. We are talking about the dream of upgrading our nation into an economically and socially strong nation by 2020. Yes, we want a strong and developed India. Our poets imagined, nearly, 60 years ago in Bengal. It is said in Bengali "*Baharat abar jagat sabhai shrestha asan labey*"- India would resume its best seat in the Apex Council of Universe. So, we dream it.

Now, we are considered to be first in what respect? We are first in illiteracy, we are first in poverty, we are first in unemployment, we are first in starvation deaths, we are first in malnutrition, and even I must say, we are first in the case of corruption also. So, this is the first place in the Universe, and we have boastfully occupied that seat "*Bharat abar jagat sabhai shrestha asan labey*".

We dream our future India which would be free from all sorts of miseries. We dream of socially, culturally and above all economically prosperous India, strong in all aspects—agriculture, industrial development, services and so on—and also strong in producing indigenous products. We dream of a strong India through participatory democracy. We dream of a prosperous India for each and every citizen who stands solidly on his own feet, and not running for begging.

Our country has a source of enormous potentiality, but, now it has been degraded into a State of beggars. Millions and millions of people are in the streets for begging, and even our country after having enormous potentialities are going and begging from the world over. They are bending themselves to the pressure of the imperialist countries, on the developed countries.

The hon. Prime Minister's dream concerns about four aspects. It was expected that the first step, in the course of its long journey, would be taken in this Budget, but it was quite a disappointment in the respect. The Budget has successfully failed to meet the needs.

Please allow me to point out some areas. The Environment Ministry asked for Rs. 1,300 crore, and the

allotment was Rs. 1,010 crore. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare asked for Rs. 8,000 crore, and the allotment was Rs. 6,581 crore. The HRD Ministry, which is required to provide elementary education, asked for Rs. 7,099 crore, but the allotment was Rs. 4,900 crore. For biotechnology and other technological research, the Science and Technology Ministry asked for Rs. 2,000 crore, but the allotment was Rs. 1,570 crore.

The most alarming or the most neglected area is agriculture. Thirty per cent of the GDP comes from the agriculture sector, but the share or the outlay in the Budget has not even crossed the single digit figure.

The question of unemployment has not been addressed to. The other day, the Prime Minister talked in this august House about the issue of employment, about generating a certain number of mandays, but that cannot be identified with providing employment. What I have understood is that he talked about generating some mandays, but what about employment or recruitment in different sectors? This question has not been addressed so far.

What is the weakness of this Budget? The weakness is in the high fiscal deficit and in the high revenue deficit. Nothing has been said about black money. In respect of FDI, the ceiling on banks has been raised to 74 per cent. Fiscal consolidation is being done through debt; disinvestment and cash management are going on. They are selling away the Indian jewels; they have sold even the *Navratnas.*

The interest rate on PPF and small savings has been cut by one per cent. The service tax has been raised from five per cent to eight per cent. The prices of cars, colour television sets, foreign liquor and other products have come down. On the contrary, the prices of cycles, black and white television sets, kerosene, diesel, petroleum commodities, fertilisers and seeds have gone up.

Sir, this Budget is anti-farmer and anti-poor. On the very day when he was presenting the Budget, this was the immediate reaction. He should either 'roll-back' or 'go back'. If the Minister is not in a position to roll-back, then, I think, his only option is to go back. I demand that he should roll-back all these things. If he does not 'roll-back', then he should 'go back'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is permitted to lay his speech on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, how many members from our party have already spoken? ...*(Interruptions)* I also want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One hon. Member has spoken from your party. If time is spared, I shall give you a chance. Maheshwar Singh ji, please be brief.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget 2003-04 presented by the Finance Minister on 28th February. I am happy to note that Shri Patil ji is the first speaker from the opposition side. I have great respect for him. He has been the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Sir, I am happy that a very good orator like him had to toil hard to find out shortcomings in the present budget. This time he had to read out his speech instead of delivering one. This goes to show that the present budget is a balanced one wherein people's interests have been taken well care of. I support this budget.

It is repeatedly being said that this budget is anti-poor. I would only like to say that a sum of Rs. 3242 crore has been provided for Agriculture Ministry. For food processing industry which is concerning farmers and which may help in setting up agro-industries, a sum of Rs. 55 crore has been provided. For rural development a sum of Rs. 14,070 crore has been provided. For water resources a sum of Rs. 554 crore has been provided. This way a total sum of Rs. 17,941 crore has been provided. So, I cannot agree with the proposition of Barwalaji who stated that the Budget is anti-poor. But I definitely share his views when he said that the hon. Finance Minister should be generous enough to roll back the increased prices of fertilizers and diesel.

This is for the first time that the Prime Minister of this country has made some efforts towards linking the rivers of the country. He not only made an announcement in this regard but has also taken concrete steps. It is also a welcome step that a separate financial provision has been made in the Budget for the drought prone areas and thought has been given now to bring those areas under the irrigation schemes. A sum of Rs. 295 crore has been allocated for this purpose. Similarly a sum of 901 crore has been provided for watershed management. You will agree that several schemes are formulated for drought prone areas. I want to make a suggestion in this regard. Funds allocated for drought are largely spent on other things, somewhere on construction of roads, somewhere on procuring inputs and somewhere on providing employment. My suggestion is that there should be a condition put on it, even in respect of the State Governments, to the effect that funds for this purpose must be spent in drought prone areas under the earmarked head it on tackling drought situation alone so that irrigation facility and the facility of drinking water

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

may be ensured in those areas. Only then the funds can be spent on drought relief, otherwise if funds are diverted and spent for construction of roads then indirectly it would create job opportunities, but that will not be the final solution. So it is important to put that condition for grant of this money.

Out present Prime Minister is the first one after 55 years of independence who though of a connectivity of the villages of the country. Yet it is alleged that in the budget the interests of the poor have been sacrificed rather than protected. After all 80 per cent people of the country reside in villages. If villages are given road-connectivity, the farmers, the poor class people would definitely be benefited. The Conservation Act, 1980 is the major hurdle in this way especially in North Eastern states and in hilly states like Himachal Pradesh. There wo have a major problem because even if the third category of forest land comes in the way, the Forest Department comes in the way and stops the work of road construction. This problem must be resolved. When there is no forest there and there is only third category of forest land then where is the justification for asking for compensation. That is something beyond my understanding. Since this is a central law and the scheme is also of the Central Government so there must be some relaxation. In case of time, the local people do enjoy a right over that. The local people, local village must enjoy a right to get timber at its distribution rates. The objective of the Act of 1980 was that when it becomes necessary to allow cutting of forest in the interest of the general public then afforestation work must be undertaken as a compensation thereof. But that is not happening. In this regard I would say that even the Forest Department indulges in misappropriation of the said funds which are meant for undertaking afforestation work. This fund is at times diverted. I have a letter with me. There is paucity of time. I had also written a letter to the Minister of Environment and Forests. I can give the example, that one crore rupees was given by the NHPC to the Kullu against first instalment for the ongoing projects there. It was instructed by the NHPC that out of that money only Rs. 36 lakhs should be spent for the welfare of the local inhabitants. The condition was put in advance that certain amount should be given for FRI, Dehradun because a research work was in progress. What sorts of tress are planted have to be decided. Money is required for that.

I would like to know that if money is charged and FIR is run like this or a project is prepared in this manner then how would the welfare of the villagers be ensured? How the provisions of the Act to the effect that afforestation work would be undertaken as compensation, would be followed? I would like to suggest that in respect of those villages which are benefited through roads, there the villagers should be provided with vacant land and they should be asked to take up afforestation work. That way the provisions of the Act of 1980 would be fulfilled and at the same time people would get roads.

There is one more problem. Suppose the road has to come to the village 'A' and it has to cross through 'B' then why should the people of the village 'A' should give land for construction of roads? They ultimately become instrumental in stopping the road construction work. Therefore there should be a provision that in case some individual becomes landless or has less then the bighas of land due to acquisition of land for the purpose of constructing road then the State Government should be ordered to provide him land somewhere else as compensation because the road construction work cannot be halted. There must be some law to this effect otherwise one individual can halt the process of road construction. He is at times not ready to provide land even after being persuaded by the entire villagers.

Similarly, there is contract system. If the road construction work is given on contract, the farmers of the village must get permanent employment. If he has to part with one 'Biswa' or two 'biswas' of land for construction of road then he should be provided employment as compensation. I would like to submit only this much because there is paucity of time. Otherwise I wanted to say so many things. I am confident that the hon. Finance Minister would give sympathetic consideration to the issue of hiked prices of fertilizers and diesel and would take care of the interests of farmers.

I am thankful to the Chair for allowing me to put forth my views.

*SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Sir, during the last 50 years loans worth thousands of crores of rupees of 49 industrial Houses have been waived in the name of poverty alleviation. They are for example TATA and BIRLA. Rs. 28 thousand crores are outstanding against 373 industrial houses of Maharashtra. Rs. 43 lakh crores of various Indian nationals are deposited in Swiss Banks. Many out of them have passed away. As per the data dated 31st December, 1999 the income tax arrears of Rs. 2423 crore and Rs. 1403.75 crore against Harshad Mahta and Hiten Dalal respectively remained unrecovered. If that can be allowed to happen then the loans of farmers should also be waived.

Now I would like the attention of the Government to be drawn to the support prices of paddy. To cultivate

*Speech was laid on the Table.

paddy crop in one acre of land, a farmer has to spend Rs. 6.5 thousand. It includes 4 bag of fertilizers worth Rs. 1300/- seed worth Rs. 700/- plantation worth Rs. 100/- weeding not activities worth Rs. 1000/-, pesticides worth Rs. 1000/-, irrigation worth Rs. 500/- and other expenses worth Rs. 1000/- total expenditure comes to Rs. 6500/- and as against that production fetches a price of Rs. 5 thousand. That is to say, there is a loss of Rs. 1500/-. Moreover, at times there is severe drought and severe flood situation in different parts of the country. So the support price of paddy should be fixed at Rs. 1000/- per quintal.

As per the norms of the British period if 7 quintals of paddy is produced in 1 acre of land then it was considered to be 100 per cent recovery. But in modern scientific age we get 12 to 15 quintals of paddy yield in one acre of land. In this situation the farmers do not get the benefit they are entitled for getting in situations like drought and floods.

There are several pending schemes due to Forest Conservation Act. There are 75 irrigation schemes in Nagpur division which includes irrigation capacity of 3,24,309 hectare of land. There is 11,252 hectare of forest land. Under my constituency, Bhimal Kara, Janbhudkhed, Sonerange, Vidarbha, there is 1 lakh 585 hectares of fresh land.

Rajiv Gandhi ji had inaugurated Gose Project (Indira Sagar) of the cost of Rs. 750 crore. Now its cost has escalated to nearly four thousand crore of rupees. I would like to say that the Central Government should bear the cost of the project rather than the State Government Rs. 500/- crore should be provided for early commencement of work on this project.

Procurement of paddy of FCI—Packing material is never available at paddy procurement centres in our Bhandara, Garhchirauli, Gondia and Chandrapur districts. The farmers have to keep their paddy in the open. The marketing federation of Maharashtra state does not procure paddy within the procurement season. As such there is a need to procure paddy by FCI and FCI should have its godown in every taluka.

I demand that crop Insurance Scheme should cover the individuals because whole of the block, taluka or district does not get affected by famine. Kisan Credit Card—a welcome step-this scheme should be given wide publicity in remote areas. The Union Government has got many such schemes the benefit of which does not reach to the common man. The media should be utilised for that purpose. The schemes should be given publicity upto Gram Panchayat level.

Mineral wealth—There are iron, copper and dynamite mines in Bhandara, Garchirauli, Chandrapur and Gondia districts which should be surveyed. There is one Dahegaon mines village in my constituency where survey has been conducted and a good number of people got employment. But that is closed at present. The work in these mines should be re-started.

DAK—there is a need to construct and independent Dak building in each taluka. Telephone—a welcome step. The mobile service in Lakhandoor, Pavani, Arjuni your Sangadi in my constituency has not been started. As such mobile service should be started there and the people who have filled up telephone demand forms for the last some years should be provided with telephone facility.

Educated unemployed—change in Education Policy. There is a need to provide vocational training and the Government should take guarantee to provide employment to the people by providing soft loans to the unemployed youths.

There is a need to uproot terrorism urgently. There are 128 terrorist organisations out of which 12 organisations have been banned. Terrorist organisations are active in rural areas, for example in Wadsa and Chhapewada.

Atrocities Act—there is a need to amend this Act. What is being witnessed in its implementation is political ill-will and Vendatta.

Inclusion of Gond Caste is a welcome step—Separation of Mana Caste. 116 people of Govari community were killed in Nagpur but their problems were not solved. Halba, Halbi, Kama, Koshi, Sepe should be included in the caste list. The notice served for removal of the persons who have been in service for the last 10-15 years be withdrawn.

More funds for tourism should be provided to Nanegaon bandh and Nagjhira National Park. Efforts should be made to provide more electricity to Maharashtra State by the Union Government. Load—shedding results in interruption in running of pumps for Agriculture and in the education of the Children.

Public Health Protector scheme is a Central Scheme, therefore, the honorarium paid to the public health protector should be increased. For upliftment of women, women should be encouraged for self employment and group upliftment by providing them loan on nominal rate of interest.

Under Pant Pradhan Awas Yojana, the amount should be increased from 20,000 to 50,000 rupees. Under

[Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe]

National Rural Development Scheme, a big bridge should be constructed on Vainganga river connecting two districts from Kolari to Itaan, Bhandara and Chandrapur and bridge should be constructed on Chulband river from Juni bothli to Nai Bothli. A culvert should be constructed on Gadhvi river connecting Bori to Boltha and a culvert barrage connecting two districts Gondia and Garchirauli.

The Government gives priority to foreign games like Cricket. Likewise indigenous games like Kabaddi, kho-kho, wrestling etc. should also be given due importance and these games should be promoted by providing district-wise funds for them.

Burad-workers—Burad workers have not been provided bamboos for the last five-fix months and they are on the verge of starvation.

*SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Sir, I support the budget and would like to say that the country is reeling under recession and avenues of employment are not available to the youths and the agriculture sector is suffering gross losses. The budget presented in such circumstances has revived some hope. The Government have given priorities to five areas in this budget. Only the time will tell whether or not these areas will be able to find solution to our problems. People say that prices are brought down in the budget and not in the market. Only the whole sellers and big business houses enjoy the budget. When the products are brought in the market, then we are able to see the concessions given and promises made in the budget. These five priorities include poverty alleviation, development of infrastructure, tax reforms, Agriculture and Irrigation and promotion of export. These five factors play a vital role in the development of any country. There is a proposal to incur total expenditure amounting to 438795 crore rupees during the year 2003-04 of which 120974 crore rupees are to be spent under plan head and 317821 crore rupees are to be spent under non-plan head. The miserable living condition of the poor people of the country even after 55 years of independence indicate the way of functioning of the Indian Governments and tell that the Governments have not been functioning properly. This Government has proposed to cover 50 lakh more families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Under this yojana, the people of poor families of our country will now be able to get wheat @ Rupees two per kilogram foodgrains per month. The country has got such a structure that the amount of money as well as value thereof goes on diminishing when it is routed from top to the bottom level due to which the benefits of the schemes do not reach the people for whom these schemes are formulated. For this, there is a need to understand the functioning of bureaucracy very closely because the laxity on the part of bureaucracy result in delay in reaching the assistance where and when that is needed. There is a need to change it. The country mobilises taxes from the rich people for the development works meant for the poor people but huge proportion of the taxes is lying as black money in the country. The Government have not made efforts to recover the black money. This budget does not mention any step to be taken by the Government against tax evasion. There is a doubt about the Government's achieving 13 per cent revenue increase. Under out tax system, a huge share of taxes reaches the pockets of the officers instead of reaching the Government. The Government will have to take stern measures for this otherwise the officers will consume Government's money. The tax system is need to be made easy and simplified.

The farmers are the backbone of the country and most of the people in the country belong to the farming community. Unless the condition of the farmers does not improve, the development of the country cannot be imagined. Now-a-days, the farming and agriculture has become loss-incurring exercise. The foodgrains do not fetch the prices commensurate with the cost of their production and the benefit of agriculture reaches the pockets of money lenders and businessmen or the middlemen. The way the prices of petrol and diesel have been increased by 50 paise per litre and the prices of urea have been increased by twelve rupees and duty has been hiked on DAP fertilizers, that is likely to made the already bad condition of the farmers less interest in agriculture and production of foodgrains is likely to decline by 13 percent due to droughts, floods and Natural calamities. There are no proper arrangements of irrigation in the country till now. The rain water in some parts of the country merges in the sea after creating havoc and on the other side, the agriculture has to depend on the monsoon. The watershed scheme has been implemented unsatisfactorily in some states of the country and somewhere the irrigation projects could not be completed within the scheduled time due to which on the one side there is time over run and on the other side, the cost thereof have also escalated. Stern action should be taken to improve it.

There are so many items in our country which we can export and earn foreign exchange and also provide employment to the people. If we export the foodgrain production of the country scrupulously, then we can do good to the farmers and help them in getting remunerative price of their produce. But some businessmen in the country get the wheat and rice in subsidy rate for export purpose and sell them in the country itself. These

*Speech was laid on the Table.

businessmen get these items at a rate of four to four rupees fifty paise per kilogram for export and sell them in the country itself at the rate of seven to eight rupees per kilogram and this corrupt practice is taking place with the connivance of the bureaucrats. The states are also given wheat @ Rupees 4.50 per kg. for the people living below bureaucrats having connivance with corrupt persons. We can grow many types of herbs in adivasi and hilly areas of the country and encourage farmers for such cultivation and demand for these things is growing in the foreign countries. The proposal submitted by the Government for development of horticulture has vast potential for development of herbs and flowers. Vegetables and fruits worth 300 crore get rotation in the country. If these would be cold storages, these items can be processed and exported. The Government will have to think afresh in this regard. The potential of herbs is very vast in Jharkhand and they can be grown there.

We will have to endeavour a lot to achieve the growth rate of 8 percent since the growth rate was only 4.4 percent last year which is equal to half. It has been seen that economic reforms have adversely affected the growth rate. The investment will have to be increased and the maximum utilization of resources will have to be ensured. The investment has been on the lower side especially in the agriculture sector where rate of growth has been less by 3 points. The expenditure in non productive areas will have to be curtailed to accelerate the pace of development in the country but it is going on higher side. There is a need to control it. The half of the total amount is still being spent in the non productive sector in the country.

In this budget the prices of gold, gems and jewellery, foreign liquor, cars, airconditioners, watches, utensils, life saving drugs, diesel locomotive equipments, Biscuits and cold drinks have been reduced and those of edible oils, Pan Masala, petrol, diesel, tobacco, cement, paper have been increased and telephone charges, coaching over interest care and banking services charges have been hiked.

For the defence sector, the budget amount has been reduced from 14 per cent. The funds provided for the defence sector during the last year's budget could not be spent and were returned to the Union Government. We should think afresh over the modernisation of our defence forces as well as arms and ammunition. Last year, an amount of 65,300 crore rupees was provided for the defence sector which has been reduced to 65,000 crore rupees during this year's budget.

The relaxations given under heads and slashing of excise duty in the budget has been welcomed by the industrial sector and some people have been criticised these measures by saying that this budget has been prepared to provide benefits to the rich people and the corporate sector and the poor people are not going to be benefited by it. The poor man has nothing to do with slashing of prices of car. On the other hand, the Government have tried to keep a check through VAT which is the need of the day.

A number of people in the country are still illiterate and the funds provided for the education sector are less than the funds provided during previous years. It has been seen that whatever funds are provided for literacy purpose that have not delivered the desired results. Still there are 146 districts in the country where people are not literate. There is a need to review the functioning of system engaged in literacy mission so that the rate of literacy could be augmented. Jharkhand state is also included under it. A number of schools, right from primary to high school, are lying closed for want of teachers due to which the teaching work is getting hindered in Jharkhand. Children of the poorest of the poor, dalits, adivasis and backward classe are getting affected by it.

The budget has offered a number of proposals to promote tourism. The LTC facility which was withdrawn some time back, has been restored which will boost the domestic tourism. Tourism is the vital source of income in some countries of the world and there is vast potential of tourism in India but due to lack of facilities the number of foreign tourists has not gone high and this problem should be addressed. There are a number of tourist spots in Jharkhand which should be developed by virtue of which the unemployed persons will get employment and tax revenue of the state will increase.

During the current financial year there has been 6 per cent fiscal deficit which is more than 8000 crore rupees which is a matter of grave concern. The tax structure of direct and indirect taxes is required to be simplified because paper formalities and technicalities have to be fulfilled in case of taxes and are needed to be removed urgently. The money to the ministries will now be released on monthly and quarterly basis which is proper from many angles. It is because of the reason that when the ministries have unspent funds under some heads, they spend money on such activities which are of no use for them, utilization of funds being their only objective in that case.

The Minister of Finance has been quite conscious about health. Some life saving drugs and equipments have been given excise duty relaxation. Excise duty on hearing aids, crutches and artificial limbs has been

[Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary]

reduced and a universal health insurance scheme has been launched under which a person would be required to pay premium of one rupees a day i.e. 365 rupees in a year, family of two persons would be required to pay 1.50 rupees a day and of seven persons, two rupees a day and they would be entitled to claim thirty thousand rupees as hospital treatment charges and twenty five thousand rupees in case of death due to accident payable to them within fifteen days. But doctors and nurses are not available in the hospitals and this problem needs to be rectified.

The budget has provided a number of sops for the development of textile industry. Excise duty has been reduced from 12 per cent to 8 per cent on all the weaved clothes and ready made garments. Excise duty has also been reduced from 12 per cent to 10 per cent on the clothes woven on handlooms and powerlooms and power-loom modernisation package has also been given for modernisation of the power loom sector. In the ancient times and even before attaining independence, our clothes were famous thoughout the world. It was because of it that hands of our artisans were chopped. If the Government address to it properly, then we can provide clothes including woollen clothes to the entire world at cheaper rates. Employment opportunities can be increased by promoting the textile industry. After agriculture, textile industry is the second largest sector providing employment to the maximum people.

Some State Governments are now facing financial problem. They do not have got the funds even to pay the salary to their employees and in some of the states, some of the employees have not received their salary for the last several months. Steps will have to be taken to improve the financial condition of the states. State Governments will have to be extra careful in the matter of spending money. The Union Government provide loans to the State Governments at thirteen percent rate of interest which is very high and it should be reduced.

India is facing grave employment problem. In the absence of employment, the unemployed persons are taking to crimes and terrorists are making full advantage of the situation. As such employment opportunities will have to be explored. We can talk to the Governments of various countries where workers are required and send our unemployed people there and thus employment can be provided to them. Industries will have to be promoted and for this purpose, we require investment but the people are reluctant to invest their money because of competition. It is because of this that investment is not taking place in industries. Investment from foreign countries is being made but the benefit of the same would also go to them. Foreign investment has been encouraged in the banks and now this can be even 75 per cent, earlier this limit was 49 per cent. But these banks give more loans for the items of day to day use and do not give any loan for agriculture. This is not going to provide any specific benefit to India because a lot of money is still lying with the banks and the people are not getting loans.

The budget does not mention anything to promote sugar industry and Food Processing Industry which is not good whereas cane growers and other farmers and a number of labourers are bringing up their families by working in these industries and as such there is a need to announce some policy in this regard.

Many Governments have been promising to lay a road network in the country during the last many years but even after 55 years of independence, the people in the rural areas have to walk through the unmetalled roads due to which the villagers have to face a lot of hardship. Through this budget the Government is likely to raise a fund of 40,000 crore rupees by increasing the price of petrol and diesel by fifty paise a litre and with this fund, 48 road would be constructed and length of these roads would be 30,000 kilometres. Golden quadrilateral road is targeted to be completed by December, 2003 which will link west, north, south and east. This road will be constructed through private agency within the stipulated time schedule. It has been seen that when the roads are constructed, poor quality raw material is used to construct them due to which the roads get damaged within six months. As such all the road construction works should be reviewed periodically and if anywhere it is found that the roads have been damaged within six months then stern action should be taken against the corrupt persons and the persons responsible for using substandard material. The construction of Rural roads should be accelerated.

The small scale industry which is good source to increase employment and can be started with small amount of money and take full care of the desire and demand of the consumers, has suffered a lot. Some industries have been excluded from the list of the items reserved for production by small scale industries for the past several years and in this budget, 75 such industries have been excluded which will adversely affect the employment potential of the economy and the small industrialists. The Government should think over it seriously.

Towards the end, I would like to congratulate the Finance minister that he has laboured a lot to formulate this bill in the interest of the country and the society

after taking due care of the interests of all sections of the society. This bill is being appreciated by the entire country for which he deserves many-many thanks. With this I strongly support this budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manjay Lal wants to lay his speech. As such he is permitted to lay his speech.

Shri Dharamraj Singh Patel ji, you please be very brief to express your views.

SHRI DHARMRAJ SINGH PATEL: What is it? Our turn does not come?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is not left now for your party?

SHRI DHARMRAJ SINGH PATEL: How many members of our party have been provided the opportunity to speak. Only one member has spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not waste time and carry on with your speech.

SHRI DHARAMRAJ SINGH PATEL: This is also discrimination. Everywhere there is discrimination.

*SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Sir, I support the budget presented in the House for the year 2003-04 because the Antoyada-Anna Yojana has been extended in this budget. Gandhiji has said that in independent India, top priority would be given to the hungry people, then to distressed and then to the happy and prosperous people. The Minister of Finance has taken care of the hungry people by expanding the Antodaya Anna Yojana, hence, I am thankful to him.

Standard-deduction limit has been raised in income-tax for salaried persons. This will prove beneficial for the salaried persons in these times when the prices are rising. No income-tax will be levied on the amount upto five lakh rupees gained from VRS. This will also prove beneficial for the employees opting for VRS as well as their families.

The senior citizens will be benefited from this nine percent rate of interest under special-pension scheme. Income-tax exemption for senior citizens has been increased from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand rupees. This is going to prove useful in the larger public interests. Road is an important component in the way of industrial and agriculture growth. The resolution for completion of the 48 new road projects at the cost of Rs. 40 thousand in this budget is also very useful. The competitions in textile industry, reduction in excise-tariff and promoting of hi-tech system in place of conventional system of cultivation will also benefit farmers.

The Government has done a commendable job by exempting expenditure on the education of upto two children and health insurance scheme for poor from income tax. This is also a laudable step that the allocation for the development of tourism has also been increased.

Attention has also been paid towards water management in the budget, but that is inadequate. Not a single industry is left in Bihar after the creation of Jharkhand. Whatever industries left there are either lying closed or are on the verge of closure. Fertilizer plant of Barauni has recently been closed down. Almost all of the sugar mills are lying closed in Northern Bihar. The Government has not made any arrangement to revive these mills.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to revive the closed mills of Bihar by providing special economic package to Bihar. New Factories should be opened in Bihar so that the migration of work force running in lakhs to Haryana, Punjab Kolkata and Delhi, can he arrested and their services be utilised for the betterment of the State.

There is an indicator in the budget for possible hike in the sale prices of Urea and other fertilizers which may prove disastrous for the farmers. Rs. 12 has been increased on per 50 kg. urea. Similarly Rs. 10 have been increased on per 50 kg. D.A.P. and MOP.

Prices of Diesel and Petrol have been hiked which will affect the farmers. The farmers will get ruined. India is a country of farmers. Farmers live in the villages. If the villages are ruined, then the country will meet the same fate, I therefore urge upon the Minister of Finance to roll back the price rise in fertilizers diesel and petrol.

Forty five percent of cultivable land of Bihar is a flood prone area. The flood in Bihar is caused by the water flowing from Nepal. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to hold talks with Nepal Government and save Bihar from the floods by providing special package to it and pave the way for prosperity in the state.

With these words, I support the budget.

SHRI DHARMRAJ SINGH PATEL: Hon, Members particularly from the ruling party have lauded the budget. If provisions are worth appreciation, then we

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Dharmraj Singh Patel]

must appreciate them. But several points are there which do not invite appreciation. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Finance towards the poor people. I became satisfied that the budget to be presented by Shri Jaswant Singh after his predecession Shri Yashwant Singh would be in the interests of poor people and country at large, when we heard the hon. Minister of Finance saying while delivering his maiden speech that he would present a good budget. But when the hon. Minister presented the budget here we realised that he came under the pressure of the lobby of capitalists and big industrialist. He has turned the pro-poor budget into the pro-rich. I would like to draw your attention towards the economic review of the country which reports that 21% people live below poverty line. I have one more report which says that 40% of the people of this country live below poevery line under such circumstances, when 26-40% people of this country live below poverty line, may I know the sort of exemption announced by the hon. Minister of Finance in the budget for the workers, farmers or marginal farmers, excempt this that the Government have covered 50 lakh more families and allocated rupees 507 crore under Antodaya-Anna Yojana. I find nothing worth mentioning except this one. Sale price of car has been reduce from ten thousand to thirty five thousand rupees.

18.20 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The country has the average sale record of five lakhs of cars. If we take into account only 10,000 rupees it comes to whopping Rs. 500 crores, which the hon. Minister of Finance has extended to the rich people affording car, in the form of exemption and the entire ruling coalition of BJP is being landed therefore I would like to ask you what announcement you have made for the poor people of this country. I would like to thank you for launching an insurance scheme. You have done a commendable job by allowing the people living below poverty line to get themselves insured by paying rupees one or two as premium but my concern is that if a poor man gets afflicted with cardiovascular disease, catch-up or AIDS or any major disease, where he will go for treatment? Hon. Minister of Finance has made no mention about it in the budget. Where he is gong to adjust the four crore educated unemployed of this country? Hon. Finance Minister has not made even a single announcement for them. The Finance Minister has not uttered a single word regarding them.

Hon. Minister of Finance has not made any announcement about the manner in which education will be imparted to the wards of lower section of people or the employees who arise to become doctors or engineers. I, therefore, would like to ask you whether you are willing to provide the entire facilities to the capitalists only? For the farmers, who have produced foodgrains and filled the stocks toiling day and night even after facing severe drought for 14 years who strengthen the country help in controlling inflation, you have hiked prices of fertilizers and diesel for them and may I ask for whom you have given exemption? How many villagers possess mobile phone or facility of air-condition and telecommunication-technic?

What is your education policy? How do you want to impart education to the poor people? You have not made any announcement in this regard. At the moment a sum of rupees 37 crore have been provided for insurance for the farmers of this country by which only 20 lakh farmers get their crops insured although there are eight percent of population are farmers in the country. The farmer gets disturbed when their crops get damaged. He can not get his wards married. What announcement you have made for them? You have pleased the employees by providing them a paltry exemption but on the other side the Govt. have reduced their savings. The Govt. have not made any provision to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed. The Government have not made any provision to effect any radical change in education policy. Thus, this budget is beneficial for the capitalists and industrialists only. This is not in favour of the poor labourers. BJP wants the poor of the country to remain poor and labourer remain labourer and uneducated remain uneducated. They remain deprived of right to education. Due to the affluent background of the BJP the education has become costly. Poor people are being deprived of education. An announcement has been made to invest Rs. 1320 crore of rupees. Black money is in huge circulation in this country. Why did not the Government conduct inquiry. I had it conducted inquiry, it would have found crores of rupees with high-rank IAS and IPS officers and bureaucrats of the country. These people own huge bungalows on all prominent places. The Government can find as to how many sprawling bungalows are being owned by the Minister if the Govt. order an inquiry by the income tax officers. By getting all of them inquired, it can unearth black money and the gold and silver. The money of farmers and workers is swindered away by these high ranking engineers and IAS officers. But the Government of India is exploiting the looting the poor, the employees and the middle class people. The Government is providing exemption to big industrialists who own cars worth lakhs. The Government is robbing the workers and the poor of their dues. I would like to caution the Government of India against the youth and

the poor people of this country because they may become well aware of your intentions, your policies. Now, the issue of mandir-masjid is not going to long last. You may fool the voter once or twice but not all the time. While the people have voted out the congress party, which have ruled the country for year, then where do you stand. The people of this country are becoming aware of your ingenuity and the political high handedness. Now the issues of poverty and unemployment should figure on high in this country. So, you please formulate policies aimed at alleviating poverty, unemployment and removing illiteracy and attempt at minimizing the circulation of black money so that the revenues can be increased and utilised for the development of the country.

[English

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to complete the debate today and the time is extended up to 7 O'clock. The time which, was allotted to different political parties has already been exhausted. Therefore, I would be happy if the Members cooperate and the would either withdraw their names or would lay their speeches on the Table so that we could conclude the debate by 7 o' clock or 7.15 p.m. Tomorrow, there will be only Minister's reply at 2.30 p.m. Therefore, everybody is requested to give his remarks in 5 to 10 minutes.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldoi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to lay my speech on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed to lay our speech.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I would prefer to be selective while supporting budget after going through it but I won't go for selective opposing. Still I have to make certain points and suggestions to the hon. Minister of Finance. I would like to welcome the hon. Minister of Finance for taking appreciable step after analysing health textiles, tourism, senior citizenship, state financial condition in his budget. Another point for which I would like to thank him, is that after analysis of the budget, I arrived at this conclusion that through this budget, attempts have been made for the first time to take care of all aspects of society. The indicator of the budget, budget-at-a-glance, shows it—

[English]

what is the status of the Budget? I have taken out four indicators to show as to what is the condition of our nation. The first indicator is the 4.4 per cent GDP growth rate as against the proposed GDP growth rate of 8 per cent. The second indicator is fiscal deficit which is one of the vital points in the Budget. It is 5.9 per cent as against 5.3 per cent.

[Translation]

Third indication is the receipt of revenue collection which has registered a short fall of rupees 8169 crore. The fourth indication is that of subsidy burden which has been worked out at rupees 50,000 crore. These four indicators tell us about the bad-health in which our economy standed. There is a challenge before the hon. Minister of Finance to first set right the economy of the country and then strengthen it.

A mention has been made here about the infrastructure road, rail and airport found mention therein when we make mention thereof, it seems that the planning has been made on the basis of BOT. They are bringing in money through private investors. but how much, money is coming from what sources, it has not been mentioned therein. The then Government allowed private investment in power sector in 1990, but how many private investors show interest Enron-company made investment in Maharashtra. But everybody knows what fate it met with.

[English]

I am extremely sorry to say that infrastructure which is the backbone of the Budget has been taken very lightly in this Budget.

[Translation]

I am an engineer by occupation and hon. Shahnawaj is also an engineer.

[English]

work has to be started from 1st April.

[Translation]

If we want to start work from 1st of April, we have to formulate prospective planning as well as action-plan for that purpose, but there is no action plan.

[English]

It is a theoretical planning and there is no perspective planning and action plan of the Government.

[Translation]

Now only twenty days are left in 1st of April and we are passing the budget today. We should keep this point also in mind that our budget is not for five years but it

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

is meant for one year only. This is an important point as to what is our contribution in small-sector industries. This sector constitutes upto 40% in GDP.

[English]

This is the figure of the Government.

[Translation]

Small Sector industries contribute upto 50% in exports and larger income is generated through the SSI.

[English]

In the name of global competition, in the name of WTO, in the name of quality consciousness.

[Translation]

We should promote small scale industries but we are not promoting them. 75 items are such which are going into the hands of MNCs.

[English]

It is a dangerous signal for the nation.

[Translation]

We should also take care of the present dilemma in which the common man has been put to. In my opinion, there are three very prominent issues. On one side the Government has given relief to the common man. You have given him the facility to raise his net income. The Government give a rebate in dividend and increased the standard deduction limit as well as facility in children education. In this manner, the Government has given all facilities to the common man to raise his net income. Whom he is supposed to approach after having made savings on these accounts. He may approach a secure depositor but the Government, we have closed that course for him because rate of interest on savings

[English]

that has been reduced by one percent.

[Translation]

The third point is very interesting. We have given facilities to raise net income but closed the way for savings. Coming along, the Government have made airconditioners and liquor cheaper, when common man will save rupees fifty thousand out of his salary, he will here on the options of, going for the shopping or for savings. Now, when the Government has closed the way to savings by bringing down the rate of interest, he will be more willing to approach corporate. Are the Government aware about position of Chit Funds?

[English]

It is a disturbing signal.

[Translation]

In this manner, on one hand, the Government has abolished means of savings and on the other hand, the Government was facilitated the consumption of liquor. Sir, I would like to quote two lines in the honour of hon. Minister of Finance:-

Budget ke kyon karte ho dhikar,

Peene se kyon badvate ho pyar,

Aam admi ko kyon karte ho lachar,

Dikhlayain, kisanoan aur bekaroàn ke parti pyar,

Suniye vitt ke vidhata-Aam admi se

Kar lo pyar,

Meri yeh vinti, ek nahi so so bar.

Now I would like to make a request regarding agriculture. I do not want to take much time of the House on this issue as all the members have already expressed their views, on this issue. No facility has been provided for agricultural growth. In this there has been a mention about fertilizer. The prices of diesel have been hiked. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh is not present in the House. He has also voiced his concern saying that it should not be done so. Shiv Sena is a part of NDA. We met the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. Not only that, Shri Venkaiaya Naidu, the working president of AJP, has also said that steps should be taken to resolve the problems of farmers so that the farmers have a sigh of relief. I would like to make a request to the Hon. Minister of Finance for making provision for farmers in the budget.

In the last, I would like to say that the country is fortunate enough to have such a Minister of Finance who is trying to improve the financial condition of the country. I would like to thank him. I take pride in saying that having such an efficient Minister of Finance is not an easy thing in this country. But there is an idiom in Hindi which says-Nothing is so easy if done single handedly. He can not improve the entire system single handlly. This is collective responsibility. So, this budget has been prepared under the auspices of an able Minister

of Finance of the Government of NDA and attempts are on to shape the direction of the economy of the country. The responsibility to provide positive direction to the economy of the country lies with all as much as it lies with the Minister of Finance.

I thank the hon. Minister of Finance and conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, I take my stand here to speak some thing about the Budget submitted by Hon. Finance Minister on 28.02.2003.

The present Budget submitted by the Hon. Finance Minister is anti farmers and poor people of this country. The Budget is however pro business community due to the following:-

The fertilizer prices and edible oil prices have been increasing which will add insult to injuries to the 85% population of this country residing in rural areas and put adverse affect on the agriculture products as the NDA Government is not enhanced the prices produced by the farmers community.

The Hon. Finance Minister under the head Challenge and the Response, has given thrust on 5 objectives of NDA Government (a) poverty eradication, health, housing, education and employment are appears to fool the people in view of the facts, that the prevailing privatization and disinvestment policies of the NDA Government has virtually reduced the Employment Avenue which will increase unemployment in the time to come and in truth enhance the number of people below the poverty line. Due to the wrong policies of the NDA Government the disparity between the rich and poor will be alarming and the people will be forced to bring a revolution.

The NDA Government for the last five years announcing various policies for eliminating poverty and unemployment but it is seen that none of the scheme has been implemented honestly and remain on the paper, hence the various problems created all over India.

Announced in the Budget by the Hon. Finance Minister seems to be vague propaganda in order to pacify the families whose thousands of children dies due to hunger whereas the surplus food in Government run godowns in lying in buffer stock. The proposal of the Hon. Finance Minister covers and additional 50 lakh families under the Antodaya Anna Yojana during the financial year 2003-04 is nothing but a vague propaganda of the NDA Government in view of the facts that previous scheme food for work has not been implemented by State Governments.

Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister has announced Central Excise Exemption to Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, similar to those announced in 1997 for Assam State in Centre's North-East Industrial Policy. The present Central Excise Exemption announced for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal and Uttaranchal will render maximum harm to the industrialization of Assam, as the investors to the North East Region would not make a bee line for these North Indian States. The people of North East fears the impact of such an announcements might have on the process of industriallization of the North East. With the announcement of sops for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal the investors may migrate from North Eastern Region and the policy would be proved death knell for the industrialization of North Eastern Region.

Sir, I strongly protest against the Central Excise Exception announced by the Hon. Finance Minister for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, I demand for immediate withdrawal of the exemption if the NDA Government is really wish to eradicate the poverty and unemployment which is the root cause of prevailing resentment which lead to escalated terrorism, extortion, killing innocent people.

Sir, there is no single word regarding the solution of unemployment problem in the Budget.

New unemployment problem is the most important problem in the country. In Assam, not a single youth is appointed in any posts because of financial crisis. The Central Government should make a special employment policy to solve this serious problem for North East Region, otherwise this will create serious problem in the country. Morebver, 20 lacs unemployed are registered in the State of Assam. What will be their future? Hon. Finance Minister please thinks about their future.

Sir, tea industry is the most important industry in the country as well as in the State of Assam. We always demanded for exemption from levy of excise duty; but in your budget you have levy Rs. 1 per kg. in tea, it is against the interest of the people of Assam.

Now, tea industry is going through a crisis period and unless the problems are addressed on war footing, there may be serious social and economic consequences.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Madhab Rajbangshi]

The following steps may be taken by the Government of India to assist the tea industry.

(i) Make it mandatory to route 100% of tea production through the auction system. This is the most dependable transparent and time tested system for the tea marketing.

(ii) The income level of tea garden labour community qualified themselves to be treated as people living below the poverty line (BPL). Under the Plantation Labour Act, they are entitled to get subsidized ration from the management. Hence, foodstuff requirement for tea garden labour community may be made available to tea companies at subsidized rate under the BPL scheme of Government of India.

(iii) If Government of India agrees to compensate the State Government fully, the Government of Assam may consider reducing of waiving the cess on green tea leaves.

(iv) Tea industry should be exempted form levy of excise duty and make available bank loan to the tea gardens on prime lending rate of interest.

Sir, we are always to face the floods and erosion problem in our State of Assam.

The enormous severity of the flood and erosion problem in Assam has been emphasised time and again to deal with the problem the Government of Assam has decided to issue a blanket "No Objection" for execution of the flood control structures for either short or long term measures involving the expertise of the State Flood Control Engineers and the Brahmaputra Board to the different reaches of Brahmaputra and Barok rivers in Assam.

As per the continuous demand of the people of the State the floods and erosion problem in Assam, I demand it, Sir, it may be declared as National problem.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding his long Budget speech, the Finance Minister was eloquent in his assertion when he said "this Budget is about addressing the problem of poverty and life-time concerns of our citizens." Further, he said "this Budget is of an India that is on the move, an India that now rapidly advances to prosperity, it is about an India that banishes poverty".

I honestly wanted to share these sentiments. But, unfortunately, I find no serious endeavour whatever to address the issues confronting our economy. This is a Budget where we find an abundance of token announcements whose effect will only be ephemeral, we know. No determination is discernible to overcome the source of poverty. There is no policy to guide and "lead India on the move".

Sir, as we have noticed to our chagrin, the growth rate has been falling tremendously in the last five years belying all claims to the contrary. The revenue collection has fallen below the target. The fiscal deficit is threatening to overshoot the Government estimates. With his rich experience of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh warns us of uncertainty in West Asia. It will affect our economy with oil prices shooting up, we are reminded. But, no plans are unfolded to meet the situation. Prices of petroleum products and urea may rise but that of foreign liquor must fall. That is the policy of the Government.

The much trumpeted 10 million jobs a year, an assurance to the unemployed youth of the country, has proved to be only a chimera. There is more unemployment today than ever before. This Government ought to know this. The unorganised sector which accounts for over 90 per cent of the total work force is just left to the wolves and out of those in the organised sector these in the public sector undertakings are being down the door. There is no vision, I would like to say with respect, and there is no will to create avenues of employment for our youth. Lakhs and lakhs of your young boys and girls roam around helplessly and desperately with technical degrees in their hands but there is no opportunity to get a break. Whenever we point out the hollowness of the Prime Minister's claim of creating ten million jobs a year, the stock reply that we always get is that the National Highway Development Project would do it. It is too simplistic an approach and only a self-deception, I must say.

The Finance Minister has assured that 50 lakh new families will be covered by the *Antyodya Anna Yojana*. The scheme is already bedevilled with loopholes and corruption and nothing whatsoever has been done to check them. In the absence of a transparent and foolproof system of identifying the beneficiaries and distribution of commodities, only the unscrupulous ones will benefit at the cost of the truly needy people. If that continues to happen, we have every right and responsibility to rise and point it out to the Government.

18.42 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Wheat and rice available to an Indian today is the lowest in 20 years. *Dal* in daily meals are the lowest in

50 years. As a substitute, this Government has imported liquor to offer. Also flooding the Indian markets are melons from Australia and not from the fields of Rajasthan. Mango is our national fruit. But we must import mango also because we must savour its taste in winter as well. We do not need Indian sweets but imported chocolates and biscuits must be in the hands of the Indian boys and girls. In the process, who suffers is none of the concern of the Government.

If at all we were of find a bottom line in the big headlines which his speech makes, this is the bottom line. This Budget is going to hit the poorest of the poor in this country. I hear people showering encomiums on the Finance Minister saying that the Budget was prepared after an elaborate discussion with the chambers and business houses. The problem is, this Budget may have been prepared after discussion with all those people sitting in a five-star hotel. But none of the unemployed, none of the trade unions and none of the people who suffer the pangs of poverty in our country were ever consulted or their concern was ever the concern of this Government when the Budget was prepared. This is what really pinches us and that is what really hurts when we stand here to speak on this Budget.

Education is a critical input for investment in human capital whom the Finance Minister has rightly called as India's great resource base but has made no serious endeavour to more closer to the target of 6 per cent of GDP on education. In fact, education today, than ever before, is a commodity to be sold and bought than a service, than knowledge to be imparted for building character and for building up the youth to be responsible citizens of future.

The Finance Minister is himself a distinguished ex-serviceman. Lakhs and lakhs of ex-servicemen across the country expected some action on "one rank-one pension" demand front. But they have been utterly disappointed. In the recent elections to the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, we could hear high sounding notes emanating from the BJP camp about proxy voting. But they were eloquent in silence on the welfare measures, the much-needed welfare measures, for the ex-Servicemen who have always done the country proud.

In his taxation proposals, the Finance Minister has announced some small concessions here and there. But we find no substance therein. There is only conjuring up of seemingly attractive, but non-existing benefits and statistics. Facts, like human face, can prove to be deceptive. That is what we find here. Interest rates on small savings and Public Provident Fund have been slashed again. This is done, we are told, in order to link the return to yields on Government Bonds.

I charge this Government of criminally losing sight of the fact that with no effective social security mechanism in place, savings of middle class are mostly in the form of term deposits, Public Provident Funds or small savings. The Government has hit hard all these people.

I have seen the Government highlighting the withdrawal of surcharge on IT for individuals with income up to Rs. 8.5 lakh. Surcharge, by its very nature, is supposed to be a temporary measure for a specific purpose. Mr. Minister, when you no longer consider it necessary to levy the same up a particular income group, why did you do it at all? This makes your credibility suspect. As a special measure, people of this country are willing to contribute their bit for meeting any natural calamity or for defence needs but please for God's sake, do not give such a levy a permanent character.

The Finance Minister has announced an increase in standard deduction. This increase, again, is a joke with the salaried class which we all know is tax compliant. The Finance Minister, like his predecessor and true to the BJP's style, has disappointed the people again by not raising the exemption limit to Rs. 1 lakh and by not reducing the rates of income tax for different slabs. Should this also not be linked to the lowering of interest rates? That is what I would like to ask the hon. Minister.

The Finance Minister has announced a rebate of Rs. 12,000 per child for two children's education. But he has rendered it meaningless because this has been brought under section 88 of the Income Tax Act. This way, the permissible limit for the purpose of section 88 has actually been reduced to Rs. 46,000 from the present limit of Rs. 70,000. Also by not providing for self-declaration in this regard, the Finance Minister has only increased the paper work which he otherwise professes to reduce. This will only result in more hassles for the people. This reduction, I demand, should be a separate one if at all you mean to give this deduction to the people for promoting children's education. The Finance Minister should not have brought this under section 88 and just one certificate from the educational institution that the school has charged this fee from the child should be enough for claiming that deduction.

In the case of taxation on dividend, I see the Government playing this game of Ping-Pong in a state of utter confusion. If you swear by reforms, then you should recognise that tax on dividends—I am not talking of the legal part—whether it is in the hands of the recipient or

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

in the hands of the distributor, amounts to double taxation, first, as tax on the income in the hands of the company and second as a tax on the individual recipient of this dividend earlier. Now, the only change that we are finding is that instead of the recipient, it would be the distributor of that dividend who would pay. So, nevertheless, the character of double taxation remains.

Another point which I would wish to make, though not directly connected with the present Budget as such yet very relevant, would be regarding the VRS. Section 10 (x) (c) of the Income-tax Act and the rules relating thereto, stipulate exemption up to Rs. 5 lakh only if the VRS is in consonance with the rules. Now, this has caused problems—I know for certain-for a large number of employees. What is really required is that in order to ensure that the employees get intended benefit of the VRS, the rules themselves should stipulate that it is not the VRS but the employee concerned, who should satisfy the prescribed criterion. Whether it is ten years of service or 40 years of age, it is the employee who should be called upon to fulfil the criterion and not the VRS.

Lastly, I would like to say that the extension of service tax to some of the small businesses and individuals will only lead to hardship and increase in paper work again. Mr. Minister, if you were to simplify the tax regime and improve the realisation of tax, I am sure, even the service tax will not at all be needed, whereas, you have raised it from five per cent to 8 per cent and made the inspector *raj* more pervasive and powerful.

To conclude, I must acknowledge the building up of comfortable foreign exchange reserves. But then what are we doing with those reserves by investing the same at the rate of interest which is much less than one-fifth or one-sixth of what we pay otherwise? Is this prudence? I think it is complacence. The objective conditions today, fortunately, are good. But in the hands of a non-performing and a purposeless Government, our national potential is being wasted and filtered away. The economy is suffering a sovere blow. Mr. Minister, the barometers in your hands, I beseech, should not indicate the pressure of the MNCs or the big houses which our friends referred to but the yearnings, the aspirations and the needs of the teeming millions. You may fail yourself that it is none of our concerns but please do not fail the people of India. That is my request.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. V. Saroja to lay her speech on the Table of the House.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to lay my speech on the Table of the House.

*Respected Sir, Namaskar, may I request that the following suggestions may be taken into consideration before your reply on general discussion on General Budget 2003-04.

Is it a fact that if areas of information and communication technology sector directly contribute 7% to 8% of the GDP in the developed countries whereas it is expected in these developed countries, information and communication technology will account for 25% of the GDP by 2010 either directly by the way of sale of hardware and software or indirectly by being an integral part of e-governance, connectivity for improved productivity industries and even in the daily life for improved efficiency and transparency.

Whereas in India today ICT accounts for nearly 2 per cent of the GDP. We should enhance this significantly. Our core competencies that can be exploited in addition to what has been planned in 1998 include information security, scientific software development e-governance, that can spearhead a strong domestic market, entertainment, education, hardware and chip design and wireless.

It is a fact that if we exploit these areas of our core competence we can create Indian MNCs and aim at a target of $150 billion by 2010. Steps taken by the Government of India to achieve this goal.

General Budget 2003-2004 mainly constituted on 4.5 crore households with cable TV connections or 6.6 households with refrigerators cannot by themselves vote in the Government. Is it a fact that 270 million people living below poverty line in India where totally neglected will the Hon. Minister for Finance focus his attention about the concrete steps taken in this regard to reduce the percentage of BPL at least, to 100 million by 2004.

Is it a fact that the General Budget failed to access enough care to subsidy part of it. It is my observation that the subsidy for the year 2003-04 nearly about 45000 crore but the targeted programme is not there.

The agriculture sector, the social sector and the health sector is totally neglected in the General Budget. A healthy mind and healthy body is a road map towards healthy nation. It is the constitutional right to allot 6 per cent of GDP to the health sector. I fail to appreciate this area as far as the Budget allotment is concerned.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The steps taken by the Government to recover Rs. 16,700 crores worth of fake stamps. Action taken in this regard. Telgi may have sold bogus stamps worth over Rs. 20,000 crore in the past decade. So far, about Rs. 3,300 crore has been unearthed.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. I said to support this budget. The direction of this budget for rural development, dalits and the poor is clean indication that what the Government wants to do for them. A good provision has been made in the budget for education, health, power and irrigation. Due recognition has been given and much relief have been provided to the senior citizens, aged persons, disabled to the senior citizens, aged persons, disabled and ex-servicemen and pensioners in this budget. Shri Jaswant Singh ji, himself belongs to rural area. He himself has experienced the problems of rural areas besides he himself is an ex-serviceman. I would like to submit only this about the ex-servicemen that for the last several years one rank one pension demand has been made by them. And we have raised this issue several times in the House.

I would request the hon. Jaswant Singh ji to keep this thing in mind since he is their old colleague, and the ex-servicemen who have been demanding this for several years should get their the right now.

Sir, a mention has been made about irrigation in this budget and the hon. Prime Minister had also declared a few days back that the areas affected by the drought and where there is shortage of water and the areas having surplus water, a survey would be conducted of such areas and the rivers would be interlinked. It's laudable step since our geographical situation is such that somewhere there is plenty of water and some areas face perennial drought and floods. One thing which I must mention here is that for about 36-37 years, a dispute has been going on the issues of SYL canal between Haryana and Punjab. There is shortage of water in Haryana and this state if affected by drought whereas there is plenty of water in Punjab is flowing into Pakistan. Several commissions and several arbitrains were set up in this regard. Ultimately the matter was referred to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave its verdict in favour of Haryana and directed the Union Government to construct this canal as soon as possible so that the people of Haryana get water for drinking and irrigation. Honouring the Supreme Court's verdict the people of Haryana should get water and the decision of the above court should be implemented.

One thing is very important and perhaps nobody took note of that and that is the Hon. Finance Minister has given due attention to all the states. Generally, every state complains of shortage of funds or the budget. But in this budget keeping all the States in view the interest to the tune of Rs. 81 thousand crore waived so that every state gets benefited and thereby paving the way for developmental works. The Union Government has also suspended the loans pending against the states so that every state gets benefits of that and thereby paving the way for development.

As for rural development, the budgetary allocation which has been made this time for rural development, perhaps that much had never been made ever before. Rs. 4900 crore has been provided for the Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana. That will help in getting employment. Under the Sampooran Gramin Swarajagar Yojana, 50 per cent people belonging to scheduled castes, 40 per cent women and as also handicapped and disabled person would be provided employment. The most attractive Scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Every member from ruling or opposition party has appreciated it. Gram Sarak Yojana would lead to development all over the country. I do not want to go into more details of that. For the first time so much budget has been provided for the wasteland, barren and desert land so that something could be produced on such land.

I would like to be brief on the matter of education. A very good beginning has been made for the education of children between the age groups of 6 to 14 years as was mentioned in the manifesto of the party. As for adult education which is called fraud education in villages, Rs. 233 crore have been provided for that. This scheme has been going on for several years. We see that practically all funds given for the purpose are being wasted. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw that money and allocate it to some other department and give that money as fertiliser subsidy for the farmers since funds have been wasted on that count for years altogether.

Now, I cam into small-scale-industries. Panipat is the biggest centre for handloom in Asia. Only day before yesterday, handloom workers observed a major strike there. Taxes have been levied on the handloom industry. The hon. Minister should give specific attention to that. As far as farmers are concerned, all the members have raised the fertiliser issue. We are also farmers and the hon. Minister, himself is also a farmer. The farmers all over the country have strongly reacted to increase in the prices of fertilisers.

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since such a situation has arisen as some areas are affected by floods and some other areas are affected by drought and this has affected farmers very badly. However, the Finance Minister may be compelled, but keeping in view the feelings of the all the Members and the public as well, he should reconsider on this issue and reduce the increased prices of fertilisers and diesel.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come into the Kisan Credit Card. This is a very good scheme. Three to four crore farmers have purchased the Kisan Credit cards, but only farmers have been benefited by this scheme who do not have taken any loan and those who are loanees, they are not getting benefited by it. Therefore, I request that rules should be changed so that loanee farmers also get benefited by this scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come onto the Crop Insurance Scheme ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we may extend the proceedings of the House by half an hour so that some more hon. Members could also speak.

The time of the House is extended by half an hour with the consent of the House.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also spoke about fertilisers in your speech. Since I was sitting here, I listened to your speech. The subsidy which the Government provides on fertiliser for the benefit of the farmers, they are not getting any benefit of that. That subsidy goes to factories and the FICC determines the retention price for determining the prices of fertilisers in a factory. The factory owners show their production in excess through manipulation and devour the subsidy meant for the farmers. I have said this several times that the factory owners take advantage in the name of farmers. Therefore, I request that the subsidy which the Government provides to the factories should be given directly to the farmers in any form so that they directly get its benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the minimum support price should be announced by the Government before sowing the crops by the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since you are pressurising me. Therefore, I conclude my speech and at the same time I thank you and also the hon. Finance Minister since he has given a new direction to this country through this budget since the budgetary allocation for rural development this time is an all time high.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the table of the House can do so.

[English]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for having allowed me to participate in this debate and express my views on the General Budget.

Sir, I consider this Budget anti-poor, anti-farmer and anti-labour force and, I think, this Budget is pro-rich. The increase in the prices of diesel and petrol is not acceptable to me. Similarly, the Finance Minister has increased the prices of urea and fertilisers like DAP, MOP, etc. and this price hike will lead to difficulties to poor farmers. The Government of India should have taken some interest in improving the condition of the poor farmers, poor workers and the poorest of the poor people of the India. But this Budget has failed to address the problems of poor farmers. At the same time, they did not also pay proper attention to small savings. The interest rate on small savings has been reduced. That means that the people who are interested to save money out of their earnings have not been encouraged, but they have been discouraged to keep some money in the bank account for their children's future. But in the process, the Government, particularly the Finance Minister, has taken an initiative to help the banking institutions because if the interest on savings bank account is reduced, only the financial institutions, particularly the banks will gain.

They will make more profit. They will save money out of the component of interest which they have to pay to the depositors. So, I consider that this Budget is not pro-poor. It is rather anti-poor, anti-farmer and anti-labour. So, I have no alternative but to oppose this Budget.

I know that there should have been some mention in the Budget particularly as far as sports are concerned. Our players, under the leadership of Shri Saurav Ganguly, are playing very well as far as the World Cup is concerned. But, through you, I would like to know from the Government what support are they going to extend to the youth who are interested and talented, particularly in the remotest parts of India. What steps are they going to take? What financial assistance are they going to give to this section of the people? Therefore, I oppose this Budget.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, I would like to speak only on two limited issues. I had hoped that the Minister of Finance would have been

here. While speaking on the Budget and laying it on the Table of the House, the hon. Minister of Finance stated that they have foreign exchange reserves of nearly $ 82 billion. I have with me the *Monthly Review* of the Economic Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, which is one of the prestigious organisations for monitoring the economy of the country. Under the heading 'External Foreign Exchange Reserves',—I would like the House to know this—the Reserve Bank of India has, for the first time from 1996, used the new terminology 'vulnerability liabilities'. The vulnerability liabilities for the year 2001, when the foreign exchange was $42.28 million, the vulnerability liabilities were about $38.2 million. Here the question has been asked, time and again, as to why the foreign exchange reserves which we have in large quantum are not being invested outside or in a profitable organisation. One of the most important reasons is that out of the foreign exchange reserves that we have, 90 per cent constitutes of 'call money'. It is vulnerable liability money. Therefore, the Reserve Bank has used the words 'vulnerable liabilities' because it is 'call money'.

In a changed situation, this money can be called back. Once the money is called back, we will have a situation as we has in 1989-91 when our country has to pledge its gold to the Bank of England to save itself from the situation of declaring it as external debt repayment. This is the situation that we are facing today. This is what I would like the House to know. Therefore, I made it a point to speak on the Budget.

The second issue which I would like to make is this. We are talking of revival of the economy. If we look at the budgetary provisions, these have been made only for nine per cent of the organised class. The remaining people have been left as they are. May I bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that we do not live in a situation in which the western countries live? In a western country, the economy is self-sufficient. The people are self-sufficient. If we are in this country, what do we need?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Hon. Members speak for only two minutes then all members will get time to speak, otherwise if will not be possible to give time to every member to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : If the Budget addressed to the needs of the lower middle class or the people living below poverty line; if they are financially strengthened, economically strengthened, then we will be having a buyers class in this country. That is the way of the revival of the economy.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into these aspects. With these words I thank you for giving me two minutes only to speak on this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA (Faridabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget. The budget has not been presented for the first time, it is 50 years since the practice of presenting the budget started. Sometimes, the members sitting on this side say something and sometimes members sitting on that side say something else and the mutual discussion which takes place is a sort of political discussion but in real sense its not a discussion on the budget. Can the hon. Finance Minister solve the problems of the entire country; one individual cannot do anything. But the debate on the budget is a political one. How many times members sitting on this side presented the budget? They might have presented five but the members sitting on the side presented 40-45 budgets, in between some other Governments also presented the budget.

This debate will continue on this budget but I do not want to go into this debate. I would like only to give some suggestions to the Hon. Finance Minister. He has given priority to five things in his budget. These are poverty eradication, health, housing, education and employment. This budget is for a common man. There is a combination of industrialists, factory owners and agriculturists in the country. If we ignore factories, industries, then the agriculture could not be viable all alone. There are two things in India. One comes out beneath the ground and one is grown on the surface of land and both these things are produced by farmers and workers. But we will have to take both of them together. We have to take care of both the industry and agriculture. I think that no Finance Minister would have presented such a good budget in these 50 years.

Someone is describing this budget as unrealistic and someone is describing it as a fraud and someone dubs it as election budget. But I do not think that this budget is of such types. This budget addresses the problems of common man, which makes his life easier. The Finance Minister has included in this budget poverty eradication, health, housing, education, and employment programmes besides introducing VAT. There is provision of important schemes in this budget including irrigation, agriculture and all aspects thereto.

[Shri Ram Chander Bainda]

This budget is good for promoting social harmony and poverty eradication. Education has been given due care in this budget. I want to give a suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister that uniformity should be brought about in education. A child of the poor cannot get that education which a child of the rich can. There should be uniformity in education. Education should render oneself employment not unemployment. The Macaulay system of education should cease to exist. The private institutions should be under the Government's control. Some of them charge Rs. 5 thousand as fees and some take Rs. 25 lakh as donation. That is to say that the Government should have control over the private educational institutions. Equal chances should be given to the poor and the rich in the field of education, this is very necessary. So long as a child of rural area does not get opportunity to get education, how he will become an IAS Officer, only the boys of the rich would become an IAS officer. Therefore, I request the Government to bring about uniformity in education.

Sangwan Sahib just said that Rs. 233 crore has been provided for the adult education. This Government provides funds to madarasas and schools. Does this Government give funds to Gurukuls? I would like to suggest the hon. Finance Minister to give priority to the Gurukul education in this country. They should be given aid since patriotic and moral values are imbided in youths studying in these Gurukuls. They are given education there free of cost. Therefore, importance should be given to the Gurukuls. In education, our ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bainda ji, time is short. Therefore, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: There is a precedent in our village that at night ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Several members have to speak. Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Schools should be opened in villages to have an easy access to education for the people of the poor sections of society. Special attention should be given to the Gurukul system of education. Therefore, the Gurukuls should be provided aid. Our Finance Minister has given much attention to the medical system. What I want to say that a doctor takes Rs. Five thousand for an operation and the other doctor takes Rs. Ten thousand for the same operation and a third one takes Rs. One and half lakhs for the same operation. The Government should have control over these private hospitals. The Appolo hospital was supposed to give free treatment to 25 patients out of 100 but it is not giving free treatment to even one patient. Therefore, what I want to say that the Government should have control over these hospitals. And the poor should also get proper treatment in these hospitals ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Now, it is the agriculture which is also important. But who undertakes cultivation work now? The people undertaking the cultivation work in the entire world are in distress. Since, the population in India is more, hence 80 per cent people are engaged in cultivation. Therefore, the number of people in distress is large here. Electricity and water are required for cultivation work. But where from the electricity and water would be arranged for the purpose? Oil is required for that. I want to give a suggestion to the Hon. Minister about the prices of oil that 20 per cent diesel is used by the agriculturists for cultivation work whereas 80 per cent diesel is used by factory owners and transporters. You made an arrangement by setting up a separate department or through card system for this 20 per cent of diesel to see that the agriculturists get it at cheaper rates ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your remaining speech. You have made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Now, I would like to take up the issue of fertilisers. The subsidy provided on fertilisers should read directly to the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You lay remaining part of your speech. And that would form the part of proceeding of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: I do not have written speech. What I am speaking that is expenditure. However, I have noted some points on the paper ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, conclude immediately.

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: The suggestion which I have given about diesel, that is very important. I would

like to request the hon. Minister to make some arrangement for providing 20% diesel to farmers on ration card. Besides this, I would also like to say that the factory owners print the sale price on their bags, say Rs. 400 or so on. What I want to suggest that they should also print the cost price on that bag so that we can know as to how much profit the factory owner is earning. Therefore, I suggest that the factory owners, should be directed to print cost price also on their bag.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever suggestion you have, you give them in writing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Alright. I have had a lot to speak. But now I will give my remaining suggestions in writing. You gave me a chance to speak. I thank you very much for that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Please ask all the members who wants to lay their speeches, may do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who want to lay their speeches, can do so.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has made many new declarations like the *panch* priorities and the lifetime concerns. All those are welcome.

Since there is paucity of time, I will confine myself just to two items—agricultural sector and SSI sector.

In the agriculture sector, the hon. Finance Minister speaks of diversification into horticulture, floriculture, etc. What about the already existing cash crops? One of the major crops of this country is coconut. The hon. Prime Minister has declared a technology mission on coconut for which we had later on represented that it has to be re-oriented to suit 30 lakh plus coconut growers of this country. No mention has been made about that in this section which refers to agriculture in the Budget speech.

Also, in Kerala and probably elsewhere, we have pepper, the black gold which has been a very great foreign exchange earner for this country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly give us also two minutes time to speak *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem with us is that the hon. members do not adhere to two minutes time limit. If they adhere to time limit we have no objection.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, all of us can share the time. I will take just two minutes.

In the case of pepper, as we all know, it is known as black gold. It has been a great foreign exchange earner for this country since decades. Already, the pepper farmers are loaded with imports from other countries. The prices have fallen down. Also, there are imports from countries like Vietnam, Brussels, etc. The situation now is that the pepper vines have been affected with a lot of diseases. A new technology mission has to be initiated to help the farmers and to help this particular crop which has been a great foreign exchange earner for our country. The hon. Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about that in his Budget speech.

Also, regarding plantation, the Finance Minister was very kind enough to take away the one per cent excise duty. That has been the demand of the UPPATI, the Plantation Management Association and even the Trade Union. But what he has given with one hand, he has taken it with the other hand. The hon. Finance Minister is charging a cess of one per cent, of course, for the development of the plantation sector. So, it means that no real benefit is going to percolate down to the plantation sector. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister that he make a re-think about this cess of one per cent. Already, the Price Stabilisation Fund of Rs. 500 crore has been announced. It is going to be operational. Instead of charging an additional cess of one per cent, this sector can be helped through that Price Stabilisation Fund. Then only this abolition of one per cent excise duty will be of any benefit to the plantation sector.

On the banking sector, the hon. Finance Minister has announced an FDI of 74 per cent now, hiking it from 49 per cent to 74 per cent. What is going to happen to our banking industries? Already, several banks are in the red. Several banks are facing a lot of problems with NPAs. Also, in Kerala, one bank has already been wound up. One is in the process of getting into trouble. It is already in trouble. I would like to mention the name of the bank itself. It is Lord Krishna Bank. We have petitioned the Finance Minister to make a thorough inquiry into the affairs of Lord Krishna bank.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Yes, Sir, I am concluding. The hon. Minister has announced a cess on motor spirit and petroleum products to augment the pool of National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCC) and also for the projects like *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.* Charging a cess for augmenting the pool of this particular fund is all right, but the only thing is that the hon. Finance Minister should ensure that there is an equitable distribution among the States. But what is happening? A State like Kerala, which is a major contributor by way of cess on petroleum products, is not getting the due share, especially in the case of *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* and also the National Highway Project. We have been left out of the Golden Quadrilateral Project. Under the PMGSY, in the current year, we hardly got anything. We were told that each block will be getting Rs. 1 crore, but in one district, only one block is getting just a pittance of Rs. 1 crore. To my knowledge, our contribution is about Rs. 400 crore. We are not even getting 10 per cent of that. So these points have to be looked into.

Since your are asking me to conclude, I have to conclude.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to go into the agriculture sector more deeply and to look at each particular crop which is being affected by way of price fall and the farmers have to be helped in a great way.

The price of urea is going to be hiked. The prices of other manure and fertiliser products are going to be hiked.

So, that has to be withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)* I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will look into all these points.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me two minutes. I will lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has presented a very growth-oriented and balanced Budget. The projections he has made will definitely create a security shield for farmers in the inter-linking of rivers programme and the infrastructure development programme in the hon. Prime Minister's *Gram Sadak Yojana* and also the new road projects, which he is taking up. That will definitely boost up the rural economy of the country. The achievement of eight per cent GDP in the future, which is envisaged, can be achieved. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is a farmer-oriented Budget and rural economy-oriented Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B.K. Dev, you not want to lay your speech on the Table?

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I lay the rest of my speech.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please lay rest of your speech on the table of the House.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Since you say that there is paucity of time, hence I will have to lay ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

*Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Finance Minister has clearly spelt out his thrust areas and given clear direction in the Budget 2003-04. At the same time, he has maintained a fair balance between different objectives. The drop of 1% in small savings is a bold and right step. Removal of the long-term capital gains tax is a positive message that he would like to encourage long-term risk takes in equity. His proposal for buy back of illiquid Government securities is a creative way of balancing between his need for reduction of interest cost, market need for liquidity and recapitialisation of banks for provisioning, therefore, the investors are optimistic of increased FDI and FII inflows in the country. The other big news-tax exemption on dividends—gave a fillip to market sentiments, but only just these measures will enable more risk capital availability for new projects. Higher spending by companies and larger outlay spending by companies and larger outlay on infrastructure by the Government is bound to perk up growth significantly.

The Union Budget 2003-04 provides a decisive thrust to infrastructure and the development of social capital. The conceptualisation of programme for those below the poverty line is both innovative and remarkable. The sharp focus on sectors in which India has the potential to be a major global player among them—IT, textiles, tourism,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

gems and jewellery is a positive feature of the Budget. The outlay of Rs. 40,000 crores for roads and infrastructure will give a major push to employment and growth in rural sector areas. In respect of building up country's social capital-housing, education, health care have all been given a strong boost through a variety of measures like-tax benefits, low custom duties on related equipments. The cut is the peak customs duty from 30% to 25% will lead to marginal decline in the manufacturing costs since we have a higher degree of indigenisation. The introduction of three-tier excise duty structure is a good move that will ensure an equitable trend in the tax structure in increased demands.

Sir, the foreign equity ceiling in private sector banks has been raised from 49% to 74% which symbolises continuing with the liberalisation process. The limit for overseas investment has also been hiked from 50% to 100% of net worth. So far the fiscal impact is concerned, it is noteworthy to see the sense of partnership between the Centre and the States. The partnership extends the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT). It is commendable that the Centre and the States have been able to agree on a formula for revenue sharing. Besides this, the Budget also stresses on the partnership between the Government and the private sector, especially for infrastructure projects which is most welcome.

The most commendable feature of the Budget is that all the power projects will not get the same benefits that earlier were accorded only to MEGA power projects. The rationalisation of excise duties will put consumers going to be the king.

The most fundamental sector is primary education. We still have 60 million children in their age group of 6 to 14 who are out of school. Education helps people make informed choices and enhances their access to opportunities. Tax benefits upto Rs. 12,000/- to individual tax payers for providing basic education subject to 2 child norms is a commendable announcement by the Honourable Finance Minister.

As regards to the primary health care, our infant mortality rate is 70 per cent thousand compared to less than 10 per thousand in the developed world. Morbidity, combined with illiteracy deprives millions of our people from participating in the economic opportunity. The Budget comprehensive view of this sector. I specially commend the community has health insurance scheme which will empower the economically disadvantaged sections to access health care services. I believe market forces would take care of serving the demand generated by this empowerment.

Sir, non-performing asset (NPA)—it is a credit facility in respect of which interest/instalment has remained unpaid for more than two quarters after it has become 'past due'. The term 'past due' refers to grace period of one month after it has become due for payment by the borrower.

Sir, in the case of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) as a whole the share of gross NPA in gross advances declined 14.75 at the end of March 1999 to 12.8% at the end of March 2000.

Again, for the SCBs as a whole the net NPA declined from 7.6% of net advances as on March, 31, 1999 to 6.8% as on March 31, 2000.

It is worth noting that the ratio of incremental standard assets of SCBs to their total loan assets increased from 83.1% in 1998-99 to 97.2% in 1999-2000. In other words, the ratio of incremental NPAs of SCBs to their total loan assets declined significantly from 16.9% in 1998-99 to 2.8% in 1999-2000.

The losses of loss making PSUs have increased in 1990's due to withdrawal of budgetary support as well as increased competitions. Most of the losses are found cash losses and occurred in sectors which have become fully competitive and where perhaps PSUs have no special roles.

Losses in loss making PSUs account for about 60% of the total direct Budgetary support and will probably keep increasing each year. Till the end of December, 2000, BIFR has received 4575 references including 251 Central and State PSUs under the Sick Industrial Companies (SICs) Special Provision Act 1985. Out of the said references received, 3295 were registered under Section 15 of SICA while 688 references were dismissed as non-maintainable under the Act. 557 rehabilitation schemes including 24 by AAIFR (Appellate Authority of India & Financial Reconstruction)/Supreme Court were sanctioned and 824 companies were recommended be wound up. Of the 251 references of the PSUs, 175 (74 CPSUs and 101 SPSUs) registered upto December, 2000. Rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned for only 20 CPSUs and 25 SPSUs. It was further recommended that 13 CPSUs and 22 SPSUs were declared no longer sick. The number of total sick PSUs has increased from 2476 to 2792, *i.e.* the overall increase of 38% in total number of sick units.

The total bank credit blocked in the sick units has increased from Rs. 15,682 crores (as on 31.03.98) to Rs. 19,464 crores (as on 31.03.99). The SSI has 22.2% blocked in its units while the PSUs has 77.8% *i.e.*— Rs. 15150 crores of the total blocked amount.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Water scarcity is being felt across the country. Less than 40% of the cultivable land is under soured Irrigation. The underground water table is declining at the rate of 5% every year. Therefore, water storage will create a significant barrier to growth—whether agriculture, industry or urban infrastructure. The Budget seems to rely entirely on the project to interlink rivers for better water management. I believe much more needs to be done.

The most commendable steps taken by the Hon. Finance Minister is his assurance of containing the proposed fiscal deficit at 5.6% of GDP while there is a need to reduce this percentage over the years, it seems satisfactory in view of large outlay on infrastructure development.

Last, the Budget is an engine of economic growth and development which will pave the way for super economic power of the world in near future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you are a senior Member of this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Congress Party's time is already over. *...(Interruptions)* If Janardan Reddyji is speaking, I have to objection to that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Let me conduct the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavalikara): Sir, we are cooperating with the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, this is not fair. Please understand what you are doing. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: My request was that as the Members of the BJP are also laying *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Budget which has been presented to this august House by the hon. Minister of Finance.

I observed till yesterday the speeches from the other side also. They were struggling to support this Budget. I think, even the hon. Minister of Finance cannot support this Budget. Shri Jaswant Singh is a good man, but unfortunately, he has presented a bad Budget to the country. I know he is a simple man, but he has not presented the Budget for the common men of this country; but he has presented the Budget for the rich people and for their conforts.

One *mantra* is there which this Government has forgotten that if the farmer is happy, the country will be happy, and if the farmer is happy, the Government is safe. This Government thinks that the farmers cannot do anything. There are instances where, in other countries of the world, the farmers had revolted and thrown out the Government. That is why, we made a survey of a rural economy. The hon. Finance Minister's good English and his flowery prose are not a substitute for economics.

Sir, in this House you also mentioned and we also mentioned about the plight of the farmers who are selling away their children, their jewellery and their organs, and are committing suicides. But yet after seeing all these things I am surprised that this Government has no sympathy for the farmers. I wonder, no Minister, right from the hon. Prime Minister, has rural background. Yes, I do stand by whatever I say here. They have taken care of only urban areas, urban population, urban industrialists but not the rural folk.

Everybody was telling that the hike in the fertiliser price and the surcharge on petrol and diesel are going to cause a terrible effect on the farmer and the common man. The hon. Minister of Finance wants to save Rs. 700 crore from this fertiliser subsidy. The Income-tax Department, by wrongly collecting excess amount is, paying thousands of crores of rupees as interest to the assesses. The hon. Minister of Finance should know that the amount of Rs. 700 crore is nothing and he can help the farmers. I do not know the reason but yet he is a good man. The reason they say is that tomorrow they are going to increase the minimum support price and the farmer is benefited out of it. But how many farmers are there who are selling their surplus in the market? How many of them are there? They are not there.

Out of the 65 per cent of the country's population who are the farmers, some 80 per cent of them are small and marginal farmers, and out of this 80 per cent, some 50 per cent of them are not land owners and they are only oral tenants. They are the real sufferers. They cannot produce more and sell in the market.

I want to say one word here. Out of the total revenues, the hon. Minister of Finance is paying 48.5 per cent as payment of interest and that means that they are borrowing to pay the interest. The hon. Minister has advised the farmers to diversify the crop pattern and turn towards horticulture. It is there for a long time. He has suggested drip irrigation. It is already there. But he was kind enough to give Rs. 50 crore and made the Chief Minister of my State, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu as Chairman of that Committee. I do not know whether Shri Chandrababu Naidu has invented drip irrigation or what was the reason for that. Anyway, it is a good thing.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Kindly extend the time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three-four members are yet to speak. The time of the House is extended till they speak.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: We import some Rs. 65 billion worth of edible oil. This stock of edible oil has been given a go-by and there is no mention about it. I want to particularly mention about the apathy of the banks for the farmers. The Reserve Bank of India has given guidelines that 18 per cent of their credit should be given to the farmers. My friend from Orissa was saying that they are getting only two per cent. But yet they are bound to support the Budget.

I am so sorry to say that the NABARD, which is created to help the farmers, is giving loans to the State Cooperatives at six per cent rate and washing off their hands. This House, including the previous Finance Minister, have suggested that the Members of Parliament should be associated with NABARD to study the working of the NABARD. There are the regional rural banks created by our Government. They are meant for taking care of the agricultural farmers. What I would submit is, and I request the hon. Minister of Finance to study the point, that NABARD can be linked to these banks and give the loans. The cooperative level they are going to the primary level and from the primary level they are going to the farmers and they are collecting interest at the rate of 18 per cent.

If the farmers is not able to get loan to the extent industrialists get, then what for are we? I would request the Minister to consider this request.

Finally, we should remember one thing. The NPAs, which the Minister himself has accepted, are 58.81 per cent from the industrialists and other sectors and 14.77 per cent from the agriculture sector. When that is the situation, the farmers should be taken care of and given the loan.

This Government often talks of two programmes—Kisan Credit Card and crop insurance. Kisan Credit Card is in no way bringing a *naya paisa* extra to a farmer than he is eligible to get. The only thing is that banks get paper work done quickly. Regarding crop insurance, I will give you one example. Sugarcane is a robust and a pest-resistant crop. You are collecting eight per cent premium and 15 per cent interest for the banks. The means, he has to shell out 23 per cent of his produce. So, people are reluctant to go in for crop insurance. We must effectively organise the crop insurance.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, I would like to say that the crop of mangoes is the best crop in Andhra Pradesh. The total mangoes we produce are worth Rs. 800 crore a year. Out of that. Rs. 300 crore worth of mangoes are perishing. There is no marketing facility; there is no storage facility; and there is no linkage facility. If we do all these things, the farmer will be benefited.

Anyway, I hope that the hon. Minister will take care of the farmers at least while replying to the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you since you have given me a chance to speak. At a time when the entire world is passing through the phase of recession, the manner in which the Hon. Minister has tried to give relief to the all the sections of society, I really compliment the hon. Minister for that. I thank the hon'ble Finance Minister for the efforts which he has made for the farmers particularly for the production of milk, improvement in animals breed.

India ranks first in the field of milk production. My parliamentary constituency contributes 10 lakh litres of milk daily. Today a litre of Bisleri water costs Rs. 14 whereas the milk is sold at Rs. 10 a litre in villages and the rate of milk in cities is Rs. 25 a litre. This should also be taken into account that a farmer gets reasonable price for milk. Today NABARD has distributed a loan amount more than Rs. 80 thousand to the farmers and the interest rate on the loan ranges from 14 to 18 per

[Shri Haribhai Chaudhary]

cent whereas the housing loan and industrial loan is available at the rate of 10 per cent. Therefore, the rate of interest on loans provided to farmers should also not be more than 10 per cent.

The concessions which the hon. Finance Minister has extended for the gems and jewellery, I also thank him for that. This is a new area for us. Its share in the world trade is only 2 per cent. The turn-over of the diamond industry is also more than Rs. 35 thousand crore and there is diamond industry in my constituency also. Thirty lakh people are engaged in that industry. If the Government promotes the gem and jewellary industry, its share could go up from 2 at present to 8%. And its turnover could be more than Rs. 10 thousand crores and simultaneously it could also provide jobs to ten lakh people.

Sir, a very good work has been done in regard to Crop Insurance. But the factual position is that the amount of money which has been given to the banks under the scheme, I would like to tell about the State Bank of India, the amount which has been provided to it in the last one year, that amount has not yet been provided to the farmers under the said scheme. I want that the Government should issue guidelines in this connection. In my constituency, the cash-crops of farmers were damaged due to cyclone, but they have not received any assistance for that. Twelve states were given assistance under the said scheme but Gujarat State was not given any assistance for the drought it faced, even the loans provided to farmers have not been waived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, you lay, your speech on the table of the House.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Sir, I will make only one submission and lay my speech on the table of the House covering other points.

I would like to make a suggestion as regards producing petrol from ethanol. It is related to the farmers. All the American and European countries talk of biodiesel. We have a tree called 'Ratan jot' from which 20 'taka' diesel is manufactured. If we ask our farmers to grow this tree then we can produce diesel worth Rs. 20 thousand crore. The Minister of Finance should consider this proposal.

*Sir, the budget has raised our expectations since it has been presented at the time of recession. The Government has accorded priority to give sectors in this budget which will help us resolve the present problems. These priorities are eradication of poverty, development of the basic infrastructure, tax reforms, and impetus to agriculture, irrigation and exports. These five factors play a very important role in the development of a country.

The system of governance in the country is such that the funds start deflating as they are handed over down the hierarchy and they are devaluated as well. Therefore, the targets for which the schemes are formulated are never accomplished. For this purpose we will have to understand the functioning of bureaucracy which is mainly responsible for redtapism due to which targets are not achieved in time. On the one hand time is wasted and on the other, cost increase. Tribals are being expelled from the tribal areas and they are unable to utilise their land fully.

We have many a commodity in the country, the export of which can get us a good amount of foreign exchange and can provide employment to people. If we export the foodgrains produced in our country, honestly then our farmers can be benefited in the form of earning good price for their yield. We can grow several herbs in tribal and hilly areas and incline our farmers towards this business since the demand of herbs is increasing in the foreign countries. The proposals presented by this Government for the growth of horticulture in the country have many possibilities for the development of herbs and flowers. We are lacking in cold storage facilities and processing of vegetables and fruits which get purified and the loss is to the tune of Rs. 300 crore. The Government will have to reflect upon it.

Farmers are the backbone of this country and most of the people belong to the category of farmers. Until the state of farmers is improved we cannot imagine the development of this country. Agriculture has become a loss incurring vocation in the present scenario. The cost incurred in the production of foodgrains cannot be earned and the profit is pocketed by moneylenders and traders only. The 50 paise per litre increase in the price of petrol and diesel and Rs. 12 increase in the price of Urea and scaling up of the tax on D.A.P. fertilizers had rendered the already miserable condition of farmers more pitiable. All these factors coupled with the disinclination towards agriculture and drought and famine may render 13 percent decline in the foodgrain production. So far, we do not have proper irrigation system. In several cities on one hand rainwater causes devastation and flows down in the ocean and on the other dependence only on rain water for irrigation purposes has rendered the development of irrigation system imperative. The watershed scheme functioned dissatisfactory in several states and on the other hand the control exercised by

*Speech was laid on the Table.

the Government through VAT has become need of the hour.

The rate of literacy in the country is low as on date marked by insufficient funds which has hiccuped the accomplishment of targets. We still have 146 districts with very low literacy rate. There is a need to review the works being carried out in the name of literacy so as to increase the rate of literacy in the country.

Several proposals have been made in this budget to give impetus to tourism. Last year there was a freeze on L.T.C. which has been withdrawn, this will encourage tourism within the country. Tourism is the main source of income in several countries of the world and there is a great potential of tourism in the country but due to lack of facilities we have not been able to promote international tourism.

Hon. Minister of Finance is cognizant of health issues. Several life saving drugs and equipment have been given concession in excise duty. Hearing aids, crutches, artificial limbs have low excise duty and a universal health insurance scheme has been launched, whereby a person against a premium of Rs. 365 per annum, two families against Rs. 1.50 premium per day. Seven families against Rs. 2 premium per day can make a claim for hospital expenditure of Rs. 30 thousand and of Rs. 25 thousand within 15 days in the event of death.

There will be several opportunities of growth of textile industry through this budget. Excise duty on all women and ready-made garments has been reduced from 13 to 8 per cent. Excise on hand made and machine made textile has been reduced from 12 to 10 percent and powerloom modernisation package has been given for the modernisation of powerloom sector. During the ancient period and pre-independence era our clothes were famous the world over due to which the hands of our craftsmen were even cropped. If the Government concentrates over this we can supply cheaper clothes and woollens to the world. We can increase employment opportunities by promoting textile industry. After agriculture maximum number of people are earning their livelihood through textile industry.

By collecting revenue to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore through increasing the price of petrol and diesel by 50 paise 48 roads measuring 30,000 kilometre shall be constructed. The target date of completion of Golden quadrilateral road which shall link west, north, south and east has been kept December 2003 which shall be done through a private agency in the fixed period. It has been found that the roads which are constructed from substandard material get damaged within six months of their construction. Therefore, it should be ensured that substandard material is not being used for the construction and stringent action should be taken against this corrupt practice.

Small scale industry which is a very good means of generating employment and involves low infrastructure in the form of funds and look upto the requirement and demand of the consumer has suffered great loss. Several industries have been removed from the reserved list of small scale industries in the last few years and in this budget 75 such industries have been removed from the reserved list of small scale industries which shall have an adverse impact on the economy and small industrialist.

My demand from the hon. Minister of Finance is to lower down rate of interest of loan. There has been many a defect in the insurance policy. My request to the Minister is to bring reforms in this policy and immediately release the sanctioned insurance amount of the farmers, since the banks cause delay in releasing the amount.

Recently, there have been hailstorm and cyclone in my parliamentary constituency causing loss to the tune of Rs. 150 crore. Life has come to a stand still so the Government must immediately send some relief. More than five thousand villages have been hit by famine in Gujarat. The Gujarat Government has sought assistance for this purpose which should be given immediately on the lines of assistance as given to other states. The interest on loan to farmers should be waived. High exemption upto 20 per cent should be given to the N.G.O. working in the earthquake hit areas.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the budget presented for the year 2003-04 hon. Finance Minister. I support the budget since five priorities have been listed in this budget such as—eradication of poverty, development of basic infrastructure, relief in the tax reforms, growth in the agriculture sector including and impetus to exports. I would make my submissions concentrating only on two points and later on take some time in regard to Bihar.

Sir, allocation to the tune of Rs. 60 thousand crore has been made for basic infrastructure in this budget. I understand that for the first time after 25 years allocation has been made for basic infrastructure of the country. Out of this Rs. 40,000 crore shall be spent on the construction of national highways and big flyovers. Similarly Rs. 15 thousand crore have been allocated for railway constructions. The construction of big flyovers, roads, trains and other transportation are not merely means but are industries. Sometimes these give rise to

[Shri Brahma Nand Mandal]

several other industries. It generates employment and the pace of development of a country rises. For this purpose Rs. 60 thousand crore allocation has been made in this budget. The present budget would expedite the development of the country. I rise to support this budget since concessions in the 12 schemes for poverty eradication and for rural and urban areas have been given. I support this budget since tax concessions in the means relating to health services have been given. Besides, the tax on drugs for handicapped persons has been reduced. But the negative feature in this budget which has been pointed out by all the hon. Members is that price of Urea has been increased by Rs. 12 per 50 kg. bag.

Secondly, the prices of chemical products which have been increased are likely to have an effect on agriculture. I would request it to be taken into consideration. I will be good if increased prices are rolled back. The revenue earned through direct and indirect taxes does not have much effect on the income. That is why these increased prices can be rolled back.

In regard to Bihar, I would like to say that it is an extremely backward state. I would like to give figures relating to banks. We economic review of the year 2002-2003 states the figures of deposits made in a particular state and the loan sanctioned in proportion to the deposits made and the expenditure incurred on people. I do not wish to give figures of all the states. Bihar ranks the lowest amongst these states. Andhra Pradesh has Rs. 50 thousand 699 crore in the form of deposits but has received loan to the tune of Rs. 31 thousand 646 crore. What is the state of Bihar? It ranks the lowest. Bihar bank deposits were to the tune of Rs. 24 thousand 770 crore and it received loan to the tune of Rs. 5379 crore. Banks may be nationalised, private or any other banks, such directions should be issued to the banks so as to negate the possibility of discrimination against any state. The states having more than Rs. 50 thousand crore deposit are being sanctioned more than Rs. 31 thousand crore loan but why Bihar is not sanctioned this much loan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come straight to the point.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Unless the Union Government gives a special status to Bihar from the Central budget its status cannot be improved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mandalji, please conclude now.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: The two points which I wish to discuss are very important in regard to Bihar. According to the survey made by the Government of India during the last six years large reserves of minerals were found in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shyam Bihari wants to lay his speech on the table of the House. His speech be considered laid.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: The minerals that were found during that survey ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mandal ji, please take your seat. Now Shri A.C. Jos may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): On the behalf of the House, the Indian cricket team be congratulated for winning a match against Sri Lanka ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): That is a good thing.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing except the speech of Shri A.C. Jos will go in record.

...*(Interruptions)**

**SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Sir, I welcome the Budget for the year 2003-2004. Hon. Minister of Finance has for the first time announced the Health Insurance Scheme through which 5 and 9 members of a family can be insured by giving Rs. 1.50 and Rs. 2 per day respectively and can get approximately Rs. 35,000 per annum expenditure for drugs.

By providing Rs. 12000 tax relief on education for children of middle income group families commendable work has been done. Special emphasis has been laid on infrastructural development including modernisation of airports, ports. Construction of 48 new roads, development of rural roads, drinking water and rural housing work involving a cost of Rs. 40,000 crore is a commendable step.

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*Not Recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to give certain suggestions to the Hon. Minister besides several positive features which the budget has several reliefs have been given to the farmers but the price of diesel and fertilizers need to be reviewed. Farmers of 14 states are drought affected. In such a scenaric price of diesel and fertilizer need to be reduced.

Imposing 8 percent excise duty on packed edible oil will affect the consumers and may also affect the industry. Therefore, the Government must roll back the prices. If it is a question of revenue then import duty can be increased from 65 to 70 per cent.

Value Added Tax System is not relevant for country like India; this will entangle a businessman in 'Inspector Raj' and corruption. Right now sales tax is in single stage, with the adoption of this system even the rural trader will have to pay tax and run around VAT officer.

Giving Rs. 5 lakh concession in the era of high costs is nothing. The system of tax rate in VAT system will even empty the pockets of consumer. The Current rate of taxation on several products is 5 to 10 percent. In VAT system in would be 12 and a half percent and 4 per cent tax would be levied on certain tax free commodities.

Hon. Minister, the system of punishment to traders would encourage corruption and bribery. Sir, in a country like India tax system as per the Arthshastra of Kautilya in necessary and not as per the VAT tax system of Germany. I would urge hon. Prime Minister and Finance Minister to levy additional excise tax instead of the VAT system and the sales tax. The trader throughout the country is apprehensive and agitated. The proposal to adopt this VAT system should be withdrawn. I even find it necessary to state the neither the State Government nor the Union Government has taken any suggestion from the traders and the rules framed have been so stringent that their compliance would be difficult. Therefore, it would not be proper in any form to adopt this system. It should be withdrawn.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, unfortunately, I am forced to oppose this Budget. I am not going into the details. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I have got a point of information. It is a happy news: "India won the match against Sri Lanka".

SHRI A.C. JOS: The House has already been informed about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We were already informed about it.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, though the Finance Minister, in his Budget, has enumerated five priorities, and employment forms part of those priorities, the unemployment scenario is very grave in this country.

According to the report of the Task Force on Employment Opportunities headed by Shri M.S. Ahulwalia, the total work force of the country, that is the number of job seekers in the country would increase from 406.5 million in 1999 to 462 million by 2007. This Budget does not contain any vision to solve the very massive unemployment that is facing this country. This is a grave situation and the Finance Minister has to take it into consideration.

It is a welcome step that the hon. Finance Minister has reduced duty in the case of readymade dressmakers. He has reduced the 16 per cent duty to ten per cent. The result of this is that small apparel makers, who are about three and a half lakh in number, would become unemployed. More than three lakh such people are there in Kerala itself. There are 20,000 units of readymade dressmakers in Kerala. They will be put to difficulties. The hon. Finance Minister may kindly look into it this year because this is point a very serious threat for them.

I associate myself with my colleague Shri Francis George on coconut. Coconut cultivation is in great difficulties. I request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly look into it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose the budget based on principles.

In the first place, I would bring it to the attention of the House that we are facing a threat of war while we are discussing this Budget. There is the threat of war on the world horizon. We do not know what would happen tomorrow. If war becomes a reality, all this planning in the Budget will fall to the ground. So, the first and the foremost attempt on the part of the Central Government should be to prevent the occurrence of war. That is the first suggestion that I wish to place before the Finance Minister. Unfortunately, he is not there in the Ministry of External Affairs. If he had been there, he would have realised the seriousness of the situation. The person who is now in charge of External Affairs is, it seems, interested in the finance portfolio. What will happen tomorrow, is a matter to be seen. If war takes place, the entire economy will fall to the ground.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

It is high time we reviewed the reforms process. What is the image of this so-called reforms process? That is the first matter which will have to be considered. What about the agricultural products? Kerala is one of the States producing agricultural crops—mainly rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom. The unfortunate thing is that import duties have been reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. That itself is a blow to the agricultural production in the entire State.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to take immediate steps to revise or to alter the World Trade Agreement immediately. Otherwise, agricultural products will be on the brink of a crisis. Agriculture is the only source which can given employment to crores of people of India. We are industrially not strong enough to provide employment to those many people. Employment generation is the most important thing for a developing country like India. Unfortunately, there is no specific proposal for providing employment to the unemployed people of the country.

Construction of express highways is only a temporary measure. Some thousands of workers might get employment for two or three. There ends the matter. That is not a permanent solution. The Government should find a permanent solution for the problem of providing employment to crores of people who are now unemployed.

Unemployment problem is a much more serious among the educated unemployed people. In Kerala, we have lakhs of educated people unemployed. The only solution for them is that they get employment somewhere in the Middle-East. But if the war breaks out, whats will be the situation? All these people will have to be evacuated and India will be facing a catastrophe if the Middle-East war breaks out. It will not be confined to Iraq alone. It will be in the other States of the Middle-East also. If that be the case, our position will become very precarious and all these schemes will be of no avail. There will be a very serious situation.

We are speaking about our reforms process. We are always speaking that our country is improving its GDP. All this will be a false propaganda if we are not in a position to prevent the war immediately.

So, they should take very prompt steps to prevent the war. That is the first advice that I want to place before the hon. Minister. At any cost the war should be prevented. We are now taking a vacillating attitude. Vacillation is not the solution. India should take strong steps for preventing the war, salvaging the economy and also solving the problem of unemployment.

With these few words, I oppose the Budget.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Renu Kumari, you may please lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in deference to your sentiments, I am placing my speech on the Table of the House with the request that hon'ble Finance Minister may please reduce the prices of diesel and fertilizers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kolur Basavanagoud, you may also lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): Sir, I lay my speech on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Sir, I congratulate the hon'ble Minister for the general Budget 2003-04 and support this budget.

The budget has features like encouraging the private sector banks to open their branches in the rural areas, proposal for interlinking of rivers which would help Bihar. Where there are few canals, reducing customs duty on the life saving equipments from 25% to 5% but the condition of private hospitals is very bad which needs to be addressed, the budget has also reduced primary duty on specific veterinary drugs from 15% to 10% in order to improve the health of our live stock and to give a fillip to animal husbandry and dairying, making arrangements for supply of drinking water development of infrastructure, streamlining the tourism sector, construction of sector roads in the villages under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The hon'ble Finance Minister deserves congratulations for making provisions in the budget for all these purposes.

In this budget, five objectives for economic security of the country have been named as 'Panch (Five) priorities and the first of them being poverty alleviation. Then the budget has focused on removing and solving the problems of our countrymen and as such objectives such as health care, housing, education and employment have also been included. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that India is a country of villages even today. 70% of its population depends on agriculture even today. If the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

agriculture is not good duty to any natural calamity, then the budget of India goes hay wire. Which problem do the Government want to solve by increasing the prices of diesel and fertilizers? It is the farmer who is the worst sufferer if the prices of fertilizers and diesel are increased. The farmer who work in his field day in an day out and braves the heat of the sun, rain-fall and piercing cold during his work, finds it difficult to manage even two square meals. Someone has rightly said about the farmer—

Mukh mein jeebh, bhuja mein taakat,
Jeevan mein sukh ka nam nahin-
Wason kahan sukhi roti bhi,
Milti donon sham nahin hai.

If our agriculture fails then thinking of good health, housing, education and employment for us is just like day-dreaming.

The farmers are not getting the benefit of the Crop Insurance Scheme. The crop of the farmers gets damaged due to drought and flood and the farmers are not given any compensation for that. This time floods and drought followed by hail-storm and forest have destroyed all the crops in Bihar. Be it paddy, wheat, maize, betel oilseeds or pulses, all the crops have got damaged. The farmers have not been given any relief even from the National Disaster Relief Fund. The farmers are in trouble and misery because the Crop Insurance Scheme has not been fully implemented. The agricultural labourers are also on the verge of starvation and they are migrating from the state.

Unemployment is the biggest problem in the country. A number of industries, factories in the country have either been closed or are on the verge of closure. Everyday we hear of disinvestment. Before the industries and factories are disinvested, their employees should be rehabilitated rationally, the persons seeking voluntary retirement under VRS are not given their dues in time.

People have to retire from the service near the age of 35 years because of voluntary Retirement Scheme. At present, organised sector is providing only 9% employment whereas agriculture is providing 56 per cent employment. Jute, sugar, textiles, tea and coffee industries etc. are based on agriculture. The Government has not taken care of the interests of the farmers. There was a time when the handloom sector provided maximum jobs but now this sector has been closed. As such it is the responsibility of the Government to set up new ventures to create fresh opportunities of employment.

The population is also continuously increasing. The Government should take all possible steps seriously to check the rise in population.

The poor people do not get any benefit of the funds given for primary education, literacy and education for all schemes. On the contrary, the corruption is on the increase. The hon'ble Minister should think over it also.

The developed countries especially America and Europe jointly give subsidy amounting to 36000 crore dollars to their farmers. Whereas it is these countries which put pressure in India to stop giving subsidy to its farmers. The Government of India is falling prey to the conspiracy of the developed countries. The Government feel that it is because of the subsidy that they have to spend more but the fact is that factory owners take more benefit of the subsidy given by the Government as compared to the farmers.

Even after of 55-56 years of independence, we are at the mercy of the monsoon. Thousand of crores of rupees are spent on the big irrigation projects but where the money goes ultimately. Hindi speaking states are called as 'BIMARU' states by the people of India and overseas for fun sake also include Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. It is because of corruption prevailing in these states that the irrigation projects and schemes do not get success. It is not a new disease. It is essential to prevent this disease otherwise there would be a great resentment among the unemployed youths and none of the Governments would be able to stop that storm and thereafter the dream of hon'ble Finance Minister of seeing "Garib ke pet me dana-Grihni ki kutiya mein anna" will never be fulfilled.

It is a matter of sorrow that in every years budget the farmers' interests are sacrificed and the proverbial axe always falls on them. The same farmers who arranges foodgrains, housing, health-care and employment for us, is made to suffer. Someone has rightly said that our country has been divided into two groups—one is India and the other is Bharat. India group is that group where black money flows like water and everyday big parties are organised and where all these facilities are available which are available in England and America. Bharat group looks on the India group meekly and humbly looking forward to a distant possibility of its transformation to become prosperous like the India group. Perhaps a day would come when the farmers of India would be uplifted, that day Bharat group would certainly become India group. But when?

[Shrimati Renu Kumari]

Hope that hon'ble Minister would keep all these things in mind and reduce the prices of diesel and fertilizers in the interest of the farmers.

[English]

*SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): At the outset, I am to state that the Budget 2003-04 presented in this august House by the Hon. Finance Minister is really a pro-rich man's Budget which will have great impact on the lives of poor people of our country. As every one is aware that India is basically a farmers country wherein agriculture is mostly the income base for a poor man, who will be affected very much by this hard Budget.

Look at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last five years, the GDP during the period is 5.4 per cent a year on an average as against 6.6 per cent a year on an average in the five years previous to it, thanks to Dr. Manmohan Singhji's fast-track Budgets. Now, in 2003 it has steeply fallen to 4.4 per cent.

Whatever economic growth has been achieved by our country is because of the impact Dr. Manmohan Singh's endeavours. It is not because of the policy of the present Government.

The Budget is like a ship which wants to sail in every direction simultaneously but going nowhere. I sympathise with the NDA Government which is totally pre-occupied with political quarrels. More emphasis is on *Rama Janmbhoomi* than on *Kisan Janmabhoomi.* During 2003-04, the total deficit has been projected at 5.6 per cent of GDP. The unfortunate trend continues. The future limit will be very difficult to run.

As against total projected expenditure of Rs. 4,38,795 crores, the fiscal deficit is projected at Rs. 1,53,637 crores in the present Budget. This means that the Government will be spending 35 per cent of its annual expenditure without having adequate resources.

The initial debt of the Government is also raising alarmingly. The Government will be compelled to reduce spending by around Rs. 25,000 crores to Rs. 30,000 crores per annum to bring down the fiscal deficit to at least 3 per cent over the next three years. My leader has correctly mentioned in her speech that how this Government will get funds to provide the magnificent funds one crore employment opportunities to the hope-filled unemployed youth? As this rate, it is expected that in the near future the unemployment figure would exceed several crores and the time will not be far away when the unemployed will start committing suicide.

On the one hand the fertilizer price is increased which will increase the cost of production of farmers and ultimately hit the poor man and other consumers. On the other hand this Budget has been purely industrial based by exempting tax on the diamond, auto industries. This shows the Finance Minister have given exemption for these factors so that more funds for his party for the coming elections. Also provisions have been made in favour of the rich people by the way of relaxing the tax on cars, air-conditioners, etc., which are still considered luxurious items and a poor man cannot even dream of these products.

It is a known fact that various States of the country are severely affected by serious drought conditions and the farm sector is affected very much by this drought factor. In such conditions, increasing the fertilizer prices will not at all help the farmers. The Farmers of the various States of this country will be committing suicide because of not being able to repay their fertilizer loan.

The Budget 2003-04 will have severe impact on the middle class people too as the price of LPG, Kerosene, branded vanaspati, refined edible oil etc., being increased. Already the prices of LPG, Kerosene, etc. are being escalated frequently and in this Budget, once again the prices of these items have increased further. How the poor and the middle class people can afford such price escalation while their income generating capacity is reducing day-by-day and in the absence of proper employment opportunities.

Next, the salaried and middle class people are severely affected because of the reduction of interest rates on small savings. The salaried class people are putting their hard-earned money through small savings schemes such as PPF, etc. with a hope that it will help them to live peacefully in their old age. However, reducing the interest rates on such small saving schemes will be a big blow on their pockets. They start worrying about their future because of such drastic steps taken in this Budget.

Further the service tax has been increase from 5% to 8% and 10 more new services have been brought into the tax net. All these measures could push up prices and the poor man will be the main sufferer of these proposals.

Overall, the Budget 2003-04 will help the rich man only and the welfare of the farmers, poor man and the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

middle class people have not at all been considered in this budget 2003-04.

In this final analysis, I can only say that the Budget is ballot box-oriented.

Perhaps, Shakespeare had Mr. Jaswant Singh's Budget is mind when he said "all sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Our great former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Sashtriji was proud of the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kishan". The Budget has perverted the slogan into "Die Jawan Die Kisan".

The Budget is merely yet another proof of the Government's neglect of the farming community and the sacrifice of the soliders at the borders.

Therefore, on behalf of the poor and middle class people, I request the Hon. Finance Minister that he should reconsider the proposals for increase in fertilizer prices, LPG, Kerosene, etc. and to relieve the poor man from the hardships being come out of these Budget proposals of 2003-04.

I also request to exempt the increased taxes on fertilizers, LPG, edible oils, etc. in the interest of poor man and middle class people without any hardships because of these increase in prices.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, the Minister of Finance, Government of India, Shri Jaswant Singh Sahib has presented the finance budget in the House on 26.02.03. I rise to express my views on the budget on behalf of Janata Dal secular.

Sir, this budget is a populist budget. Farmers constitute sixty per cent population of the country. The contribution of the farmer is super most in enhancing the self respect of the country. But the increase in prices of the fertilizer has broken the backbone of the farmers. This is an anti-farmer, anti worker and anti-poor budget and this budget favours the rich. There is a need to reduce the prices of the fertilizers and subsidy should also be given.

There are five crore people belonging to primitive castes in India. In the general budget, five per cent amount should be provided to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs but a meagre amount has been provided. The Government of Maharashtra has sent a big water project of the state especially of Nasik district related to PAR and NAR rivers to the Union Government to convert these west flowing rivers into east flowing rivers for approval which means that the state has requested the centre to provide assistance.

Another water project Punad relates to district Nasik, Tehsil Phalwan and sixty per cent of their work has been completed. 40% is remaining. The Maharashtra Government has sent this proposal to the Union Government seeking financial assistance. They have requested to extend financial assistance. The Government of Maharashtra has sent many projects such as power project, other water projects, project related to konkan legislature, repairing of old roads and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and other yojanas to the Union Government for their clearance and requested the Union Government to accord their approval.

Survey of BPL families has not been done properly. It needs to be conducted again. The cane growers and UUnion growers are very much in misery. It is essential to convince them. Economic crisis is looming large on the sugar industry. It is essential to provide financial assistance to it.

The duty on import has been lowered which may result in economic crisis to industries and farmers. It is essential to pay attention towards industries and workers and we should always take care of the interest of the workers.

Maharashtra Government has sent drinking water project to the Union Government for approval and it should be approved urgently.

Sir, when I saw this budget, a child story struck my memory the summary of that interesting story is that once it was decided in a forest to conduct elections under democratic system. Seeing it, the lion in the forest invited all the wild animals to a party. On hearing it, the innocent animals of the forest thought that it may be the new plan of the dangerous lion to make the animals its prey. They feared that the lion by alluring to the feast may kill them and make them his food. Allaying their fears, a clever hare told them that their fears were unfounded. It further stated that that was the election time and as such the lion will not hunt them down. At this point of time the lion would prefer to remain hungry and arrange food for

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

other animals. Keeping in view the elections, the lion must have held back its claws and is unlikely to use its might and as such would not attack them. So by the time the elections are conducted all the wild animals can go to the lion and enjoy the feast. Same is the case if we see the concessions proposed in the general budget. The lion not only turned vegetarian but even preferred to remain hungry. It may be a good budget for others but they have not spared the farmers. They have not even spared oil and cement.

Saste Sharab, Mehnga Tail,
Ayodhya Prabhu Ram ka challu hai khel.

Sir, I thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all, I congratulate all of you on the occasion of the victory of India. The list of the speakers speaking on the budget stands completed. The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

19.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March, 11, 2003/Phalguna 20, 1924 (Saka)

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