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Thursday, August 9, 2001

Sravana 18, 1923 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 9, 2001/Sravana 18, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT

AND

HOMAGE TO VICTIMS OF ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the nation observes today the fifty-ninth anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement'.

Fifty-nine years ago, on this day, Mahatma Gandhi gave the call to launch the 'Quit India Movement' to put an end to the colonial rule. The firm determination with which the entire nation stood behind the Father of the Nation, resisting the might of the imperialistic forces with the twin tools of *ahimsa* and *satyagraha* ultimately compelled them to leave the country.

With pride and gratitude, we pay respectful homage to the memory of all those patriots who laid down their lives and to all those who underwent untold sufferings for the cause of independence of their motherland.

The hon. Members may also recall that Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two Japanese cities were annihilated by dropping of atomic bombs on 6th and 9th August 1945. Thousands of people were killed and millions maimed, depicting to the world how dangerous could be the insensible use of atomic weapons. The survivors of the nuclear holocaust are living monuments of this drastic and irrational human action.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us of the importance of elimination of nuclear weapons to ensure perpetual peace and harmony among nations. Sincere and objective oriented approaches are essential for preparation and implementation of treaties and covenants aiming at a world, free of nuclear weapons.

To ensure that there are no more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis, we should lead the world through non-violent path. We should whole-heartedly support all the endeavours in this direction. We should also build our will and determination to oppose all forces that work against human peace and prosperity.

The House may now observe a minute's silence in memory of the freedom fighters and the victims of atomic holocaust.

11.03 hrs.

The Members stood in silence for a minute.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.04 hrs.

[English]

Aqua Culture

+

*261. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fishermen are agitating against Aqua Culture;

(b) if so, the demands putforth by them; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the genuine demands of the fishermen?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) At present, there is no on-going agitation against aquaculture. However, representations have been received from time to time, not against aquaculture in general, but against some of the activities of coastal aquaculture. Representations have been received, both for and against shrimp farming activities being carried out in coastal areas, with some sections insisting on an early enactment of legislation to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas and others being opposed to the same.

(c) An Aquaculture Authority has been set up in

1997 in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Aquaculture Authority Bill, already introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February, 2000, is being finalised to develop coastal aquaculture activities in a sustainable manner without environmental degradation which would take care of the demands of various sections.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most important question. We have 9,000 kms. of coastline. Last year, through marine products' export, we earned Rs. 6,000 crore of foreign exchange. Many farmers have taken loans from nationalised banks, cooperative banks, etc. of thousands of crores of rupees and they have invested in shrimp farming activities. Now, due to the Supreme Court's directive, all such activities have been stopped. The then UF Government introduced a legislation in the Rajya Sabha to avoid that difficulty. The Rajya Sabha had passed that legislation, but after some time, that legislation got lapsed. Recently, that legislation has been referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture; and I learn that the Standing Committee also has given its report.

Those farmers have taken thousands of crores of rupees as loans and invested in shrimp farming; it is not affecting environment also. Now, to avoid the inconvenience to farmers, and to protect the interests of farmers doing shrimp farming culture, may I know whether this Government is ready to bring in that legislation in this Session of Parliament?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The hon. Member is very well informed. He knows that the Bill is almost ready. In this regard, I would say that some procedural things have to be done. We are aware that aquaculture is a very important economic activity. Also for its protein and other values, its importance is well recognised. The welfare of lakhs of fishermen is involved in this. As the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, we need this Bill as soon as possible. The Government is aware of it and will do the needful.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Lakhs of fishermen in the coasts - without education, without infrastructure and without livelihood - are suffering. They are agitating there and last year they launched a big agitation. The Government of India has given an assurance to solve their problems and to meet their demands. Now, the Murahari Committee report is also available with the Government of India. We have given licence to foreign boats and they are entering our coastline. They are disturbing the activities of small fishermen in our coasts because of which they lost their livelihood. To protect the interests of the fishermen community from foreign licensed vessels and also for implementation of the Murahari Committee Report, what action has the Government taken so far and whether the assurance has been fulfilled?

MR. SPEAKER : This question is about the Murahari Committee Report.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, this is not really a part of aquaculture. The policy of the Government on the trawlers and deep-sea fishing is entirely a different area. We are considering that and we are looking into it. I can assure the House that the interests of fishermen will be kept in mind and will be safeguarded.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : With great respect, I beg to differ with my learned colleague, Shri Yerrannaidu. The demand put forth by the traditional fishermen and their organisations is that the Government should adhere to the landmark judgement delivered in the Supreme Court by Justice Kuldip Singh, in 1996. He ordered that aquaculture industries, shrimp culture industries and shrimp culture homes that are operating in the coastal regulation zone should be removed forthwith. So, this was done to protect the traditional fishermen and other people living in the coastal regulation zone. But now the Government of India has moved a Review Petition before the Supreme Court, against the judgement of Justice Kuldip Singh, seeking to review his earlier judgement. This judgement was hailed by all concerned including members of the traditional fishermen. The agitation is exactly on this point. Their demand is that the Government of India should withdraw the Review Petition and take into consideration the apprehensions and concerns of the traditional fishermen and other people living in that area. I would like to know whether the Government would withdraw this Review Petition, talk to the fishermen's organisations and take into consideration their apprehensions.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Pursuant to the Supreme Court judgement, an authority was set up and all the concerns of the traditional fish farmers were taken into account. All the disputes have been referred to it. The Government had appealed against the Supreme Court's judgement that aqua culture is an industry. What the Government said was, it is a part of agriculture. So, that is *sub-judice*. But the Ministry of Agriculture had talks with all those concerned with fishery and also with the people who did the agitation. Almost all the points have been agreed to. The new Bill, which is coming, will redress all their concerns and whatever problems they have.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister be pleased to state whether the term aqua culture refers to intensive culture only or whether semi-intensive and traditional practices are also included in it?

My second supplementary is... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask only one supplementary.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : This is part (b) of my question.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask only part (a) and not part (b).

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Then I will refer to the second part of my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

There is good scope of development of aqua culture for molluscs (shells), sea cucumber and ornamental reef fishes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I would like to know whether this activity will attract the provisions of the Aquaculture Authority Bill or not.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The Bill specifies, the Supreme Court judgement under which this authority was set up, that 500 m from the high tide this authority will operate and whatever structures have been made they will continue there but any new activity will need their permission. This is besides the traditional and improved aqua culture.

The hon. Member's specific question is whether it will apply to Andaman and Nicobar Islands also.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : What about shells, sea cucumber and other ornamental fishes?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : They are all part of aquaculture.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : The Aqua culture Bill was introduced in August and was passed during the 11th Lok Sabha. It was then introduced in the Lok Sabha but was negatived.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was not negatived but it got lapsed.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : The Bill was then re-introduced in the 13th Lok Sabha and has been referred to the Standing Committee. Through you, I would like to know the present status of the Bill and also whether the Government is serious in getting it passed.

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been replied by the hon. Minister.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : This is an important issue for the whole of the country, especially for the coastal belts of the country. Shri Kurup has differed with Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not differed with him completely. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The main problem is not with the Ministry of Agriculture but with the Ministry of Environment. Both the Ministers are differing with each other because they are guided by the officials. Previously, we had discussed it in the Committee. Whatever it is, the present situation is to be solved. The confusion created by the Supreme Court judgement is such that the inland prawn culture is also being objected by the Revenue Department. Shri Kurup was telling that Shri Krishna Menon is objecting to it.

MR. SPEAKER : As the Minister has said, the Government is now ready to bring the Bill. The Government is also serious about the Bill.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : What is the difficulty for the fishermen in allowing this culture? Nobody is objecting to this activity. It will enhance the activity. So, I feel that steps be taken early to solve the problem.

Sir, he is the fourth Minister to look after this Bill. Whenever this Bill comes up, the Lok Sabha is dissolved. Therefore, I hope that this Bill will get through, at least, during his tenure.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want this Bill to come?

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister discuss this matter with the Minister of Environment and take early steps to solve this problem?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, you please come to your supplementary. This is a small question with regard to aqua-culture.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Minister of Environment knows it pretty well because I represented this matter. A bird sanctuary is spread over 750 acres of land in my District. The Ministry of Environment is creating problem for aqua-culture and farmers are put to hardship. May I know when the Minister is going to solve this problem?

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been answered.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh about the aqua-culture farmers. I want to assure him that the interest of these farmers will be safeguarded. Keeping in mind the views of the Ministry of Environment, the Bill is almost ready. The views of the Standing Committee are also being incorporated in it and it will be brought before the House as soon as possible.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, fishermen and agriculturists of the entire coastal belt are terribly concerned about the permission for aqua-culture and prawn culture as it will totally destroy the future livelihood of farmers. That is why, agitations are going on throughout and the great Sarvodaya leaders are launching this agitation. This is a very grave issue. It will destroy the future of not only the fishermen but also the farmers. Therefore, would the Minister take into consideration not only the Supreme Court judgement but also the concern of the farmers in this regard?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, meetings were held with the fishermen's organisation. They raised certain points. As I said, the Bill incorporates their concerns also. The Supreme Court gave its judgement keeping in view the environment concern.

SHRI VAIKO : There would be no safeguard. That will destroy them. That is the point.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : We have to go by the Supreme Court judgement. An authority was set up. It addresses the individual problems of the fishermen and whatever other concerns are there about environment and other things, we are taking that into account.

Corporation of Railways

*262. SHRI Y. V. RAO :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to corporatise the Railways to make it financially viable;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has in its approach paper to the Tenth Plan has also suggested corporatisation of Railways;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal before the Government in this regard; and

(d) the decision taken thereon?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The extracts from Planning Commission's draft Approach Paper to X Plan are reproduced below :

"If the provision of rail transport services, which lacks customer focus at present, is to be replaced by a system which provides services in line with consumer needs, it will require restructuring of Indian Railways. Indian Railways should concentrate on its core function, i.e. running of transport services on commercial lines, while spinning off non-core/peripheral activities, such as manufacturing units, into individual corporations. These can remain in the public sector for the time being, but should operate like any other public sector unit on commercial accounting principles. More generally, Indian Railways itself should be corporatised instead of being run as a Government department."

(d) While Ministry of Railways is alive to the need to improve customer focus and quality of service provided to users of both Indian Railways freight and passenger services and has been consistently working thereon, it does not subscribe to the view that significant benefits would accrue by corporatising the organisation as a whole.

SHRI Y. V. RAO : Sir, I think the gains from corporatisation are far greater than the Railway Ministry is willing to concede. We know the commendable performance of the Container Corporation of India. I would, therefore, like to know the hurdles that are coming in the way of corporatisation when it can bring significant benefits.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, container Corporation is working efficiently and has earned a huge profit. To some extent, Railway also get benefit from it. As far as the overall corporatisation and this question regarding the draft Approach Paper of Planning

Commission is concerned, it is still at the drafting stage. The Approach Paper has not been finalised yet. The Ministry of Railways has also some views in this regard which have been communicated to them.

[English]

SHRI Y. V. RAO : Sir, I want to know whether Railway employees unions have expressed their opposition to the Planning Commission's proposals for corporatisation of Railways and if so, what are their objections. I would also like to know whether corporatisation of railways will make the organisation financially viable, whether more funds will become available for development of Railway work and if so, the reasons for not going in for corporatisation.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railways has many public sector units. It has IRCON, RITES apart from CONCORE. The borrowing from market for the rolling stock programme is being done through I.R.F.C. Besides Tourism and Catering Development Corporation has also been set up. Apart from this Rail Corporation has been set up. Several corporations exist in Railway and three of them are running in profit. The RITES and IRCON do the consultancy and construction work of many countries respectively. Hence the PSU's of Railways are doing good work but the question is whether entire Railways should be corporatised? This is a point which should be seriously considered.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that he does not subscribe to the view that significant benefits would accrue by corporatising the organsiation as a whole. If Railways do not subscribe to the Planning Commission's perception in totality, then why should we, at enormous expense, expect them to study the anomalies and formulate plans? If Railways do not subscribe to the Planning Commission's views and judgements, why cannot it accept its own Rakesh Mohan Committee recommendations which are in line with the Approach Paper of the Planning Commission?

The hon. Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, while addressing the General Managers Conference in May, 2001, said that extraordinary steps are needed to set things right in the Railways. He had also said that the Railway finances are in a mess. What extraordinary steps is the Government taking to tone up the Railway finances?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Planning Commission is formulating Approach Paper for the Xth Plan. It is under consideration of the Government and has not been finalised thereafter it will be kept before the N.D.C. Planning Commission does its exercise and the sector for which exercise is done, what should be its approach for the next plan for this views of the concerned Ministry are sought, Ministry gives its views to them then an approach is decided and on that basis the size and every thing of plan is decided. The information of the Hon'ble Member is correct that the views of the Planning Commission in regard to draft approach paper are almost same as are contained in the recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee. Rakesh Mohan had given an interim executive summary. He has just submitted his complete report on 7th August and it is being examined.

Railway is a large organisation and if such changes are to be done that Railway should be completely corporatised then discussion is to be held with all stake holders since it is governed by the Government therefore Parliament will have to consider it. Besides the views of the persons concerned with the Railways whether they are representatives of the Union or of the Federation or others will be taken into account. Recently when Rakesh Mohan Committee submitted its report on 7th August, we have constituted a Committee to examine the report on behalf of the Railways. The Committee will submit its report after examining the Rakesh Mohan Committee by October and will suggest what should be done in this regard? In the meantime we are contemplating to organise a workshop in which the representative of Union, Federation and Railway employees, who have to run the Railways in the coming years, will participate. The persons attached with Rakesh Mohan Committee will also participate with them and we by organising a workshop with them will consider what should be done in the best interest of the Railways.

When a Committee submits its report for the first time and it is accepted immediately, perhaps it will not be acceptable to the country. Today the situation is such that if it is lacking something then it is criticised and is said that privatisation is being done. Though the private sector participation is already in the Railways. And endless discussion is started. The Committee has submitted its report, it should be considered with cool mind and seriously by all parties. The financial condition of Railways is not good. There are many reasons behind it. One of the reasons is that the salary and pension of bill has increased

very much after the implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission. Therefore, the internal resources which should be generated, have reduced. Another reason is cost subsidization. We charge more on freight traffic and give subsidy on passenger traffic. We have to consider all such subsidy on passenger traffic. We have to consider all such issues. The Railways has its own way of working therefore we have decided that austerity measures should be adopted at all places except safety. Safety is a concern for all and the Khanna Committee Report concerned with safety aspects, is being considered. A railway safety fund of Rs.17 crore rupees will be created. The Government is aware of it and a decision has been taken in principle. A decision is being taken to raise the funds. Extra ordinary steps will be taken. Therefore, the recommendations of the Committee in regard to austerity measures, to create Railway Safety Fund should be considered and a decision will be taken after taking the views of concerned parties into consideration.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the agitations that are going on protesting against the corporatisation of the Railways apprehending that their job security would be jeopardised if it is corporatised. Can I ask the hon. Minister as to what remedial measures he proposes to take to protect the interests of the workmen who are enjoying so many departmental benefits?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no proposal to retrench anyone from the services of the Railways. As I told earlier, corporatisation and privatisation are such issues on which a nationwide debate is going on and before deciding the best course of action in the Railways all concerned persons should be consulted. No one is being retrenched from job in the Railways. If there is some technological upgradation somewhere resulting in surplus of staff in any sector, they are being reemployed in another sector after being retrained. So, there is no proposal to retrench anybody from the service of the Railways.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : As it happened in BSNL where the Government has done in-principle corporatisation is Railways also, would the Government agree for in-principle corporatisation?

[Translation]

And at the same time some formalities are yet to be completed in the Mumbai Railway Development Corporation which has moved a step further in this regard. How expeditiously the Hon'ble Minister will complete the shortcomings therein regarding the appointment of the Executive Director, full-time M.D. etc?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There are already several corporations in the Railways. I have mentioned the names of some and some work have been constituted. Besides, there is Konkan Railway Corporation as well which has laid 800 k.m. of rail-line. Mumbai Development Corporation has been constituted as well. Here, the Government of Maharashtra and the Ministry of Railways will jointly implement the M.U.T.P. project. Such corporations are already there in the Railways. Now we have constituted Rail Tel Corporation, which will utilise our right of way. Alongwith the existing telecommunication network, we want that the Rail Tel move ahead with the P.S.Us. of the Railways or the PSUs of the Department of Telecommunication. It should market of the additional capacity of land width which we have and make some income from it.

It is not like that. It is existing before the Railways did it and could be done in future also. The question is that the issue of total corporatisation of Railways is such a serious issue regarding which taking a decision in a stroke will not be proper for the country.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Rakesh Mohan Committee which was appointed in the first tenure of the Minister of Railways has suggested corporatisation of Indian Railways. It has also recommended hiving off certain non-core activities of Indian Railways. The Minister has categorically replied that he does not subscribe to that view because it would have far reaching consequences. I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any need for change in the approach of the Railways because Railways is now facing financial crisis. That was not there in the past. I would like to know the steps that are being contemplated by the Government of India to increase its resources. The capacity of the Railways is not being fully utilised. If its capacity is fully utilised, then there will not be any problem of resources. There is also scope to increase the freight traffic. What measures does the Government propose to take to increase the freight traffic and to utilise its full capacity? At the same time, there is a need to increase the capacity also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to understand the anxieties of other Members also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Even new Members are asking straight and pointed questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know what action the Government is contemplating to take.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir the Rail Budget contain us what the Government wants to do during the whole year. This is mentioned in this year's Railway budget. Apart from that several other steps are taken. You know that the share of the Railways is declining in the freight traffic. The Railways long ago decided to move bulk traffic and it has a competition with the road sector in which it is gradually trailing. Although, there was much growth of traffic in the Railways. During previous year if we see we will find that during 1996-97, there was 277 billion net ton kilometers which increased to 313 billion net ton kilometers in 2000-2001. Freight traffic is increasing and since the Hon'ble Member has a good knowledge and is having special interest in the matters of the Railways, so he is well aware as to where the difficulties lie and many innovative schemes were launched to remove these difficulties. Therefore this contain erisation or the constitution of the Container Corporation was another step to attract traffic, to provide multimodel logistics so as to provide the facility to the people to transport their goods by roads and rail, inside the country as well as outside it. Such are those several steps. In the bulk movement of goods there are customers who regularly transport their goods by the Railways and for ensuring that they transport their goods by the Railways, many concessions are also given to them.

Last year, some problems came during my tenure. Economy slowed down, freight traffic was declining. In that situation it was decided to permit part rake loading which was earlier limited to full rake loading and if there will be loading on multiple points instead of a single point then that will be moved after rake formation. As such General Managers have also been given power in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, there are other important Questions also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the question he has asked has wide range the more you give me time the more shall I reply. His question is so much comprehensive. More time will be required several steps have been taken in this direction. If Hon'ble Member wants to give any suggestion for improvement, he can do so. The matter of Rakesh Mohan Committee was raised. He has asked to remove the non-core activities from your area of work. He has also said that the production units should be removed form the Railways as individual units. Many such suggestions have been given. For example, you shall segregate such activities as the work of scavenging, the work concerning colonies and should concentrate towards traffic movement. The Railway network is quite extensive and the Railway network is quite extensive and the Railways also tempering employment to lacs of people in the country. Truly speaking the number of people dependent on the Railways on temporary basis is ten times the number of people working on permanent basis in the Railways. It would not be an exaggeration to say that more than one crore families are dependent on the Railways. It is possible that even more people may be depending on the Railways. We will keep in mind these matters while taking any decision regarding the Railways. For examining these issues we are organizing a workshop. We will invite you in this workshop and you may present your views there. We will also invite the other Hon'ble Members who want to put forth their views so that informal debate could take place and on that basis we would reach a conclusion. Railways are the property of the nation, it is not a property of the Ministry of Railways.

Promotion of Vermiculture

*264. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any project/scheme to promote Vermiculture to prepare manure from biodegradable waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to the States for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of India is promoting the use of various sources of organic manures as a supplementary source of nutrients to crops including vermi compost. Promotion of 'vermi culture' for preparation of vermi compost from biodegradable waste has been made as one of the activities in the Centrally Sponsored Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim which has been sanctioned in May, 2001. To establish vermi compost units under this scheme, funds upto Rs. 30,000 per unit are provided. During the current year, Rs. 6.0 lakhs have been sanctioned for North-Eastern States including Sikkim to establish 20 vermi compost units.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the role of earth-worms in improving soil structure and soil fertility has been established since long. However, we have been slow in recognising this. As is clear form the hon. Minister's answer, the Government has decided to establish just 20 vermi compost units at a cost of Rs. 6 lakh only. Is this adequate for a country of India's dimension and a country which is predominantly agricultural?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take steps to popularise this technology all over the country. He should not confine it to the North-East only.... *(Interruptions)* He wants to represent a State called *Harit Pradesh.* What is he doing for the Western Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The Government of India has been promoting not only the use of vermi culture but also the use of various sources of organic manure as supplementary source of nutrients. The promotion of organic manures, bio-fertilizers, rural and urban compost and vermi compost, as a part of that, is being propagated as organic source of plant nutrients. We have started vermi culture in North-East. The hon. Member is right in saying that there is a lot of scope for increasing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking about Western Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : He is asking about Harit Pradesh. I do not think worms have anything to do with that.... *(Interruptions)* So, the Government is aware of the scope and the need for vermi culture, the bio-fertilizers and the organic thing. This is just a beginning in the North-East. I can assure the hon. Member that we will expand it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The hon. Minister has referred to the worms. I am sure, he does not want to refer to the political worms! The worms which I am talking of, in fact, eliminate foul smell otherwise emanating from garbage. The vermi compost, besides reducing the demands for chemical fertilizers, has a specific and special significance from the point of view of abatement of pollution hazards created by large amount of organic waste which has increased manifold with the increasing urbanisation. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to take some steps to formulate an integrated policy and take a holistic view of the entire matter to ensure and encourage people in the cities to go for this which could help in kitchen farming as well as in the maintenance of lawns etc.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Taking into account the hon. Member's concern and the broader view, a Committee on Organic Farming was set up. This report is due on 31st August. That Committee will consider vermi culture, bio-fertilizers and how to use compost. As everyone knows, in the case of the organic farming, scope for export is also there. So, the Government is aware of it. The Committee's report will come and it will address all these issues.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian farmers have a habit of accumulating garbage in front of their houses as a result of which the garbage remains in the villages. I want that to increase production the voluntary organizations should go to these villages and collect the garbage accumulated in front of the farmers houses at one place so that it can be used for producing fertilizer. I would like to know whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the voluntary organizations who will do this job?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers in India have been using compost in many ways. They have been using organic matter as manure. It is not a centralized issue. You will find that it is being done in every village. If NGO's come forward to take part in it, then as I have said, I am all for promoting organic farming and providing incentives for this. Let the Committee submit its report then after considering all these things we will decide to what extent it can be extended.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Promotion of bio-fertilizers, organic manures, green manures and this vermi culture is not a new one. The only thing is that it is to be revived. As a part of the Grow More Food Campaign, which was launched in 1942, the bio-mass

fertilizer has been one of the items and incentives were provided every year. Several incentives were given to promote this fertilizer at that point of time. Later, the inorganic manures have come into existence. They have taken over the organic manures. Gradually, the Government of India has also withdrawn incentives which were provided earlier as a part of the Grow More Food Campaign launched in 1942. So, this is to be revived. A Committee has been constituted and it is looking into all these aspects.

I would like to seek a clarification about a particular aspect from the hon. Minister. In the North-Eastern States, this particular vermiculture scheme has been introduced only for the purpose of horticulture plants. It need not be confined only to horticulture. Throughout the country, for all the crops, a campaign should be taken up and the same should be promoted so that the imbalance in nutrient application, which has set in due to indiscriminate application of the chemical fertilizer, will also be rectified. The nutrient balance of the soil was lost and the productivity of the soil is also gradually losing. As such, for this particular vermi culture promotion, the meagre allocation that the Government is making is not sufficient. It should be taken up as a campaign throughout the country with a major allocation. Will the Government come forward with a major allocation for promoting bio-mass manufacture and fertilizers including vermiculture? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy, what is this?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* are already taking up the promotion of vermiculture, etc. Will the Government assist these *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* in this respect?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has to reply only to the first part and not the second part of his supplementary.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The hon. Member has raised a point about the use of bio-fertilizers. It was earlier promoted. Since the Seventh Plan, a National Centre in Ghaziabad has been there to promote the use of bio-fertilizer. There are six regional centres and the Government gives financial aid for setting up bio-fertilizer units. We expect that the total fertilizer production would be increased to about 18,500 tonnes by the end of the year. At present, the bio-fertilizer production is 10,000 tonnes per year. The whole thing is about having a balanced and integrated use of fertilizers. That is what the hon. Member has asked. Under the macro management of agriculture, States have been given a lot of leeway. They ask for money from the Ministry of Agriculture according to what schemes they want to run. Bio-fertilizers, vermiculture, etc. are all part of the macro management.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Vermi compost is slowly becoming popular. The Government of Kerala and the Government of India have recognised Peermale Development Society in Kerala as a nodal institution to manufacture vermiculture. They are also training people. CAPART has also recognised it. The disposal of waste has become a real problem. Especially the bio-degradable waste and the organic waste has become a real problem in densely populated States. My question to the Government is; whether it will come forward to help the panchayats, municipalities and urban corporation, who in turn are prepared to come forward with the manufacture of vermiculture, compost. Will the Government initiate a scheme by which the panchayats, municipalities and corporations promote these things? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Under the scheme of using balanced use of fertilizer, 21 municipalities have been given almost Rs. 4 crore to set up the mechanical compost units and use other fertilizers from them.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member wanted to know about panchayats also.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : During the Ninth Plan, funds were provided to set up mechanical compost plants in urban areas for the production of compost. We are also proposing to expand it to the rural areas.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is not mechanical compost. The vermis are not available.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : That is one part of vermiculture. Bio-degradable fertilizer and compost also have to be used for it. I am talking about the integrated plant for the use of fertilizer. These can only supplement the use of chemical fertilizer.

Train Accident

*265. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite many recommendations from inquiry committees at different times, accident rate in the Railways has not come down;

(b) whether several accidents took place on account of fault by Railway Staff; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the errant staff during the last three years?

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

Statement

(a) The universally accepted index of train accidents is number of accidents per million train kilometers. The index which stood at 5.5 in 1960-61 has come down to 0.57 per million train kilometres during the year 1996-97. The index stabilised at this level for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. The continuous reduction in number of train accidents as also the incidence of train accidents per million train kilometres is indicative of sustained improvement in safety performance. However, there has been a marginal increase in this index for the year 1999-2000 when it was 0.65.

The reduction in the above index is partly due to various steps taken as per recommendations of Inquiry Committees. These steps mainly include track circuiting, modification of signalling circuiting, provision of walkie-talkie sets for improved communication, provision of LED based flashing lamps, mechanisation of track maintenance, testing of rails by Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. During the last 3 years, the number of accidents due to fault by railway staff has been as under :-

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Accidents due to fault by railway staff	262	268	287
Total Number of Accidents	396	397	463
Percentage	66.16	67.50	61.98

(c) During this 3 year period, action against 1328 staff were taken under Discipline and Appeal Rules including dismissal/removal of 113 staff. However, figures given above may not necessarily pertain to these 3 years alone and also include accident cases of earlier years since action taken against the staff held responsible is a continuous and ongoing process.

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : I would like to know from the Minister as to whether the rise in the number of railway accidents is due to obsolete equipment and railway track or negligence on the part of the railwaymen.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many reasons for railway accidents which include human failure and material failure also. The component of human failure is around 60 to 70 percent.

[English]

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : What steps have been taken to modernise the railway equipment, give training to railway workers and familiarise them with the modern equipment so that railway accidents could be minimised?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a continuous process. Technical upgradation is carried out in the railway system. Proper training is imparted to the human resource.

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Sir, two major railway accidents took place in the State of Kerala. One took place in 1988 in Peruman, Quilon district. Recently another railway accident took place in Kadalundi, Calicut district. There are controversial reports about these railway accidents. Even now, actual reports were not submitted. What was the actual reason for these railway accidents? Though Peruman accident took place in 1988, tilll now, the reports has not been submitted. I would like to know a categorical reply from the Government as to what were the reasons for the railway accidents that took place in Peruman and Kadalundi.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, lots of things were said about Kadalundi accident last week. It is a different type of question and it is regarding human failure. I would like to reply to all the questions related to adopting safety measures. Peruman accident took place years ago in 1988. It is not right to say that the report has not been submitted. It has been submitted. Railway Safety Commissioner presented his report. Then the Chief Railway Safety Commissioner presented his report but it was not accepted by the Railway. He said that the cause of the accident was local tornado. An expert Committee

was constituted after the report was rejected. The Expert Committee also did not give any particular reasons. Due to many factors that Expert Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Air Marshal C.S. Nayar. He also said that the report of Railway Safety Commission was not worth accepting. It was not accepted by the Government the report of the Expert Group was also discussed in those days in the House but it was discussed again after Kadalundi accident. I would like to state categorically on behalf of the Railways that the first report of Tornado theory that was submitted after Peruman tragedy, was not even accepted by the Railways. Expert Committee was constituted after that. The Committee also did not accept it. It suggested many steps. Those steps were taken. As regards the Kadalundi accident, Commissioner Railway Safety was sent for the statutory enquiry. We had decided that the enquiry should be conducted by the Chief Commissioner, Railway Safety and he is inquiring. He has submitted his provisional findings in which he has said that it was due to equipment failure and one of the peers broke down which was the cause of the accident. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is regarding Kadalundi accident. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I think he did not hear the answer. ...*(Interruptions)* He may ask his colleague. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Railways Minister whether there are certain tracks where if an accident takes place, the Railway Department takes immediate action for repairing them to make them ready for use in a certain period. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I will allow one more supplementary. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper procedure in the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the possibilities of accidents remain there because the tracks are not repaired fully. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want any further clarification, I can allow any one of you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way in the Question Hour. Shri Jos, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, I can allow one more Member to ask a supplementary. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, near village Jaruakheda in my constituency half a kilometre of railway track was washed away and was restored within 20-25 days but that track is not yet fully repaired and even after one year trains pass through this track with slow speed. I want to know whether the Government has any scheme to repair the damaged tracks fully?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, wherever there is an accident in Railways then restoration work is done there and speed restrictions are imposed wherever necessary. Hon. Member has mentioned a particular place. He has told that speed restrictions have been imposed there for one year. I will collect information about the place which he has mentioned and pass it on to him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are over aged assets in Railways about which the House has been repeatedly informed. Keeping this thing in mind the report of Khanna Committee includes track renewal, replacement of signal gears, distressed bridges, obsolete bridges or the old rolling stock be it wagons, coaches or engines. One time grant worth 15000 crore rupees should be allocated for this. I am happy to tell the House that the Prime Minister has accepted to create a special Railway Safety Fund of 17000 crore rupees and we have even decided how to spend it. Whatever amount will be spent from the Railway Safety Fund, it will be mentioned on a separate paper. All the projects of Railways are mentioned in the Pink Book. We have decided that all the safety related items will be

mentioned in the Green Book so that members can also see that there are renewal works and nothing else. Only safety related work will be done from the fund and it will not be spent on any regular work. Transparency will be maintained in this regard and money is being arranged which will be used for the renewal of overaged assets. What the Hon. Member said a short while ago, if you permit, I would like to tell you. ...*(Interruptions)* I have not mentioned the Peruman tragedy *suo motto*. Hon. Member has asked about the status of report on Peruman accident. We have given clarification in this regard. Commissioner, Railway Safety is conducting an inquiry into the accident that took place on Kadalundi bridge. He has submitted provisional findings, about which I have told him.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to reply. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you not interested in the Minister's reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

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

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I went to Kerala. I informed the Ruling party as well as the Opposition party there. A detailed discussion took place there.

[English]

....(Interruptions) I will hold discussions with all the hon. Members from Kerala as well as the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition of Kerala. We are working on it. ...*(Interruptions)* We are going to replace the old bridge. ...*(Interruptions)* Not only the old bridge will be replaced in Kerala, but some other bridges are also planned for replacement in Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no point of worry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, this is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The traffic will be restored by the end of September.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to inform the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have now called Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. There is no time.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I want to inform the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

It is not in your knowledge.

[English]

There are newer methods for railway safety, particularly for traction. These are consisting of a new process where there is a collidal suspension of graphite which enhances this.

Now, for the process that the Ministry of Railways has applied, the tenders have been awarded to multinational companies who have no knowledge or manufacturing ability of this process.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, there is no time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : They have cornered the market. They are unable to manufacture the product. The people from the Railway Safety Board are not aware of it. If you want a personal briefing, I will come and give you. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send the written reply to her. The Question Hour is over.

* Not recorded.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

LPG in Vehicles

*263. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has chalked out a plan to provide LPG for motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rules and regulations have been framed for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether sufficient number of LPG stations will be set up to avoid inconvenience to the public; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has a plan to set up 116 auto LPG dispensing stations (ALDS) in Metros and some cities of the country, in the initial phase.

(c) and (d) Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 has been amended on 14th August, 2000 permitting the use of LPG as an auto fuel. Subsequently, Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules have also been published on 24th April, 2000 by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. Further, LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001, permitting the use of LPG as an auto fuel has also been published by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on 1st August, 2001.

(e) and (f) Public Sector Oil Marketing companies have identified 228 locations for setting up of ALDS in Metros and some cities of the country in the initial phase. The increase in the number of ALDS will depend on the acceptance of auto LPG by the motorists.

Modernisation of Thermal Power Plants

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

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any work to modernise the Thermal Power Plants and to augment their efficiency;

(b) if so, the details of work undertaken during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the names of plants whose capacity has been increased and the percentage of such increase?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) works have been undertaken during the last two years on 172 thermal units in the country to improve their performance and also to extend the useful life of old units. The details of the R&M works, State-wise, anticipated benefits and percentage increase in capacity are indicated in statement attached.

Statement

Details of R&M works undertaken during last two years on thermal units in the country.

S.No.	Name of State/ Thermal Power Station	Units covered	Capacity (MW)	Anticipated benefits		Status of work	Actual benefits achieved after completion of works	
				Addditional Generation Million Units (MU) per annum	Capacity of which life will get extended by 15-20 year		Increase in generation in MU per annum	Percentage increase in generation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Delhi								
1	Badarpur GOI	1-5	705	30	-	In Progress		
2	Indraprastha	2-5	247.5	To sustain performance		In Progress		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana								
3	Panipat	2	110	423	110	In Progress		
	Panipat	1,3&4	330	450		In Progress		
4	Faridabad	1-3	165	70	-	In Progress		
Punjab								
5	Ropar	1-6	1260	50	-	In Progress		
Rajasthan								
6	Kota	1-4	640	To sustain performance	-	In Progress		
Uttar Pradesh								
7	Obra	1-13	1482	To sustain performance	-	In Progress		
8	Anpara 'A'	1-3	630	To sustain performance	-	In Progress		
Maharashtra								
9	Nasik	1-5	910	259	-	In progress		
10	Koradi	1-7	1080	760	-	In progress		
11	Chandrapur	1-4	840	756	-	In progress		
12	Bhusawal	1-3	478	115	-	In progress		
13	Parli	1-5	690	110	-	In progress		
14	Khaparkheda	1-2	420	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
15	Paras	1	58	100	-	Completed	126	48
Chhattisgarh								
16	Korba (E)	1-2	80	166	100	In progress		
	Korba (E)	3-6	320	277	-	In progress		
17	Korba (W)	1-4	840	276	-	In progress		
Madhya Pradesh								
18	Satpura	1-9	1142.5	449	-	In progress		
19	Amarkantak	1-4	290	305	-	In progress		
Gujarat								
20	Ukai	1-5	850	300	-	In progress		
21	Gandhinagar	1-2	240	160	-	In progress		
22	Dhuvaran	1-6	534	200	-	In progress		
23	Wanakbori	1-6	1260	440	-	In progress		
Tamil Nadu								
24	Tuticorin	1-3	630	200	-	In progress		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
25	Ennore	1,2&5	230	466	230	In progress		
	Ennore	3&4	220	600	220	Completed	Under stabilisation	
Andhra Pradesh								
26	Kothagudem-A	2-4	180	267	180	Completed	473	51
	Kothagudem B&C	5	105	271	120	Completed	Under stabilisation	
	Kothagudem B&C	6	105	331	120	In progress		
27	Nellore	1	30	31	-	Completed	45	36
Karnataka								
28	Raichur	1-4	840	184	-	In progress		
W. Bengal								
29	Santaldih	1-4	480	200	-	In progress		
30	Durgapur (DPL)	1 & 2	60	392	60	Completed	Under stabilisation	
	Durgapur (DPL)	4	70	373	77	Completed	236	178
	Durgapur (DPL)	3 & 5	150	632	154	In progress		
DVC								
31	Durgapur (DVC)	3-4	350	80	-	In progress		
Assam								
32	Chandrapur (ASEB)	1-2	60	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
33	Namrup	1-6	133.5	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
NTPC								
34	Singrauli STPS	1-5	1000	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
35	Korba STPS	1-3	600	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
36	Ramagundam	1-3	600	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
37	Vindyachal STPS	1-3	630	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
38	Farakka STPS	1-3	600	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
39	Talcher Thermal	1-3	180	506	187.5	In progress		
	Talcher Thermal	4	60		62.5	Completed	206	88
40	Tanda	1-3	330	To sustain performance	-	In progress		
	All India	172	23245.5	8226	1621		1086	

Note : 1) In Col.5, as a result of R&M activities, a number of power stations are expected to give benefit by way of additional generation. However, in respect of many stations, R&M was undertaken to sustain the present level of performance. Had this not been done the performance would have deteriorated.

Note : 2) In Col.6, R&M activities were undertaken to restore/uprate the capacity of the units, besides extending the life by 15-20 years.

[English]

Restructuring of Public Sector Oil Companies

*267. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure and privatise public sector oil companies with a view to improve their functioning so as to enable them to compete with the multinationals;

(b) the extent to which the country has to depend on imported oil to meet its requirements;

(c) the quantity of oil imported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to provide oil security through strategic storage of crude oil and petroleum products etc.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Government have completed the process of restructuring and divestment of standalone Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) refineries [Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL)] by their integration with PSU oil marketing and refining companies [Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)] with a view to enable these PSUs to compete in a deregulated scenario.

Restructuring and divestment of Government equity in IBP (a stand-alone marketing company) is under process. Government have already decided to retain 26% of equity in IBP and divest 33.58% in favour of a strategic partner along with transfer of management control.

(b) Dependence on import of crude oil during the current year 2001-02 is estimated at around 70%.

(c) The quantity of crude oil imported during the last three years is as under :

	(million metric tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
1998-99	39.808	14,917
1999-2000	57.805	40,028
2000-01	74.097	65,932

(d) A final view on feasibility reports to provide oil security at some locations is yet to be taken.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

*268. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several villages in the country which are yet to be electrified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said work is not being completed in many States due to financial constraints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps being taken to ensure electrification of all villages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) The State-wise details of unelectrified villages in the country as on 31.3.2001 are given in the statement attached.

The major reason for non-completion of electrification of villages in the States is financial constraints. Most of the unelectrified villages are in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Orissa, U.P., Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

The Chief Minister's Conference held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 3rd March, 2001 resolved that electrification of all villages be completed by the end of the 10th Plan, i.e. 2007 and electrification of all households be targeted by the end of 11th Plan i.e. 2012.

Rural electrification has been included as a Basic Minimum Service. It has now been included for funding through the Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY).

Statement

Status of Villages Electrification in India as on March, 2001

Sl. No.	State	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified to the end of March, 2001 (Prov.)	% age Villages electrified	Villages remained to be electrified	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	100.00	-	(*)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171	59.5	1478	(c)
3.	Assam	24685	19019	77.0	5666	(b)
4.	Bihar	67513	47925	71.0	19588	($$)
5.	Jharkhand ++					
6.	Goa	360	360	100.00	-	(@)
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	100.00	-	(*)
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	100.00	-	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16881	99.3	116	
10.	J & K	6477	6315	97.5	162	($) (a)
11.	Karnataka	27066	26697	98.6	40	(+)(e)
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	100.00	-	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50286	97.0	1520	
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	18076	91.1	1644	
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40412	100.0	-	(@)
16.	Manipur	2182	2001	91.7	181	
17.	Meghalaya	5484	2518	45.9	2966	
18.	Mizoram	698	691	99.0	7	
19.	Nagaland	1216	1208	99.3	8	(f)
20.	Orissa	46989	35232	75.0	11757	
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	100.0	-	
22.	Rajasthan	37889	35947	94.9	1942	
23.	Sikkim	447	405	100.0	-	(#)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	100.0	-	
25.	Tripura	855	813	95.1	42	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	77047	79.3	20075	
27.	Uttranchal	15681	12488	79.6	3193	
28.	West Bengal	37910	29595	78.1	8315	(f)
	Total (States)	586165	506985	86.5	78700	
	Total (UTs)	1093	1090	100.0	-	(*)
	Total All India	587258	508075	86.5	78700	

Source : CEA's Report on Village Electrification (April, 2001)

(*) Fully electrified. Balance not feasible for electrification.

(#) Provisional 42 Nos. forest villages not electrified.

(@) Provisional to be confirmed as per 1991 census.

(++) Separate data not available.

(+) 329 villages declared not feasible for electrification.

($$) Achievement as per 1981 census.

($) Achievements as per 1971 census. 1991 census not held.

(a) as on 31.3.98

(b) as on 30.11.99

(c) as on 31.7.2001

(d) as on 31.1.2001

(e) as on 28.2.2001

Note : Target for the year 2000-2001 not finalised.

[English]

Surplus Foodgrains

*269. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to solve the problems of the fall in prices of agricultural commodities and shortage of godowns for storage of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government on post harvest management of farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government's price policy for agricultural produce is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making supplies available at reasonable prices. Towards this end, Government announces each season minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The designated agencies intervene in the market and undertake procurement operations as and when the prices fall below the minimum support price fixed by the Government.

In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to enable the procuring agencies to purchase paddy and maize, the Government has allowed procurement with higher limits of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains than what is prescribed in uniform specifications for kharif marketing season 2000-01.

When prices of horticultural commodities of importance fall below the economic levels the Government of India, at the request of State Governments, launches Market Intervention Scheme for that particular commodity and in that particular season to prevent distress sale by farmers.

The Government has formulated a National Storage Policy aimed at harnessing the resources of the public and private sector for augmentation of infrastructure to handle foodgrains including construction of bulk storage facilities and also conventional godowns. The total storage capacity available with different public sector agencies is 788.35 lakh M.T.

In the Cooperative Sector, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has assisted in the

creation of 137.36 lakh M.T. storage capacity with the rural cooperatives. For creating storage in cooperatively under developed States/ Union Territories, the NCDC has operated a scheme during 1999-2000 to construct 52 rural and 9 marketing godowns of 9350 M.T. capacity.

For the creation of new storage capacity, the following further steps are being taken:

(i) Creation of additional storage capacity (estimated at 54 lakh tonnes) by State Governments, SWC and CWC on the basis of long-term guarantee by FCI.

(ii) Creation of 21 lakh tonnes capacity for bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities through private sector participation at 11 locations.

(iii) Creation of conventional godowns totalling 5.88 Lakh tonnes through private sector participation at 54 locations in 14 States.

(c) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post-harvest period, the Government of India is implementing the Save Grain Campaign Scheme. The main thrust of this scheme is on training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularisation of scientific storage structures like metal bins, pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are also carried out under the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB), is implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure for horticultural produce :-

i. Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/ expansion/modernisation of Cold Storages/ Storages for horticulture produce;

ii. Development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management of horticultural products;

These schemes would, inter-alia, help in checking losses in weight and quality of agricultural and horticultural produce and thereby ensure benefits to farmers.

Procurement Price for Foodgrains

*270. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement price for foodgrains is likely to be affected by Government's decision to reduce the prices of foodgrains supplied through PDS to clear surplus stock; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the interest of farmers and agriculturists who have toiled hard to make the country self-sufficient in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The procurement/minimum support price (MSP) for foodgrains is not determined by the Central Issue Price (CIP) for foodgrains distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS). The main objective of the minimum support price scheme is to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. These prices are finalized on the basis of the recommendations of the CACP as also other factors considered important by the Government. One of the major factor considered while finalizing the MSP is the cost of cultivation. Prices under PDS are, on the other hand, finalized mainly with a view to protect the interest of the consumers.

Deteriorating Condition of Hazarat Nizamuddin Dargah

*271. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that famous mazars of Khwaja Amir Khusrau, Jahanara Begum, daughter of Shahjahan, the brother and other relatives of the last Mughal ruler Bahadur Shah Zafar located in the compound of Hazarat Nizamuddin Dargah, New Delhi and other such monuments nearby, which carry tremendous religious and historical significance, are in deteriorating conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to give a face lift to these monuments to make them attractive for tourists.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The centrally protected monuments located in the vicinity of Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah are maintained as per existing archaeological norms.

The item of works identified for repairs during 2001-2002 are indicated in the statement attached.

Statement

The list of items of works identified for special repairs during 2001-2002 for the centrally protected monuments located in the vicinity of Hazarat Nizamuddin Dargah, Delhi.

(a) Repair of marble screen and grill of Jahanara's Tomb and tomb of Mughal Emperor, Mohammad Shah, 'Rangila'.

(b) Chemical cleaning and replacement of flag-stone of monument known as "Chaunsath Khamba".

(c) Development of lawn in the area know as Urs Mahal.

(d) Conservation on the roof of the Mazar of Khwaja Amir Khusrau.

(e) Repairs to Grave of Mirza Jahangir, brother of Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah 'Zafar'.

Representaiton of Women in High Judiciary

*272. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether there is a poor representation of women in the higher judiciary;

(b) if so, whether present number of women holding the post of judges in the Supreme Court and High Court is quite dismal;

(c) if so, the steps being considered to give full representation of women in higher judiciary;

(d) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out by the Centre; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY) : (a) to (e) The number of sitting women Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, as on 07.08.2001, was 1 and 19 respectively.

Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal currently under the consideration of the Government to reserve posts for women for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts.

Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them, *inter-alia* to locate suitable women candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges.

Development of Quality Protein Maize

*273. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is working on development of varieties with quality protein maize;

(b) if so, the details of varieties of maize developed by ICAR during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make available these new varieties of maize to the farmers in maize potential districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two quality protein maize hybrids namely Shaktiman-1 (A three-way cross hybrid [(CML 142 X CML 150) CML 186] and Shaktiman-2 (Single Cross hybrid CML 176 X CML 186) have been developed. Both the hybrids have been recommended for the State of Bihar by Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar. Shaktiman-1 has also been released for Uttar Pradesh by its State Variety Release Committee. The parental lines of these hybrids have been developed at International Centre for Maize and Wheat Improvement, Mexico. Both are high yielding hybrids having white bold seeds with high lysine and tryptophan, the two essential amino acids. These hybrids are also tolerant to major insect pests and diseases.

(c) Seed production of these hybrids is being taken up by public sector agencies such as National Seed Corporation, Tarai Development Corporation and Kolhapur Centre of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Rahuri. Seed production is also being taken up by some of the private sector agenceis, such as

MAHYCO, Pro Agro Seed Company and Bisco Seed Tech. About one thousand quintals of seed of these hybrids is expected to be available for cultivation during 2002.

Export Promotion Councils

*274. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the list of Export Promotion Councils under the administrative control of the Ministry and their role, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Textiles Commissioner to go into the working of the Export Promotion Councils;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by it;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the action being taken against the EPCs which have not acted on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles are as under:-

- Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
- The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
- Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
- Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
- Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai.
- The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai
- Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
- Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
- Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi.

The Export Promotion Councils have also got regional/other offices at important centres of production and export.

As per Chapter 13 of Exim Policy, the main role of the EPCs is to project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality goods and services. In particular, the EPCs shall encourage and monitor the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters. Some of the major functions of the EPCs are :

- To provide commercially useful information and assistance to their members in developing and increasing their exports.
- To organize visits of delegations of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities.
- To organize participation in the trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets in India and abroad.
- To promote interaction between the exporting community and the Government both at the Central and State levels.
- To build a statistical base and provide data on the exports and imports of the country exports and imports of their members, as well as other relevant international trade data.
- Undertaking market studies in individual foreign countries regularly as well as on adhoc basis.
- Recommending export targets to the Government and monitoring performance against the target fixed by the Government.
- In-depth analysis of the export performance and suggest remedial measures.
- To recommend policy initiatives to the Government for promotion of exports and to represent to the Government on difficulties experienced by exporters in availing the export benefits under various export promotion schemes of the Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. An Expert Group under the Textile Commissioner alongwith 13 other members, comprising of the Executive Heads of all EPCs'; the representatives of Ministry of Textiles; Company Law Board; and Addl.

Textile Commissioner, was constituted to study the functioning of EPCs and to make recommendation to improve the same. The Expert Group in its report has recommended parameters for membership and election of the Council/Chairman, cap on over all tenure of Executive Committee members; delegation of financial powers; staff control and supervision, etc.

(d) The Department of Commerce had also set up a separate Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary which formulated Model Articles of Association to be adopted by various EPCs to make them more democratic and transparent.

The report of the Expert Group submitted by Textile Commissioner and the model Articles of Association framed by Department of Commerce were sent to textile EPCs to incorporate and adopt the suggested changes.

(e) Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) and Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) have since amended their Articles of Association. Other EPCs are at different stages of amending the same.

Visit of Tourists to N.E. Region

*275. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a downward trend of tourist flow to the North-Eastern regions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the special measures taken by the Union Government to encourage tourists to visit North Eastern States; and

(d) the details of tourism potential of this region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to latest figures available, foreign and domestic tourist arrivals have increased by 83% and 132% respectively to North-Eastern States during the year 2000 as compared to previous year.

(c) Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has initiated following measures for development and promotion of tourism in the North Eastern States :-

- 10% budget of the Department of Tourism has been earmarked for the projects/schemes of North Eastern States.
- North Eastern States are given a free booth in the World's largest tourism fair ITB Berlin.
- A video film on tourist attractions for North East has been produced by Ministry of Tourism in order to give wide publicity to the region. This is being screened by Air India in their flights.
- A CD-ROM on tourist attractions of North East and also a brochure highlighting tourism products has been produced to boost tourism in North East.
- North Eastern States are given a special focus in the Marketing Conference of Overseas Offices of the Ministry and all the overseas offices are giving due publicity to the North East States for promotion of tourism in the region.
- Financial Assistance for promotion of Fairs and Festivals is also being provided to North Eastern States every year on continuing basis.
- An amount of Rs. 12.72 crores has been released for development and promotion of tourism during 2000-2001.

(d) North Eastern Region is endowed with diverse tourist attractions having rich scenic beauty, exotic flora and fauna and invaluable resources for development of eco-tourism and adventure tourism.

Research and Development by NIFT

*276. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Institute of Fashion Technology has undertaken any strategy for extensive research, development in design and education for making handloom products marketable proposition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has undertaken initiatives regarding the latest design trends and forecasts thus helping in the marketing of the handlooms products. The distribution of designs is done through an internet based National Centre

for Textile design, Weavers Service Centres (WSC) and the various offices of Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC). NIFT is helping various groups of handlooms weavers in development and adoption of modern designs and is also disseminating information through the various industry contact programmes.

Production of Raw-Jute

*277. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of raw jute in the country during each of the last three years and estimated for 2001-2002;

(b) the present support price of raw jute, quality-wise;

(c) whether this price is too low in comparison to the production cost of raw jute;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The total production of raw jute in the country during the last three years has been 82.87 lakh bales for 1998-1999, 78.58 lakh bales for 1999-2000 & 94.00 lakh bales for 2000-2001. The same is estimated 95.10 lakh bales for 2001-2002.

(b) A statement regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different quality of raw jute is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. The MSP is fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Price (CACP) keeping in view emerging demand supply situation, changes in input prices, the parity with competing crops and other relevant factors.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices for different grades of jute for the year 2001-2002

	States	W-5 Grade (Rs. Per Qtl.)	TD-5 Grade (Rs. per Qtl.)	Mesta M-4 Grade (Rs. per Qtl.)
a)	Assam/Meghalaya	760	810	720
b)	Tripura	731	781	691
c)	Bihar			735-751
	i) Purnea, Kishanganj, Katihar & Araria Districts.	791	841	
	ii) Saharsha, Champaran & other Districts.	775	825	
d)	Orissa	797	847	757
e)	West Bengal			745-783
	i) Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri & Darjeeling Districts.	785	835	
	ii) North & South Dinnajpur & Malda Dist.	798	848	
	iii) Murshidabad, Bankura & Birbhum Dist.	810	860	
	iv) Nadia, Howrah, Hoogly, Burdwan, Midnapur, 24-Parganas (North & South) Districts.	823	873	
f)	Uttar Pradesh	738	788	702
g)	Madhya Pradesh			702
h)	Andhra Pradesh (Bottom Grade)			752

Subsidy on Passenger Fare

*278. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has observed that second class fares are massively subsidised without any rationale for years together at the cost of new investment and upgradation;

(b) whether the Committee has also observed that the subsidy component is appropriated by the urban non-poor; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to phase out subsidies in a certain time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The report of Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan has been submitted on 7/8/2001 and the same is under examination. The recommendation contained in the Executive Summary submitted by the Railway Expert Group with regard to Subsidy on Passenger fare is reproduced below :

"Indian Railways is heading rapidly towards financial crisis and requires a higher level of income - fast. The single most important step that must be taken in the short term is to rebalance tariffs both between passengers and freight and between upper and lower passenger classes."

The Summary also states that the season tickets are typically used by office workers with a steady employment and, further more, in 70% of cases, season tickets are either paid for or cost thereof reimbursed by the employer.

(c) Railways incur losses in providing certain passenger services on social consideration. No subsidy is received by the Ministry of Railways for these losses. Rationalisation of passenger fares to reduce the losses is, however, a continuous process.

Awarding of Advertisement Rights

*279. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have made plans to increase revenues by going for selling advertising space on its trains and properties;

(b) if so, the revenue collected by the Railways by advertising during 2000-2001;

(c) the projections for such revenue during 2001-2002;

(d) whether any campaign has been launched in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The earning from Commercial Publicity during 2000-2001 was approximately Rs. 42.28 crores.

(c) The projection for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 100 crores.

(d) and (e) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all the Zonal Railways for generating revenues through Commercial Publicity by utilising the various assets of Railways i.e. station premises, trains, level crossings, approaches to the major stations and some other miscellaneous areas. The Railways have adopted a pro active approach by giving newspaper advertisements, publishing information brochures, conducting meetings with advertising companies from time to time and establishing direct contact with prospective sponsors. Besides, steps have been taken for reassessment of value of sites, revision of rates and identification of new locations.

Concession Tickets

*280. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways is losing huge amount in revenue due to lacunae in the sale of concession tickets;

(b) if so, whether any serious attempt has ever been made to assess the subsidy burden before giving the concession;

(c) if so, the details of such efforts and results thereof;

(d) whether the Government are thinking of reviewing the concession policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Review of various types of concessions is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Touts at Darbhanga Railway Station

2705. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the touts have created menace at Darbhanga railway station who do not allow the passengers to get a rail ticket from ticket windows, extort huge sum from them and all this happens in connivance with the railway staff;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such elements;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any surprise raids have been conducted by the Government during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Frequent checks are conducted in reservation offices by Vigilance, Commercial departments and the Police against touts and other anti-social elements at all major stations including Darbhanga station of North Eastern Railway. During the last three years i.e. 1998, 1999 & 2000, 17 persons were apprehended at Darbhanga station and prosecuted under the relevant provisions of law. However, no connivance of railway staff at Darbhanga came to notice.

[English]

Low Value Monthly Season Tickets

2706. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the low value monthly season tickets are being issued to the poor people to travel in trains by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria adopted therefor; and

(c) the number of low value monthly season tickets issued by the Railways during the last one year, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Low Value Monthly Season Tickets (MSTs) of Rs. 15 are issued to persons working in unorganised sectors like agriculture labourers, construction workers, vegetable vendors, etc., having monghly income of less than Rs. 400 for commuting by second class of Passenger trains between places of residence and work within 100 kilometers. These MSTs are issued at the stations on production of the requisite certificates signed by a Member of Parliament or Member of Legislative Assembly or District Magistrate or Sub Divisional Officer or Block Development Officer.

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

[Translation]

Construction of Lalitpur-Khajuraho-Singrauli Rail Line

2707. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when Lalitpur-Khajuraho-Singrauli rail line was sanctioned;

(b) the amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the funds allocated for it till date, year-wise; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of this rail line is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work of Lalitpur-Satna and Rewa-Singrauli was included in the Budget 1997-98. Later on, it was decided to extend line from Khajuraho to Mahoba as a part of this project.

(b) Rs. 925 cr. is assessed in 1997-98.

(c) The year-wise allocation has been as under:-

1997-98	Rs. 0.01 cr.
1998-99	Rs. 1.00 cr.
1999-2000	Rs. 5.00 cr.
2000-01	Rs. 5.00 cr.
2001-02	Rs. 5.00 cr.

(d) The final location survey has been taken up and land acquisition has been processed. Construction work would be taken up once land is available. Completion of this work would depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

[English]

Task Force to Study Gasohol as Fuel

2708. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently set up a Task Force to study gasohol as fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) The composition of the Task Force constituted by the Government and its terms of reference are given in the statement attached.

(c) The Task Force has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months.

Statement

MOP&NG vide Office Memorandum No. P-45018/4/2001-CC dated 12.06.2001 have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to evolve new standards of blending of ethanol with MS from 5% to 10% and above, to study the feasibility of blending of ethanol in diesel and to enter into cooperation with countries like Brazil, USA etc. The composition of the Task Force is as under :-

1.	Addl. Secretary, MOP&NG	Chairman
2.	Joint Secretary (V), MOP&NG	Member
3.	Representative of Ministry of Agriculture	Member
4.	Representative of Department of Road Transport & Highways	Member
5.	Representative of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research	Member
6.	Representative of Department of Revenue	Member
7.	Representative of Department of Chemical & Petrochemicals	Member
8.	Representative of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	Member
9.	Representative of Govt. of UP	Member
10.	Representative of Govt. of Maharashtra	Member
11.	Dy. Advisor (PT), MOP&NG	Convener

The terms of reference of the above Task Force are as follows :

I To prepare a road map to switch over to ethanol blended gasohol from ordinary MS within a stipulated time frame and towards this end.

II To evolve new standards of blending of ethanol with MS from 5% to 10%.

III To study the technical, operational, environmental, logistic aspects of blending of ethanol with diesel (HSD).

IV To evolve procedure for co-operation with other countries such as Brazil, USA etc. for ethanol blending with transport fuel.

V To spell out action to be taken by different Ministries of Government of India to achieve the milestone, including Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs, Deptt. of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Finance (Revenue), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals etc.

New Agricultural Schemes for Ninth Plan

2709. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of 41 new agricultural schemes proposed in the Ninth Plan, 18 schemes have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission despite this being the terminal year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has greatly affected the achievements of the target of Ninth Plan in the Agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to get the remaining schemes cleared from the Planning Commission soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The reasons for non clearance of some new schemes, inter-alia, are as follows :

(i) Lack of concurrence of the Planning Commission,

(ii) Delay in obtaining approval of Full Planning Commission,

(iii) Revision of Memoranda for Expenditure Finance Committee based on comments of appraisal Agencies,

(iv) Convergence of schemes having similar objectives/components as those already in existence in other Departments, or within the Department,

(v) Dropping of schemes for various reasons including shift in priorities.

(c) and (d) All efforts are being made to get the requisite clearances for commencing implementation of the remaining Schemes. The delay in operationalising some of the Schemes proposed in the Ninth Plan may affect the achievement of Plan targets.

[Translation]

Jubilee Retail Outlets in Rajasthan

2710. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IOCL has invited tender in newspapers to run its Jubilee R.O. in Rajasthan for five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contracts for five years are to be awarded for Jubilee R.Os. in other States also through advertisements in newspapers; and

(d) if so, the number of Jubilee R.Os. of IOCL in Madhya Pradesh where jobwork is in vogue and the number of Jubilee R.Os out of it has not been given to any one for operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) COCO Retail Outlets and Jubilee Retail Outlets are operated on 'Company Owned Company Operated' basis. The outlet is operated with an officer of the oil company as over-all in charge of the outlet. Labour assistance is provided through contractor to the company officer for day to day operation. The tenure of the labour contract is for a period of one year with one year renewal option.

Upgradation of NTPC Power Plants

2711. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the Unchahar N.T.P.C. power plant in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Presently, 4 units of 210 MW each of Feroz Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are under operation. NTPC's proposal to convert the fifth unit of 210 MW to 500 MW is being examined by Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic viability.

Food Processing Industries

2712. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to promote setting up of food processing industries in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of processing industries which were provided assistance by the Union Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have been taking a number of policy initiatives for the promotion of Food Processing Industries in the country. Under its plan schemes Department of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Private Industries, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector. These schemes are project oriented and not state or area specific.

(c) The undivided State of Bihar was assisted through 10 units under various schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries in the last three years. Further, the Department has financed a study conducted by Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore on Techno Economic Feasibility of setting up fruit & Vegetable processing units in Chhotanagpur.

First Phase of NELP

2713. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the results of the first phase of the new Oil Exploration Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the Government has signed contracts with various companies/consortiums in respect of 24 blocks for exploration of oil and gas. Out of the total committed Minimum Work Programme for phase I for these 24 blocks, around 60% of 2D Seismic data and 30% of 3D Seismic data has been acquired. Further, out of 20 wells proposed, two wells have been drilled in Krishna Godavari offshore and gas has been struck in one well. This discovery has been named as 'Annapurna'.

Target for Hydro and Thermal Power Production

2714. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for hydro-electric and thermal power production in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allocated for achieving the target;

(c) if not, whether the Government have sought foreign assistance in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have initiated negotiation with foreign agencies;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to promote captive power plants for the betterment of industrial sector; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of the capacity addition targets envisaged for the Ninth Five Year Plan were as follows :

(In MW)

	Central Sector	Private Sector	State Sector	Total
Thermal	7574	17038.5	4933.0	29545.5
Hydro	3455	550	5814.7	9819.7
Nuclear	880	0.0	0.0	880.0
Total	11909	17588.5	10747.7	40245.2

(b) to (f) While the Working Group on Power for the 9th Five Year Pan had recommended Rs. 2,64,167 crore, the outlay approved for the Power sector by the Planning Commission was Rs. 1,24,526.41 Crores, comprising of Rs. 53,299,41 Crores for the Central Sector and Rs. 71,227.00 Crores for the State Sector.

The details of the generation projects currently under implementation/commissioned in the 9th Five Year Plan with foreign assistance are as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Sources of foreign assistance
Thermal			
1.	Chandrapur, TPS, Maharashtra	500	World Bank
2.	Bakreshwar TPS, W.B.	3x200	JBIC (Japan)
3.	Unchahar TPS, NTPC	2x210	ADB
4.	Kayamkulam CCGT, NTPC	350	World Bank
5.	Vindhyachal TPS, NTPC	2x500	World Bank
6.	Faridabad CCGT, NTPC	430	JBIC (Japan)
7.	Simhadri TPS Unit-1, NTPC	500	JBIC (Japan)
8.	Assam Gas Based Power Project, Assam	90-100	JBIC (Japan)
9.	North Madras TPP, T.N.	2x525	ADB
10.	Anpara B TPP St.II, U.P.	500	JBIC (Japan)
11.	Neyveli 1st Exp. TPS, Unit-1, NLC	210	KFW (Germany)
Hydro			
1.	Koyna St. IV, Maharashtra	4x250	World Bank
2.	Kalinadi St.II, Karnataka	3x40+3x50	World Bank & Kuwait Fund
3.	Sharavathi T.R., Karnataka	4x60	World Bank
4.	Upper Indravati, Orissa	4x150	World Bank
5.	Sri Sailam, A.P.	6x150	JBIC (Japan)
6.	Lower Periyar, Kerala	3x60	World Bank
7.	Eastern Gandak Canal, Bihar	3x5	JBIC (Japan)
8.	Teesta Canal, W.B.	3x3x7.5	JBIC (Japan)
9.	Nathpa Jhakri, NJPC	1500	World Bank
10.	Dhauliganga, NHPC	4x70	JBIC (Japan)
11.	Tuirial, NEEPCO	2x30	JBIC (Japan)
12.	Dulhasti, NHPC	390	French
13.	Ghatghar PSS, Maharashtra	2x125	JBIC (Japan)
14.	Purulia PSS, W.B.	4x225	JBIC (Japan)
15.	Tehri St.I, THDC	4x250	Russia

(g) and (h) The Ministry of Power has circulated guidelines on captive power to States, Union Territories and concerned Ministries of Government of India in July 2001. These guidelines have been recommended to the States to enable a more liberal framework for setting up captive power plants. The main features of the guidelines are as under :-

1. If captive plant is of hydro or co-generation, such plant, irrespective of its size, may be permitted liberally.

2. If captive power plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas such plant may be allowed and capacity of the plant permitted up to 200% of the requirement of industry (if the State is deficit in power).

3. Captive power plant may be allowed if State/ SEB or successor entity is unable to supply the required quality of power. Such a captive power plant can be considered for the uninterrupted power supply to the industry even if the State is surplus in power.

4. If the cost of generation horn captive power plant is found to be lower compared to the tariff of the power supply from the Grid, the proposal may be considered after thoroughly examining the cost and tariff aspects.

5. Units in Special Economic Zone (SEZs) and/ industrial estates may be allowed to set up captive plants liberally.

6. Banking facilities are proposed to be provided to CPPs. The rates for banking may be determined on mutually agreed terms.

7. Tariffs for purchase of power from captive plants may be determined by SERCs wherever they have been established.

8. Prior approval of SEB has to be obtained for wheeling of power. Wheeling will be done to any service (HT or LT). Wheeling charges may be worked out based on pooled rates worked out by Central/State Transmission Utility of that region.

9. The tariff for sale of power from thermal and hydel CPPs, may be fixed after mutual discussion and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power stations operating in the SEB plus some percentage of the pooled variable charges as incentive. Tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower and some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.

10. Third party sale is also permissible with the approval of SEB.

Funds for setting up for Power Projects in Bihar

2715. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Bihar for providing funds for on-going projects and setting up and development of new power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals approved by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of Bihar in their letter dated 22.12.2000 requested the Ministry of Power for financial assistance for setting up 2x250 MW Extension project at Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station (Stage-II) in Bihar. Further, Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in their letter dated 25.1.2001 requested World Bank Assistance for new power projects, viz, Katihar TPP (2x250 MW), Renovation & Modernization (R&M) and Life Extension of four units of Barauni Thermal Power Station and two units of Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station, Transmission Schemes of BSEB and Nabinagar TPP (4x500 MW).

(c) State Sector projects are normally funded by the State Government and for that a budget provision has to be made in the State budget. There is no provision of any Central assistance for State power projects, State Electricity Boards (SEBs) have been obtaining loans from Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and other Financial Institutions for setting up power projects. Further as per the policy of the World Bank, it was not possible to pose the generation projects to the World Bank. Accordingly, the State Govt. of Bihar was advised by the Ministry of Power in their letter dated 29.1.2001 to interact with Planning Commission for making an allocation in the State budget. Alternatively, they should seek financial assistance from the PFC.

[English]

Production of Rice in N.E. States

2716. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed and achieved for production of rice in Assam and other North-Eastern States during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the reasons for the shortfall; and

(c) the special Central assistance given to Assam and other NE States for increasing of rice yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The targets vis-a-vis achievements of rice production in Assam and other NE States for the year 1999-2000 and target for 2000-2001 are as follows :-

Rice Production

(Lakh tonnes)

State	1999-2000		2000-2001
	Target	Achievement	Target
Assam	34.50	32.55	34.50
Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	1.14	1.50
Mizoram	1.05	1.09	2.00
Meghalaya	1.50	1.50	1.55
Manipur	3.60	3.82	4.50
Nagaland	1.90	2.08	2.50
Tripura	4.25	4.92	6.00
Sikkim	0.25	0.22	0.25
	48.55	47.32	52.80

However, final estimates of products for the year 2000-2001 are made available in Dec./2001 only.

During 1999-2000 due to vagaries of monsoon production target could not be achieved in some of the States. However, the overall shortfall as compared to achievements is insignificant.

(c) The financial assistance provided to Assam and other North Eastern States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ICDP-Rice are as follows :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Amount released	
	1999-2000	2000-2001
Assam	45.00	20.50
Arunachal Pradesh	37.45	5.50
Mizoram	29.27	7.00
Meghalaya	32.00	3.00
Manipur	63.83	8.00
Nagaland	58.00	7.70
Tripura	65.05	6.70

The release for the year 2000-01 is upto 4th October, 2000 thereafter Macro Management Mode of Scheme implementation have been launched with a view to provide flexibility to the States so as the States could adopt components most suited to their agro-climatic conditions.

Import of Sugarcane Harvesting Machines

2717. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import job killer "sugarcane harvesting machines" from Germany and Australia;

(b) whether the Government are aware that several thousand agricultural workers earn their livelihood from sugarcane harvesting activity;

(c) if so, the reasons which prompted the Government to take anti-labour decision; and

(d) the alternate mechanism being developed for these agricultural workers and small scale industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Import of the harvesting machines, including sugarcane harvesting machines, is classified under Exim code no. 84335900. Import of this items is free for the past few years. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has proposed to import only one sugarcane harvester from abroad for use at the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal under National Agricultural Technology Project to evaluate and adopt its good features for development of a simple sugarcane harvester for Indian

conditions to be used in future in the areas where the farmers are facing acute shortage of labour during harvesting of sugarcane.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) of the Question, the question does not arise.

(d) Government is implementing various schemes to provide employment opportunities for the people in rural areas. The Government is aware of the challenges arising out of imports and has been trying to improve the competitiveness of the small scale industries in the country.

[Translation]

Introduction of Delhi-Chhattisgarh Rajdhani Express

2718. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce a Delhi-Chhattisgarh Rajdhani Express train;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing the said train service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to introduce a Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Bilaspur via Raipur during 2001-2002. It will be introduced as and when the coaches became available from the production units.

[English]

Survey for Edapalli-Guruvayur-Thannur Rail Line

2719. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of survey work of Edapalli-Guruvayur-Thannur rail line;

(b) whether the Government would take steps for early completion of the survey; and

(c) if so, the time by which the survey is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The surveys of new lines from Edapalli to Guruvayur and Guruvayur to Thannur have already been completed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Electricity from Central Pool

2720. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government allocated power/ electricity from Central pool to various States during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of entitled shares in central sector generation stations (Central Pool) and the actual drawals during the last 3 years are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Entitlement vis-a-vis Actual Drawal from Central Sector Generating Stations

(All figures in MU)

Region/State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Entitlement	Actual Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
Chandigarh	308.4	316.7	410.0	353.1	430.2	453.2
Delhi	10165.4	9838.1	11472.8	9743.8	11464.6	10020.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	5785.3	6108.1	6469.4	6938.6	6574.1	7524.4
Himachal Pradesh	1244.9	893.6	1501.9	1572.4	1504.6	1635.6
Jammu & Kashmir	3930.6	4740.8	4133.1	4281.8	4269.6	4717.6
Punjab	5931.4	6156.8	6529.4	5995.9	7069.0	6727.0
Rajasthan	8306.7	9606.1	8763.8	10324.2	9361.9	10404.9
Uttar Pradesh	17649.0	15661.5	16540.8	16611.4	17325.2	16516.5
N.R.	53321.7	53321.7	55821.2	55821.2	57999.2	57999.2
Western Region						
Gujarat	10198.2	9445.3	10641.7	11257.5	12688.7	13181.0
Madhya Pradesh	11598.0	12435.2	11338.5	11305.0	12335.6	12263.8
Maharashtra	11720.7	11931.9	11744.2	11651.0	14155.2	14281.7
Goa	1263.6	968.1	1233.2	758.6	1296.0	749.0
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	183.7	169.2	-	-
W.R.	34780.5	34780.5	35141.3	35141.3	40475.5	40475.5
Southern Region						
Andhra Pradesh	7399.8	6959.1	7805.2	8089.9	8272.5	8249.6
Karnataka	4809.3	5515.5	4897.6	5301.4	5823.0	6056.0
Kerala	3108.7	3063.9	3020.6	2976.0	3142.2	3244.4
Tamil Nadu	8960.0	8739.3	9472.7	8828.8	14364.2	10125.2
Goa	522.3	522.3	472.3	472.3	618.2	544.9
S.R.	24800.1	24800.1	25668.4	25668.4	28220.1	28220.1
Eastern Region *						
Bihar	3919.3	4325.0	4483.2	5169.0	4954.2	5502.1
D.V.C.	1301.7	1318.5	1298.1	1429.8	1415.2	1298.4
Orissa	2994.4	1571.3	3440.5	854.9	3346.6	2354.6
West Bengal	2847.4	3132.2	3471.4	3386.7	3977.0	2875.4
Sikkim	242.6	58.4	289.4	69.0	330.3	78.6
Uttar Pradesh	104.4	80.8	382.5	394.4	309.1	455 4

* Includes States of other regions, allocated surplus power from central sector generating stations in Eastern.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	659.3	979.7	855.8	1044.4	931.6	1325.0
Assam	441.5	395.4	393.4	397.2	335.0	493.6
Madhya Pradesh	426.4	853.0	1078.5	2424.1	1483.7	2100.9
Gujarat	233.9	608.6	219.1	348.8	262.4	370.5
Kerala	147.3	258.3	21.6	17.4	252.5	356.8
Tamil Nadu	704.7	441.7	613.6	799.9	481.7	675.6
Karnataka	-	-	39.6	251.1	461.4	653.8
E.R.	14022.9	14022.9	16586.7	16586.7	18540.7	18540.7
North-Eastern Region						
Arunachal Pradesh	154.7	90.9	180.7	99.1	206.7	108.5
Assam	1074.0	1314.3	1190.3	1416.6	1350.2	1718.9
Manipur	395.2	467.9	389.0	447.6	437.2	449.8
Meghalaya	225.5	0	230.8	34.1	260.5	43.0
Mizoram	156.2	180.2	185.7	210.7	211.4	243.3
Nagaland	184.9	182.4	204.5	203.0	241.0	227.1
Tripura	253.3	208.1	311.4	281.3	354.5	270.9
N.E.R.	2443.8	2443.8	2692.4	2692.4	3061.5	3061.5

Repayment of Loan

2721. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the port trusts defaulted in the repayment of soft loans to World Bank/Government of India during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not making payment;

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure that such instances do not recur?

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

(b) to (d) The following Port Trusts have defaulted in repayment of loan as on 31.3.1998 :-

Sl.No.	Name of the Ports	(Rupees in thousands)
1.	Paradip Port Trust	105,38,82
2.	Cochin Port Trust	78,88,29
3.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	44,89,62

Paradip Port Trust showed its inability in making payment due to losses. Proposals of Cochin Port Trust and Visakhapatnam Port Trust to write off the defaults is under consideration in the Ministry.

Multi-State Cooperative Societies

2722. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Multi-State cooperative societies in Delhi and their functions;

(b) whether some of the Chairmen of these societies are non-officials and some are serving Government officers;

(c) the reasons for having official and non-official Chairman on Board of Directors of these societies;

(d) whether the Government are aware that some of these societies have purchased brand new Santro cars for their official Chairman and have provided cellular and installed telephones at their residence;

(e) whether those official Chairman are grossly misutilising the cars for their private affairs and are making calls abroad (USA) from their residential telephones; and

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to ask the Registrar to investigate into these misuses and to recover all the amount from them including the cost of the car?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) There are 40 Multi-State Cooperative Societies having their principal place of business in Delhi. Out of these, 13 societies are National Cooperative Societies. These societies are of various types and perform their functions as per provisions of their bye-laws.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Chairmen of these societies are elected/nominated as per provisions of their bye-laws.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and same would be laid on the table of the House.

Solar Energy Projects in U.P.

2723. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up solar energy projects in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details in this regard district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is implementing different programmes for the utilization of solar energy in various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh. Devices and systems such as solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, street lights, power plants, solar water heaters and solar cookers are installed under these programmes. The Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency (NEDA), Lucknow is responsible for the implementation of the programmes in UP. The district-wise details of the systems proposed to be installed by NEDA during 2001-02 are given in the statement attached.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

District-wise proposed Solar Energy Programmes during 2001-2002

Sr.No.	District	Solar Lantern (No.)	Solar Home Light (No.)	Solar Street Light (No.)	Solar Water Heater (LPD)	Solar Cooker (No.)	Villages to be electrified (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Agra	555	203	20	2000	100	
2.	Aligarh	131	62		500	40	
3.	Etah	50	75		300	30	
4.	Firozabad	54	56		400	40	5
5.	Mainpuri	174	89		200	30	
6.	Mathura	81	46		500	50	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Hatras	70	20		0	10	
8.	Allahabad	560	260	10	2000	100	
9.	Fatehpur	90	86		200	40	
10.	Pratapgarh	66	124		200	40	
11.	Kaushambi	50	25		100	5	
12.	Azamgarh	110	52		500	40	
13.	Mau	60	35		300	40	
14.	Ballia	635	162	20	300	40	6
15.	Bareilly	227	150		2000	100	
16.	Badaun	75	70		400	30	
17.	Pilibbit	100	92		400	40	
18.	Shahjahanpur	208	105		500	30	
19.	Basti	210	122		200	30	10
20.	Siddhart Nagar	144	93		200	25	
21.	Sant Kabir Nagar	126	74		200	5	
22.	Hamirpur	100	61		200	25	
23.	Mahoba	154	120		200	25	
24.	Banda	100	50		200	25	
25.	Chitrakoot	50	0		0	0	
26.	Gonda	126	98		200	25	
27.	Behraich	178	157		200	30	10
28.	Balrampur	76	54	15	0	5	
29	Shrawasti	50	50		200	0	3
30.	Ambedkar Nagar	71	31		100	5	
31.	Faizabad	122	42		500	40	
32.	Barabanki	154	147	10	200	30	3
33.	Sultanpur	113	64		400	40	
34.	Gorakhpur	221	66	10	2000	100	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
35.	Maharajganj	203	72	40	200	10	
36.	Deoria	110	61	20	100	25	
37.	Kushinagar	71	72		100	10	
38.	Jhansi	252	125		2000	100	
39.	Jalaun	121	97	10	200	30	2
40.	Lalitpur	152	257		200	30	3
41.	Kanpur Nagar	703	308	30	3000	125	
42.	Kanpur Dehat	121	59	5	300	50	
43.	Farrukhabad	111	31		500	30	
44.	Etawah	131	41		500	30	
45.	Auraiya	141	52		200	10	
46.	Kannauj	105	103		100	0	
47.	Hardoi	143	136	15	500	30	
48.	Lakhimpur	122	97		500	30	3
49.	Lucknow	1162	440	15	3000	100	
50.	Raibareilly	127	70		500	40	
51.	Sitapur	100	144	20	200	25	
52.	Unnao	104	56		500	50	
53.	Bagpat	61	16		0	0	
54.	Bulandshahr	126	40		200	30	
55.	Ghaziabad	226	31		3000	100	
56.	Meerut	122	26		1000	50	
57.	Gautambudh Nagar	76	10		0	5	
58.	Mirzapur	121	88		200	25	8
59.	Sonbhadra	163	100		1000	25	35
60.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	71	41		200	10	
61.	Biznor	76	56		500	25	
62.	Moradabad	111	35		1000	50	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
63.	Jyotiba Fulley Nagar	55	13		100	10	
64.	Rampur	55	24		300	25	
65.	Muzzaffarnagar	99	47	10	200	25	
66.	Saharanpur	70	31		500	30	
67.	Varanasi	752	267		3000	100	
68.	Gazipur	131	57		200	25	
69.	Jaunpur	116	61		200	25	
70.	Chandoli	121	61		0	0	12
	Total	11822	6166	250	40000	2500	100

In addition, grid interactive SPV power plants are proposed to be set up in the districts of Ballia, Deoria, Jalaun and Lucknow. An Aditya Solar Shop is also proposed to be established in Ballia District.

Solar Energy Projects in North Eastern Region

2724. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up solar energy projects in North Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is implementing various solar energy programmes all over the country, including the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. Under these programmes different types of solar energy systems like solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems, water pumping systems, stand alone village level power plants, grid connected power plants, solar cookers and solar water heating systems are being promoted through central subsidy, soft loan packages and other incentives. In addition, the Government is supporting the establishment of 'Aditya' solar shops in selected cities in the country.

The Ministry has laid special emphasis on the implementation of solar energy programmes in the North-Eastern region including Sikkim. The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) available from the Ministry under the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme for the distribution/ installation of solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, street lighting systems and stand alone power plants was enhanced from the earlier 50% of ex-works cost to 90% of ex-works cost, subject to certain upper limits from December, 2000. Similarly, the CFA on solar water heating systems was enhanced from Rs.4,000/- to Rs.6,000/- per square meter collector area from December, 2000.

The state-wise details of the solar energy systems installed in the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim as on 31.03.2001 are given in statement-I. In addition, 'Aditya' solar shops have been established in Guwahati and Agartala with the Ministry's support.

Some of the projects sanctioned by the Government for these States during 2000-01 are still under implementation. The details of these projects are given in statement-II.

Under the current year's Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme, targets for SPV systems have already been allocated to some of the North Eastern States including Sikkim and advance Central Financial Assistance released. The details of these are given in statement-III.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Solar Energy Systems installed in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim (as on 31.03.2001)

S.No.	States	SL (Nos.)	HLS (Nos.)	SLS (Nos.)	SC (Nos.)	SWPS (Nos.)	PP (kWp)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4,437	650	738	530	-	7.90
2.	Assam	541	1,937	98	80	45	3.00
3.	Manipur	3,400	50	370	365	12	11.00
4.	Meghalaya	3,200	320	593	1164	5	38.00
5.	Mizoram	3,562	1,645	315	110	32	0.00
6.	Nagaland	95	143	271	Nil	-	6.00
7.	Sikkim	320	160	127	20	-	0.00
8.	Tripura	13,635	1,638	460	79	-	24.57

SL - Solar Lanterns, PP - SPV Power Plants,
HLS - Home Lighting Systems, SC - Solar Cookers,
SLS - Street Lighting Systems, SWPS - Solar Water Pumping Systems

Statement-II

Solar Energy Projects sanctioned during 2000-2001 for the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim, which are currently under implementation

1. Installation of 3 village level SPV Power Plants in Arunachal Pradesh
2. Installation of 3 SPV Power Plants in Assam
3. Installation of 14 village level SPV Power Plants in Meghalaya
4. Installation of 4 SPV Power Plants in Mizoram
5. SPV Electrification of 36 villages in Cachar district in Assam
6. Installation of SPV home lighting systems in 400 households of Bodo tribal families in Assam
7. Establishment of 'Aditya' Solar Shops at Imphal in Manipur, Aizwal in Mizoram, Udiapur in South Tripura and Gangtok in Sikkim (the 'Aditya' Solar Shops for Imphal and Aizwal were sanctioned prior to 2000-01).

Statement-III

Targets allocated for SPV Systems under the 2001-02 SPV programmes, estimated CFA and Advance CFA released for the North Eastern States and Sikkim

S.No.	State	Agency	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	Home Lightening System (Nos.)	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Estimated CFA (Rs. in Lakhs)	Advance CFA released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Meghalaya	MNREDA	500	200	-	35.90	-
2.	Mizoram	ZEDA	1,000	100	-	41.20	19.95
3.	Sikkim	SREDA	300	100	-	19.50	10.00
4.	Tripura	TREDA	3,200	600	300	220.40	112.40

Survey for Kurla-Mahul Rail line in Maharashtra

2725. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have done any survey on Kurla-Mahul Railway line segment in Mumbai sub-urban area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have agreed to do latest survey of Kurla-Mahul railway route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of Camping Sites

2726. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any on-going scheme for the development of camping sites specially for low budget tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with finding pattern of the scheme; and

(c) the total allocation made for the purpose and the funds released to each State under the scheme during the Ninth Plan, year-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While reviewing the Centrally Assisted Schemes Ministry of Finance, Government of India had weeded out Tented Accommodation/ Camping Sites Scheme before the commencement of the Ninth Plan. Hence no funds were provided for Development of Camping Sites/ Tented Accommodation in the Ninth Plan.

Interest and Maintenance Charges for Sidings / Level Crossings

2727. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have failed to recover the interest and maintenance charges for sidings / level crossings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Regular efforts are made to recover interest and maintenance charges for sidings / level crossings. In some cases, however, either due to non-execution of agreements with the concerned authority such as Municipalities, Local Self Government bodies, Pvt. Siding Owners, State Govt. etc. or due to financial crunch faced by these authorities or due to court cases or some other dispute, some amount remain unrecovered. In such cases concerned authorities are being pursued for speedy execution of agreements/resolving the disputes. Strict monitoring and vigorous chasing is done at all levels to recover outstanding dues.

Performance of ICDP-Rice

2728. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Rice as on date State-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures taken to tone up the implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Rice has since been discontinued and subsumed in the new scheme of Macro Management Mode w.e.f. 4.10.2000 under which the State Governments have been given the flexibility to implement schemes as per the agro-climatic conditions and requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

Session of Organic Farming

2729. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR organised Brain Storming

Session on Organic farming in September 1998 in association with Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation (BCRDF);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations given by it;

(c) the steps taken to implement them specially when the recommendation had the approval of DG during intervening period;

(d) whether any programme has been made on investment and incentives required for implementing and consequent benefits in saving ill-effects of agro-chemicals and subsidy thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As given in the statement enclosed.

(c) These recommendations have been examined. There is a proposal to strengthen a Network on "Organic Farming" research during the X Five-Year Plan. This proposal has been sent to Planning Commission Working Group for X Plan for kind consideration and comments.

(d) The fertilizer saving technologies like adoption of integrated plant nutrient system (IPNS), green manuring and crop residue incorporation, use of bio-fertilizers in legume and cereal crops and use of phospho-compost and vermi-compost are being disseminated by state and central agencies for adoption by the farmers. Bio-fertilizers are made available through ICAR institutes, State Agricultural University and State Agriculture Departments at very affordable rates and do not call for any subsidy.

(e) Not applicable.

Statement

Main Recommendations

1. Inventorization of available resources for Organic Farming.
2. Establishment of a "Centre of Excellence on Organic Farming" under NARS.
3. Establishment of a country-wide "Network for Research on Organic Farming" - the proposal is being developed by the Council for consideration during X Plan.
4. Documentation of available indigenous technological knowledge (ITK) and other technologies development by various public sector research centres/NGOs/individuals on different aspects of organic farming in India.
5. Introduction of core course(s) on "Concepts and Practices in Organic Farming" in the curriculum of under-graduate and post-graduate degree programmes at different SAUs and other agricultural Institutes.
6. Expert groups, comprising eminent agricultural and social scientists and progressive farmers may be constituted for visiting successful farmers associated with organic farming practices. The group may submit a detailed report covering various aspects of organic farming.
7. Standardization of mechanisms/methods for suitable judging/classifying the "Organic Farming".
8. Formulation of appropriate package of practices in the area of organic farming for important production systems of the country.
9. Dissemination of knowledge on organic farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) field demonstrations, TV-programmes and other suitable media.

Food Development Bank

2730. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Food Development Bank to fulfil the finance needs of Foods Processing Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Confederation of Industry in Food and Trade has submitted any report for setting up of such bank;

(d) if so, the details of the report; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Department of Food Processing Industries had organized four Regional Seminars at Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow and a National Seminar at New Delhi to elicit inputs towards formulation of a National Food Processing Policy. One of the inputs received from the Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry related to the need for setting up of a National level Bank to cater to the needs of Food Processing Sector. In the meantime, based on the inputs received from a cross section of Food Processing Industry, the Department of Food Processing Industries has already initiated action for setting up a Processed Food Development Fund in collaboration with SIDBI.

[Translation]

Basic Amenities in Trains

2731. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trains running under various divisions of the Eastern Railway lack basic facilities like electricity, latrines, fans and other facilities;

(b) whether the Railways has conducted any review to ascertain facts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Passenger trains running over Eastern Railway are cleaned, checked and maintained regularly at base depot prior to commencement of the journey. Despite thefts and considerable vandalism of coaches by anti-social elements in some of the areas in Eastern Railway, Railway provides regular inputs to keep the passenger amenities in good condition. Condition of trains is also monitored through regular inspections and any deficiency found are made good. Such checks, inspections and review of passenger amenity items are a part of the maintenance system of coaches of Indian Railway.

(d) Some of the steps taken by Railways in this regard are as under :

(i) Monitoring of passenger amenity fitting through "Zero Missing Fitting" drive and surprise checks.

(ii) Renovation of rakes in between overhauls.

(iii) Strengthening of facilities for maintenance at base depots.

(iv) Provision of FRP shutters in place of aluminium window shutters

(v) Raids are being conducted by Railway Protection Force in Eastern Railway to avoid theft and vandalism of passenger amenity items in trains.

Illegal Activities in Hotels

2732. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Crime Branch recently raided a five star hotel 'Le Meridian' in the capital and busted a racket of gambling and betting on a cricket match being played between England and Australia;

(b) whether a number of hotels in the capital are reported to be involved in illegal activities;

(c) whether the Government are considering to cancel the licence of hotels found involved in such illegal activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other types of action taken to check such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Crime Branch personnel of Delhi Police raided one of the guest rooms of Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi on 5.7.2001.

(b) So far, no matter of any classified hotel in Delhi, involved in illegal activity has been reported to this Department.

(c) The scheme of classification by the Department of Tourism, Government of India, is a voluntary scheme as it only provides for assessment of infrastructure and standards of services available to guests and as such,

except classifying hotels in various categories, no licences are issued by the Department of Tourism, Government of India. The Trade Licence to hotels is issued by the local Municipal authority/Police authority in compliance of guidelines laid down in this respect.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Assistance to Women Cooperative Societies

2733. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to sanction the financial assistance to women cooperative societies under Central Scheme during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details of women cooperative societies selected for providing financial assistance; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this respect?

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

(b) The details of the women cooperative societies are as under :

(i) Mahila Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Sarola (BK) Taluka Osmanabad, District Osmanabad.

(ii) Marathwara Gramin Vikas Audyogik Utpadak Cooperative Society Ltd., Diksal, Taluka Kallamb, Distt. Osmanabad.

(iii) Jagdamba Mahila Vane Biyane Cooperative Society Ltd., Khumsawadi, Taluka Kallamb, Distt. Osmanabad.

(c) As per the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the Central Sector Scheme on Assistance to Women Cooperative Societies, alongwith the other schemes of the Department have been sub-summed in Macro Management. Mode of the Department in the year 2000-2001, wherein assistance is provided to the State Governments as per their Work Plans. Hence, no assistance was released to these Women Cooperative Societies, under this scheme.

Production of Mango

2734. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of yield of mangoes during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise; and

(b) the details of measures taken to develop more varieties to increase the yield of mangoes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The details of production and yield of mango for three years of 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as well as the State Agricultural Universities (SAU) are involved in breeding and varietal improvement programmes of mango. During the last decade about 40 hybrids/varieties of mango have been developed by these Institutes and SAUs.

Statement

Production and Yield of Mango in different States during last three years

Production in 000 tonnes,
Yield in Tonnes/ha.

States	Production			Yield		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	3314.4	2269.6	2379.6	12.0	9.0	8.0
Bihar	1838.9	1858.1	1871.9	12.0	12.0	12.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	366.2	382.6	382.2	6.5	6.6	6.0
Kanataka	1176.4	1176.5	1179.9	9.5	9.5	9.5
Kerala	266.3	249.7	253.3	3.3	3.0	2.9
Maharashtra	66.5	196.9	500.5	1.0	1.8	3.4
Orissa	417.4	490.6	343.5	4.3	4.5	3.6
Tamil Nadu	136.9	559.2	701.4	1.3	6.0	6.5
Uttar Pradesh	1699.5	1776.1	1915.0	6.4	7.4	7.9
West Bengal	502.3	339.4	560.0	9.0	5.7	9.3

[English]

Suggestions of CACP

2735. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has suggested far-reaching changes in the policies governing production, procurement and distribution of foodgrains and also disposal of Food Corporation of India's surplus stocks;

(b) if so, the report on price policy for Kharif crops for 2001-2002 was also submitted to the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) In their Report on Price Policy for Kharif Crops 2001-02, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) have made inter-alia, certain suggestions regarding agricultural production and food management policies. The Report of the Commission is at present under consideration of the Government. The contents of the Report are kept secret till the announcement of the price policy.

Food Processing Parks

2736. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had forwarded a proposal for establishment of food processing parks in Maddur, Belgaum, Malur, Bagalkot, Chikkaballapur and Chitradurga districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether this project report is pending with the Government for a long;

(c) if so, the main reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which a final decision for approval of this proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (d) Department of Food Processing had received proposals from Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance for setting up of food processing industrial parks at (i) Malur, District Kolar; (ii) District Bagalkot; (iii) Halaga village District Belgaum; (iv) District Chitradurga; and (v) Maddur, District Mandya.

Under its plan scheme, the Department has approved setting up of food parks at Malur, District Kolar and District Bagalkot. The first instalment has been released. The remaining three proposals were incomplete and could not be considered.

Digboi Oil Refinery

2737. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the

Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Digboi Oil Refinery in Assam is facing a problem of close-down;

(b) if so, whether Assam Pollution Control Board has issued orders for its closure;

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

(d) whether refinery has submitted any clarification to the objections raised by the Assam Pollution Control Board;

(e) if so, the status of the Refinery at present; and

(f) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Digboi refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was served a notice on 12.2.2001 to stop release of effluents by the Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB) for alleged violation of Pollution norms.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Upon immediate reply to the notice by the refinery, APCB officials inspected the facilities and effluent treatment system in place for pollution control. An affidavit indicating the action plan for further upgrading the effluent treatment facilities alongwith a bank guarantee of Rs.5 lakh was submitted on 8.3.2001. Based on the inspection/affidavit, APCB vide letter dated 12.3.2001, kept the closure notice in abeyance and allowed the discharge of treated effluent. The refinery operations are normal with its treated effluent meeting the stipulated norms.

Losses to NAFED

2738. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NAFED has been running at losses;

(b) if so, the details of such losses during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons attributed thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No Sir, NAFED has not been running at losses during the last 17 years except the year 1998-99 during which NAFED had suffered a net loss of Rs. 493.40 lakhs.

(c) The main reason for losses during the year 1998-99 attributed to the suspension of export of onion, unfavourable international prices of cotton and negative market sentiments on account of record production of soyabean.

(d) Special efforts have been made to make the Federation self-reliant through a number of new initiatives, viz., focus on income generating projects, increase in consumer marketing activities, stepping up institutional supplies, exploration of avenues on non-traditional profitable business, reduction in excess work force, closing down of non-viable units and introduction of economic measures.

[Translation]

Quantity of Lead in Petrol

2739. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the efforts to control the quantity of lead in petrol was multi-purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the ill effects caused by not controlling the lead in petrol;

(d) whether problems like excessive contents of Benzene have arisen even after use of unleaded petrol; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The effort to control the quantity of lead in petrol involved dual purpose namely reducing the lead content in the vehicular

emissions and preventing the poisoning of catalyst of catalytic converter fitted vehicles.

(d) and (e) Effective 1.4.2000, the petrol produced in India had maximum benzene content of 3% for metros and 5% for rest of country. Further, since 1.1.2001 & 1.3.2001, Mumbai & NCR are being supplied with 1% maximum benzene petrol respectively. Thus, benzene content in petrol has been substantially reduced even after introduction of unleaded petrol.

Supply of Sub-Standard Fertilizers

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the loss of crores of rupees has been caused to the farmers during the last year by supplying sub-standard fertilizers, seeds and pesticides for the irrigated land areas in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any tests in regard to quality of the fertilizers, pesticides and seeds before they are released for the market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) No specific complaint about sale and supply of non-standard fertilizers, pesticides and seeds in the State of Rajasthan has been received. It is the endeavour of the Government that only good quality fertilizer, seeds and pesticides are sold. The quality of fertilizer is governed under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and fertilizers only which meet the standards of quality laid down in the order are sold to the farmers. Similarly, quality control of pesticides and seeds is being regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder and Seed Act/Seed Control Order (1966/1983) respectively. In Rajasthan there are 3 fertilizer testing laboratories with an annual capacity of 6000 samples, one each at Jaipur, Jodhpur & Udaipur. During 2000-2001 these laboratories analyzed 4551 fertilizer samples, out of which 40 samples were found non-standard. Two pesticides testing laboratories one each at Jaipur and Bikaner with an annual capacity of 1200 samples of pesticides have been set up. During 2000-2001, 392 pesticides samples were analysed out of which 9 samples were found non-standard. The fertilizers, pesticides and seed which do not meet the specifications/standards laid in the respective Act/Order are not allowed for sale to the farmers. The State Governments have the authority as the enforcement agencies to ensure that the farmers get the standard quality of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

[English]

Development of Library Movement

2741. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to collaborate with other Departments for the development of library movement;

(b) if so, whether discussions have been held with the Culture Department to jointly plan out programmes for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether any State has been selected for initiating joint action in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of plans formulated and the time schedule outlined therefor; and

(f) the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Government is open to collaboration with other Departments for the development of a library movement. However, at present no such proposal is under contemplation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

Impact of Nift

2742. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of National Institute of Fashion Technology in fostering India's apparel export growth;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

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

(d) if not, the time by which the Government propose to commission a study in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) assists the apparel/fashion industry in providing necessary supervisory/managerial man power and in adding value to the garments thus enabling the apparel industry to be competitive on a global plane. Over the years, NIFT has created a learning environment that encourages innovation, creativity and excellence and curricula of the NIFT have been developed to cater to the needs of the apparel/ fashion industry.

The feed back received from time to time from the apparel / fashion industry has established that NIFT has made significant contribution to apparel export growth through its endeavours. No need therefore has been felt to conduct any specific study by Government in this regard.

Peruman Rail Tragedy

2743. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report from Suryanarayana Commission constituted for enquiring into Peruman rail tragedy in Quilon, Kerala in the year 1988;

(b) if so, whether the Railway has accepted the Report;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor,

(d) if so, the action taken on the basis of the report;

(e) whether the Government have noticed the media reports emerging in a section of press about fresh revelations related to the train accident at Peruman:

(f) if so, whether the Government has set up a new commission for enquiring into the Peruman rail tragedy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (g) In the Final Report of the Enquiry conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, the cause of the accident was established as "Due to the express train having been hit by a tornado" which struck the bridge just as the train was going over it. The accident was classified as "Sudden convulsion of Nature". The report was not accepted and, therefore, not published. Government, thereafter, ordered setting up of an Expert Committee consisting of eminent scientists and engineers under the Chairmanship of Air Marshall C.S. Nair to go into the accident. The Expert Committee did not find the findings of Commissioner of Railway Safety as tenable. The Committee, however, could not arrive at any particular reason being responsible for the accident. The report was accepted by Ministry of Railway and tabled in both the Houses of Parliament in March, 1990. No fresh enquiry has been ordered in this accident.

[Translation]

Computer and Internet Facilities in Trains

2744. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide computer and internet facilities to the passengers in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Cargo Handling Potential at Nava Mangalore Port

2745. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Cargo handling potential of Nava Mangalore Port;

(b) if so, whether any modernization plans are under consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The New Mangalore Port has got potential to handle a wide range of commodities like Bulk Cargoes, Break Bulk Cargoes, Liquid Cargoes and Containerized Cargoes. The port has provided handling capacity of 16.75 million tonnes with seven General Cargo Berths, one Iron Ore Berth and two Tanker Jetties. With the commissioning of two new jetties, the port will have handling capacity of 28.45 MTPA. The modernization schemes under consideration are as under :

(i) To provide Deep Draft Multi-purpose Berth (Additional General Cargo Berth) - Rs. 37.54 crores.

(ii) To provide Container Terminal facility on BOT basis.

(iii) Augmenting cargo handling equipment - Rs. 40 crores.

(iv) Providing Vessel Traffic Management System - Rs. 7 crores.

(v) Capital dredging for deepening of the channel and lagoon - Rs. 10 crores.

(vi) Improvement strengthening and deepening of General Cargo Berths - Rs. 20 crores.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Modern Bogies

2746. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given approval for setting up a coach factory in Coimbatore for manufacturing ALSTOM-LHB bogies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such bogies targetted to be manufactured indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 27 such coaches are targeted for manufacture at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala during 2001-02.

Procurement of LPG Cylinders through Open Tender System

2747. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to procure Liquified Petroleum Gas cylinders through an open tender system instead of buying them from authorised manufacturers at a fixed rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move is expected to bring down the cost of cylinders;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the benefit of reduction in cost of LPG cylinders shall be passed on the consumers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders individually for procurement of cylinders for calendar year 2001.

(c) to (f) It is expected that the price of procurement

of cylinders will come down. However the cylinder manufacturers have challenged the tendering procedure in various Courts and the matter is pending for disposal. As the matter is sub-judice, it is not possible to ascertain the extent of reduction in the price, at this stage.

[English]

Renovation of Indravati Hydro Electric Project

2748. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost and actual amount spent on the Indravati Hydro-electric projects in Orissa so far;

(b) whether the left side canal of that project has become weak and require urgent renovation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The estimated cost of Upper Indravati Hydro-electric Project is Rs. 1107.10 crores and the cumulative expenditure till June 2001 is Rs. 1084.53 crores.

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

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Agricultural Schemes

2749. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for each of the Centrally sponsored schemes in agriculture during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have since utilised the said amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken a decision to terminate all these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(e) and (f) With a view to provide greater flexibility to States, a Macro Management Scheme integrating 27 on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes was launched in October, 2000 in all States. The Central assistance is provided to States on the basis of Work Plans comprising of region/crop specific interventions for the development of agriculture. The details of 27 Centrally Sponsored schemes subsumed under Macro Management are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section.
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives.
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme.
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund.
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST.
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas.
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas.
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas.
11. Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizer.
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers.
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid & Temperate Zone Fruits.
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.

15. Development of Commercial Floriculture.

16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

17. Development of Roots & Tuber Crops.

18. Development of Cocoa & Cashew

19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

20. Development of Mushroom.

21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.

22. Bee-Keeping.

23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.

24. Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.

25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers.

26. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils

27. State Land Use Boards.

Drought in M.P.

2750. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of wheat was only one third in the rabi crop this year and the gram and mustard crops have also been affected by drought and water crisis in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the assistance provided by the Union Government to the drought affected farmers of Madhya Pradesh and the special measures taken to provide adequate irrigation facilities in future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) According to the advance estimates, the production of wheat, gram and mustard in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001 is expected to be about 46%, 58% and 54% respectively of the 1999-2000 production. However, the advance estimates are subject to revision after the results of crop cutting experiments are obtained. The decline in production of these crops during 2000-2001 is expected mainly due to aberrant weather conditions. Such annual fluctuations in the production are not unnatural phenomenon.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 35.00 crores and Rs. 22.72 crores have been released to Government of Madhya Pradesh in January, 2001 and July, 2001 respectively under National Calamity Contingency Fund. In addition, free foodgrains worth approximately Rs 300 crores have been provided for Food for Work Programme in Madhya Pradesh.

A number of short term and long term measures have been initiated/being initiated which will inter-alia benefit the drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh as well. The long term measures include inter-basin water, transfer schemes as envisaged under the Peninsular Component under the National Perspective Plan, which when implemented, would help resolve the water scarcity problem of deficit areas including drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh, implementation of rainwater harvesting/ artificial recharging schemes, promoting use of chemicals and films for reducing wastage of water, recycling and reuse of waste water etc. The short-term measures include Drought Prone Areas Programme which covers 25 districts and 134 blocks of Madhya Pradesh for minimizing the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock, providing Central Loan Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for expeditious completion of on-going Major & Medium Irrigation Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, implementation of a contingency Plan for drought proofing in 5 severely affected States including Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh with a view to accelerate the programme of exploration and construction of production wells.

Bilthra Road Hydel Power Project

2751. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on the Bilthra Road Hydel Power Project in Balia district of Uttar Pradesh has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restart the work on the said project; and

(d) the details of amount allocated for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) No hydro-electric project by the name of Bilthra Road Hydel Power Project was ever taken up for construction. However, a proposal for the setting up of Belthara Road Thermal Power Project (3x250 MW) was received from erstwhile Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board in November 1992 which was returned by the Central Electricity Authority in February 1994 as certain inputs could not be tied up by the project authorities. According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd., Government of Uttar Pradesh subsequently appointed consultants which studied the relative need of the project in consultation with the World Bank which recommended taking up the project in the year 2010.

[English]

Setting up of Branch of CONCOR in Karnataka

2752. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted any survey for setting up of a branch of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A preliminary study was conducted in-house by the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways to ascertain the feasibility of setting up new container terminals at Mysore and Mangalore. It revealed that setting up terminals at Mysore and Mangalore is not justified at this stage.

[Translation]

Evidence in Criminal Cases

2753. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that witnesses are called in the court hearings time and again in criminal cases which are spread over long periods as a result of which they get discouraged;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to bring improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Section 312 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides that any Criminal Court may order payment of reasonable expenses of any complainant or witness attending a Court for purposes of any Inquiry, trial or other proceeding, subject to any rules which may be made by the State Government. The Law Commission of India in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has recommended an amendment of this provision so that allowances payable to the witnesses for attending the Court are fixed on a realistic basis and made through a simple procedure. The Report of the Law Commission is being examined by the Government in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

[English]

Pending Cases

2754. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) the number of cases pending in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on December 31, 2000;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than 20 years and 10 years respectively;

(c) the number of cases disposed of during 2000; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The available information is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speeding up the disposal of these cases. These include simplification of rules and procedure on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and the two proposed legislations namely the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment Bill), 1994, inter alia contain provisions for cutting short the delays and for fixing a definite time frame at various stages of civil and criminal proceedings. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts. The last such communication was sent in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. From 1993-94 to 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 404.15 crores has been released to various States/UTs as Central share under this scheme. Against this, Rs.834 crore has been spent by various States/UTs upto 2000-2001.

Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending cases and cases involving undertrials on priority. So far about 459 such courts have been set up in various States.

Schemes for Computerisation and networking of courts are being undertaken by various State Governments to augment the capacities of courts and to speed up disposal of cases. A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up by Government in the year 2001-02 to serve as a model for other courts in the country.

Statement

Court	Pending	Pending more than 10 years old	Number of cases disposed of during the year	As on
1	2	3	4	5
Supreme Court *	22145	648	35300	12/2000
High Courts				
1. Allahabad	852139	224460	43303	12/2000
2. Andhra Pradesh	162726	3406	13787	12/2000
3. Bombay	294193	30795	24807	9/2000
4. Calcutta	313172	145636	14657	6/2000
5. Delhi	178186	33774	65708	12/1999
6. Gauhati	39049	141	5460	6/1999
7. Gujarat	141498	18246	12735	3/2000
8. Himachal Pradesh	15065	37	2758	12/2000

* The number of cases pending in the Supreme Court of India for more than 20 years are 67 as on 13.3.2001.

1		2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	36794	2341	8500	9/2000
10.	Karnataka	83728	900	15550	9/2000
11.	Kerala	340711	717	31210	12/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	107680	5938	14914	9/2000
13.	Madras	357872	8170	41354	6/2000
14.	Orissa	117593	4080	12660	9/2000
15.	Patna	73127	5844	13442	12/2000
16.	Punjab & Haryana	226394	40621	38884	9/2000
17.	Rajasthan	132306	7298	11185	12/2000
18.	Sikkim	153	2	72	12/2000
	Total	3472386	532406	370896	

[Translation]

Expenditure on Tourist Offices Abroad

2755. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on TOURIST offices located overseas during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-02;

(b) the effectiveness of these tourist offices in the development of tourism; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Total expenditure incurred on Tourist Offices located overseas during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002 is as follows :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Non-Plan	Plan
1998-1999	1327.83	5335.45
1999-2000	1307.00	5298.76
2000-2001	1522.87	5075.00
2001-2002 (Proposed)	1843.45	5100.00

(b) The overseas Government of India Tourist Offices are responsible for tourism promotion and marketing in their respective regions to augment foreign tourist traffic arrivals to India. These offices are also required to effectively project India as an attractive tourist destination through their publicity and promotional campaigns in the region.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to further improve the performance of the overseas tourist offices are:

(i) To optimally utilise the limited resources by synergising their efforts with various travel related organisations, Indian Missions, other Govt. of India Offices, Indian community, International airlines, etc.; (ii) Extensive use of Information Technology measures to improve tourist information; (iii) Use of direct promotional methods like mailers, coupon response, ads, etc.; (iv) New segmented strategies to bring about focus in the marketing campaign such as laying stress on NRIs/Ethnic market, promotion of pilgrimage, Yoga and Ayurveda, etc.; (v) Organising of Road Shows for different segments of the market.; (vi) Joint promotions and joint advertising in collaboration with consumer stores, airlines and tour operators.; and (vii) The underlying philosophy is to find out the needs and demands of existing segments and then develop the product and services to exceed the expectations of these segments.

[English]

Allocation of Gas for Ramgarh Project

2756. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the second Gas Turbine of 36 MW planned for installation at Ramgarh, District Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, as an extension of existing unit;

(b) if so, whether Central Electricity Authority have already accorded Techno-economic clearance to this project on 16 February 2001;

(c) whether the Extension project has already been taken up in hand and order for supply of main equipment i.e. Gas Turbine, Steam Turbine, Heat Recovery Steam Generator etc. have also been placed;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan for additional supply of 5 lakhs SCMD gas for a period of 15 years from October 2002; and

(e) the date by which necessary concurrence are likely to be given to Rajasthan for supply of additional 5 lakhs SCMD gas as demanded by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gas Turbine of 37.5 MW is planned for installation at Ramgarh, District Jaisalmer in Rajasthan is an extension of the existing unit.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Supply order has been placed on M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. in May, 2001.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the availability of gas in the fields of Oil India Limited (OIL), an additional allocation of 0.2 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas has been made to Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for the gas based power project at Ramgarh. OIL has sought confirmation from the State Government of Rajasthan for payment of price of Rs. 2500 per thousand cubic meter (SCM) at a calorific value of 4100 with an escalation at 3 percent per annum for supply of additional allocated gas to RSEB.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2757. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted in Rajasthan since October, 1999 till date;

(b) the total number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps so allotted alongwith the names of the persons/parties to whom these have been allotted and the criteria adopted for allotting these LPG agencies and petrol pumps in each case in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints of the violation of norms in the matter of allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps prescribed by the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMC's) have allotted 90 Retail Outlets and 50 LPG distributorships as per recommendations made by Dealer Selection Board (DSB) of Rajasthan since October, 1999. Besides this, OMC's have also allotted 26 Retail Outlets and 8 LPG distributorships under 'Operation Vijay Scheme' during the same period.

Selection of Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships are made through Dealer Selection Board in accordance with the prescribed procedure on merit. Allotment under 'Operation Vijay Scheme' has been made as per recommendations received from Directorate General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence.

Complaints against selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products are received from time to time and action is taken on them after investigation. A Grievance Redressal System is provided in the existing guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors for Retail Outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, whereby the concerned oil company conducts enquiry in respect of all complaints against selection of dealers/distributors. The complaints against the empanelled candidates are investigated by two officers of the concerned oil marketing company. The inquiry report is

forwarded by the oil marketing company to the DSB. The Chairman, in consultation with the other members of the DSB, examines the report with reference to the complaint and conveys his directions/ order for compliance by the oil company.

Reduction in Agricultural Income

2758. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that agricultural income of farmers has been reducing constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The farmers' income, which is reflected in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Agriculture and Allied sector (which includes agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fishery) for the years from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 at constant and current GDP prices, is as under :

GDP of Agriculture & Allied Sector

(Rs. Crore)

Year	GDP at current price	GDP at constant Prices (1993-94)
1993-94	241967	241967
1994-95	278773	254090
1995-96	303102	251892
1996-97	362605	276091
1997-98	387008	269383
1998-99	459900	288401
1999-2000	484221	290334
2000-2001	500532	290895

To further increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional schematic approach to macro management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of states' efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to states to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture. The Government also fixes each season the minimum support prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities to encourage higher investment and production. All these steps are expected to further increase the income of the farmers.

Crop Insurance Scheme

2759. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are receiving complaints to the effect that implementation of crop insurance scheme is not being done properly in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such compar.ies received during the last one year, State-wise; and

(c) the number of officers suspended by the Government on the basis of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) During the course of implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), no specific complaint against any officer has been received so far. However, implementing States/Union Territories have given suggestions from time to time for making improvement in the scheme. These suggestions have been examined and dealt with appropriately.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Bathinda Oil Refinery

2760. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present progress of Bathinda Oil Refinery project along with the expected time for its completion;

(b) the date on which the land was acquired by the Union Government for the refinery;

(c) the time by which the compensation was paid to landholders;

(d) whether the necessary permissions from all the quarters has been obtained in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) A subsidiary company of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has been formed and registered as Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Limited (GGSRL) on December 13, 2000 to execute the Refinery Project along with associated facilities at Bhatinda in Punjab. Land for the Refinery site has been acquired and boundary wall constructed. Site Grading and road works within the Refinery site has commenced Engineering and tender work for major infrastructure facilities has commenced. Construction work for approach road and raw water canal is in progress. Engineering activities for Crude Oil Pipeline and associated facilities has commenced. The project is expected to be completed by the year 2005.

(b) Land for the Refinery was acquired by the Government of Punjab on behalf of HPCL. HPCL has subsequently taken possession of the land from the State Government during the period December, 1997 to August, 1998.

(c) Compensation towards land has been paid by HPCL to the Land Acquisition Collector, Government of Punjab during the period November, 1997 to August, 1999 for further distribution to land owners.

(d) All necessary clearances for commencement of work on the project have been obtained.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SC, ST and OBC Employees Working in Major Ports

2761. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SC, ST and OBC candidates working in higher posts in eleven major ports in the country;

(b) whether justice is not done to the employees of these categories due to their inadequate representation in the higher posts;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to amend the Major Port Trust Act to give due representation to these deprived classes of society in the higher posts; and

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

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

[English]

Construction of Warehouses on Railway Land

2762. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have formulated a scheme to allot railway land to private/public sectors to build warehouses near railway stations;

(b) if so, the names of the places identifed therefor, State-wise;

(c) the terms and conditions of such land lease; and

(d) the names of private/public sector units who came forward to build warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, a pilot project has been approved at Whitefiled, Bangalore for construction of a Warehouse by Central Warehousing Corporation on railway land. Other places for similar construction would be identified based on traffic potential and need.

(c) The broad terms and conditions of the contract include the following :

(i) Railways will provide land for a period of 20/30 years which may be extended further.

(ii) The promoter should have requisite expertise & experience in execution of Warehousing projects;

(iii) The promoter will be required to give performance to rail borne traffic.

(d) The private/public sector units who had come forward include :

(i) Madhya Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (MPSWC) in the public sector.

(ii) M/s. Mahihar Cements, Satna, in the private sector.

Construction of Third Rail Line between Virar-Ahmedabad

2763. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of construction of third railway line between Virar and Ahmedabad;

(b) the progress achieved in this regard so far;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Government to start first phase work of railway line from Virar to Surat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Construction of 3rd line between Surat and Kosamba has been included in the Budget 2000-01 as a Phase-I work of the proposed 3rd line between Virar and Vadodara. Preparatory works like preparation of plans and detailed estimate is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Crop Insurance Scheme

2764. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana has been implemented completely in States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special features of the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the objectives achieved under the scheme during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY)/National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a voluntary scheme and has been implemented in the following 18 States and 2 Union Territories :

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Goa
6. Gujarat
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Jharkhand
9. Karnataka
10. Kerala
11. Madhya Pradesh
12. Maharashtra
13. Meghalaya
14. Orissa
15. Sikkim
16. Tamil Nadu
17. Uttar Pradesh
18. West Bengal
19. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
20. Pondicherry

The special features of RKBY/NAIS are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The NAIS was introduced in Rabi 1999-2000 to provide financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases. To achieve this objective during the first two crop seasons i.e. Rabi 1999-2000 and Kharif 2000, 87.71 lakh farmers have been covered under the scheme. Claims to the tune of Rs. 873.59 crore are paid/payable to 29.71 lakh farmers. A Statement-II indicating season-wise/State-wise claims paid/payable and farmers benefited is enclosed.

Statement-I

Salient Features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

The Government have introduced NAIS from Rabi 1999-2000 season to widen the scope and contents of Crop Insurance Scheme:

- Scheme is available to all farmers - loanee and non-loanee both - irrespective of their size of holding.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/ horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, seven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion and turmeric are presently covered.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance i.e. Gram Panchayat.
- It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

Statement-II

The details of State-wise and Season-wise Claims Paid/Payable and Farmers benefited under NAIS

S.No.	State/UT	Claims Paid/Payable		Farmers Benefited	
		Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000	Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000
		(Rs. in Lakhs)			
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not Implemented	2601.78	Not Implemented	1,17,227
2.	Assam	0.50	0.75	34	52
3.	Bihar	Not Implemented	481.25	Not Implemented	15,093
4.	Chhattisgarh	Part of Madhya Pradesh	8174.58	Part of Madhya Pradesh	4,16,585
5.	Goa	0.10	0.08	33	58

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	218.02	59152.00	7,915	9,74,167
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	-	2	Nil
8.	Kerala	29.54	242.88	2,726	9,370
9.	Karnataka	Not Implemented	213.02	Not Implemented	21,734
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11.33	5551.32	4,891	4,26,298
11.	Maharashtra	73.09	10242.78	12,391	8,69,176
12.	Meghalaya	Not Implemented	0.14	Not Implemented	43
13.	Orissa	0.17	Yet to be approved	15	Claims under process
14.	Tamil Nadu	Not Implemented	Not yet worked out	Not Implemented	Claims under process
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Not Implemented	363.83	Not Implemented	93,480
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	No Season	0.36	No Season	23
17.	Pondicherry	1.27	-	172	Nil
	Total	334.03	87024.77	28,179	29,43,306

Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

2765. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone for the proposed Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts has been laid in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether land has been given by the State Government for this purpose;

(c) the amount earmarked for the said centre during 2001-2002; and

(d) the time by which the centre is likely to start its functioning?

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

(c) The allocations for the Regional Centre are to be decided by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts based upon requirements.

(d) According to Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Regional Centre of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts at Bangalore will start functioning immediately, initially in temporary accommodation provided by the State Government.

Shipping Fleet and Port Infrastructure

2766. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of an adequate shipping fleet and port infrastructure, the Government are losing several crores per year;

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

(c) whether the Indian Shipping Companies failed to meet the trade demand in comparison to other foreign shipping lines; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such a fall and the steps taken by the Government to rejuvenate the shipping lines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Though the Indian Shipping fleet has not grown in tandem with the growth of India's overseas seaborne trade, in real terms, the quantum of cargo carried by Indian lines has increased from 38.86 million tonnes in 1990-91 to 70.85 million tonnes in 1999-2000 and the traffic handled by Major Ports has risen from 220 million tonnes to 281 million tonnes during the 9th Plan period (upto 31.3.2001), resulting in annual growth rate of 5.6%.

The Government has taken various measures to rejuvenate the shipping lines in the country to meet the ever growing demand of the Indian seaborne trade. In order to further enhance the competitiveness of the Indian Shipping Industry, the Government has taken several measures such as :-

(i) All categories of ships viz.; crude tanker, Product Tanker, Bulk Carriers etc. have been included in the free list for import after the amendments in the Exim Policy for 2001-2002, to facilitate acquisition at competitive price;

(ii) Ships (including second hand ships) can now be imported freely without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Shipping.

(iii) Facility for Acquisition of ships through Bare Boat Charter-cum-Demise method;

(iv) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;

(v) The Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government;

(vi) Quarterly Block Allocation scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with.

(vii) Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods, without any value limit;

(viii) Indian Shipping Companies can Time Charter out ships without any restrictions;

(ix) 100 percent investment by NRIs in shipping with full repatriation benefits;

(x) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;

(xi) Restoration of Section 33 AC (of Income Tax Act) benefits in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.

(xii) Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for Ships.

Security In Monuments

2767. SHRI P.D. ELENGOVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ASI has engaged security guards from private security services to protect and safeguard the protected monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the private security services have been given this assignment without following the general rules and conditions of tender method;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The security of selected monuments including those on UNESCO's World Heritage list was strengthened by deploying private security for a period of three years from 1.4.1998. The following expenditure has been incurred :-

1998-99	Rs. 1,98,93,437
1999-2000	Rs. 2,59,60,127
2000-2001	Rs. 4,10,37,540

(c) to (e) Quotations from various security services were invited and the party quoting the lowest rates was assigned the contract.

Smuggling of Rice

2768. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of rice is regularly being smuggled through the border with Bangladesh in Basirhat sub-division under North 24 Parganas district; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to remedy the situation and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As per the reports received from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Jurisdictional Commissioner i.e. Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Kolkata (West Bengal), smuggling of a small quantity of rice has been noticed through this border.

(b) All the field formations under the Customs Department including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including rice. During the year 1998-99 to 2000-01, a quantity of 463.193 quintals of contraband rice valued at Rs. 3.37 lakh was seized at the border.

Disposal of Tobacco Stocks

2769. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to dispose off huge stocks of tobacco with farmers and in godwons, to help out the farmers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the latest stock position in Andhra Pradesh and other States and the requirement of indigenous industry for such tobacco;

(c) the areas identified for diversifying the use of tobacco for uses other than smoking and chewing; and

(d) the extent success attained in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Tobacco Board (Ministry of Commerce), farmers are not holding any stock of tobacco in their godowns and hence disposing off those huge stocks does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is possible to recover Solanesol, Nicotine and crude organic acids from tobacco. Besides, crude protein could be recovered from green leaf and oil from tobacco seed. Solanesol is the starging material for bio-chemicals used in the drug manufacture. Nicotine can be converted to 40% Nicotine Sulphate which could be used as botanical pesticide. However, its use is banned in our country and its manufacture is allowed for export purposes only.

The bench scale technologies were developed for extraction of 95+% Solanesol, 40% Nicotine Sulphate and crude organic acids from tobacco.

Policy for Natural Gas in Power, Chemical Sector

2770. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Linkage Committee under his Ministry has been allotting natural gas on *ad hoc* basis in the absence of any established guidelines or policy giving every chance for favouritism and nepotism;

(b) whether the Government have finalized any policy for industrial consumers of natural gas in power, chemicals and fertilizers and steel sectors;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the said policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The allocations of natural gas is made to various consumers including the Power, Chemicals, Fertilizers and Steel Sectors on the recommendation of an inter-Ministerial Committee - Gas Linkage Committee (GLC), keeping in view the merit of the case and availability of gas. Priority is given to Power and Fertilizers Sectors which have an important role in the economy of the country.

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

Use of Electronic Voting Machine

2771. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether electronic voting machines were used in all the polling stations in State Assembly elections during May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether use of these machines was successful;

(c) if so, whether the use of electronic voting machines is likely to be compulsory in all future elections of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The electronic voting machines were used in the polling stations in all the Assembly Constituencies in the State of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry in the polls held on 10th May, 2001 in the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of these States/Union Territory. The electronic voting machines were used in four Assembly Constituencies viz. 51-Jalukbari, 52-Dispur, 53-Gauhati (East) and 54-Gauhati (West) in the State of Assam.

(b) According to the Election Commission of India, the use of electronic voting machines in the elections held in May, 2001, was successful.

(c) to (e) According to the Election Commission of India, the question of use of electronic voting machines in future Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections will be considered by it at the appropriate time taking into account all aspects of the matter.

[Translation]

Setting up of High Court Benches

2772. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAY :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the norms followed for sanctioning of High Court Bench;

(b) whether the Government have received proposals from the various State Governments for setting up of additional benches of High Courts in their States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to. The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

Besides, the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 24th July, 2000 on a writ petition filed by the Federation of Bar Associations in Karnataka for establishment of a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court at any suitable place in northern Karnataka observed that the High Court is the best suited machinery to decide whether it is necessary and feasible to have a bench outside the principal seat of that High Court.

(b) to (d) The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for Judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court.

[English]

Cultivation of Oil Palm

2773. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil palm is recognised as the very high yielder of edible oil;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase oil palm cultivation in the country;

(c) the States where Oil Palm Development Programme is being implemented;

(d) the target area of cultivation of oil palm during the current five year plan and the targets achieved so far, State-wise; and

(e) the amount allotted under this programme during last two financial years and in 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes Sir, oil palm is the highest oil yielding perennial crop.

(b) and (c) To promote cultivation of oil palm in India a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) is being implemented in the States saving potential for oil palm cultivation. Presently, the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Tripura, Assam & Kerala are covered under OPDP. The objective of the scheme is to promote cultivation of oil palm with a view to augment the domestic supply of edible oils. Under the scheme assistance is provided towards the cost of Planting Material, Cultivation Inputs, Installation of Drip Irrigation System, Diesel Pumpsets, Training, Development of Waste-land, Extension and Publicity, Establishment & Staff, Frontline Demonstrations, Leaf Nutrients Analysis Laboratories, Testing of Genotypes under varies environmental conditions.

(d) The State-wise target area of cultivation of oil palm during the current five-year plan and the targets achieved so far are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(e) The State-wise amount allotted under Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) during last two years (1999-2000, 2000-2001) and 2001-02 are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise Target and Achievement under OPDP during current Five Year Plan

(in ha.)

S.No.	Name of the State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	Total for IX Plan	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.(P)*	Target	Target	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,795	3,795	9,750	3,205	10,655	2,465	11,500	1,207	12,300	48,000	10,672
2.	Karnataka	598	598	2,500	239	2,400	85	2,350	194	2,350	10,198	1,116
3.	Tamil Nadu	2,076	2,076	2,000	667	2,450	739	2,700	939	3,032	12,258	4,421
4.	Gujarat	180	144	375	8	445	0	700	20	850	2,550	172
5.	Orissa	444	452	700	48	700	91	750		850	3,444	591
6.	Goa	4	3	150	47	150	21	200	24	296	800	95
7.	Tripura	0	0	50	0	50	13	50	98	50	200	111
8.	Assam	0	0	150	0	150	0	150		200	650	0
9.	West Bengal @	0	0	0	0	100	0	150	0	200	450	0
10.	Kerala	0	0	300	0	300	0	300	102	100	1,000	102

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11.	Maharashtra @	0	0	0	0	100	0	150	0	200	450	0
	Total	7,097	7,068	15,975	4,214	17,500	3,414	19,000	2,585	20,428	80,000	17,281

@ OPDP scheme not implemented so far (P)* Provisional

Statement-II

State-wise Central Funds allotted under OPDP during last two Years (1999-2000, 2000-2001) and 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/Institution	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	717.00	770.00	500.00
2.	Karnataka	270.00	150.00	90.00
3.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	180.00	140.00
4.	Gujarat	10.00	45.00	40.00
5.	Goa	5.00	13.00	10.00
6.	Orissa	10.00	50.00	20.00
7.	Tripura	8.00	5.00	7.00
8.	Assam	7.00	10.00	8.00
9.	Kerala	50.00	30.00	20.00
	Total (A)	1,177.00	1,253.00	835.00
10.	ICAR	20.00	22.00	15.00
11.	OPIL	1.00	1.00	0.00
12.	AFC	1.00	1.00	0.00
13.	TMO&P	1.00	1.00	0.00
	Others			0.00
	Total (B)	23.00	25.00	15.00
14.	Component on Development of Wasteland	0	222.00	150
	Total (C)	0.00	222.00	150
Grand Total (A+B+C)		1,200.00	1,500.00	1,000.00

[Translation]

Reserving of Judgement

2774. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the court has to pronounce the judgement at once or within fifteen days from the date on which the hearing of the case is concluded;

(b) whether the "Arrears Committee" also recommended that the reserved judgement by High Courts should ordinarily be pronounced within a period of six weeks;

(c) the remedy available with the litigants, in case the judgement is not pronounced on the date fixed after the 30 days of concluding of hearing;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation or issue any guidelines to ensure that judgements are announced within a stipulated time;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether judges exercise discretionary and unbridled power in this regard; and

(g) if not, the authority who exercises check on such matters?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) As per the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, every endeavour shall be made by the Court to pronounce the judgement at once or within fifteen days from the date on which the hearing of the case was concluded. If the judgement is not pronounced within 30 days the court shall record reasons for the delay and fix a future day on which the judgement shall be pronounced.

(b) The 'Arrears Committee' also recommended that the reserved judgement by High Courts should ordinarily be pronounced within a period of six weeks

from the date of completion of the arguments. The recommendations have since, been forwarded to all High Courts for necessary action.

(c) As delivery of judgement is a part of the judicial function of judges, Government does not directly intervene in this matter. However, a number of High Courts have issued instructions to the Subordinate Judiciary for early delivery of judgement.

(d) and (e) The Government has introduced the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 in Parliament which inter alia provides that where it is not practicable for the Court to pronounce the judgement within thirty days because of exceptional and extraordinary circumstances of the case, the Court shall fix a day for the pronouncement of judgement which shall not be ordinarily beyond sixty days from the date on which the case was heard. The Bill is, since, pending consideration of the Department - related Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs.

Government have also written to the High Courts suggesting to make appropriate rules or provision for early delivery of judgement after the hearing is over.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. There are checks and balances within the judiciary as there is an integrated system of judiciary in the country.

Pulse Production

2775. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has suggested a four point strategy for boosting production of pulses and achieving self-sufficiency in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto: and

(d) the other steps taken to boost the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The ASSOCHAM have suggested a 4 points strategy for boosting production of pulses and achieving self-sufficiency in 2001-2002. The details of the strategy are use of improved seeds of high yield varieties, application of sulphur integrated nutrient and pest management and application of NPV (Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus) for control of pod borer in arhar & gram and use of sprinkler irrigation. The above mentioned 4 points strategy had earlier been suggested by the Expert Committee on Pulses. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Pulses, the suggested 4 points strategy has already been included under the revised scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during 9th plan w.e.f. 2000-2001. Therefore, the implementation of revised programme of NPDP is already taking care of the 4 points strategy as recommended by the Expert Committee on Pulses.

(d) For increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored scheme National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/U.Ts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seed, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

Financial Irregularities by DC (Handlooms)

2776. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state :

(a) whether DC (Handlooms) withdrew Rs. 2.40 crores from the Government account on the last day of the financial year 1995-96 for setting up of quality control centre in the Weavers' Service Centre but kept the amount in the current account causing loss of interest of more than Rs. 75 lakhs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have looked into the matter and fixed any responsibility for causing pecuniary loss to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Centre has been set up and is functioning; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) Germany had promulgated an Ordinance governing its

ecological policies in 1991-92 and it was amended in 1994 so as to ban Azo Dyes. The ordinance was to be effective from 1st April, 1996. The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce had cautioned the Indian Industries to take the ordinance seriously and ensure immediate arrangements for providing quality testing parameters for products exported to Germany. The testing of various eco parameters became inevitable in order to ban the use of Azo Dyes.

Handloom Sector being highly dispersed and decentralized, was likely to continue the use of banned dyes and chemicals, since the dissemination of information was a time consuming and difficult exercise. Since the ban had been imposed by Germany, action on war footing was to be taken to thwart any adverse impact on export of handloom products. Consequently 15 Weavers' Service Centres were identified for setting up Quality Control Cells. Sanction was issued on 29.03.1996 for drawal of Rs. 2.40 crore from Government account for purchasing the requisite equipment, setting up Libraries and training the employees of Weavers' Service Centres. The amount was kept in current account in the Central Bank of India.

For finalizing the purchase of machineries and equipment for setting up Quality Control Cells in 15 identified Weavers' Service Centres, a "Purchase and Infrastructure Augmentation Committee" was constituted and Global Tender Notice was issued in leading newspapers. Subsequently it was found that the requirement of equipment to be procured for setting up the Quality Control Cells needed a reassessment. Since such an exercise was time consuming, the unutilized amount drawn for this purpose was remitted to the Government account on 23.06.98.

All possible steps were taken to ensure that the Quality Control Cells were established in a given time frame. However, given the multiplicity of scientific equipment and the diverse requirement of different locations, the entire process was found to be time consuming. It was essential to ensure that the fund drawn was properly utilized for the purpose for which it was drawn and was spent in accordance with the laid down financial regulations.

Construction of Tamluk-Digha Rail Line

2777. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of construction of new railway line from Tamluk to Digha in West Bengal; and

(b) the steps being taken to complete the said line during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work on Tamluk - Deshpran (27.5 km) has been completed and the work in remaining section from Deshpran to Digha (60 km) is in progress.

(b) Performance of the contractors is being closely monitored in all segments of work and necessary funds have been provided.

[Translation]

Appointment of RTSA in Railways

2778. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint Rail Travellers Service agent at different stations of the Railways, zone-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such agents are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Loan to Jamnagar Thermal Power Plant

2779. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned a loan to Reliance for its Jamnagar Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other private company has also been sanctioned loan; and

(d) if so, the names of the company and amount of loan sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned a foreign currency loan of US$ 113.55 million to M/s. Reliance Power Limited, a company promoted by M/s. Reliance Industries Limited for its 2x250 MW petcoke based power plant at Jamnagar. The loan documents for the same are yet to be executed.

(c) and (d) As far as funding to private power projects is concerned, PFC has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5,556 crores as on 30.6.2001, (term loans and guarantees) to 26 private power projects, which are expected to result in a capacity addition of 6191 MW. Loan documents in respect of 10 power projects have been executed. An amount of around Rs. 725 crores has been disbursed upto 30.6.2001 and guarantees amounting to Rs. 196 crores have been issued. Details of these loan proposals sanctioned to private parties are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Private Sector Loan Proposals Sanctioned

As on 30.6.2001

All amount in Rs. Crores

Sl.No.	Name of State, Company & Project	Capacity MW	Cost of Project	Amount & Date of Sanction	Amount Disbursed	Guarantee issued
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	ON GOING LOANS					
	HIMACHAL PRADESH					
1.	Jai Prakash Hydro Power Ltd. (Baspa-II HEP, 3X100 MW, Loan No.J0102001)	300	1293.00	170.00 (11.11.98) Guar. 191.00	135.00	
2.	Malana Power Corp. Ltd. (Malana HEP, 2x43 MW at Kullu District Loan No. M0202001)	86	352.00	95.00 (11.1.99)	25.00	
	MADHYA PRADESH					
3.	Maheshwar Hydel Power Corp. Ltd. (Maheshwar HEP, 10x40 MW, Loan No. 20502001 & 20502002)	400	1569.00	100.00 (16.5.97) US$ 52.90 Mill. (21.9.98)	99.33	
	MAHARASHTRA					
4.	Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (Upgradation and Improvement of T & D Network, Loan No. 21407001)		94.98	47.50 (15.5.96)	47.50	
	GUJARAT					
5.	GIPCL (Mangrol TPS, 2X125 MW, Loan No.84301001)	250	1202.00	18.00 (23.9.97)	18.00	
6.	Sanghi Industries Ltd. (45.33 MW Captive Power Plant, Loan No.S0601001)	45	114.35	57.00 Guar. 12.00 (16.6.00)		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	ANDHRA PRADESH					
7.	Lanco Kondapally Power Ltd. (Naptha Based CCGT at Krishna District. 355 MW, Loan No.31701003)	355	1149.97	166.50 US$ 12.50 Mill. (30.6.98)	222.14	
8.	BPL Power Projects Ltd. (520 MW Coal Fired TPP at Ramagundam, Loan No.B0201001)	520	2775.92	Guar. US$ 113.00 Mill. (14.7.99)		
	KERALA					
9.	BSES-Kerala Power Ltd. (165 MW Naptha Based CCGT at Udyogmandal, Loan No.B0301001)	165	457.00	US$ 23.00 Mill. (21.7.99)	99.93	
	TAMIL NADU					
10.	Balaji Power Corporation (7x15.143 MW LSFO Based DG sets at Samay-anallur in Madurai, Loan No.B0101001)	106	403.87	US$ 20.00 Mill (10.3.99)	78.08	
	TOTAL	2227	9412.09	Term Loan 654.00 US$ 108.4 Mill. Guarantee 203.00 US$ 113.00 Mill.	724.97	196.00
	Loan Documents to be Executed					
	UTTAR PRADESH					
11.	Jai Prakash Power Ventures Ltd. (4x100 MW Vishnu Prayag HEP in UP, Loan No.J0202001)	400	1800.00	254.00 US$ 32.00 Mill. (8.10.99)		
	HARYANA					
12.	Magnum Power Gen. Ltd. (Liquid Fuel Based Power Project at Sihi, 4x6.3 MW, Loan No. M0101001)	25	49.90	7.60 (24.9.98)		
13.	Phoenix Power Dev. Corp. Ltd. (3x50+1x25MW LFB Power Projects in Haryana, Loan No.P0101001)	175	615.00	120.00 (30.6.99)		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	ORISSA					
14.	CESCO (Restoration of Cyclone Damaged Distribution network, Loan No.C0207001)		129.57	30.00 (8.9.00)		
	MADHYA PRADESH					
15.	Maheshwar Hydel Power Corpn. Ltd. (Maheshwar HEP, 10x40 MW, Loan No.20502003)		1569.00	US$ 132.60 Mill. (21.1.00)		
16.	Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd. (Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, 2x289 MW, Loan No. B0401001)	578	2701.68	480.00 (31.8.00)		
	MAHARASHTRA					
17.	Ispat Energy Ltd. (367 MW Captive Power Plant at Dolvi, Loan No.10101001)	367	1470.00	318.00 (8.10.99)		
	GUJARAT					
18.	Reliance Power Ltd. (2x250 MW Petroleum Coke Based Power Plant at Jamnagar, Loan No.R0301001)	500	2891.44	US$ 113.55 Mill. (9.1.01)		
19.	Vadinar Power Co. Ltd. (77 MW Captive Cogeneration Plant at Vadinar, Loan No.V0301001)	77	559.80	235.00 (8.2.01)		
	ANDHRA PRADESH					
20.	Greenview Power Project Ltd. (Nandyal FO Based TPS, 2x6 MW, Loan No.31901002)	12	37.25	17.05 (28.3.98)		
21.	Vemagiri Power Generation Ltd. (370 MW Natural Gas Based GTCC at Vemagiri, Loan No. V0201002)	370	1297.60	260.00 (22.3.01)		
22.	Shalivana Power Corpn. Ltd. (31. 494 MW DG Set at Lingapur Village, Loan No. S0301001)	32	107.00	20.00 (14.7.99) Guarantee 15.00		
23.	NCC Power (232.4 MW (ISO) CCGT at Samalkot, Peddapuram, Loan No. N0101001)	232	762.00	45.00 (US$ 23.26 Mill. (4.8.99)		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Alpha Energy Systems Ltd. (40 MW Bio Mass Power Project at Kandi in Medak District, Loan No. A0301001)	40	158.50	79.25 (1.5.01)		
	TAMIL NADU					
25.	Videocon Power Ltd. (2x525 MW North Chennai TPP Stg.II, Loan No.V0101001)	1050	4570.34	400.00 (3.12.98)		
26.	Samalpaty Power Corpn. (105.66 MW, FO Based DGPP at Samalpatti, Loan No.S0401 001)	106	403.86	Guarantee 130.00 (10.3.99)		
TOTAL		3964	19122.94	Term Loan 2265.90 US$ 301.41 Mill. Guarantee 145.00 US$ 0.00 Mill.		
Grand Total		6191	28535.03	Term Loan 2919.90 US$ 409.81 Mill. Guarantee 348.00 US$ 113.00 Mill.	724.97	

Total (Term Loan) = Rs. 4714.61 crores

Total (Term Loan + Guarantee) = Rs. 5556.11 crores

Trains through Konkan Railways

2780. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the train services have been discontinued through Konkan Railway from Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the train services are likely to be restarted through Konkan Railway from Kerala; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to solve the problem faced by the passengers of North Kerala due to discontinuation of train service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to the damage to Kadalundi Bridge in Calicut-Shoranur Section on Southern Railway, the train services through Konkan Railway from Kerala have been discontinued.

(c) Through traffic via Konkan Railway is likely to be restored by end of September, 2001.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(d) Various measures taken by the Government are as follows :

(i) All the passenger services exclusively scheduled to run in the Calicut-Mangalore section are being continued. In addition, 3 pairs of Special Express Trains with the timings and stoppages of Train Nos. 6601/6602 Chennai-Mangalore Mail, 6329/6330 Mangalore-

Trivandrum 'Malabar' Express and 6867/6868 Mangalore-Trichy Express are also being run.

(ii) Since, Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Mangala Lakshadweep Express has been diverted via Shoranur-Palghat, Special train between Mangalore-Nizamuddin has been introduced on nominated dates with connecting services from and to Calicut as under :

Train No. 387 Coimbatore- Mangalore Passenger	Calicut (Dep.) 14.50 hrs.	Mangalore (Arr.) 19.30 hrs.	Nizamuddin-Mangalore Special	Mangalore (Arr.) 22.30 hrs.	
Mangalore-Nizamuddin Special		Mangalore (Dep.) 22.15 hrs.	Passenger Special	Mangalore (Dep.) 23.00 hrs.	Calicut (Arr.) 05.15 hrs.

(iii) Gujrat area has been connected by Mangalore-Gandhidham (Weekly) Specials with connecting services from and to Calicut as under :

Passenger Special	Calicut (Dep.) 22.00 hrs.	Mangalore (Arr.) 03.45 hrs.	Gandhidham-Mangalore (Weekly) Special	Mangalore (Arr.) 13.45 hrs.	
Mangalore-Gandhidham (Weekly) Special		Mangalore (Dep.) 05.30 hrs.	Special No.III	Mangalore (Dep.) 16.30 hrs.	Calicut (Arr.) 22.45 hrs.

(iv) Passenger in Calicut-Mumbai Sector have the following daily connecting services :

Special No. V	Calicut (Dep.) 08.35 hrs.	Mangalore (Arr.) 14.25 hrs.	Train No. 2619	Mangalore (Arr.) 06.30 hrs.	
Train No.2620		Mangalore (Dep.) 14.50 hrs.	Train No.388	Mangalore (Dep.) 07.45 hrs.	Calicut (Arr.) 13.15 hrs.

[Translation]

False Evidence

2781. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 6044 dated April 26, 2001 regarding false evidence and to state :

(a) whether the desired information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the desired information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) Chapter XI of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 deals with giving of false evidence and prescribes punishments for the same.

The information in respect of parts (a), (b) and (d) of the Unstarred Question No. 6044 for 26.4.2001 is not readily available with the Government of India. However, efforts are being made to collect the information through various High Courts.

[English]

Canada's Interest in Power Generation Projects

2782. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Canada have evinced interest in electricity generation projects in India;

(b) if so, the names of projects in which Canadian Government have shown interest; and

(c) the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Charnera Hydro Electric Project (Stage-I) in Himachal Pradesh has been constructed with financial assistance from Canada and Chamera Hydro Electric Project (Stage-II) is being constructed with part financing, as loan, from Canada. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) is availing a loan amount $ 175 million for Chamera-II H.E. Project.

The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with the Export Development Corporation (EDC) of Canada on June 6, 2001 for a Line of Credit Facility of upto US$ 75 million. The Line of Credit is a tied credit intended for on-lending by PFC to finance the purchase of goods and/or services by various State Electricity Boards and PFC's other qualified borrowers from various Canadian Exporters and can be utilized for financing upto 85% of such import components.

Setting up of Railway Fund

2783. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up special Railways fund by imposing of an additional duty of 50 paise per litre on high speed diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Railways have received its share from Central Road Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the projects on which this amount is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Railways have received Rs. 200 crores in 1999-2000, Rs. 300 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 300 crores in 2001-2002 from the Central Road Fund.

(e) The receipts from this Fund are being utilised for construction of Road over bridges/under bridges and also for manning of unmanned level crossings. Both on-going works as well as new works are financed from the receipts from this Fund.

[Translation]

Diversion of Trains Route

2784. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the route of train No.5049/5050 Gorakhpur-Howrah weekly express have been diverted:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from the passengers of more districts against the said diversion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of public demands for direct service from Ballia-Chhapra to Howrah on one hand and poor patronage of the erstwhile 5049/5050 Express (via Varanasi) on the other, 5049/5050 Express has been diverted to run via Samastipur-Chhapra-Ballia-Indore-Bhatni with effect from 01-07-2001.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. One representation from Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan, MP has been received. The same has been examined but not been found justified.

[English]

Losses Suffered by MRPL

2785. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

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

(a) whether Mangalore Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Limited (MRPL) has been suffering losses during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for such losses;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on such losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of profits earned / losses suffered by each of the refinery during 2000-2001; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has suffered a loss of Rs. 185 crore during the year 2000 - 2001.

The factors responsible for MRPL's losses, inter alia, are the following :

(i) Low refining margins due to price of finished products moving at a lower rate than the increase in the price of crude oil;

(ii) High interest (due to high debt equity ratio) and depreciation burden.

(c) and (d) Since MRPL is a non-PSU company, analysis of losses and fixation of responsibility in this regard is not taken up by the Government.

(e) The amounts of profit earned / loss incurred by oil companies having refineries during the year 2000 - 2001 are given in the statement enclosed.

(f) The gross margin level of refineries gets affected for the reason that increase in the prices of crude oil normally does not follow commensurate increase in the product prices in the international market. Consequent to the Government decision taken in November, 1997, the retention system of pricing for the refineries has been abolished with effect from 01.04.1998. Refineries are now being paid for the controlled petroleum products at import parity basis.

Statement

Details of profit earned/loss suffered by oil companies having refineries during 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of Oil Company having Refinery (ies)	Profit earned (in Rs. crore)	Loss incurred (in Rs. crore)
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	2,720.33	-
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	820.00	-
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	1,088.01	-
4.	Kochi Refineries Limited	109.46	-
5.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	122.43	-
6.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	-	57.44
7.	Numuligarh Refinery Limited	21.6 (from October, 2000 to March 2001)	-
8.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	-	185.00
9.	Reliance Petroleum Limited	1464.00	-

Foreigners Bill

2786. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has resolved the controversy with the Law Commission while approving the final draft of the Foreigners Bill;

(b) if so, the details of points of disagreement between his Ministry and the Law Commission; and

(c) the time by which the Foreigners Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Law Commission's 175th Report on "The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2000" was received in September, 2000. The Commission has recommended sweeping changes in the Foreigners Act. Recommendations of the Law Commission are being examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs, in consultation with concerned agencies. After taking a final decision on the recommendations of the Commission, if required, a revised Bill will be introduced in the Parliament.

Doubling of Rail Lines

2787. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the doubling of Sonarpur-Canning and Baraipur-Lakshmikanapur railway lines under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost of these projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, patch doubling on these sections have been included in the budget 2000-2001 as under :

(i) Sonarpur-Ghutiari Sharif section as Ph.I of Sonarpur-Canning at an estimated cost of Rs. 36 crs.

(ii) Baruipur-Dakshin Barasat section as Ph.I of Baruipur-Lakshmikant pur doubling at an estimated cost of Rs. 49 crs.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed. The works will be progressed and completed as per operational priority and availability of resources.

Procurement of Wagons

2788. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has procured only 7500 wagons instead of 20,000 wagons last year because of reduced demand for traffic;

(b) if so, the basis for such assessment of reduced traffic;

(c) whether balanced and logical view is to maintain status quo-ante and procure 20,000 wagons this year also;

(d) if so, the steps taken to procure the 20,000 wagons during the current year; and

(e) the orders of wagons placed with West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) No, Sir. An order of 21225 wagons in terms of four wheeler units (FWUs) was placed on wagon industry for 2000-2001. Out of the above, orders for 16122.5 FWUs were placed on wagon manufacturing units located in West Bengal.

Requirement of wagons is assessed on the basis of targetted freight traffic for the year, expected wagon utilisation index and replacement requirements for the year.

For 2001-02, a budgetary provision for acquisition of 23000 FWUs has been made out of which 17000 FWUs are to be acquired under Railway's own resources whereas remaining 6000 FWUs are to be acquired under Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS)/ Build-On-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme. At present there is no demand under OYWS/BOLT. Wagon industry has an outstanding workload of about 10000 FWUs as on 01.4.2001 including 2460 FWUs orders under +30% option clause against 2000-01 contracts. Another 2000 FWUs has been ordered on Railway workshops. Out of the 2460 FWUs, a quantity of 1620 FWUs was released on wagon manufacturing units located in West Bengal. Apart from this, units in West Bengal were having an outstanding load of 6235 FWUs. Further ordering out of 17000 FWUs for the year is under consideration.

Gas Supply to Uran Gas Turbine Power Station

2789. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has made a request for increasing the gas supply to Uran Gas Turbine Power Station and Trombay Thermal Station in the State; and

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

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

(b) To augment the gas supply, GAIL has signed a Cooperation Agreement with Totalfina of France and Tata Electrical Company Limited (TEC), Trombay for import of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) for a total quantity of 6 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) in two phases.

[Translation]

Survey for Bari-Sadhuri-Nimach Rail Line

2790. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey was conducted to construct Bari-Sadhuri-Chhoti Sadhuri-Nimach railway line; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Electrification of Tracks under North East Railway

2791. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started any work for electrification in any section of North East Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to go for electrification in North East Railway and the time schedule fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Under North East Railway, the electrification work on the following sections is in progress :

	Section	Route Kilometres
(i)	Part of Circular Railway around Lucknow area	24
(ii)	Kanpur-Anwarganj	3

At present, there is no proposal to take up electrification of any other section over North East Railway.

Tank Truck Security System

2792. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IOC has introduced 'Tank Truck Security System' in some of the cities to check adulteration and pilferage of petroleum products during transit;

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

(c) whether other Public Sector oil companies have also been directed to introduce similar system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the new system introduced by IOC would ensure supply of fuel to consumers free from any adulteration?

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

(b) The Tank Trucks supplying products to the Retail Outlets would be locked with unique/Retail Outlet specific locks. The keys of the locks would be made available with the Retail Outlet Dealer only and a master key would be available at the supply location.

(c) and (d) Other Public Sector Oil Companies viz. HPC, BPC and IBP have also introduced the above new Tank Truck Locking System. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have advised the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to introduce the locking system in a phased manner.

(e) Since the locks used in the New Tank Truck Locking System are claimed to be tamper proof and duplicate keys can not be made easily, enroute adulteration as well as enroute pilferage are expected to be eliminated.

Visit of Foreign Tourists

2793. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of income generated from the visit of foreign tourists from places of tourism and culture during each of the last three years and the current year till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the income is as per the projected estimate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the income from Taj Mahal annually; and

(f) the efforts being taken by the Government to increase the income from tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 (January-July) are Rs. 12150 crores, Rs. 12951 crores, Rs. 14238 crores and Rs. 8539.33 crores respectively. State-wise foreign exchange earnings are not estimated.

(b) to (d) Projections of foreign exchange earnings have not been made.

(e) The income from the Taj Mahal during the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 8,47,63,941/-.

(f) Income through tourism sector can be increased by increasing the inflow of foreign tourists into the country. Various steps taken to attract more foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resource development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

[Translation]

Super Charges in Trains

2794. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for implementing super charges in train fares;

(b) the names of trains in which super fast charge is charged;

(c) whether super fast charge is charged from the passengers of the 'Vidarbha Express' despite the fact that it stops at 18 stations in its total journey of 838 kms. and yet considered super fast train;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the working people commuting to work in the adjoining areas have to pay super fare charge @ Rs. 10/- daily which is a burden on them;

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government to respite people from super charge; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The trains whose average speed on the entire run in both directions is 55 kilometers or more per hour on Broad Gauge and 45 Kilometers or more per hour on Meter Gauge are designated as Superfast and a nominal supplementary charge is levied on passengers travelling by such trains. The amount of supplementary charge is prescribed in accordance with the class of travel.

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

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Average speed on the entire run of the train in both directions is the criteria for declaring the train as superfast and as per the criteria, Vidarbha Express qualifies as a superfast train.

(e) to (g) Passengers, including season ticket holders traveling in second class coaches of superfast trains are required to pay Rs. 10/- per journey towards superfast surcharge. Due to financial constraints on Railways, it is not proposed to make any change in this policy.

Dilapidated Condition of Monuments

2795. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Karodo Kharch par Eitihasik Dhrohar Khastahaal" appearing in Rashtriya Sahara dated June 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken against the guilty officials; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India annually allots funds for conservation and preservation of protected monuments, based on the specific requirement of each monument subject to the overall availability of funds.

[English]

Policy on Rain-Harvesting

2796. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since formulated a comprehensive policy on rain harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such a policy is likely to be formulated; and

(d) the financial assistance being given to States which have already taken a lead in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture announced the National Agriculture Policy in 2000, which accords high priority to the rational utilisation and conservation of the country's abundant water resources and conjunctive use of surface and ground water. It also lays emphasis on the integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas through conservation of rainwater.

(d) Government of India is promoting rainwater harvesing through watershed management programmes, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rainwater harvesting under various schemes.

Rainwater conservation and harvesting is an integral component of watershed development programmes, which are being implemented all over the country. The total financial assistance provided to the States and Union Territories under major watershed development programmes in first four years of IX Plan is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of funds provided during first four years of IX Plan (1997-98 to 2000-2001) to various Watershed Development Programmes

S.No.	Ministry/Scheme	Funds provided during first four years of IX Plan (Rs. in Crores)
I	**Department of Agriculture & Cooperation**	
1	NWDPRA	792.15
2	RVP & FPR	470.14
3	WDPSCA	63.40
	Sub Total	1325.69
II	**Department of Land Resources**	
1	DPAP	448.29
2	DDP	369.79
3	IWDP	326.80
	Sub Total	1144.88
III	**Ministry of Environment & Forests**	
1	IAEPS	141.54
	Grand Total	2612.11

NWDPRA = National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

RVP & FPR = Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers

WDPSCA = Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area

DPAP = Drought Prone Areas Programme

DDP = Desert Development Programme

IWDP = Integrated Wasteland Development Project

IAEPS = Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme

Introduction of VRS in SCI

2797. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has introduced V.R.S.;

(b) if so, the number of persons applied for the scheme so far; and

(c) the number out of them allowed to take V.R.S.?

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

(b) So far six employees have applied under the scheme.

(c) The scheme is open until end of August, 2001. All applications received will be processed only after the expiry of the last date for receipt of VRS applications.

[Translation]

Invasion of Locusts

2798. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry fears invasion of locusts in India from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to save agriculture sector from the invasion of locusts?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fishing Harbour Project

2799. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to develop a fishing harbour in the natural bay at Thalai in Kannur district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a project report for construction of project under the 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been submitted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated and released for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for construction of a fishing harbour at Thalai in Kannur district at an estimated cost of Rs. 1370 lakhs and the State Government has sought 50% central financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(d) After preliminary examination of the project proposal, the State Government has been asked to re-examine the techno-economic viability of the project and submit a report.

(e) Does not arise.

Production of Electric Locomotive

2800. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of electric locomotive in Chittaranjan Locomotive works during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) whether the production target has been drastically reduced; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The production of electric locomotive in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) for the last three years and current year so far is as under :-

Year (Locomotive)	Production
1998-99	165
1999-2000	120
2000-2001	120
2001-2002 (upto July)	20

(b) and (c) The yearly production programme of locomotives is based on traffic requirements as also availability of funds. The present level of electric Loco production planned at CLW is commensurate with traffic need and funds availability.

Demand, Supply and Production of Electricity

2801. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of demand, supply and production of electricity as on June 30, 2001 in each State and U.T.;

(b) the target of power production during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the extent to which it was achieved; and

(c) the time which the country is likely to be able to achieve self-sufficiency in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The State-wise/UTs power supply position and energy generation during April-June, 2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The year-wise All India target & actual production of power and achievement during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below :

All India Total Power Generation (MU)

Year	Power Generation in MUs		
	Target	Actual	% of Target
1997-98	424500	420622	99.1
1998-99	450000	448367	99.6
1999-2000	469000	480682	102.5
2000-01	500700	499548	99.8
2001-02 (April-June)	176430	167184	94.8

(c) The target of the Ministry of Power is to make available power on demand by the year 2012.

Statement

Actual Power Supply Position and Generation

(All figures in Mu net)

Region/State/ System	April ' 2001 - June' 2001				
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%	Generation (April- June, 01) (Mus)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Region					
Chandigarh	292	292	0	0.0	-
Delhi	4980	4807	173	3.5	1923
Haryana	4070	4031	39	1.0	1769
Himachal Pradesh	805	784	21	2.6	2109
Jammu & Kashmir	1585	1313	272	17.2	1963
Punjab	7135	6771	364	5.1	5275
Rajasthan	5675	5595	80	1.4	4275
Uttar Pradesh	11505	10297	1208	10.5	17893
N.R.	36047	33890	2157	6.0	36323

1	2	3	4	5	6
Western Region					
Chhattisgarh	1820	1788	32	1.8	5877
Gujarat	13290	11854	1436	10.8	11002
Madhya Pradesh	6960	5818	1142	16.4	7016
Maharashtra	19323	18353	970	5.0	16356
Goa	428	428	0	0.0	
W.R.	41821	38241	3580	8.6	40251
Southern Region					
Andhra Pradesh	11253	10221	1032	9.2	12048
Karnataka	8023	7320	703	8.8	6463
Kerala	2884	2708	176	6.1	2212
Tamil Nadu	11479	10688	791	6.9	11451
S.R.	33639	30937	2702	8.0	32237
Eastern Region					
Bihar	2324	2170	154	6.6	1139
D.V.C.	2038	2038	0	0.0	1934
Orissa	2857	2857	0	0.0	4172
West Bengal	5048	5036	12	0.2	8312
E.R.	12267	12101	166	1.4	15166
North-Eastern Region					
Arunachal Pradesh	33.5	32.5	1.0	3.0	0.0
Assam	837.0	826.7	10.3	1.2	681
Manipur	110.0	97.6	12.4	11.3	113
Meghalaya	140.5	145.4	–4.9	–3.5	167
Mizoram	63.9	62.1	1.8	2.8	-
Nagaland	59.1	58.4	0.7	1.2	7
Tripura	162.7	148.5	14.2	8.7	220
N.E.R.	1406.7	1371.2	35.5	2.5	1191
All India	125181	116540	8641	6.9	125168

[Translation]

Handicrafts and Gift Fair

2802. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (Spring) 2001 has again been organised recently at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, showcasing a wide range of handicrafts, woodcrafts, metalcrafts, garden article, jewellery products etc;

(b) whether handicrafts of all the States are being fully represented in the fair;

(c) if so, whether Madhubani paintings and other artefacts belonging to Bihar have not been given its due share in this fair; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, the purpose of Organizing the Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, (IHGF) is not to promote any state specific handicrafts, but to provide linkages between handicrafts exporters and the overseas market.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Investments by Enron in Oilfields

2803. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enron Corporation has spent millions of dollars in the country's Oilfields without valid authority and has depressed royalty payments to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Panna, Mukta & Tapti fields have been awarded to a consortium comprising Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Enron Oil & Gas India Limited (EOGIL), with EOGIL as the operator. The expenditure on these fields is made by the above consortium in accordance with the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) entered into by them with the Government of India. Royalty and all other dues are paid by the consortium in accordance with the provisions of these PSCs and the applicable laws and rules.

As per provisions of the PSCs, there is a Management Committee to approve the budget and oversee the expenditure, development and monitoring of these fields as well as monitor the implementation of the PSCs. Officials from the DGH represent the Government of India on these Management Committees. Reconciliation of receipts and expenditure, including payment of royalty etc., is an ongoing process.

Procurement of Agricultural Products by NAFED

2804. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NAFED has received requests from States to purchase agricultural products to protect the farmers from distress sale;

(b) if so, the details of such requests, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the NAFED on each of such requests?

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

(b) The following requests have been received by NAFED for procurement under Price Support Scheme (PSS) :-

State	Commodity
Rajasthan	Mustard seed, Soyabean
Madhya Pradesh	Mustard seed, Sunflower seed, Soyabean
Andhra Pradesh	Soyabean, Copra
Karnataka	Copra, Safflower seed, Sunflower seed, Soyabean
Tamil Nadu	Copra
Kerala	Copra

In addition, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also received requests for Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in respect of Oilpalm, Potato, Apple, Kinnow/ Malta, red chillies and onions from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

(c) NAFED intervened immediately and made the purchase wherever, the prices fell below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. The details are given in the statement-I and II enclosed.

Statement-I

Procurement of Oilseeds under Price Support Scheme by NAFED during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto 31.7.2001)

Sl.No.	Commodity	MSP (Rs. per Qtl.)	Qty. Procured (in MTs)	Value in (Rs. crores)
1999-2000				
1.	Soyabean	845	5,01,000	455.29
2.	Sunflower seed	1155	48,021	60.59
3.	Groundnut	1220	151	0.19
2000-2001				
4	Soyabean	865	54,745	52.01
5.	Mustard seed	1100	2,45,056	296.52
6.	Safflower seed	1100	6,582	7.96
7.	Sunflower seed	1170	19,487	25.72
8.	Groundnut	1220	28,989	40.00*
9.	Copra milling	3250/3300		
	Copra Ball	3500/3550	2,32,293	778.18
2001-2002				
10.	Mustard seed	1200	3,30,000	435.00
11.	Safflower seed	1200	3,000	3.96

Statement-II

Market Intervention Scheme implemented during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto 31.7.2001)

Sl.No.	Commodity	State	Year	Market Intervention Price	Quantity approved	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Oilpalm	A.P.	1999-2000 & 2000-2001	2750 per MT	65000	Procurement completed
2.	Oilpalm	Karnataka	1999-2000 & 2000-2001	2750 per MT	5000	-do-
3.	Onion	Maharashtra	1999-2000	250	65000	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Kinno/Malta/ galgal	H.P.	1999-2000	425 (B grade) 365 (C grade) 250 galgal	350	-do-
5.	Apple (Kinnaure)	H.P.	2000-2001	1000 per kg. (A grade)	16000	3048 MTs actually procured
6.	Potato	Punjab	2000-2001	200	17000	No procurement was made
7.	Apples (culled)	Himachal Pradesh	2000-2001 15.7.2000 to 15.11.2000	375	44,000	Procurement completed
8.	Red Chillies	Andhra Pradesh	2001 season (20.3.01 to 30.6.01)	2400	15,000	601 MTs actually procured
9.	Oilpalm	Andhra Pradesh	2001 season (1.3.01 to 31.10.01)	2750 per MT	1,05,000	Procurement continuing
10.	Oilpalm	Karnataka	2001-02 (1.4.01 to 31.12.01)	2750 per MT	8,000	-do-
11.	Potato	Karnataka	2000 season	The State Govt. sought for approval of MIS for potato with retrospective effect which has not been agreed to.		
12.	Arecanut	Goa	2001 season	Proposal is under process.		

Fodder Banks

2805. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up fodder banks in the country;

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

(c) whether any financial assistance is proposed to be provided to the State for the purpose;

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

(e) the time by which the Fodder banks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) The Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme - "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" under which fund is being provided to the State Governments to set up fodder bank also, based on the proposals received from the State Governments. A maximum amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs as Central grant is provided for one Fodder Bank. The time for setting up the fodder bank is three months, however, it depends on the concerned State Governments.

Accident at Level Crossing

2806. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bus-train collision was occurred on May 31, 2001 at an unmanned level crossing between Gola Gokaran Nath and Rajaganj Railway Station near Phalia Bujurg on Lucknow-Mailani section of the North-Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons killed as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such type of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 30.05.2001, there was an accident of dashing of Bus with Train Engine of 175 Up Passenger train while passing through unmanned level crossing between Gola Gokaran Nath & Razaganj stations on Sitapur-Mailani section on Lucknow Division on North Eastern Railway. Casualties in this accidents are as under :

Killed	-	22 (All Bus occupants)
Grievously Injured	-	7
Simple Injuries	-	24

Accidents at unmanned level crossings are primarily due to negligence of road users, since a train travelling at high speed cannot be stopped all of a sudden when a road vehicle comes on the track. A train travelling at 90 KMPH covers 25 m/sec. Thus, although to the road users the train appears to be 150 metres away, in terms of time it is only 6 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

(c) Following steps have been taken to avoid such type of accidents :-

1. Proper Road Signs have been provided on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of a level crossing gate.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on approaches to level crossing gates so that road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.

3. Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drivers are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.

4. To educate road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on T.V., cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

5. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All State Governments have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.

6. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

7. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways public awareness programs is also being done.

8. Permission has been received from some of the State Governments for putting up L-Xing Safety posters at Village Panchayat Offices.

9. Permission has also been received from IOC/HPC/BPC for putting up L-Xing Safety posters at retail petrol pumps.

Inspections by Audit Team of ICAR

2807. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Audit Team of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been conducting regular inspections in its institutes;

(b) if so, the details of the institutes inspected by ICAR Audit Team during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Audit Team has not inspected a number of institutes and National Research Centres since its inception;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure regular inspection of the institutes by the ICAR Audit Team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The ICAR Inspection Team is conducting periodical inspection of its Institutes/NRCs.

(b) Following 9 Institutes/Centres have been inspected during last three years :

1. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shikopur.
2. National Research Centre on Mushroom, Solan.
3. National Research Centre on Groundnut, Junagadh.
4. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin.
5. Education Division, ICAR, Headquarter.
6. High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory, Bhopal.
7. Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun.
8. Project Directorate for Cropping System Research, Meerut (Special Audit for long pending outstanding advances).
9. ICAR Research Complex for North East Hill Region, Barapani, Meghalaya (Special Audit for Short Term Deposits).

(c) A few Institutes/Centres have not been inspected since inception.

(d) – Shortage of staff.

– Engagement of staff in a number of time-bound and important works viz. CAG/PAC paras, Annual Audit of ICAR Consolidated Accounts, Special Audit, Separate Audit Report, Settlement of outstanding advances, Settlement of outstanding paras of Local Audit in respect of all ICAR Institutes.

(e) Team is being deputed on priority to clear the backlog of inspections.

[Translation]

Rail Facilities for Kumbh Mela at Nasik

2808. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has provided an amount of 7 crore 60 lakh rupees for providing railway facilities for the Kumbh Mela, 2003 in Nasik city of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether this amount provided for the purpose is adequate; and

(c) if so, the facilities proposed to be made available with this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Export of Silk Products

2809. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to extend necessary assistance for increasing the export of silk products;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the total amounts of silk items exported from Karnataka during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir. The Govt. of Karnataka submitted a proposal on 3.5.2001 for financial assistance of Rs. 10.00 crores for establishment of Apparel Park for exports which includes silk garments.

(b) A scheme Titled "Apparel Park for Exports" has been announced in the Union Budget 2001-02 with the objectives :

(i) To give a focussed thrust to setting up of modern apparel manufacturing units of international standards in clusters of excellence which will work as one-stop-shop for reputed international buyers.

(ii) To give fillip to domestic production to meet

competition from imports and to promote exports in this sector.

(c) The total amount of silk goods exported from country as a whole and that from Bangalore, Karnataka Centre during the last three years is indicated as under :

Year	Total Value of Silk Goods Exported (Rs. in crores)	
	Country as a whole	Bangalore Centre
1998-99*	1133.54	270.59
1999-2000*	1755.55	521.28
2000-2001 (Provisional)	2421.32	772.43

* Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

Sea Turtle

2810. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has designed the Turtle Excuder Device (TED) for use in the coastal water with a view to save the lives of the sea turtles;

(b) if so, the States where TED is being used;

(c) whether the TED has become useful to save the turtle from destruction; and

(d) if so, the details of other methods which are used to save turtle from nets?

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

(b) The Government of West Bengal and Kerala have issued notifications making installation of TED in the fishing trawlers mandatory through their Marine Fishing Regulation Act. The Government of Orissa has also enacted a law requiring the use of TED by all trawler operators in Orissa Coast.

(c) Yes, Sir. The experiments conducted by CIFT at Paradeep (Orissa) showed that the CIFT designed TED permitted 100% escapement of the turtles from trawl net.

(d) TED is the only device used for saving turtles which are incidentally trapped in trawl net.

Use of LPG as Auto Fuel

2811. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the code of practice for use of LPG as an auto fuel and LPG (Regulation of use in motor vehicle) Order have been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with date of notification; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time frame for setting up of auto LPG filling station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The code of practice for use of LPG as an auto fuel was published on 24.4.2001 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways as a part of Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2001. Further, LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001, permitting the use of LPG as an auto fuel has also been published by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on 1st August, 2001. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have already initiated necessary action for setting up of auto LPG dispensing stations in Metros and big cities in the initial phase.

Computerisation of Courts

2812. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the courts which have been computerised as on June 30, 2001 district-wise; and

(b) the names of courts likely to be computerised during the current and the next years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The computerisation of the Supreme Court & all High Courts has been done by the National Informatics Centre. The National Informatics Centre has further taken up for computerisation the two newly created High Courts of Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal during the years 2001-2003. The third newly created High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi had a preexisting bench of the Patna High Court, which is already computerised.

The subordinate judiciary is primarily the concern of State Governments/High Courts. However, according to the National Informatics Centre, computerisation in respect of 430 district courts has been taken up in the country so far as per the statement-I enclosed. A list of seventeen district courts in the three newly created States which are being taken up for computerisation is given in the statement-II enclosed. In addition, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of judicial infrastructure an amount of Rs. 5.41 crore has been released for computerisation of courts including the establishment of facilitation centre/enquiry counters in High Courts till date.

Statement-I

List of District Courts taken up for Computerization

State Name : **Andhra Pradesh**

Name of District Courts :

1. Adilabad
2. Anantapur
3. Chittoor
4. Cuddapah
5. East Godavari
6. Guntur
7. Hyderabad
8. Karimnagar
9. Khamam
10. Krishna
11. Kurnool
12. Mahbubnagar
13. Medak
14. Nalgonda
15. Nellore
16. Nizamabad
17. Prakasham
18. RangaReddy
19. Srikakulam
20. Visakapatnam
21. Vizianagaram
22. Warangal
23. West Godavari

State Name : **Assam**

District Courts :

01 Dhubri
02 Kokrajhar
03 Bongaigoan
04 Goalpara
05 Barpeta
06 Nalbari
07 Kamrup
08 Darrang
09 Sonitpur
10 Lakhimpur
11 Marigaon
12 Nagaon
13 Golaghat
14 Jorhat
15 Sibsagar
16 Dibrugarh
17 Tinsukia
18 Karimganj
19 Hailakandi
20 Cachar

State Name : **Bihar and Jharkhand**

Name of District Courts :

1. Aurangabad
2. Begusarai
3. Bettiah
4. Bhagalpur

5. Bhojpur
6. Buxer
7. Chaibasa
8. Chapra
9. Chas (Bokaro)
10. Darbhanga
11. Deoghar
12. Dhanbad
13. Dumka
14. Gaya
15. Giridih
16. Godda
17. Gopalganj
18. Gumla
19. Hajipur
20. Hazaribagh
21. Jamshedpur
22. Jehanabad
23. Katihar
24. Khagaria
25. Madhepura
26. Madhubani
27. Motihari
28. Munger
29. Muzaffarpur
30. Nalanda
31. Nawada
32. Palamau
33. Patna
34. Purnia
35. Ranchi
36. Saharsa
37. Sahebganj
38. Samastipur
39. Sasaram
40. Sitamarhi
41. Siwan

State Name : **Chandigarh U.T.**

Name of District Court :

1. Chandigarh

State Name : **Goa**

Name of District Courts :

North Goa

South Goa

State Name : **Gujarat**

Name of District Courts :

1. Ahmedabad
2. Nadiad
3. Vadodara
4. Bharuch
5. Surat
6. Mahesana
7. Surendranagar
8. Ahmedabad (City Civil)
9. Amreli
10. Banaskantha
11. Bhavnagar
12. Jamnagar

13. Junagadh
14. Bhuj
15. Panchmahal
16. Rajkot
17. Sabarkantha
18. Valsad

State Name : **Haryana**

Name of District Courts :

1. Ambala
2. Bhiwani
3. Faridabad
4. Gurgaon
5. Hissar
6. Jind
7. Kaithal
8. Karnal
9. Kurukshetra
10. Narnaul
11. Panipat
12. Rewari
13. Rohtak
14. Sirsa
15. Sonepat
16. Jagadhri (Yamuna Nagar)

Name of State : **Jammu and Kashmir**

Name of District Courts :

1. Jammu
2. Udhampur
3. Kathua
4. Doda
5. Poonch
6. Rajauri
7. Leh
8. Srinagar
9. Pulwama
10. Baramula
11. Anantnag
12. Kupwara
13. Badgam

State Name : **Karnataka**

Name of District Courts :

1. Bangalore Urban
2. Bangalore Rural
3. Belgaum
4. Bellary
5. Bidar
6. Bijapur
7. Chickmangalur
8. Chitradurga
9. Dharwad
10. Gulbarga
11. Hassan
12. Karwar
13. Madikeri
14. Kolar
15. Mandya
16. Mysore
17. Mangalore

18. Raiture
19. Shimoga
20. Tumkur

State Name : **Kerala**

Name of District Courts :

1. Trivendrum
2. Kollam
3. Pathanamthitta
4. Idukki
5. Alleppey
6. Kottayam
7. Eranakulam
8. Trichur
9. Palghat
10. Malappuram
11. Wyanad
12. Kozhikode
13. Kannur
14. Kasargod

State Name : **Maharashtra**

Name of District Courts :

1. Ahmednagar
2. Akola
3. Amravati
4. Aurangabad
5. Beed
6. Bhandara
7. Buldhana
8. Chandrapur
9. Dhule
10. Jalgaon
11. Jalna
12. Kolhapur
13. Latur
14. Nagpur
15. Nanded
16. Nashik
17. Osmanabad
18. Parbhani
19. Pune
20. Raigad
21. Ratnagiri
22. Sangli
23. Satara
24. Sindhudurg
25. Solapur
26. Thane
27. Wardha
28. Yavatmal

State Name : **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**

Name of District Courts :

1. Morena
2. Bhind
3. Gwalior
4. Datia
5. Shivpuri
6. Guna
7. Tikamgarh

8. Chhatarpur
9. Panna
10. Sagar
11. Damoh
12. Satna
13. Rewa
14. Shahdol
15. Sidhi
16. Mandsaur
17. Ratlam
18. Ujjain
19. Shajapur
20. Dewas
21. Jhabua
22. Dhar
23. Indore
24. Khargone
25. Khandwa
26. Rajgarh
27. Vidisha
28. Bhopal
29. Sehore
30. Raisen
31. Betul
32. Hoshangabad
33. Jabalpur
34. Narsimhapur
35. Mandla
36. Chhindwara
37. Seoni
38. Balaghat
39. Surguja
40. Bilaspur
41. Raigarh
42. Rajnandgaon
43. Durg
44. Raipur
45. Bastar

State Name : **Orissa**

Name of District Courts :

1. Balasore
2. Bargarh
3. Bhadrak
4. Bhubaneshwar
5. Balangar
6. Dhenkanal
7. Gajpati
8. Ganjan
9. Jagatsinghpur
10. Kalahandi
11. Kendrapara
12. Kendujhar
13. Koraput
14. Khurda
15. Mayurbhanj
16. Phulbani
17. Rourkela
18. Sambalpur

19. Sundargarh
20. Titlagarh
21. Cuttack
22. Puri

State Name : **Punjab**

Name of District Courts :

1. Bathinda
2. Fatehgarh Saheb
3. Hoshiarpur
4. Gurdaspur
5. Kapurthala
6. Ropar
7. Jalandhar
8. Mansa
9. Patiala
10. Ludhiana
11. Sangrur
12. Ferozepur
13. Faridkot
14. Baranala
15. Amritsar

State Name : **Rajasthan**

Name of District Courts :

1. Ajmer
2. Alwar
3. Banswara
4. Baran
5. Barmer
6. Bharatpur
7. Bhilwara
8. Bikaner
9. Bundi
10. Chittorgarh
11. Churu
12. Dausa
13. Dholpur
14. Dungarpur
15. Ganganagar
16. Hanumangarh
17. Jaipur
18. Jaisalmer
19. Jalore
20. Jhalawar
21. Jodhpur
22. Kota
23. Nagaur
24. Pali
25. Rajasamand
26. S'Madhopur
27. Sikar
28. Sirohi
29. Tonk
30. Udaipur

State Name : **Sikkim**

Name of District Courts :

1. East
2. South
3. West

4. North

State Name : **Tamil Nadu**

Name of District Courts :

1. Chengalpattu
2. Chidambaranar
3. Coimbatore
4. Dharmapuri
5. Dindigul
6. Erode
7. Kamarajar (Srivilliptr)
8. Kanniyakumari (Nagarcoil)
9. Madras
10. Madurai
11. Nagapattinam
12. Nilgiris
13. North Arcot (Vellore)
14. Pasumpon (Sivaganga)
15. Pudikottai
16. Ramanathapuram
17. Salem
18. South Arcot (Cuddalore)
19. Thanjavur
20. Tirunelveli
21. Tiruvannamalai
22. Trichy
23. Villupuram

State Name : **Tripura**

Name of District Courts

1. South
2. West
3. North

State Name : **West Bengal**

District Courts :

1. Cooch
2. Birbhum Dakshin
3. Dinajpur
4. Nadia
5. Jalpaiguri
6. Bankura
7. Burdwan
8. Midnapur
9. Uttar Dinajpur
10. Darjeeling
11. Hooghly
12. Murshidabad
13. Malda
14. Purulia
15. Howrah
16. Pargana South
17. Calcutta
18. Pargana North

State Name : **Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal**

Name of District Courts.

1. Allahabad
2. Agra
3. Gorakhpur
4. Lucknow
5. Varanasi

6.	Merrut	35.	Mau
7.	Ghaziabad	36.	Mathura
8.	Moradabad	37.	Mainpuri
9.	Bulandshahar	38.	Maharajganj
10.	Kanpur (R)	39.	Lalitpur
11.	Kanpur (U)	40.	Kheri
12.	Dehradun	41.	Jaunpur
13.	Etawah	42.	Haridwar
14.	Basti	43.	Hardoi
15.	Jhansi	44.	Hamirpur
16.	Uttar Kashi	45.	Gonda
17.	Unnao	46.	Ghazipur
18.	Tehri Garhwal	47.	Firozabad
19.	Sultan Pur	48.	Fatehpur
20.	Sonbhadra	49.	Farrukhabad
21.	Sitapur	50.	Faizabad
22.	Sidharthnagar	51.	Etah
23.	Shahjahanpur	52.	Deoria
24.	Saharanpur	53.	Chamoli
25.	Rampur	54.	Budaun
26.	Raebaeeli	55.	Bijnor
27.	Pratapgarh	56.	Barabanki
28.	Pithoragarh	57.	Banda
29.	Pilibhit	58.	Ballia
30.	Pauri	59.	Bahraich
31.	Orai	60.	Azamgarh
32.	Nainital	61.	Almora
33.	Muzaffarnagar	62.	Bareilly
34.	Mirzapur	63.	Aligarh

State Name : **Delhi**

Name of District Courts :

1. District Court Delhi

State Name : **Himachal Pradesh**

Name of District Courts :

1. Bilaspur
2. Chamba
3. Hamirpur
4. Dharmshala
5. Kullu
6. Mandi
7. Nahan
8. Shimla
9. Solan
10. Una

Statement - II

List of District Courts to be taken up for Computerization

State Name : **Chhattisgarh**

Name of District Courts :

1. Dantewada
2. Dhamtari
3. Janjagir-Champa
4. Jashpur
5. Kanker
6. Kawardha
7. Korba
8. Koriya
9. Mahasamund

State Name : **Jharkhand**

Name of District Courts :

1. Chatra
2. Garhwa
3. Koderma
4. Jammui
5. Pakur

State Name : **Uttaranchal**

Name of District Courts :

1. Bageshwar
2. Champawati
3. Rudraprayag

Development of Shipping and Ports in Iraq

2813. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Iraq has sought India's cooperation in the development of their shipping and port sector;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the details of Memorandum of Understanding signed, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Notification to check Vanishing Companies

2814. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs is planning to issue a new notification to check the growing phenomenon of companies vanishing as reported in the Business Standard on April, 30, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Department of Company Affairs is likely to issue the said notification?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of forms prescribed under "Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms, 1956" have been proposed to be revised and make it computer savvy. Some of the new forms also include, inter-alia, details relating to Voter Identity Card/ Passport Number/Permanent Account Number and recent photo of Promoters/Directors of the Companies. This will help in tracing Promoters/Directors of vanishing companies. The relevant Notification containing New Forms is likely to be notified shortly.

Fruits Production in A.P.

2815. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest fruit producing State in the country;

(b) if so, the details of annual production of fruits, category-wise in terms of quantity and value;

(c) whether it is proposed to assist the State Government to undertake a massive fruit export programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. As per the latest figures available for production of fruits (for the year 1999-2000), the position of Andhra Pradesh is fourth in the country after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in association with the State Government is undertaking awareness programmes for various fruits having export potential and are also organising integrated training programmes on mangoes and grape for producing good quality products for the export market. Moreover, APEDA is attempting to implement the concept of Agri Export Zone (AEZ) involving activities like produce identification, selection of locations, strengthening of infrastructure and logisties, strengthening of processing facilities and market development.

Exploratory Drilling Works by ONGC

2816. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of exploratory drilling works currently under operation for oil and natural gas along with the agency undertaking the whole-task, location-wise;

(b) whether recently new blocks have been assigned to some agencies to undertake the drilling work of exploration;

(c) if so, the places or locations with the names of States to which they belong and the names of agencies entrusted with exploring drilling works;

(d) whether on shore or off-shore drilling operations of Mahanadi Basin have been entrusted to any agency; and

(e) if so, the number of blocks and the names of these agenceis and the current status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During the first quarter of 2001-02, 40 exploratory wells have been completed and another 27 wells are under production testing jobs and drilling by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). Out of the 40 wells completed, 9 wells have proved to be oil bearing and 6 wells as gas bearing. These exploratory activities are being carried out by ONGC in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh as also in the Offshore areas of the east and west coast.

Oil India Ltd., (OIL) is currently carrying out exploratory drilling work in the upper Assam basin in the State of Assam. In the first quarter of 2001-02, Oil India Ltd. has completed drilling of 2 wells of which 1 well has proved to be oil bearing and the other well is gas bearing.

Additionally, drilling is in progress in another 2 wells by OIL.

In the blocks awarded under pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and under NELP rounds exploratory drilling by Private/Joint Venture Companies, was carried out in 2 wells in KG offshore and 1 well in onshore Rajasthan during the first quarter of 2001-02. Of these, the gas was discovered in 1 well while 2 wells were abandoned.

(b) and (c) Under the First and Second rounds of NELP initiated in 1999 and 2000, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) were signed for 47 exploration blocks. Details of these blocks are given in the statement-I enclosed. However, drilling in these blocks will depend upon the outcome of the survey results and the availability of suitable drilling location.

(d) and (e) Contracts have been signed with various companies/consortiums for 8 exploration blocks under NELP I & II in Mahanadi basin & North East Coast offshore, the details of which are given in the statement-II enclosed to the Statement. The work programme for Phase I includes exploratory drilling in one of these blocks viz. NEC-OSN/97/2.

Statement-I

Details of exploration blocks contracted under NELP I and II

NELP I :

Sl. No.	Block Name	Basin/State	Awardee
1	2	3	4
1	GV-ONN-97/1	Ganga Valley Onshore	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
2	KG-DWN-98/1	Krishna-Godavary, Deep Water Offshore	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Niko Resources Limited (Niko)
3	KG-DWN-98/2	-do-	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.
4	KG-DWN-98/3	-do-	RIL & Niko
5	KG-DWN-98/4	-do-	ONGC
6	KG-DWN-98/5	-do-	ONGC
7	MN-DWN-98/2	Mahanadi Deep Water Offshore	RIL & Niko
8	MN-DWN-98/3	-do-	ONGC
9	CY-OSN-97/1	Cauvery Shallow Water Offshore	Mosbacher-Energy Equity & Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOEC)
10	CY-OSN-97/2	-do-	Oil India Limited (OIL)
11	GK-OSN-97/1	Gujarat-Kutch Shallow Water offshore	RIL & Niko
12	KG-OSN-97/1	Krishna-Godavary, Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC

1	2	3	4
13	KG-OSN-97/2	-do-	RIL & Niko
14	KG-OSN-97/3	-do-	RIL & Niko
15	KG-OSN-97/4	-do-	RIL & Niko
16	KK-OSN-97/2	Kerala-Konkan Shallow Water Offshore	RIL & Niko
17	KK-OSN-97/3	-do-	ONGC
18	MB-OSN-97/2	Mumbai Shallow Water Offshore	RIL & Niko
19	MB-OSN-97/3	-do-	RIL & Niko
20	MB-OSN-97/4	-do-	ONGC & IOC
21	MN-OSN-97/3	Mahanadi Shallow water Offshore	ONGC & Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
22	NEC-OSN-97/1	North-East Coast Shallow water Offshore	OAO-Gazprom, Russia & GAIL
23	NEC-OSN-97/2	-do-	RIL & Niko
24	SR-OSN-97/1	Saurashtra Shallow Water Offshore	RIL & Niko

NELP II :

Sl. No.	Block Name	Basin/State	Consortium Member
1	2	3	4
1	MB-DWN-2000/2	Mumbai Deep Water Offshore	ONGC, GAIL, IOC, OIL & Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC)
2	MB-OSN-2000/1	Mumbai Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC, IOC & GSPC
3	CB-ONN-2000/1	Cambay Onshore, Gujarat	GSPC, GAIL & Joshi Technology Inc. (JTI)
4	MN-OSN-2000/2	Mahanadi Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC, GAIL, IOC & OIL
5	MN-ONN-2000/1	Mahanadi Onshore, Orissa	OIL, ONGC, IOC & GAIL
6	GS-DWN-2000/2	Gujarat Saurashtra, Offshore	ONGC & GAIL
7	KK-DWN-2000/2	Kerala-Konkan, Deep Water Offshore	ONGC & GAIL
8	RJ-ONN-2000/1	Rajasthan Onshore	OIL

1	2	3	4
9	MB-DWN-2000/1	Mumbai Deep Water Offshore	ONGC & IOC
10	WB-OSN-2000/1	Bengal Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC & IOC
11	WB-ONN-2000/1	Bengal Onshore	ONGC & IOC
12	GV-ONN-2000/1	Ganga Valley Onshore, Uttar Pradesh	ONGC & IOC
13	GS-DWN-2000/1	Gujarat Saurashtra, Offshore	ONGC
14	KK-DWN-2000/4	Kerala-Konkan, Deep Water Offshore	ONGC
15	KK-OSN-2000/1	Kerala-Konkan, Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC
16	CY-OSN-2000/1	Cauvery Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC
17	CY-OSN-2000/2	Cauvery Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC
18	MN-OSN-2000/1	Mahanadi Shallow Water Offshore	ONGC
19	KK-DWN-2000/1	Kerala-Konkan, Deep Water Offshore	RIL & Hardy
20	KK-DWN-2000/3	Kerala-Konkan, Deep Water Offshore	RIL & Hardy
21	GS-OSN-2000/1	Gujarat Saurashtra, Offshore	RIL & Hardy
22	AS-ONN-2000/1	Upper Assam Onshore	RIL & Hardy
23	CB-ONN-2000/2	Cambay Onshore, Gujarat	Niko

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name of the Block	Name of Companies	Current status of projects
1	2	3	4
1.	MN-OSN-97/3	ONGC & GAIL	2D seismic data (1280 LKM) has been completed Processing of the data is in progress.
2.	NEC-OSN-91/1	Gazprom & GAIL	Acquisition of 2D seismic data is planned post monsoon session.
3.	NEC-OSN-97/2	Reliance Industries Ltd. & Niko Resources Ltd.	1090 LKM of 2D seismic data has been acquired. Processing of same is in progress.

1	2	3	4
4.	MN-DWN-98/2	Reliance Industries Ltd.	About 1500 LKM of 2D seismic data has been acquired. Processing of same is in progress.
5.	MN-DWN-98/3	ONGC	2D seismic data of 1464 LKM has been acquired and is under processing.
6	MN-ONN-2000/1	ONGC, OIL, IOC & GAIL	The Blocks have been signed on
7.	MN-OSN-2000/1	ONGC	17.7.2001. There is no progress in the
8.	MN-OSN-2000/2	ONGC, OIL, IOC & GAIL	blocks yet.

Amendment in Companies Act

2817. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has requested the Government to amend the Companies Act to give protection to public debenture holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Sections 117A, 117B and 117C of the Companies Act, 1956 were inserted through an amendment to Companies Act on 13.12.2000. These provisions provide, inter-alia, for creation of a debenture redemption reserve for the redemption of debentures. It has also been provided that where a company fails to redeem the debentures on the date of maturity, the Company Law Board, may, on the application of any or all the holders of debentures shall, after hearing the parties concerned, direct, by order, the company to redeem the debentures forthwith by the payment of principal and interest due thereon.

Organic Sugarcane Cultivation in Karnataka

2818. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the biotech division of the Bangalore based Transcrop Technologies has tied up with three leading sugar mills to promote organic sugarcane cultivation in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the potential for organic sugarcane in Northern Karnataka is immense given the fact that the average yields have fallen over the years;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to help and promote organic sugarcane cultivation in the country, particularly in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Shortfall in Utilization of Plan Funds in Agricultural Marketing

2819. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous shortfall in utilization of plan funds in agricultural marketing during the entire Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether four schemes for marketing division proposed to be implemented during the Ninth Plan have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts being made to get these schemes cleared by the Planning Commission early?

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

(b) There was shortfall in utilisation of funds under ongoing schemes due to factors such as non-finalisation of purchase proposals for chemicals, apparatus and equipments of Agmark laboratories and non-receipt of utilisation certificates from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. In addition to this, funds provided for new Schemes could not be utilised as these schemes were not approved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission had not approved the four new schemes on the grounds that :

(i) since schemes on Agriculture Marketing had earlier been transferred to the States, there may not be sufficient reason for reviving them as new Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(ii) since the process of convergence and weeding out of CSS was being pursued, it may be desirable to include the important aspects of the proposed schemes in the existing schemes itself.

The matter having been taken up against with the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission has now constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission to consider the whole gamut of Agriculture marketing. The report of the Group is still awaited.

[Translation]

Touts at Delhi Stations

2820. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question No. 4838 dated August 24, 2000 and 2722 dated March 15, 2001 regarding Touts at Delhi Stations and to state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of complaints received and cases detected by the Government, till date; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The information has since been furnished to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 23.5.2001.

[English]

Amendment in Articles of Association

2821. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5879 dated April 26, 2001 regarding Regional Directors of Company Law Board and to state :

(a) the names of Section 25 Companies whose Articles have been amended with the approval of the Regional Directors of the Department of Company Affairs during the period from April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001;

(b) whether in all such approvals to the amended Articles conform to the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are available with the concerned Registrars of Companies for public inspection on payment of inspection fee.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Names of Section 25 Companies whose Articles have been amended with the approval of the Regional Directors of the Department of Company Affairs during the period from April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, are as under :

Sl.No.	Name of the Companies
1	2
1.	All India Printing Ink Manufacturers Association
2.	East India Cotton Association

1	2
3.	Garware Club House
4.	Indian Motion Picture Producers Association
5.	Sopa Board of Trade
6.	M. P. Importers & Exporters Association
7.	Trade Marks Patents Designs and Copy Right Owners Association of India
8.	Indian Association for Savings and Credit
9.	The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council
10.	Express Industry Council of India
11.	Christel House India
12.	Blood Research Foundation
13.	Govindaswamy Charitable Foundation
14.	The Presidency Club
15.	The South India Photographic and Allied Trades Association
16.	Cochin Oil Merchants Association
17.	Dr. Reddy's Research Foundation
18.	Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce
19.	India Pepper and Spice Trade Association
20.	Foundation for Fair Practices in Property Development
21.	The Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club.
22.	Hyderabad Race Club
23.	Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
24.	Handloom Export Promotion Council
25.	Seafood Exporters Assodation of India
26.	Alamelu Ammal Gurukula Ashram
27.	Council for Leather Exports
28.	Dharmodayam Company
29.	Sri Srinivasa Education & Charitable Trust
30.	Andhra Chamber of Commerce
31.	Council for Leather Exports
32.	S. H. N. Edward School Committee
33.	New Millennium Foundation
34.	International Institute for Insurance and Finance
35.	Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry
36.	Magadh Stock Exchange Association
37.	Indian Institute of Metal
38.	Shellac Export Promotion Council
39.	Institute of Molecular Medicine
40.	United News of India
41.	HPS Social Welfare Foundation
42.	Delhi and District Cricket Association

[Translation]

Setting up of Oil Industries Development Board

2822. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the objective behind setting up of Oil Industries Development Board (OIDB);

(b) the cess recovered under OIDB during the last three years; and

(c) the manner in which the amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Under Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, and the Rules made thereunder, the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) shall render in such manner to such extent and on such terms and conditions as it may

deem fit, financial and other assistance for promotion of all such measures which are in its opinion conducive to the development of oil industry.

During last three years Government of India collected approximately a net amount of cess to the tune of Rs. 7568.78 crore as per details given below :

(Rs. in crore)

1998-99	2431.78
1999-2000	2572.09
2000-01	2564.91

The proceeds of the cess are utilised for development of "Oil Industry" which includes Petroleum and Natural Gas, Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Fertilizers sectors, as provided under the Oil Industry Development Act.

[English]

Central Assistance for Maize Procurement in Karnataka

2823. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for release of Rs. 65 crores representing the balance amount due to the State for their maize procurement programme;

(b) if so, the total amount earlier released to Karnataka on this account; and

(c) the time by which the balance of Rs. 65 crore is likely to be released?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 61.65 crore has been released which includes Rs. 5 00 crore as on account payment to be adjusted.

(c) The balance amount is being released @ around Rs. 2 crore per day, depending on the submission of the Bills by the Karnataka State Civil Supplies Corporation.

Introduction of Vedic Ritual 'Agnihotra' in Agriculture

2824. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

SHRI MAHBOOD ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have now decided to adopt the Vedic rituals 'Agnihotra' for increasing agricultural production in the villages of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States proposed to be covered thereunder in near future;

(d) whether opinions of Agricultural Scientists have also been obtained in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No research work on vedic ritual 'agnihotra' for increasing agricultural productivity has been undertaken in the Council nor there is any proposal to introduce it in the future research agenda of the Council as there is no scientific evidence available with the Council so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in Central Assistance Scheme

2825. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the Central Assistance under the Centrally sponsored schemes to develop handloom, handicraft and sericulture and for the welfare of weavers, artisans in the country specially in the newly created States during 2001-2002;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has increased the central assistance for the development of Handlooms under the centrally sponsored scheme namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana where the Central share has been increased from 75% to 90% in respect of the States in the North-Eastern Region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir. For the rest of the country including the newly created States of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh, the ratio of assistance by the centre and the state is 50:50.

The Government has also increased the central assistance under the centrally sponsored Catalytic Development Schemes for development of Sericulture sector in North-Eastern Region, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and the three newly created States of Jharkhand, Uttarahchal and Chhattisgarh where the central share has been increased to 90%.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Research Centres/Projects under ICAR

2826. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of research centres and projects being run under the auspices of Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government to each of such centres during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of the achivements of these centres during the said period; and

(d) the impact of the research work done by the said research centres on the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The details of research centres/projects being run under the auspices of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the details of funds allocated are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of achievements of these centres during the said period are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) The impact of research work done by the research centres on agricultural production compared to production of 1950 is that today India produces 4 times food grains, 6 times sugarcane, 4.5 times oilseeds, 15 times potatoes, 7 times spices, 4.5 times milk and 40 times eggs.

Statement-I

Details of Research Centres/Projects under ICAR & Allocation of Funds during last three years 1998-99 to 2000-2001)

State	Name of Institutes/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs	Location	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
A & N Islands	Central Agricultural Research Institute	Port Blair	420.50	505.00	583. 50
Andhra Pradesh	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	569.00	531.00	564.00
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Rajamundhry	820.00	835.60	892.70
	National Academy for Agri. Res. Management	Hyderabad	602.00	505.00	529.00
	N.R.C - Sorghum	Hyderabad	408.47	353.10	422.46
	N.R.C.- Oil Palm	Pedavegi	165.00	271.50	237.00
	N.R.C - Meat	Hyderabad	100.00	100.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Project Directorate - Oilseed Research	Hyderabad	801.50	799.00	820.00
	Project Directorate - Rice Research	Hyderabad	1000.00	972.00	1016.08
	Project Directorate - Poultry Research	Hyderabad	386.00	449.50	493.00
	AICRP - Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	362.80	364.00	366.65
	AICRP - Sorghum	Hyderabad	220.00	200.00	225.00
	AICRP - Tobacco	Rajamundhry	80.00	70.00	80.00
	AICRP-Agro-Meteorology	Hyderabad	129.60	130.75	141.15
	Network - Economic Omithology	Hyderabad	48.00	45.00	40.00
Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.C. - Yak	Dirang	188.00	209.50	256.00
Bihar	Project Directorate - Water Management	Patna	580.30	516.50	527.50
	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region	Patna	0.00	100.00	110.00
Goa	ICAR Research Complex for Goa	Goa	192.80	194.00	210.00
Gujarat	N.R.C. - Groundnut	Junagadh	282.50	311.00	365.00
	N.R.C. - Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Anand	146.75	182.15	196.57
	AICRP - Groundnut	Junagadh	130.00	135.00	156.68
Haryana	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes	Hisar	544.10	583.36	639.00
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Karnal	680.50	591.50	674.00
	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources	Karnal	387.50	339.00	357.00
	National Dairy Researach Institute	Karnal	3069.70	2992.50	3080.30
	N.R.C.- Equine	Hisar	280.50	300.50	324.50
	Project Directorate- Wheat Research	Karnal	619.50	673.60	775.96
	AICRP -Arid Fruits	Hisar	75.00	70.00	80.00
	AICRP -Blood Protesta	Hisar	50.00	52.00	60.00
	AICRP -Buffalo	Hisar	70.00	67.00	70.00
	AICRP -Honey Bees	Hisar	60.00	55.00	71.08
	AICRP -Mgmt. of Salt Affected Soils & Use of Saline Water	Karnal	131.80	130.50	136.50
	AICRP -Rapseed & Mustard	Hisar	160.00	200.00	243.07

1	2	3	4	5	6
	R&D Support for Process Upgradation of Indigenous Milk Products	Karnal	70.00	70.00	70.00
	Indo-Dutch ORP on Drainage Water Management	Karnal	284.00	200.00	200.00
Himachal Pradesh	Central Potato Research Institute	Shimla	1167.00	1180.00	1253.40
	N.R.C.- Mushroom	Solan	182.00	195.15	196.00
	AICRP - Micro Biological Decomposition	Palampur	60.00	60.00	70.00
	AICRP -Mushroom	Solan	50.00	50.00	55.00
	AICRP - Potato	Shimla	100.00	100.00	115.00
Jammu & Kashmir	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture	Sri Nagar	178.50	235.00	248.00
	Jammu & kashmir University (New Proposed)	Jammu	100.00	300.00	250.00
Jharkhand	Indian Lac Research Institute	Ranchi	476.50	512.00	462.00
Karnataka	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bangalore	1604.00	1602.50	1789.00
	National Institute of Animal Nutrition & Physiology	Bangalore	578.68	456 00	403.60
	N.R.C.- Cashew	Puttur	202.00	226.50	214.50
	Project Directorate - Biological Control	Bangalore	303.60	282.60	320.77
	Project Directorate - Animal Disease & Monitoring Surveillance	Bangalore	110.00	110.00	250.00
	AICRP - Tropical Fruits	Bangalore	130.00	120.00	150.00
	AICRP - Betelvine	Bangalore	65.00	50.00	80.00
	AICRP - Cashew	Vittal	50.00	50.00	60.00
	AICRP - Small Millets	Bangalore	135.00	135.00	100.00
	Network - Agricultural Acarology	Bangalore	42.00	45.00	50.00
Kerala	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Cochin	1258.00	1314.00	1226.00
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Cochin	2064.00	1745.00	1841.00
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kasargod	1153.00	1186.50	1186.00
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Thiruvananthapuram	636.00	582.15	525.50
	Indian Institute of Spices Research	Calicut	383.50	380.50	379.00
	AICRP - Palms	Kasargod	100.00	100.00	130.00
	AICRP - Spices	Calicut	100.00	100.00	110.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering	Bhopal	931.73	917.00	933.00
	Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute	Jhansi	953.00	932.36	996.66
	Indian Institute of Soil Science	Bhopal	322.75	314.00	314.00
	N.R.C - Agroforestry	Jhansi	305.50	305.00	286.00
	N.R.C -Soybean	Indore	199.10	214.50	247.15
	N.R.C. - Weed Science	Jabalpur	295.00	255.75	214.80
	AICRP - Agroforestry	Jhansi	230.00	230.00	198.00
	AICRP - Energy Requirement in Agricultural Sector	Bhopal	145.90	147.60	142.00
	AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery	Bhopal	318.90	319.50	310.50
	AICRP - Forage Crops	Jhansi	160.00	160.00	213.14
	AICRP - Human Engineering and Safety Studies	Bhopal	70.00	70.00	65.00
	AICRP - Micro Secondary Nutrients	Bhopal	132.50	132.00	157.00
	AICRP - Power Tiller	Bhopal	83.85	83.60	76.50
	AICRP - Renewable Energy Sources	Bhopal	179.25	181.50	173.00
	AICRP - Soil Test Crop Response	Bhopal	141.00	146.00	162.00
	AICRP -Soybean	Indore	95.00	100.00	121.20
	AICRP - Utilisation of Animal Energy	Bhopal	87.00	91.50	87.50
	AICRP - Weed Control	Jabalpur	150.00	150.00	210.00
	AICRP White Grub	Durgapur	43.00	45.00	57.56
	Network Scheme - Crop Based Animal Production System	Jhansi	35.00	35.00	40.00
	RNAM Phase-VI	Bhopal	7.00	7.00	7.00
Maharasthra	Central Institute of Cotton Research	Nagpur	829.40	856.00	885.00
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Mumbai	1109.00	1156.68	1369.68
	National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning	Nagpur	969.00	1031.00	1136.00
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Mumbai	672.50	733.00	695.00
	N.R.C.- Citrus	Nagpur	235.00	248.20	279.50
	N.R.C.- Grapes	Pune	192.10	200.50	196.85

1	2	3	4	5	6
	N.R.C.- Onion and Garalic	Godra (Nasik)	134.00	155.70	181.51
	AICRP -Cotton	Nagpur	290.00	220.00	280.00
Manipur	Central Agricultural University	Imphal	1400.00	1200.00	1750.00
Meghalaya	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Barapani	1393.00	1521.00	1671.00
Nagaland -	N.R.C. - Mithun	Jhamapani	181.30	199.85	237.91
New Delhi	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi	8375.73	7659.50	8220.00
	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research institute	New Delhi	1098.42	1102.00	1216.00
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	New Delhi	1422.90	1473.50	1888.86
	N.R.C.-Agricultural Economics & Policy Research	New Delhi	222.79	319.15	209 35
	N.R.C. - on Plant Biotechnology	New Delhi	205.50	248.00	280.00
	N.R.C. - Integrated Pest Management	New Delhi	147.40	176.00	161.00
	N.R.C - DNA Fingerprinting	New Delhi	220.00	150.00	150.00
	Project Directorate - Maize Research	New Delhi	438.05	441.00	432.76
	AICRP - Agricultural By-product	New Delhi	60.00	64.00	70.00
	AICRP - Agricultural Drainage	New Delhi	80.00	80.00	70.00
	AICRP - Arid Legumes	New Delhi	50.00	50.00	75.00
	AICRP - Biological Nitrogen Fixation	New Delhi	70.00	70.00	80.00
	AICRP - Engineering Measures for Efficient Land & Water Mgmt.	New Delhi	10.00	10.00	40.00
	AICRP - Floriculture	New Delhi	90.00	90.00	100.00
	AICRP - Long-term Fertilizer Experiments	New Delhi	60.00	60.00	70.00
	AICRP - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	New Delhi	95.00	80.00	100.00
	AICRP - Nematode	New Delhi	75.00	80.00	92.12
	AICRP - Optimisation of Groundwater Utilisation through Wells	New Delhi	60.00	60.00	75.00
	AICRP - Pesticide Residue	New Delhi	95.00	10.00	91.45
	AICRP- Post Harvest Tachn. of Horticultural Crops	New Delhi	65.00	60.00	80.00
	AICRP - Under-utilised & Under-exploited Plant	New Delhi	60.00	50.00	55.00
	AICRP on Home Science	New Delhi	210.00	210.00	225.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	AICRP Tillage Management of Indian Soils	New Delhi	90.00	91.00	120.00
	Integrated Krishi Vigyan Kendras	New Delhi	4898.00	4825.00	5698.00
	Network Scheme- Micronutrients	New Delhi	85.00	90.00	80.00
	Network Scheme - Animal Genetic Resources	New Delhi	100.00	90.00	125.00
	Network Scheme - Embryo Transfer Technology	New Delhi	140.00	130.00	100.00
	Agril. Human Resource Develoment (W.B.)	New Delhi	1040.00	1000.00	1200.00
	Indo-Israel Demonstration Project (IARI)	New Delhi	50.00	115.00	0.00
	National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	New Delhi	6875.00	11300.00	13400.00
	Development and Strengthening of SAUs	New Delhi	2710.00	2710.00	2000.00
	Development and Strengthening of Agril. Edn. of Central Univ.	New Delhi	100.00	100.00	75.00
	Strengthening PG Education in Deemed to be Universities	New Delhi	200.00	160.00	130.00
	Establishment of Centres of Advance Studies in SAUs and DUs	New Delhi	300.00	300.00	300.00
	Best Teacher Award	New Delhi	10.00	10.00	10.00
	Emeritus Scientists Scheme	New Delhi	60.00	40.00	40.00
	Prepration of University Level Books	New Delhi	10.00	10.00	10.00
	Agricultural Education Media Centre	New Delhi	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Support to Agrilcuitural Colleges	New Delhi	0.00	50.00	0.00
	Rural Awareness Work Experience	New Delhi	150.00	110.00	100.00
	One Time Catch Up Grant of Education Division	New Delhi	0.00	0.00	1500.00
	Assam Agricultural University	New Delhi	0.00	0.00	350.00
	Management and Information Services including DARE	New Delhi	14921.07	41681.97	325/6.51
	Mini Mission Cotton	New Delhi	0.00	0.00	500.00
	Project on Promotion on R & D on Hybrid Seed in Selected Crops	New Delhi	28.00	0.00	0.00
	National Seed Project (Crop)	New Delhi	350.00	340.00	392.08
	Sustainable Rainfed Agriculture in R & D	New Delhi	100.00	0.00	0.00
	AICRP - Apple Scab	New Delhi	30.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Indo-UK collaborative Project on Plant Germplasm Conservation	New Delhi	75.00	0.00	0.00
	Establishment of Phytotron Facility	New Delhi	25.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Bubaneshwar	675.00	761.00	895.35
	Central Rice Research Institute	Cuttack	1237.00	1460.50	1459.70
	N.R.C for Women in Agriculture	Bubaneshwar	102.00	175.00	302.00
	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region	Bubaneshwar	287.00	241.00	299.00
	AICRP - Tuber Crops	Bubaneshwar	60.00	60.00	80.00
	ORP on Processing & Utilisation of Organic Waste for Aquacullure	Bubaneshwar	25.00	20.00	20.00
	Indo-French Seabass Breeding and Culture	Bubneshwar	0.00	0.00	50.00
Punjab	Central Institute for Post Harvest Engg. & Technology	Ludhiana	367.75	376.00	356.20
	AICRP - Application of Plastics in Agriculture	Ludhiana	54.50	58.00	56.50
	AICRP - Harvest & Post Harvest Technology	Ludhiana	313.40	318.00	299.30
Rajasthan	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jodhpur	1256.00	1254.00	1328.75
	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture	Bikaner	198.50	190.00	349.20
	Central Sheep and Wool Research institute	Avikanagar	1128.50	995.16	1047.00
	N.R.C.- Camel	Bikaner	199.69	249.50	266.65
	N.R.C.- Rapeseed & Mustard	Bharatpur	409.15	443.00	403.51
	N.R.C - Seed Spices	Ajmer	0.00	0.00	90.00
	AICRP -Sheep	Avikanagar	55.00	58.00	60.00
	AICRP Pearl Millet	Jodhpur	140.00	140.00	140.00
	Network - Rodent Control	Jodhpur	50.00	50.00	50.00
Sikkim	N.R.C. - Orchids	Tadong	92.00	190.00	350.00
Tamil Nadu	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Chennai	627.00	623.00	575.00
	Sugarcane Breeding Insiltute	Coimbatore	757.00	747.50	788.50
	N.R.C.- Banana	Tiruchirapalli	178.71	208.50	241.00
Uttar Pradesh	Central Avian Research Institute	Izatnagar	782.00	710.50	696.00
	Central Institute for Research on Goats	Makhdoom	551.00	564.50	590.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Central Institute for Subtropical Horliculture	Lucknow	495.36	515.56	581.37
	Indian Institute of Pulses Research	Kanpur	740.80	765.82	756.00
	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research	Lucknow	802.35	700.00	762.00
	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research	Varanasi	534.50	412.30	346.50
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Izatnagar	4366.50	4461.00	4798.00
	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	Lucknow	437.00	430.50	384.00
	Project Directorate - Cropping System Research	Modipuram	897.50	776.00	831.50
	Project Directorate - Cattle Research	Meerut	345.95	344.00	409.00
	Project Directorate - Foot & Mouth Diseases	Izatnagar	130.00	135.00	80.00
	AICRP- Chick Pea	Kanpur	150.00	180.00	0.00
	AICRP - Gastointestinal Parasitism	Izatnagar	0.00	60.00	50.00
	AICRP - Goat	Makhadoom	50.00	55.00	75.00
	AICRP - Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	Izatnagar	0.00	50.00	40.00
	AICRP - Jaggery & Khandasari	Lucknow	45.00	45.00	40.00
	AICRP - Pig	Izatnagar	250.00	150.00	200.00
	AICRP - Pigeon Pea	Kanpur	160.00	185.00	220.00
	AICRP - Pulses (MULLARP)	Kanpur	185.00	240.00	275.34
	AICRP - Sugar Crops	Lucknow	135.00	145.00	173.69
	AICRP -Vegetable Research	Varanasi	200.00	190.00	170.00
	AICRP on Management of Diaraland Improvement	Modipuram	40.00	40.00	42.00
	AICRP-Sub-tropical Fruits	Lucknow	90.00	90.00	110.00
	Vegetable Seed Project (National Seed Project)	Varanasi	100.00	90.00	100.00
	Network on Rumen Dynamics	Izatnagar	0.00	40.00	30.00
	Indo-UK Transfer of Molecular Biological Technology	Izatnagar	127.00	0.00	0.00
Uttaranchal	Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute	Dehradun	1165.80	1138.50	1245.00
	N.R.C.- Cold Water Fisheries	Bhimtal (Nainital)	174.65	210.10	252.40
	Vivekanand Parvatalya Krishi Anusandhan Shala	Almora	409.28	397.75	478.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research institute	Barrackpore	867.50	885.00	1109.70
	Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres	Barrackpore	842.75	856.11	845.76
	National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology	Kolkata	502.00	501.00	496.00
	AICRP - Jute	Barrackpore	95.00	85.00	172.61
	Total		107078.16	137534.52	139928.59

Statement-II

The Details of Achievements of Research Centre/Project of ICAR

Agricultural Research

Research on fundamental and applied aspects is undertaken by the ICAR in traditional and frontier areas to offer solutions to problems relating to conservation and management of resources, productivity improvement of crops, animals and fisheries etc. This helps in developing new technologies in agriculture arid allied sectors and the Council performs the functions of introduction and exploration of genetic resources of plants, animals and fisheries. The ICAR has developed a national grid comprising of 47 Central Institutes, 4 Bureaux, 9 Project Directorates (PDs), 30 National Research Centres (NRCs), 80 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and other Plan Schemes with their centers located in different agro ecological regions of the country. Research activities of the Council are not only multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary and but also multi-locational to cover whole spectrum of various situations and conditions in the national cooperative testing. This facilitates minimizing rigors of screening of varieties and technologies before they reach farmers for achieving desired results.

Crop Science

One hundred and fifty two improved varieties: seventy five in cereals; twenty five in pulses: nineteen in oilseeds; sixteen in cotton; twelve in sugarcane; three in jute; one each in forage crops and tobacco.

Bio-intensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods for management of pests have been refined for rice, cotton, pulses and oilseeds. The IPM technology has been successfully demonstrated in rice and cotton in large areas in farmers' fields.

For the control of coconut-mite, a bio-pesticide named 'MYCOHIT' has been developed and is being tested in affected areas.

Two hundreds and forty two explorations were undertaken in genetic diversity - rich under explored areas. 14,333 samples, representing cultivated types in cereals, vegetables, major and minor fruit crops, ornamentals, medicinal and aromatic plants, arid zone species, arborescent plant species, under utilized crops etc. were collected from diverse habitats in different parts of the country.

A total of 23577.97 quintals of breeder seed of different field crops was produced. Major quantities of breeder seed produced belong to oilseed crops (9448.2 quintals) and cereal crops (8305.0 quintals); followed by pulse crops (5120.0 quintals), forage crops (427.2 quintals) and fibre crops (277.6 quintals).

Horticulture

In mango, the variety Mutwar Pasand recorded the highest weight. Catalogue preparation has been started after evaluating the genetic resources of mango. In biological control of guava wilt, Pusa Mrida has been found promising for the control of disease as well as growth of plants. Microbudding technique has been standardized in Citrus for multiplication of healthy plants throughout the year.

Six accessions tolerant to Sigatoka leaf spot have been identified in banana. A spacing of 1.6x1.6 m (3900 plants/ha) was found economical for CO 6 papaya to obtain high papain yield. A computer software has been developed for forecasting of-grape diseases. A variety of pomegranate has been released for anadana purpose with the name 'Amlidana'. Banana biscuits were prepared using Poovan banana puree. Powder from Monthan and Nendran banana was prepared and stored for usage as

base material for other products. Trichoderma treated grape bunched remained fresh for a longer period than fungicide treated bunches.

In vegetable crops two varieties of each of okra and tomato and one hybrid each of tomato, chilli and brinjal have been developed and included under AICVIP for multi-locational trials. In vitro propagation methods for the multiplication of pointed gourd have been standardized. Agro-techniques like spacing, nutritional requirements in cabbage, pea and okra have been developed. Integrated management of tomato fruit borer and a technique to get discrete symptoms of *Alternaria* blight have been developed.

In mushroom two new strains of temperature tolerant white button mushroom have been released for commercial cultivation. The cultivation technology for two new mushroom have been developed.

In potato, nine Bt transgenic lines were found to be resistant to Potato Tuber Moth (PTM). DNA fingerprints of all the commercial and 14 old indigenous varieties have been generated. Cropping systems for North Western hills of Shimla, Modipuram and Shillong have been developed. A three row sub soiler was designed and developed. Forecasting model have been developed for predicting the late blight disease appearance within 10 days of forecasting in western plains. Plant protection techniques for the control of black scruf, soft rot, dry rot have been developed.

Two cassava hybrids have been recommended for release. In floriculture, 8 varieties of rose, 2 of gladiolus and 7 of chrysanthemum were released for commercial cultivation.

In tissue culture studies for rapid multiplication of elite genotypes in coconut MYD and MOD gave good callus percentage (16.6 and 20.6 respectively) under 0.1 m M concentration of 2,4-D. Survey on the incidence of eriophyid mite in Kerala indicated highest incidence in Trichur (77%) and Ernakulam (61%) districts while in Kottayam and Alapuzha districts it was 58 and 56% respectively. The process for making snowball tender nut has been developed. In varietal evaluation trial in oilpalm the pooled FFB yield varied from 7.81 to 11.61 ton of FFB/ha/yr and the maximum FFB yield was recorded in the cross combinations 18C x 2501 from Ivory Coast.

A new variety of cashew Balli-2 from Goa was recommended for release. Micro-grafting technique has been standardized using *in vitro* raised seedlings as rootstock and asceptic nodal shoot tip cultures from mature tree source as micro scion. Panniyur-6 and Panniyur-7 in black pepper, RR-1 in cardamom, RCr-684, RCr-436, RCr-435 in Coriander, Guj Methi-1, RMt-303 in fenugreek, Guj,cumin-3 in cumin and RF-101 in fennel and two varieties of seed spices viz., RCr-20 in coriander, Co-2 in fenugreek, were released.

A quick method of clonal multiplication of cardamom suckers was standardized. It involves close planting of suckers (0.9 x 0.9cm) in trenches and fertilizer application of 75:75:150 kg NPK/3000 plants in two equal splits, regular plant protection measures, weeding, irrigation and mulching operations which yield 4-5 planting clonal units/tiller/year.

In Isabgol one spray of Metalaxyl + two sprays of Mancozeb was found significantly superior in controlling mildew. Superiority of the treatment, organic manure either in the form of oilcake or FYM or vermicompost plus urea (1:1) in increasing leaf yield was observed.

Natural Resource Management

Under Soil Resource Inventory soil maps of Tamil Nadu, J&K, Assam, Delhi and Goa along with the summary reports and bulletins have been published. Soil erosion maps of many States namely: Haryana, Punjab, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu have been finalized. Bulletins on "Soil climatic database for crop planning", and "AESR of India for crop planning and development" have been released for macro level agricultural planning of the country.

Experimental testing on Soil Management revealed that rainfed sorghum and soybean with vegetative barriers reduced runoff by 46-57% and 58-69% respectively and soil loss by 67-73% and 76-80% respectively over no vegetative barriers.

Long-term tillage management studies with differential N on soybean wheat and rice-wheat and rice-wheat cropping systems in Vertisol revealed that no-tillage was adequate to support the crop with concomitant saving of energy.

Under Nutrient Management to prepare enriched compost, a method of co-composting of poultry waste/sugar industry wastes with crop residues/city garbage, phosphate rock, pyrite, mineral additives and micro was developed. Soil test based balanced application of chemical fertilisers in conjugation with organic resources available with the farmers was demonstrated successfully

which was based on soil test and proved more economic.

Water Management experiments revealed saving of 11 per cent irrigation water over continuous submergence throughout at Kalyani (West Bengal) in sandy loan soils, maintenance of intermittent ponding up to 30 days after transplanting and continuous submergence thereafter and produced 6.23 t/ha yield of summer rice. Similarly with limited water supply of one irrigation of 6 cm in clay soils to wheat at 31 days after sowing produced 3.78 t/ha grain yield at Powarkheda (M.P.) In black soils at Rahuri (M.P.). In black soils, scheduling irrigation at 75 mm CPE to summer groundnut produced maximum pod yield of 3.43 t/ha.

An improved practice of integrated nutrient management at Bhavnagar produced 6.29, 6.36 and 6.13 t/ha rice grain yield 12.2, 9. 1 and 8.9 per cent higher over farmers' practice in head, middle and tail reach, respectively.

On farmers' fields in rice crop at Madurai, separate interventions on herbicide application, closure planting, split application of fertilizers, gypsum application, biofertilizer application and dhaincha green manuring produced 7.8, 10.5, 16.4 and 7.5 per cent higher seed grain yield of rice over farmers' practice.

In Upper Gangetic Plains promising alternative cropping system identified at Modipuram were rice-potato-sunflower, sugarcane-sugarcane (ratoon)-wheat and rice-potato-wheat with annual net returns of Rs.50,260, 65,711 and 36,661 per hectare, respectively, as against Rs.23,290 per hectare in rice-wheat. Similarly under arid-ecosystem clusterbean-wheat and clusterbean-mustard and under coastal ecosystem, rice-blackgram and rice-cowpea system were recorded as more remunerative.

Use of mulches and incorporation of residues helps to mitigate intermittent dryspells in rainfed crops. At Varanasi, the studies on in-situ moisture conservation practices indicated that live bunds (Stylo) supporting by cross section bund was most effective in minimising the runoff consequently resulting in the higher yields of mung bean by 37% compared to the control.

Soil solarization for a period of 3-5 weeks gave excellent control of most annual weeds in soybean crop. Soil solarization for 5 weeks gave 77 and 62 per cent higher yields over no solarization and summer ploughing respectively.

Wasteland mapping for Barmer district (Rajasthan) and desertification mapping for Kachchh district (Gujarat) was completed. Phosphorus deficiency, a major problem of arid soils, is being tackled by improving the availability of native phosphorus through acid phosphatase enzyme secretion by plants.

Acacia nilotica variety cupressiformis have been identified as more promising agroforestry species than *Acacia nilotica* variety indica because of its compact conopy and straight bole characteristics. Recently *Melia* is gaining popularity as an ideal tree for agroforestry.

K- 156 of *Leucaena leucocephala* has been identified highly promising for fodder and small wood use. This variety has low mimosine content. Another variety K-743 A, a hybrid between *L. leucocephala and L. diversifolia* has also been developed.

Agricultural Engineering

A tractor mounted multi crop planter suitable for bold, medium and small seeds has been developed. The field capacity is 3.15 ha/day. A tractor mounted till planter which, is basically a seed-cum-fertilizer drill mounted on a rotavator has also been developed. It saves 20% cost of operation as compared to conventional method.

A self propelled sprayer, tractor mounted sugarcane trash shredder, high capacity pigeon pea thresher and self propelled safflower harvester have been developed.

Refinement of pneumatic planter, paddy thresher (IEP-3 model), high capacity multi-crop thresher, tractor front mounted reaper and bullock drawn seed-cum-fertilizer drill were undertaken at CIAE, Bhopal to improve their efficiency and reduce cost of manufacturing.

Eight centres with prototype manufacturing workshop, manufactured 4730 manually operated, 344 animal drawn and 53 power operated equipment were manufactured by the Eight Prototype Manufacturing Workshops and over 5000 units were got fabricated through local manufacturers for Front Line Demonstration in farmers' fields.

Large scale demonstrations of improved farm equipment namely Low Land Paddy Seeder, Tractor Mounted Sugarcane set cutter, Tractor Mounted Cultivator for interculture in cotton crop Tractor Mounted Multi-crop Planter and Self Propelled Riding type Rice Transplanter were conducted in farmers' fields.

Studies were undertaken on soyflour, to identify

texture and soybean groundnut and sunflower oils to see the solubility and effect of solvents on oil recovery. Process formulation for soymilk, ice-cream and soy-fortified salted biscuits were standardized.

Refinements of power operated groundnut decorticator, grain pearler and integrated dal mill were undertaken.

MERADO Oil expeller (1t/day capacity) was used with bio-chemical treatments for higher oil recovery. Pre-treatment machines such as pre-grinder and blender-cum mixture and cooker with boiler were also designed and developed.

An agro-processing centre has been established at CIPHET, Ludhiana with a mission to popularize available post harvest technology for food grains and oilseeds among the farmers, manufacturers etc. About 10 machines have been installed and demonstrated to visitors including, entrepreneurs/students, farmers etc.

Designed and commissioned a 100-125 kg/h capacity fully indigenous prawn and fish feed manufacturing pilot plant.

Round the year studies on vegetable production using greenhouse technology; design and development of green house structure and evaluation for off season vegetable production; construction of low tunnels using bamboo and its evaluation for nursery raisings; development of open enclosure breeding system for carps, development of fish feeders and development and testing of plastic thermocole bee-hives under the Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh were undertaken.

Technologies for production of jaggery chocolate, jaggery *patti.* Jaggery wheat flour extruded snacks and jaggery-*besan* snacks were developed and standardised. Technology for manufacturing of granular jaggery and liquid jaggery has also been standardised and brought under multi-location testing. Technology was developed to manufacture these products from immature and over matured sugarcane. Bucket shaped jaggery of 13-15 kg weight lumps stored in jaggery godown, using fresh burnt lime as desiccant remained good from March to August with little physico - chemical changes.

Annual cotton quality update 2000 was brought out incorporating data of more than 1200 cotton samples along with statistical interpretations. Improvement of double roller gin was made by optimising roller and beater speeds for improvement of lint quality and ginning out-turn. A tractor operated cotton stalk puller developed is being evaluated. CIRCOT Mumbai continued its participation in the AICCIP programmes by providing technological inputs on fibre and yarn quality. Technological Report on Major Trade Varieties of Cotton and standard cottons was brought out by collection, testing, and compilation of data and printing.

CIRCOT Mumbai prepared thirteen new eco-friendly azo dyes using suitable safe intermediates and different couplers. Good quality binderless fibreboards were prepared from cotton stalk pulp. Eight samples of CIRCOT calibration cotton are being exported to Iran.

With a view to develop eco-friendly technologies for boosting lac production, parasitising efficiency of exotic parasitoids at different doses was determined successfully for management of lac predators. Integration of lac culture with agricultural crops under lac based agro-forestry system as well as proper plant density for raising *akashmani* under lac cultivation has been determined at ILRI, Ranchi. Based on various productivity-linked attributes, six productive stocks of Lac insects have been identified for different host plants.

ORP studies and front line demonstration of various bullock drawn matching equipment, improved yokes and harnesses and hardened hoof shoes. Standardization of two-wheel bullock cart was done at CIAE Bhopal. Optimum draft requirement at varying payloads and surface conditions was also worked out.

Studies on surge irrigation initiated. Designing of automated system for testing of pump and drippers and subsurface drainage system for CIAE Farm was undertaken and completed.

The rice productivity in coastal saline and sodic clay soils of Andhra Pradesh was enhanced to more than 4 t/ha in a span of 4 years due to leaching out of excess salts by subsurface drainage system.

Suitable surface drainage at Zonal Agricultural Research Station at Powerkheda under Tawa Command has been commissioned and study of their impact is under progress.

In low-lands which are under the threat of runoff accumulation every year due to absence and infeasibility of creating a conventional drainage facility, a raised bed - Pond system of land configuration was studied and was proved to be successful for three successive years. The system permitted *kharif* cultivation, which was not possible earlier, and also provided water for supplemental irrigation in the *rabi*, which resulted in increased *rabi* yield.

Animal Science

Census Data :Livestock census data bank integrated with the information system on Animal Genetic Resources of India (AGRI-IS). Systematic field surveys undertaken to assess the population status of the breeds socio-economic condition of the farmers, production performance and interaction of the local ecology with the breeds. The *in-situ* conservation models for different species developed for implementation in respect of Spiti horses, Beetal goats, Nili Ravi buffalo, Sahiwal cattle and Kodu Adu Goats.

Cattle : Genetic characterization of Sahiwal breed of cattle carried out using 20 highly polymorphic FAO recommended primers. Conservation and genetic improvement of 4 important Indigenous breeds of cattle (Hariana, Ongole, Gir and Tharparkar) undertaken in their native tract through Associated Herd Progeny Testing Programme. First lactation milk yield in 300 days and less, total yield, peak yield and lactation length in Frieswal cows averaged 2837.4 kg, 3013.2 kg, 14.2 kg and 318.6 days respectively.

Buffalo : Molecular marker in buffaloes, heterologous (cattle) microsatellite primers on a panel of 20 buffaloes from Murrah, Mehsana, Nili-Ravi and Jaffarbadi breeds evaluated. First three top ranking sires of Murrah buffalo bulls identified. Semen of proven bulls to be used for nominated matings and also available for sale to breeding agencies.

Goat : Characterization of Barbari goat done in its native tract. Breed descriptors defined and information on growth, reproduction and milk yield described.

DNA Fingerprinting : Genetic fingerprinting profiles successfully used for establishing biological relationships, linkage analysis and phylogenetic relationship among related species. DNA finger printing analysis carried out on Barbari and Jamunapari goat.

Poultry : Two native chicken breeds (Aseel and Kadaknath) and two exotic breeds (White Leghorn and Dahlem Red) and their crosses evaluated for immunocompetence traits. Selected and control lines of White Leghorn chicken were evaluated for their genetic biodiversity with the help of DNA methods.

Camel : Biochemical polymorphism studied in double humped camel for haemoglobin transferrin, albumin, amylase, phospho-hexose- isomerase glucose 6- phosphate dehydrogenase and acid-phosphatase.

Mithun: Major emphasis given on collection, evaluation and documentation of available mithun germplasm in the country. Physiological behaviour of the two rare animal of North Eastern region Yak and Mithun were studied. Initial indications are such that these two animals perform better if they are given protection against environmental stress and nutritional supplement.

Sheep : Madras Red sheep improved through selection for mutton production. Madras Red sheep is one of the important breed of Tamil Nadu. Sheep skins are preferred in tanning due to better grains in finished leather.

Commercial test cross (KRISHIBRO) from coloured pure line attained body weight of 1339g without any finisher ration with a feed conversion ratio of 1.96 and mortality of 2.62 percent at six weeks of age.

Animal Health : In high producing animal, there is need to protection of fat supplement for better performance. Area specific mineral supplements were suggested for the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to avoid the excretion of excess nutrients, which cause environmental problems. Measures to overcome problems of disorders were suggested as per the research information emerged from the Network Programme on Embryo Transfer Technology and Micronutrients.

Semen freezing : Semen freezing protocol for higher post thaw mortality and fertility developed in goats and a technique of semen preservation for field condition have been evolved which has a potential of commercial exploitation.

Technologies for various value added milk and meat products have been developed with efficient processes and utilization of by-products from meat and milk.

Animal Disease : The protective antibody status following vaccination in *Liquid Phase Blocking ELISA (LPBE)* was further evaluated and standardized for screening large number of serum samples. ELISA based IBR Kit and Brucella kits developed and released, showed significant results when used in the field and found superior than the conventional diagnostic methods.

An exclusive hybridoma laboratory for the production of N and H protein based monoclonal antibodies to RPV and PPRV have been developed for use in the ELISA kits for national sero monitoring and sero surveillance programmes.

The prevalence of Bovine Viral Diarrhea affecting

cattle and buffaloes of Indian population has been confirmed based on genomic detection, sequencing and sero-prevalence by ELISA. Similarly, viral genome of Bovine Immuno-deficiency Virus (BIV) has been detected in cattle. Aujeasky's disease in swine was also identified by genome detection (gII region) in tonsillar epithelium of latently infected pigs. Sero-prevalence of the disease is evident as tested by blocking ELISA.

Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis (CAE) virus primers were designed & synthesized, Synovial membrane cultures were standardize for virus isolation.

Complement fixation test based diagnostic kit COMPLEMENT FIXATION FOR EQUINE BABESIOSIS (COFEB) has been developed.

A milk based bovine brucellosis ELISA kit has been indigenously developed for screening the milk samples.

A powerful veterinary epidemiology software *India.admas Epitrak* in two Modules developed.

Fisheries

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

A comprehensive survey and assessment of ornamental fish resources of the Lakshadweep was conducted, for the first time, in nine inhabited islands, Amini, Agatti, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy based on large samples collected by actually fishing in the lagoons. The results suggested that there is a vast scope for developing an ornamental fishery industry in the Lakshadweep islands for initiating the export market.

Environmental perturbations and its impact on ecology of river Ganges, Yamuna, Hooghly, Haldi, and Tapti at various points were assessed and studies were made on hydro-biological, bio-chemical, micro-biological parameters to suggest minimal standards permissible for industrial wastes discharge into aquatic system to safeguard aquatic resources of riverine system.

Valuable database on fish bio-diversity in some important river system in Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Central Himalayan, which has been linked with ecological indices have been collected. Potential seed collection sites of snow- trout have been pinpointed and quantify.

Multiple cropping of carps with 10,000 fingerlings/ha stocking and 6 Species combination (catla, rohu, mrigal, silver carp, grass, carp & common carp) yielded 46.1 % higher production than three species combination with same density and 103% higher than three species combination at 5000 nos./ha stocking density.

Standardization of seed production technology and domestication of important marine fin-fish, the Asian seabass has opened up a new horizon in coastal aquaculture.

Success has been achieved in artificially breeding snow-trout, a coldwater fish species after raising the broodstock in farm itself. It is the first attempt in the country as previously all breeding experiments were conducted with brooder collected from the nature.

An average of 22% selection response per generation was observed after two generation of selective breeding in first line population of rohu, while 47.5% selection response was observed in second line base population after first generation of selective breeding. A total of 1.14 million of CIFA-IRI spawn was produced and reared in nursery ponds.

'Sagar Kripa' a fuel efficient fishing vessel designed by CIFT was handed over for commercial trials to Fishing Boat Owners' Association (co-operative society, Munambam) and the data received established a fuel saving of 13 to 15 % which confirmed the success of the design.

A total of 83 students successfully completed the various Post-graduate and certificate programmes of CIFE during the year under report in the fields of Fisheries Resource Management, Inland Aquaculture, Mariculture, Freshwater Aquaculture, Post-Harvest Technology. A total of 89 students have been admitted during the year 2000-2001 for various Post-graduates and certificate courses offered by the CIFE.

Agricultural Economics and Policy Research

Agricultural Economics

The National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) was established by ICAR in 1991.

The Centre is guided in its policies by a high-level

Research Advisory Committee comprising eminent professionals, a Management Committee and number of internal committees. Mandate of the Centre includes; Policy oriented research on: (i) technology generation, diffusion and impact; (ii) sustainable agricultural production systems; (iii) interaction between technology and other policy instruments like incentives, investments, institutions, trade, etc; and (iv) agricultural growth and adjustments.

Strengthening agricultural economics research and teaching capability in state agricultural universities and ICAR institutes.

Enhancing ICAR participation in agricultural policy decisions through policy-oriented research and professional interactions.

Agricultural Statistics

The Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute of the ICAR is involved in Agricultural Statistics activities. The institute has completed following 5 projects and 35 research projects are in operation including 11 externally aided projects.

- Use of Remote Sensing Satellite Data in Crop Survey.
- Fertilizer Response Ratio for different Crops in India.
- Use of discriminant function of weather parameters for developing forecast model of rice crop.
- Pilot study for developing Bayesian probability forecast model based on farmers appraisal data on wheat crop.
- Estimation of flow and change in dynamic population.

Institute has made a remarkable progress in the direction of obtaining external funds for the research projects funded by AP Cess, NATP Revolving Fund, etc. Two externally funded projects have been completed entitled. A number of software packages released are : Statistical Packages for Agriculture Research (SPARI), Agriculture Research Data Information System (ARDIS), Software for Mixed Models Analysis for animal breeding data (SMMA), Statistical Packages for Balanced Incomplete Block Design (SPBIBD Release 1.0) and Statistical Package for Factorial Experiments (SPFE). A National Information System for Agriculture Research Education (NISAGE) for State Agricultural University and Deemed Universities of ICAR is in the final stages of development.

Short-term courses on various topics in the field of Agricultural Statistics and Computer applications are organised by the Institute. The purpose is to be enhance the research skills of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) scientists in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications. These training(s) also helps in increasing the productivity of technical and administrative staff.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) : A total 10,733 training courses were organized for the benefit of 2.45 lakh farmers and farm women, 25.18 % of which belonged to scheduled caste/tribe. These courses include 378 sponsored courses funded by various other agencies. The courses were organized in crop production, horticulture, plant protection, livestock production and management, home science, agricultural extension agricultural, engineering, fishery, agro-forestry etc. As many as 2,645 vocational and skill oriented training courses were organized for 47,841 rural youths including 14,954 belonging to the categories of SC & ST. Vocational and skill oriented courses were imparted in the areas of poultry, dairying, bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, fish farming, nursery raising of vegetable and fruit crops, seed production, repair and maintenance of farm machinery including tractor, rewinding of electric motors, tailoring, vegetable and fruit preservation.

Similarly 1,268 training programmes were conducted covering 29,248 participants including 6,036 training programmes were conducted covering 29,248 participants including 6,036 SC/ST. Besides the training programme KVKs also organized a large number of extension activities such as kisan melas (209), field days (1019), kisan gosthis (903), film shows (616), exhibitions (208) and other activities (37,254), like publications of extension literature, diagnostic surveys, ex-trainees sammelan etc.

A total area of 5136.06 ha. covering 13,773 farmers under oilseed and 2967.64 ha. covering 10,208 farmers under pulses were covered under frontline demonstration. These programmes were conducted with the help of KVKs and selected Directorate of Extension of State Agricultural Universities as a part of Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) under technology mission on oilseed and Pulses Production Programme (PPP) under technology mission on pulses respectively.

Trainers' Training Centres (TTCs) : There are eight Trainers' Training Centres established by the Council in frontier areas of technology for providing in rural training to the KVK scientists, development officers, extension officers, university teachers and entrepreneurs. During the year 194 training courses were organized benefiting 3,706 participants.

Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) : In order to strengthen the research and extension linkages and improve the quality and effectiveness of research and extension system, the council has launched an innovative technology assessment and refinement programme called "Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP)" at 70 locations under ICAR Institute and State Agricultural Universities funded under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) from 1999-2000. The concept is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientist farmers linkage in a bottom - up approach by incorporating the concepts like agro-eco-system analysis, farmers' participatory rapid rural appraisal, diagnosis and design methodologies, and household and gender analysis.

Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment Project : The Division jointly with the Division of Crop Science has been implementing. All India Co-ordinated Crop Improvement Project for multi-locational trial across various crop production ecologies in different parts of the country to identify superior fielding varieties. The main objective of this project is to involve. KVK scientist in the testing of varieties at the final stage of trial on its evaluation and other production aspects as well as to provide additional test sites for more comprehensive assessment of these technologies. It enhanced interaction among the research and KVK scientists and provided feed back on the response of the farmers at the final evaluation stage of the technologies. A total of 17 crops were identified in 60 KVK sites.

Programmes for Women in Agriculture : National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture has launched 9 research projects during the year viz., identification and improvement of farming systems suited to farm women in Eastern India; improvement in backyard poultry, farming for farm women of different categories, gender study on agriculture and household economy of tribals of Orissa, development and testing of extension methods to farm women in Eastern India, studies on technological empowerment of women in rural aquaculture, occupational health hazards of farm women in coastal Orissa; study of women specific field practices in rice in Orissa; identification and evaluation of interactive learning modules for dissemination of home stead technologies and improvement in storage practices of seeds and grains of important crops with women perspective.

Besides this the centre has also organized training programmes viz, Technological empowerment of farm women in rice production and post harvest processing, Enrichment of crop residues for enhancing their nutritive value as animal fodder and motivation management of farm women covering 53 women from ICAR Institutes/ SAUs/State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery to sensitize them on the productive roles of women farmers and train them on application of appropriate technologies in agriculture and allied fields.

The subcentre of NRCWA at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal conducted 25 training programmes during the period covering 487 farm women.

New Initiatives

Watershed Programmes: KVK, Jalna adopted Asarkheda watershed, covering 875 ha in 3 villages. Similarly 11 watersheds by Medak KVK was undertaken which spread over 5,500 ha in 3 mandals of Medak district. 176 self help groups including 123 women groups and 53 men groups were formed to implement various shed works with a total membership of 2630. In Kurnool the total area of watershed was 5443 ha divided into 9 micro watershed in 5 villages. Watershed development teams, watershed associations and watershed committees were farmed to implement the programme.

Women in Dairying : In Chittoor district, after agriculture, domestic dairying plays a major role in rural economy. The self-help groups were formed and they were given training in basic skills of dairying. In 72 villages 409 self-help groups were formed with 3726 crossbred animals. The KVK also established 12 veterinary centres which treated 2.9 lakh animals and provided artificial insemination resulting in the birth of 2945 calve. For training the members, 20 one day training programmes were organized.

Integrated Piggery Development Programme : The Division has identified 10 KVKs for undertaking Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Piggery Development Programme financed by the Piggery Development of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture under this project 5 days training programme was organized at IVRI Bareilly (U.P.). All the KVKs have started constructions of shed.

Special Support in Super Cyclone Affected Areas of Orissa : The ICAR has provided special support in Super Cyclone Affected areas of Orissa for conducting frontline demonstration on oilseeds during Rabi 1999-2000 and on paddy during Summer 2000.

Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) : ICAR has sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) as a single window support system linking the various units of a research institutions with intermediary users and end users (farmers) in decision making and problem solving exercise.

Strengthening of Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functioning of KVK : The council has sanctioned for strengthening 53 existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in these district in which there is no KVK. These ZARs were established by the State Agricultural Universities under National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) and over the years a considerable farm-worthy technologies were developed on location specific basis.

Strengthening of Directorate of Extension and Zonal Co-ordinating Units : The council has provided critical support for strengthening 8 Zonal Co-ordinating Units and 29 Directorates of State Agricultural Universities in order to play more effective role in implementing frontline extension programme of ICAR and SAUs.

Mission Mode Project on Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) : ICAR has sanctioned a Mission Mode Project under NATP on collections, documentation and validation of Indigenous Technical Knowledge. The objectives of the projects include identifications, collection, classifications and documentation of ITK.

Agricultural Education

Conduct of third All India Competitive Examination for admission to 15% seats at U.G. level and 25% at P.G. level to reduce inbreeding substantially and would contribute to improving cultural life in the campuses of various colleges.

During the year two management courses for the Deans organised and the interaction during these courses has been quite rewarding and has helped in knowing the constraints of the Deans. Each of the Dean has prepared action plan for the college.

As a new initiative - meeting of all Deans/Heads of Colleges was organized in which major decisions were taken relating to our approach for improving quality of education. This meeting has been made as a regular feature for interaction.

Decentralization of the budget from the Council down to the college level has helped in triggering the much needed change and will bring-in the system accountability for performance. More than 250 manuals and instructional material have been brought out during the year.

During the year one hundred and thirty training courses through Summer Institutes/Winter Schools/Short Courses were organised under the aegis of Centre of Advanced Studies in which more than 2000 scientists by SAUs and ICAR Institutes have been benefited by acquiring new skills.

New publication "Accreditation of Quality Assurance" revised. P.G. academic regulations finalised in the meeting of Dean, PGs. PG curricula being revised through 16 subject matter committees. Fifteen committees have already revised curricula.

Deans have made sincere efforts to train faculty on computer. It is gratifying to note that in many colleges 100% faculty is computer literate.

Agriunifest (All India Agricultural University Youth Festival) organized on 14-18th Oct., 2000 at AAU Jorhat where 12 universities participated.

All India Agricultural Universities Games & Sports meet held on 25-28th Nov., 2000 at ANGRAU, Hyderabad where 24 Universities participated.

Vice-Chancellors' Conference organized on 21-22 Nov., 2000 to deliberate all issues related to University Governance, X Plan support for educational reforms and steps for improving Universities wealth.

One Time Catch up grant: Expert Committees visited SAUs for working out the requirements under one time catch up grant. Finally based upon the resources available Rs. 154.50 crores were allocated to SAUs during IX Plan. University-wise allocation has been made. During the current year Catch up grant has been released to all SAUs whose AUCs have been received. The Catch up grant will help in improving the infrastructure in SAUs.

AICRP in Home Science has attempted to improve the quality of life of rural families, through preparation of nutriguide based on regional foods consumed, Farm creche for deprived children, addressing reduction of farm women' drudgery, and economic empowerment of rural women.

National Agricultural Technology Project

National Agricultural Technology Project jointly implemented by the ICAR and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India with the World Bank support and has been designed for re-orientation of research and technology, dissemination systems to meet challenges of present millennium. The NATP has made major strides towards full implementation of diverse activities of the project planned under following major components :

- Research
- Innovation in Technology Dissemination
- Organization & Management Systems in ICAR

Research : Most of the research programmes have been reviewed, finalized and sanctions have been issued. These include, 211 Production System Research Projects being carried out under 14 Production Systems, 70 projects under Institution Village Linkage programme for Technology Assessment & Refinement, 26 strategic and upstream research projects under Team of Excellence, 33 projects under the Mission Mode involving cutting-edge technologies & frontier sciences and 79 projects under the Competitive Grant Programme for filling critical research gaps.

Innovations in Technology Dissemination : 25 Agricultural Technology Information Centres are being established in State Agricultural Universities and 15 in selected ICAR Research Institutes. 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations have been remandated to take up the additional functions of KVK. In addition, strengthening of Directorate of Extension Education at 29 SAUs and 8 Zonal Coordination Units of ICAR is in progress.

O & M Systems in ICAR : One of the objectives of the National Agricultural Technology Project is to initiate organization and management reforms to improve efficiency of the National Agricultural Research System. The development and institutionalization of improved research priority setting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at various levels in the NATP and NARS has been initiated under this reform process. Similarly a number of initiatives have also been taken under the O&M Reforms component at ICAR headquarters. These include, (i) Training, study tours and workshops (ii) Organization of meetings and workshops (iii) Consultancies management and (iv) Incentives and rewards.

Management and Information Services

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Major Activities up to 30.10.2000

National Seminar on *"High Tech Horticulture"* at Bangalore with close involvement of research and development agencies, industry, financial institutions and policy makers.

Foundation Lecture by Dr. K.C. Pant, Vice-Chairman Planning Commission *"Planning for Agriculture Challenges and Opportunities"*.

Lecture by Prof. E.C. Cocking (Foreign Fellow) and Director University of Nottingham on *"Helping Cereals to get more nitrogen from air"*.

Presentation of Research work by Dr. C. Srinivasa Rao of Indian Institute of Pulses Research, recipient of Young Scientists' Award

Workshop on *"Priority setting in Agricultural Research"* at Surajkund, Haryana.

Sponsorship and support to 18 scientific programmes were organized by other Science agencies.

Travel support extended to 29 scientists for participation in Seminar, Workshop, Conferences etc. abroad.

Decision to open a new Regional Chapter of the Academy in the Western Region.

5 Publications brought out including policy papers

Finalisation of election of 26 Fellows (including two Foreign Fellows and one distinguished Fellow).

A Scheme for Young Scientists' Research Fellowship Awards has been launched with financial support of Rs. 20 lakhs from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for which the agreement has been signed on 19.10.2000. There will be five Fellowships; each selected scientist will be given a

research grant of Rs. 4 lakhs to carry out a research project and to strengthen his research facilities. One Fellowship is earmarked for Young Scientist from North-Eastern Region.

For strengthening linkages, two new MoUs signed in 2000-2001 with Academies in Egypt and Africa bringing the total numbers of MoUs signed to 5.

Completion of Civil Works of the new building of the Academy at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex at New Delhi and finalization of contract to undertake interior works in the new building.

Activities completed up to 31st March 2001.

Organized the 88th Session of the Indian Congress at IARI, New Delhi from 3rd to 7th January 2001 on the theme *"Food, Nutrition and Environmental Security"*.

5th Agricultural Science Congress at Guwahati on the theme of *"Sustainable Development of Mountain Agriculture"* in collaboration with the Government of Assam and Assam Agricultural University.

Seminar on *"Globalization of Agricultural R & D in India"* at Thrissur.

National Seminar on R & D in Fisheries (including Aquaculture) at Chennai.

[English]

Rejuvenation Technology for Mango

2827. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR has come out with a new rejuvenation technology for mango trees to improve productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAR has already propagated this technology in mango growing areas; and

(d) if so, the other concrete steps the ICAR proposed to be taken to improve mango production during 2000-2001?

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

(b) The Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow, an ICAR Institute has developed the rejuvenation technology for mango trees to improve productivity. The Institute has standardized the pruning technique for rejuvenation of old mango trees. The rejuvenation work has been taken up on the most important mango variety Dashehari of North India. It consists of severe heading back of main branches at a height of 4 to 5 metres from the ground during December of alternate rows trees. The cut ends are pasted with copper oxychloride paste followed by application of fertilizers (2.5 kg urea, 3 kg single super phosphate and 2.5 kg. Muriate of Potash) Half of the urea and full dose of super phosphate and potash are applied in the tree basin during March and remaining half dose of urea along with 100 kg. well decomposed FYM per pruned tree are applied in the month of July. Thinning of emerged shoots and control of stem borer need to be done during following monsoon.

Fruit yield was higher in 4th and 5th order pruned trees than the control. No fruit yield was obtained in 1st and 2nd order pruned trees during 1st and 2nd year of fruiting, but yield was obtained in an increasing trend in subsequent years. It is indicated that 4th order pruned trees gave the highest yield. Pruning of 4th and 5th order branch has been recommended for rejuvenation of old mango orchards. In the 3rd and 4th year the other alternate rows trees need to be pruned in the same way to induce healthy canopy so that it gives quality production for 20-25 years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken by ICAR to improve mango production in 2000-2001.

i) A promising mango clone 'Dashehari-51' has been identified at CISH, Lucknow. It is a regular bearing clone which yield 30-40 per cent higher than normal Dashehari.

ii) Soil application of paclobutrazol @ 3.2 ml per meter tree canopy diameter during September induces off year bearing.

iii) High/medium density planting and integrated pest management techniques are disseminated/demonstrated for improving mango productivity.

Disinvestment in NTPC

2828. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has opposed the Department of Disinvestment proposal for NTPC to acquire 100% equity stake in NHPC during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether NTPC is arranging loan of Rs. 250 crore from Sumitono Bank;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith details of loan taken/proposed to be taken; and

(d) the details of more loans likely to be availed by the NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present for National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to acquire equity stake in National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

(b) NTPC have not entered into any arrangement of loan with Sumitomo Bank for the purpose of disinvestment.

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

Transfer of Railway Officers

2829. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways Service Officers are not being transferred from Delhi to other parts of country periodically;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which officers who have completed their tenure in Delhi will be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) As per laid down instructions, officers are normally transferred from one post to another periodically after a tenure of 4 years. No fixed tenure has been prescribed for stay at a particular station.

[Translation]

Pending Railway Projects in Rajasthan

2830. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway Projects of Rajasthan lying pending; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to start these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Two Railway projects i.e. gauge conversion projects from Sriganganagar-Sarupsar and from Rewari to Sadulpur (including Hissar-Sadulpur) are pending in Rajasthan for requisite clearances.

These works are already included in the budget and would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances for which action has already been initiated.

[English]

Development of Tourism

2831. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the leaders of South Asian Countries was held in April with a view to discuss ways and means to overcome image hurdles and sell the region as a common tourist destination and also to provide some competition to regions in South East Asia;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which participated in the meeting; and

(c) the concrete proposals emerged in the meeting and the steps taken or being taken up to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. World Tourism Organisation organised South Asia Tourism Ministerial Summit on Joint Marketing and Promotion in New Delhi (India) on 23.4.2001. This Summit was aimed at designing a South Asia Joint Marketing and Promotion Action Plan - its strategy, administrative structure and requirements, activities to be carried out over the short, medium and long-terms, financing and monitoring.

(b) India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

(c) The Summit adopted New Delhi Declaration on Joint Marketing and Promotion of Tourism in South Asia. Recommended that the overarching goal for the South Asia regional tourism marketing and promotional initiatives be to convince a wide cross-section of the travel trade and consumers of main tourist generating markets

that the countries of the Region offer an abundance of attractive, complementary and high quality tourist resources and facilities which can be accessed and enjoyed comfortably and safely. The focus of marketing activities will be on practical guidance in designing and undertaking trips to and within the Region, with special attention to multi-destination travel;

Endorse the strategy of the initiative of regional collaboration to be centered on the Visit South Asia Year 2003, the focal point to bring the countries together.

Further request WTO's assistance in the formulation of a time bound Action Plan providing details of activities and their scheduling, financing methods, and review and monitoring mechanisms.

Conversion of Cooperative Societies Into Companies

2832. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to insert provisions in the Companies Act, 1956 which would enable cooperative societies with presence in more than one State to convert the existing cooperatives into companies or producer companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of Dr. Y.K. Alagh Committee Report are being examined by the Government. Once a final decision is taken, the Bill will be introduced at the earliest.

[Translation]

Socio-Economic Development in Piggery Sector

2833. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the share of piggery sector in terms of Gross Domestic Product;

(c) whether the Government propose to pay special attention towards this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding overall performance of piggery in various States, especially in Maharashtra in respect of production, export and generation of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Contribution of pork meat in the total Gross Domestic Product is 0.052%.

(c) and (d) The Government is already paying attention towards this sector by implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - "Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development" since 1991-92. Under this scheme 100% Grants-in-aid is given for establishment/strengthening of pig breeding farms under State Governments, Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras for production of quality germplasm and their distribution amongst pig breeders/farmers.

(e) Traditionally, pig rearing is practised in the rural areas as a subsidiary source of income. However, in the North-Eastern States piggery contributes to a substantial employment generation. As per the livestock census (1992) the pig population in the country is 12.78 million. As per estimates for 1999-2000 at current prices the value output of pork meat is rupees 1236 crores and contribution of pork meat in the total output of livestock sector is 0.95%. The cross-bred pig population in 1987 was 1.11 million which as per 1992 census has grown to 1.84 million.

The pig population in Maharashtra State has increased from 376 thousand during 1992 to 580.8 thousand with an annual growth rate of 2.40%.

The production of pork in Maharashtra for 1998-99 was 5.09 thousand metric tones which is around 2% of the total meat production in the State.

Using of Colombo Port

2834. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than Rs.350 crores is being paid by India as transhipment charges at Colombo port for handling export cargo from India bound for Europe and other destinations;

(b) whether Indian exporters prefer shipment of their cargo from Colombo rather than Kochi/Chennai for many reasons including slow handling of containers at Kochi/Chennai (13/15 containers per hour) compared to 30/40 containers per hour at Colombo;

(c) whether Indian exporters pay up $40.00 per container in foreign exchange at Colombo for transhipment of their cargo to mother vessels;

(d) the reason behind mother vessels calling at Colombo Port and avoiding Kochi/Chennai ports:

(e) whether the Government would consider entrusting the management of Kochi/Chennai to private parties as has been done at Tuticorin Port; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Substantial amount is spent by country on transhipment charges at neighbouring foreign ports.

(b) Yes, Sir. In some cases, the Indian exporters prefer shipment of cargo through neighbouring foreign ports including Colombo due to several reasons.

(c) The charges at Colombo vary from time to time and terminal to terminal. It is, however, a fact that wherever Indian cargo is transhipped through Colombo or any other foreign port, expenditure is incurred in foreign exchange.

(d) Geographical location of Colombo Port is the main reason for bigger vessels calling at Colombo Port.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The existing Container Terminal of Chennai Port is proposed to be given on lease to M/s. P&O Ports Ltd.

Dry Farming

2835. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding dry farming in the country and its relevance in augmenting the food supply in India; and

(b) the States where dry farming is being done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Rainfed farming which includes dry farming is practised over 87.45 million hectares net cultivated area of the country. Irrigated farming, on the other hand is practised in 54.57 million hectares net cultivated area.

Foodgrain production in the country accrues from an estimated 142 million hectares of cultivated land. Major foodgrains crops of rainfed/dry farming areas are coarse cereals pulses and oilseeds. Rainfed areas contribute substantially to the total production of coarse cereal (89%), pulses (89%), and oilseeds (75%).

(b) Rainfed farming which includes dry farming is predominant in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh. Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Collaboration with Sudan in Oil Sector

2836. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether Sudan has expressed desire of India's collaboration in its oil sector; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to tie up with Sudan for exploration, development and processing keeping in view its vast oil reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To explore the possibility of bilateral cooperation in Oil Sector with Sudan, a team of Oil Company Officials has visited Sudan. Sudan does not offer opportunities, which call for immediate attention. With regard to import of crude, Sudanese crude oil has not been found technically suitable for processing in the Indian PSU Refineries.

Imposition of Levy

2837. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to protect the Poultry Industry from disaster in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested the Union Government to impose a levy for anti-dumping duty on imports of chicken and chicken meat products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The major thrust of the Andhra Pradesh Government is to protect poultry industry by imposing anti-dumping duty of 150% on import of chicken and chicken meat products. The request of the State Government has been forwarded to the Directorate General of Anti-dumping under Ministry of Commerce, which is the designated Ministry for this purpose. However, the Ministry of Commerce has informed that they have not received from the domestic industry fully documented petition requisite for the Designated Authority to initiate investigations to impose anti-dumping duty against import of chicken and such products into the country.

Introduction of Trains

2838. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the long pending demand of people of Chandigarh for introduction of trains to South, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to connect Chandigarh to important cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Introduction of trains from Chandigarh has been examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational and resource constraints at present.

Conviction Rate

2839. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether only 7% of charged accused are convicted in the prevailing judicial system and 93% manage to go scot free;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite trials for quick justice to prevent criminalisation and avert the collapse of justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) As per information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the average conviction rate of crimes under the Indian Penal Code from the year 1995 to 1999 has been 39.02%. However, the information is being verified from the Courts.

(b) The reasons for poor conviction rate, inter alia, can be attributed to the nature of the procedural laws, practices and procedures followed by criminal courts and the inadequencies of the investigating and prosecuting agencies.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

As regards Criminal Procedure Code, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S.Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails, on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April, 2001.

Setting up of Bottling Plants

2840. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set up in the country from 1997 to April, 2001, State-wise;

(b) the States where LPG bottling plants do not exist despite availability of gas pipelines ; and

(c) the capacity of LPG bottling plants in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have set up 53 LPG bottling plants in the country during the period 1.1.1997 to 1.4.2001.

(b) At present, all the States are having LPG bottling plants except Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. The bottling plants in these five States are under construction.

(c) The total bottling capacity in the country of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.4.2001 was 5595 TMTPA.

[Translation]

CBI Investigation Against ITDC

2841. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3984 dated December 14, 2000 regarding corruption in ITDC and to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has submitted any report on the basis of the inquiry conducted into the complaints against ITDC wherein it has been reported that ITDC has committed irregularities at various levels due to which it is suffering losses instead of earning profits and recommended to penalize several officers for their involvement in some tender cases;

(b) if so, the facts and full details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the guilty officers on the recommendations of the CBI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether a senior officer is living in hotel Kanishka for months with his family as reported in Nav Bharat Times dated July 11, 2001; and

(g) if so, the facts thereof and the expenditure incurred by the Government on this officer so far and the names of ITDC officers who have availed such facility?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A statement showing details of CBI cases investigated against ITDC officials, recommendations of CBI and action taken thereon is enclosed.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. A Vice-President is staying in Kanishka Hotel, occupying five rooms, since August 2000 owing to major repair works being carried out in the flat at Asiad Village. While the hotel has not incurred any additional expenditure on account of his stay there, rent recovery is being made from his salary as per rules. In a similar situation another Vice-President stayed and availed hotel accommodation facility in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.

Statement

Details of CBI Cases investigate against ITDC officials and recommendations received during 1.4.1997 to 30.06.2001

S.No.	Name & Designation of the official	RC/PE and Date	Gist of Allegations	Recommendations of CBI	Action taken and Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Shri R.K. Das, Sr. Manager (Civil)	RC–18(A)/97 01.09.1997	Irregularity in awad of contract for renovation work in Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	Prosecution and major penality action	Regular Departmental Action is in progress. Additional defence documents requested by Charged Officer are being obtained form CBI.

1	2	3	4	5	6
02	S/Shri Vijay Pal, Sales Supervisor Avinash Dimri, Sales Asstt. Manoj Sehgal, Sales Asstt. Kushal Talwar, Sales Asstt. M.N. Nair, Sales Asstt. Sunil Bhatia, Sales Asstt. Smt. Kamla Bali, Sales Supervisor	PE-15(A)/99-DLI 02.06.1997	Indulgence in malpractices in violation of rules & regulations of ITDC	Major Penality Action and their suspension	Decision on CBI Recommendations for suspension cum chargesheet of delinquent officials is pending with Competent Disciplinary Authority.
03	Shri V.K. Jain, Manager (A/cs)	RC-DAI-98-A-0052 09.09.1998	Abusing official position and irregularities in accounting of payments received amounting to Rs. 20.00 lacs approx.	(a) Prosecution of Shri V.K. Jain (b) Major Penality Action against Shri O.B. Lal (c) Minor Penality Action against S/Shri S.P. Grover, Raj Pal, P.S. Bhutani and Jai Prakash (All cashiers of Hotel Janpath)	(a) Charges proved and enquiry report sent to Charged Official for his comments. (b) and (c) Reg. OB Lal & others, while recommending action against them, CBI has also recommended that Departmental Action against them may only be started after their evidence against Shri Jain is completed in the Court.
04	S/Shri Bhoopendra Bahadur, Sr. Sales Asstt. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Counter Clerk (Both of Duty free Shop, Mumbai)	PE-BA 1/2000/A 0016 18.10.2000	Indulgence in malpractices with unauthorised persons at Duty Free Shop	Major Penality Action	Enquiry in progress. Management witnesses are being examined.
05	S/Shri Amar Pratap Singh, Sr. Sales Asstt. Koshi Verghese, Sr. Sales Asstt. H.G. Patnakar, Peon (All of Duty Free Shop, Mumbai)	PE/BA 1/2000/A-0018 18.10.2000	Indulgence in malpractices with unauthorised persons at Duty Free Shop	Major Penality Action	Enquiry in progress. Management witnesses are being examined.

[English]

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

2842. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways had conceived a Tatkal scheme for providing berths to the genuine passengers on the spot on production of identity card in order to control the menace of corrupt practices indulged in by touts in cornering rail reservations;

(b) whether procedure to get rail reservations ticket under the Tatkal reservation scheme, the production of identity card has since been withdrawn; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reservation under Tatkal Scheme can be had on showing of one of the prescribed proofs of identity. However, the production of Tatkal Rail Identity Cards has since been stopped.

(c) The issuance of Tatkal Rail identity card has been stopped as the ground situation has since changed and voter identity Card is available to a large number of people. The Tatkal Scheme has also become very popular and people are now aware of the requirements of this Scheme. In view of this, and to avoid any possibility of these cards being mistaken as proof of identity, issue of these cards has been discontinued.

World Heritage Monuments

2843. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) whether the UNESCO has advised the Government to submit proposals for giving world heritage status to some monuments in a revised format;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the reaction of the UNESCO for inclusion of these monuments;

(d) the names of the monuments likely to be deleted from the list of World heritage as per the fiat issued by UNESCO; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) As the UNESCO were in the process of revising the schedule for admitting nominations for world heritage sites, the consideration of proposals already submitted to them was deferred. Subsequently the UNESCO have also proposed revision of the criteria for nominations on grounds of natural and cultural representativity, thereby rendering pending proposals infructuous. Fresh proposals will be decided up on receipt of UNESCO's revised guidelines.

Development of Mango

2844. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted projects/proposals for intensive mango development in Angul and Dhukanal districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal;

(c) the cost involved therein; and

(d) the allocation made by the Union Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) The Government of Orissa proposed the development of fruits including mango under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/ complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. In the Work Plan, the State Government has proposed programmes for intensive mango development in Angul and Dhenkanal districts with an outlay of Rs. 7.6125 lakhs, which has 5.07 lakhs as share of Government and 2.53 lakhs as share of farmers. The programme envisages to have composite area of 150 ha. in Angul and 256 ha. in Dhenkanal districts. The pattern of assistance proposed is Rs.1250/- per ha as subsidy. The Work Plan for Orissa has been approved with a total cost of Rs. 33.00 crores of which Rs. 14.85 crores have been released to the Government of Orissa under the Macro Management Scheme during the year 2001-02 to take up the programmes envisaged.

Mumbai Sub-urban Services

2845. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rain has disrupted Mumbai sub-urban rail services this time also;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the study report; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) In case of Western Railway, the suburban services were affected on 17.06.2001 & 09.07.2001 due heavy rains in Mumbai area. The main reasons for flooding was that Dadar, Matunga Road and Mahim are low lying areas and water from West Side flows on to the line. In all, the net affect of heavy rains on the suburban working was, delays to 343 trains by more than 5 minutes and cancellation of 90 trains on 17.06.2001 & on 09.07.2001, 191 trains had to be cancelled and 284 trains got delayed by more than 5 minutes. This is out of an average 961 trains run daily.

(ii) In case of Central Railway, there was water logging on the tracks on some locations on the Mumbai suburban system on 3 days i.e. 16.06.2001, 17.06.2001 & 09.07.2001. In all the net affect of heavy rains on the suburban working was, loss of punctuality of 1093 trains and cancellation of 1072 trains.

(c) Yes, Sir. Maharashtra Government (BMC) had got a study conducted covering all aspects of flooding in Mumbai area.

(d) This study report known as Brimstowad has highlighted various topographical problems and also recommended various measures, which also include large number of additional culverts in vulnerable railway track between Bombay Central and Dadar for clearing storm water. The cost involved in implementing these recommendations is enormous as per Bombay Municipal Corporation, who has to take action in this regard.

(e) Action is yet to be taken by Bombay Municipal Corporation.

Deposits made by Oil Companies

2846. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies have not been depositing the money collected by them as deposits from consumers for LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total money collected by oil companies from 1993-94 to 1997-98;

(c) whether the OCC has reimbursed the entire expenditure incurred on the purchase of cylinders by allowing 100 percent depreciation; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take against the oil companies and the OCC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As per the prevailing administered pricing mechanism, LPG Security deposit amounts are refundable to the consumers as and when they return the cylinders. The amounts are retained by the oil marketing companies. The LPG security deposits received by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) during the period 1993-94 to 1997-98 are as follows:

Year	Rs. in crore
1993-94	177.43
1994-95	244.61
1995-96	376.72
1996-97	476.55
1997-98	829.96

(c) and (d) The oil companies, were reimbursed the expenditure incurred on purchase of cylinders by allowing 100% depreciation under duly approved LPG Cylinder Compensation Scheme for the period 1993-94 to 1997-98.

Re-Bidding Process by NTPC

2847. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is planning to start rebidding process to purchase LNG on a long term contract for 4 power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MoUs signed earlier for supply of LNG has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir, However, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had entered into two separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), one with Gujarat Pipavav LNG project (GPLNG) with M/s Sea King Infrastructure Ltd. (SKIL) and M/s British Gas and the other with M/s Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) to meet the LNG requirement of gas based expansion projects at Anta, Auraiya, Kawas and Jhanor - Gandhar.

(c) and (d) MOU signed for GPLNG project has expired on 8.2.2001. Efforts are being made to enter into fresh MOU with GPLNG for supply of gas for Kawas and Gandhar power projects.

MOU signed with PLL is valid till 15.12.2001. However, NTPC has not been able to proceed further in the matter due to absence of projection of firm price of regassified LNG as delivered at power plant by PLL.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Jharkhand

2848. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether only thirteen per cent work relating to rural electrification has been done in the Jharkhand State and that too on paper only;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of work relating to rural electrification done in Jharkhand State as on date, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, it has been resolved to complete rural electrification by the end of 10th Plan i.e. by the year 2007 and the coverage of all households has been targeted by the end of 11th Plan i.e. by the year 2012. Rural Electrification has now been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) where under the funds for rural electrification will flow directly to the States.

The district-wise details of village electrification (provisional) in the State of Jharkhand is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Districtwise Electrified and Unelectrified Villages in Jharkhand State

Sl.No.	Name of District	Total inhabited Villages (1991 census Book)	No. of electrified Villages as on 31.12.2000	No. of Un-electrified Villages as on 31.12.2000	%age of villages electrified
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Deoghar	2327	1317	1010	56.60
2	Dumka	3712	1355	2357	36.50
3	Godda	1599	745	854	46.59
4	Sahebganj	2405	1049	1356	43.62
5	Pakur				
6	Ranchi	2391	1759	632	73.57
7	Loherdaga				
8	Gumla	1393	633	760	45.44
9	Palamu	3277	1611	1666	49.16
10	Garhwa				

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	E. Singhbhum	4356	2400	1956	55.10
12	W. Singhbhum				
13	Hazaribagh	3343	1595	1748	47.71
14	Chatra				
15	Koderma				
16	Girdih	2865	1312	1553	45.79
17	Dhanbad	1370	886	484	64.67
18	Bekare				
	Total	29038	14662	14376	50.49

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Agriculture in Delhi

2849. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of each of the Centrally sponsored schemes relating to development of agriculture in Delhi during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 so far; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised so far, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details of funds released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India to the Government of Delhi during the year 2000-01 were as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Fund Released 2000-2001
1	2
1. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser	50.00
2. Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	0.43
3. Development of Commercial Floriculture	5.00
4. Development of Mushroom	5.00
5. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits	0.60
6. National Pulses Development Project	1.00

The position regarding utilisation of funds has not been furnished by the Government of Delhi.

The major thrust of Delhi Government is on development of horticulture crops and pulses.

A macro Management Scheme, integrating 27 ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, was launched in October, 2000 in all States/UTs. Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs. On the basis of Work Plans, focusing on region/area specific interventions for the development of agriculture. Schemes mentioned at Sl. (1) to (5) have been subsumed under Macro Management Scheme. During the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakhs each has been allocated to Government of Delhi under Macro Management Scheme. However, no funds have been released to Delhi Government under the Scheme due to non-receipt of

requisite information. An amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been allocated under National Pulses Development Project during 2001-02.

Leasing of Cargo Trains

2850. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up a plan to offer lease full cargo trains with fixed schedules on inter-metro routes on long terms contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific route has been selected for starting such trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) whether any commercial activity actually taken place for such an offer by the Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the transportation of parcel traffic, a point-to-point parcel special train with door to door service called "Millenium Parcel Express" has since been introduced. Under the scheme, whole train on round trip basis is leased out to the private cargo operators by inviting offers/bids through open tenders on long term basis i.e. three to five years. First such train has already been introduced on Tuglakabad - Tondiarpet - Tuglakabad sector through Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking of this Ministry w.e.f. 29.07.2001.

(c) and (d) In the first phase, it is proposed to introduce the service between metro cities. However, there is no restriction for starting such trains on other sectors as well. The idea is to provide the service as per demand.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Shifting of LPG/Retail Outlets

2851. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules and regulations adopted by the Government to shift LPG / Retail Outlets from one State to another State, one district to another district and one village to another village and one place to another place in the same village;

(b) whether these rules and regulations, particularly in rural areas are being implemented properly;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from Rajur, district Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), opposing to shift the retail outlet; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Resitement of LPG distributorships/ Retail Outlets are permitted in case the subject distributorship / Retail Outlet has become economically unviable due to certain reasons which are beyond the control of the dealer/distributor. The cases involving inter-district resitement are considered and decided by the Board of the concerned Oil Marketing Company.

(b) Government have not come across any violation relating to resitement policy of LPG distributors / dealers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. HPCL has resited this Retail Outlet to Bamblewadi, District- Ahmednagar as this Retail Outlet was operating below the economic viable level since inception inspite of all efforts made by the dealer. The inclusion of about 32 villages in the hinterland in the Kalsubai Harishchandragadh Wild Life Sanctuary in 1996 has restricted the possibility of any agricultural or industrial activity in the area as also the sales potential. The local demand of petroleum products is being met by another outlet located on the same road.

Doubling of Guntakal-Hospet Rail Line

2852. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when the doubling work of Guntakal- Hospet line was stated;

(b) the amount spent thereon so far;

(c) the amount to be required to complete the said work;

(d) the amount to be released during 2001-2002 for the said work; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide additional funds to complete the said work early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work was taken up in 1997-98 after obtaining requisite clearances.

(b) The amount spent on the project upto 3 1.3.2001 is Rs. 2.41 cr.

(c) The balance amount required to complete the work is Rs. 154 cr.

(d) The outlay provided during 2001-02 is Rs.5 cr. and 1 thousand only.

(e) To expedite completion, the project is proposed to be executed through joint venture with State Govt. of Karnataka for which a Memorandum of Understanding with Govt of Karnataka has been signed.

Centre Fleeing States on Power Tariffs

2853. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, 'Centre fleeing States on power tariffs' appearing in the Indian Express dated June 30, 2001;

(b) if so, whether several State Governments have objected to the Union Government's claim of outstanding dues;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in power tariffs throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister, Rajasthan in his letter of June, 2001 wrote to the Minister of Power suggesting a review of the principles of tariff fixation of the Central Power Utilities. This issues was also mentioned in CM, MP's letter of June, 2001 addressed to Minister of Power and CM, Karnataka's letter of June, 2001. Following the submission of the report of the Expert Group to suggest one-time settlement of outstanding dues of the SEBs to CPSUs, the High Level Empowered Group consisting of Finance Minister, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Power and CMs of some States met on 26.6.2001 and 6.7.2001. Among other decisions the Empowered Group also recommended that the Committee on Tariff Policy set up under Special Secretary (Power) may be broad based to include representatives of the States/SEBs and the Committee asked to expedite its recommendations.

(d) and (e) At present fixation of tariffs within States is done either by State Electricity Regulatory Commission (wherever they have been set up) or by the concerned SEBs/States. Tariff setting for central generation utilities is done by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Violation of Safety Measures

2854. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints by the railway for violation of safety rules during the last three years and upto June, 2001 by the each Zonal Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and Division-wise; and

(c) the step taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Safety in railways is given the highest importance and efficient and safe functioning of railway system depends upon correct following of laid down safety rules.

Violation of safety rules is highlighted by CRSs and by accident inquiry committees, in their inquiry reports. In addition to above, violation of safety rules are also highlighted by officers and supervisors in their inspection notes as detected by them during the course of their inspections on Zonal Railways. This is a continuous and ongoing process. Staff found violating safety rules in the course of their working are counseled /warned or even taken up in serious cases as deemed fit. Cases of violation of rules culminating in accidents are taken up under disciplinary and appeal rules (D&AR) and appropriate punishment is awarded. Modifications/changes in rules is a continuous and ongoing and these are carried out as and when required, in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Opening of Excavation Branch of ASI in Chennai

2855. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request for opening of excavation branch of ASI at Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India had received a request for opening an excavation branch at Chennai. In the last meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, the need for an excavation branch covering the South Indian States was accepted. Accordingly, the Archaeological Survey of India after taking all administrative aspects into consideration has set-up a new excavation branch at Mysore.

[Translation]

Milk Production

2856. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cow's milk has been declining in the country every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being proposed to be made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government of India have been implementing the following schemes for increasing the level of milk production :

(a) National Project for cattle and buffalo breeding.

(b) Assistance to States for fodder development.

(c) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease.

(d) National project on Rinderpest eradication.

(e) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.

In addition to the above, the co-operative milk unions/federations in various States have also drawn up long term plans with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for promoting the activities in processing and manufacturing facilities, quality assurance, productivity enhancement, institution building and society organization, national information net work and marketing development.

[English]

Loan for NTC

2857. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI VIRENDER KUMAR :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTC is running into huge losses and the Government have arranged a loan of Rs. 3200 crore for its revival;

(b) whether the NTC propose to repay the loan amount by selling its surplus land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the NTC made any profit out of the use of loan money; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. NTC has an accumulated loss of Rs. 7,391.70 crore as on 31.3.2000. Upto 31.03.2001, Government has given Rs. 4084.67 crores as loans for meeting cash losses including shortfall in wages/salaries.

(b) and (c) Proceeds from sale of lands would be used for implementing revival plan sanctioned by BIFR.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The amount was used for reimbursement of cash losses and to meet shortfall in wages/salaries only.

Doubling of Kayamkulam-Ernakulam Rail Line

2858. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Kayamkulam-Ernakulam via Alappuzha and Kayamkulam-Ernakulam via Kottayam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the patch doubling of Ernakulam-Mulanturutti section of Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam has been included in the Budget 2001-02.

[Translation]

Tourist Office

2859. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is only one tourist office of the Union Government at Khajuraho for Chhatarpur and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which this office was started, its function and the objectives fixed therefor;

(c) whether the said tourist office is proposed to be closed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There is one Government of India Tourist Office at Khajuraho covering both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(b) The Government of India Tourist Office, Khajuraho was opened in the year 1970.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has a network of Tourist Offices in India which have been located at important tourist centres frequented by foreign tourists as also domestic tourists who are provided with necessary touristic information and other relevant details in order to enable them to plan their sight-seeing tours in a better way and spend the holidays usefully. In addition, these Tourist Offices regulate the requirement of different segments of tourism industry in their respective regions. These Tourist Offices have also been assigned the responsibility of monitoring and follow up of the implementation of tourism projects funded through Central financial assistance.

(c) and (d) No firm proposal has been formulated in this regard so far.

[English]

Central Assistance to Karnataka for Agricultural Projects

2860. SHRI R. L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for sanction of financial assistance to its various agricultural/horticultural schemes; and

(b) the status of each of the proposals as on date and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details of proposals received from Government of Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 along with their status are as follows:

i) **Comprehensive Watershed Development Project in Karnataka State at an estimated cost of Rs. 820.75 crores : (with the assistance of World Bank) :**

The Project proposal was received from the Govern-

ment of Karnataka on 28th April, 2000. The proposal was examined by Ministry of Agriculture, got approved from Planning Commission and forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance during June, 2000. The project was processed by Department of Economic Affairs and posed to World Bank on 30-6-2000. Four World Bank - FAO Joint Missions have since visited the project area during October, 2000; November - December, 2000; February, 2001 and March - April, 2001 for initial preparation and appraisal of the project. The project was subsequently negotiated during May, 2001 and the legal agreements (Project Agreement & Development Credit Agreement) have been signed during July, 2001. An amount of US $ 361,000 was made available to the State by World Bank as Japanese assistance for carrying out studies on the institutional capacity of panchayats, mainstreaming women and other vulnerable groups into the project and other activities including environmental assessment, base line survey, assessment of capacity building needs under the project and development of Financial Management and Monitoring and Evaluation systems.

ii) **Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development Project (ISPWD-K-I Phase-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 28.73 crores: (with assistance from Switzerland) :**

The project proposal was received from State Government during February, 2000 by Ministry of Agriculture. The proposal got examined by Ministry of Agriculture and Meetings were held on 20th March, 2001, 29th June, 2001 & 18th July, 2001 in Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan between Donor Agency, Karnataka Government and Ministry of Agriculture Officials for negotiating the project. The date of signing of the agreement is yet to be finalized.

iii) **Pilot Project for reclamation of Saline and Alkaline Soil; and**

Iv) **Amelioration of acid soil :**

The Planning Commission did not agree for launching of full-fledged new Schemes. As a result, pilot projects for these two schemes have been submitted to Planning Commission for approval. The response is still awaited.

v) **Protection and Development of Water-logged areas :**

Transferred to Ministry of Water Resources for implementation.

In addition to above, a number of proposals received from Government of Karnataka for providing Central assistance under various on-going Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were cleared by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Floriculture

2861. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the study conducted recently by the Export - Import Bank of India regarding present status of floriculture and export potentiality in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote floriculture and to remove the major hurdles mentioned in the said study report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Export-Import Bank of India carried out a study on floriculture in 1996. The study titled as Occasional Paper No.50 covered various aspects of floriculture including their export potential and developing strategies for floriculture exports.

(b) The major recommendations of the study report relate to creation of infrastructure for export of flowers, simplification of plant quarantine procedures, setting up of auction centres and product promotion of floriculture.

(c) The Central Government have already addressed these recommendations in the schemes of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. National Horticulture Board under the scheme for commercial horticulture is providing assistance for development of floriculture. Export-oriented units in floriculture sector have come up in recent years. The floriculture has diversified from roses to Zerbera, carnation, chrysanthemum, orchids, etc.

The Ministry of Commerce through Agricultural and Processed Food Development Authority is promoting export of flowers. Infrastructure facilities in the field of floriculture have shown significant improvement through setting up of flower marketing centres in Europe, auction centres at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida; cold storage and cargo handling facilities at Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Trivendrum, Chennai and Hyderabad airports. Also walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati, Agartala and Kolkata airports.

Central Assistance to Gujarat for Agricultural Projects

2862. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal seeking Central assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) No proposal other than Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been received from Government of Gujarat for undertaking agricultural projects in the State.

[Translation]

Discovery of Antiques from Vaishali

2863. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of antiques discovered during the excavation of the historical and ancient place Vaishali so far;

(b) the period when excavation work was undertaken by British and later on by Indian historians and the names of the museums where these antiques have been kept; and

(c) the present status of the decision to keep the antiques discovered from Vaishali itself after establishing a museum there and the time by which the action to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Selected antiquities are already on display in the site museum of the Archaeological Survey of India at Vaishali.

Statement

(a) The antiquities discovered during excavations of historical and ancient place of Vaishali District Vaishali (Bihar) cover the Early Historical (6th - 2nd centuries B.C.), through the Sunga (2nd - 1st centuries B.C.); the Kushana (1st - 3rd centuries A.D.), the Gupta 4th - 5th centuries A.D.) upto the Later Guptas (6th - 7th centuries A.D.); and the materials comprise structures, stupas, monasteries, fortifications, foundations of assorted buildings, ancient *abhisheka-pushkarini* as well as antiquities such as coins ranging from the punch marked and cast to those of Muslim rulers; seals and sealings; terracotta human and animal figurines, toy cart, beads, pendants, balls, dabbers, moulds, skin rubbers; beads of semi-precious stones; copper and iron objects and potteries of different periods in addition to the relic casket from the relic stupa and gold ornaments.

(b) The regular excavation at Raja Bisal-ka-Garh in Vaishali was started in 1903-04 by Bloch and continued by Spooner in 1913-14, while further work was taken up intermittently at various places of ancient Vaishali successively by Shri Krishna Deva and V. Mishra in 1950, A.S. Altekar and Sita Ram Rai from 1957-58 to 1958-59, Sita Ram Rai from 1959-60 to 1961-62, V. Mishra in 1976-77, K.P. Gupta in 1976-77 & 1977-78, Lal Chand Singh from 1989-90 to 1996-97 and K.K Mohammad in 1997-98 to 1998-99. The excavated objects as per the available information are kept in the Patna Museum at Patna, the State Museum at Gaya, the Ram Chandra Sahi Museum at Muzaffarpur, the Narad Museum at Nawada, the Chapra Sangrahalaya, and also in the Site Museum of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at Vaishali.

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

2864. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to increase the share of Central Government in the implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Maharashtra Government in their proposal submitted to the Government of India have demanded sharing of financial liabilities between Central and State Government in the ratio of 2:1 in place of 1:1.

This issue was discussed in the Conference of State Ministers for Agriculture held on 14-09-2000 and subsequently it was decided after examination that sharing of financial liabilities between Central and State Government will continue to remain in the ratio of 1:1 as provided in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

Dissolution of Sam Pitroda Committee

2865. SHRI MANJAY LAL :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have dissolved the Sam Pitroda Committee, which was formed to suggest ways to modernise the railway system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred over the said committee so far;

(d) whether the Government had taken proper approval for the formation of the said committee before setting up;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Advisory Committee set-up under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda in February, 2001, for a period of six months to initiate a comprehensive process of modernisation of Railway system and for launching a new initiative for resource mobilisation, was dissolved with effect from 9.6.2001 due to non-participation of Chairman and a Member in the deliberations of the Committee.

(c) A total expenditure of Rs. 1,69,325.89 has been incurred on this Committee.

(d) and (e) Approval of the Minister of Railways, who is the competent authority in this case, was obtained for constituting the Committee.

(f) Does not arise.

Tracks for Long Distance Trains

2866. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce long distance trains in different areas;

(b) if so, whether the railways have surveyed the sections of track which are suitable for long distance trains;

(c) if so, the suitability of the Visakhapatnam-Hyderabad sector for having long distance train; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the track in this section for safe travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no separate track structure requirement for introduction of long distance trains.

[Translation]

Shifting of Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2867. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps shifted in Rajasthan during the last three years with reasons therefor;

(b) the basis of report of field officers regarding the places of installation of pumps;

(c) whether the Government are aware that officers get undue advantage in shifting of pumps; and

(d) if so, the number of complaints in this regard pending with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During the last three years, i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 12 retail outlet dealerships were resited in Rajasthan owing to various reasons, such as restriction on movement of heavy vehicles and decrease in HSD sales, sales

going down below economic level, expansion of PWD road, etc.

(b) The places of resitement/installation of retail outlet dealerships are decided in accordance with the polices/guidelines issued by the Government from time to time, viz., survey of the locations, Volume- Distance Norms, economic viability of the outlet at the resited location, etc.

(c) and (d) The Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they have no reports/complaints with regard to undue advantage taken by their officers in resitement of the retail outlets.

[English]

Production of Power through CPSUs

2868. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity is generated through the projects under State Electricity Boards in addition to the electricity generated through the Undertakings of the Central Government in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of electricity generated by the Undertakings of the Union Government out of the total electricity generated in the country; and

(c) the percentage of electricity generated through the projects of State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The percentage of electricity generated by Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector during 2000-2001 is given below :

Sector	Electricity Generation (Million Units)	% of Total
Central Sector	196838	39.4
State Sector	264581	53.0
Private Sector	38031	7.6
Total	499450	100.0

[Translation]

Report of Disaster Management Committee

2869. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disaster Management Committee set up by the Government has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has suggested insurance cover for citizens of some particular areas likely to be affected by natural calamities like earthquake, cyclone, flood prone areas etc.;

(d) if so, the number of recommendations accepted by the Government;

(e) whether the Government propose to make a perspective action plan to detect earthquakes and floods; and

(f) if so, the progress made in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) At present there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world which can predict earthquakes with a reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude. In case of floods, however a flood-forecasting structure, in the form of 157 Flood Forecasting Stations, exists in the country under the Central Water Commission, which claims 97% accuracy in flood forecasting by this network.

[English]

Petroleum Products to States

2870. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) whether the demand and supply of petroleum products in some States are quite unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons for such unsatisfactory position of demand and supply of petroleum products;

(c) whether some State Governments have been requesting the Union Government to make up the shortfall;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The demand of POL products and LPG has been met by and large in full in all the States throughout the country. However, whenever there are disruptions in supplies due to law and order problems (e.g. Manipur), Industrial Relations problems or natural calamities like floods etc., oil companies take immediate measures for supplies in the affected markets from alternative sources to the possible extent.

Opening of Health Resorts

2871. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India continues to lag behind in attracting large scale tourists;

(b) if so, whether there is need for a re-orientation in these policies as brought out by Subash Goyal in his recent Book Poverty Eradication and Economic Development through tourism and as outlined recently by the CII as reported in Alerty Times weekly New Delhi dated 16-24 June, 2001;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Ayurveda treatment in its ancient pristine and authentic form has been attracting lots of attention specially after the successful professional running of four Ayurvedic Health Resorts by Kairali Ayurvedic Health Resorts Limited at its 50 acre modern farm at Palakkad, Kerala built on Vaastu Shastra principles and three other centres at Delhi, Khajuraho, Sharjah which are attracting lots of foreign visitors and earning foreign exchange both through herbal medicines and treatment;

(d) whether the Government propose to support such forward looking motivated organizations in the overall national interest and also encourage tourism, badly needed for the country, by opening more centres and providing them with fullest possible encouragement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to available figure, there had been a growth of 6.4% in foreign tourist arrivals during the year 2000 as compared to the year 1999. A growth of 3.4% in tourist arrivals has also been registered during first six months of the current year as compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(b) Policies are constantly evolved and modified based on inputs and feedback from the various stakeholders of tourism sector.

(c) to (e) The blending of pure Ayurveda with tourism has led to enhancement of brand value as well as room nights. Both State and Central Governments have given publicity and marketing support.

Field Result of Hybrid Basmati Rice

2872. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the field results of newly developed Hybrid Basmati Rice variety R.H. 10;

(b) whether it has also been tested in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the field results thereof;

(d) the findings of the tests conducted on this variety on water, fertilizer and pesticides;

(e) whether this variety is likely to be released for the next season for commercial production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Hybrid basmati rice variety "Pusa RH 10" developed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute has been tested for three years at Delhi, Pantnagar, Kaul (Haryana) and Kapurthala (Punjab). It has given yield advantage of around 40% over existing high yielding Basmati variety, Pusa Basmati-1.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) In the agronomic trial conducted by the Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi at the N level (120 kg./ha), the hybrid Pusa RH-10 showed 45% higher yield than the check variety Pusa Basmati-1 at 20 x 10 cm.

spacing. This hybrid has been developed for irrigated situations. It is tolerant to major pests of rice crop.

(e) and (f) This hybrid has already been recommended for release during 2001.

Development of Seed Farm

2873. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been developing Seed Farm in every State;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Centre to assist the State Government in developing seed farms; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government in that matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No Sir. However, State Farms Corporation of India Limited is managing seven Central State Farms : viz. Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jetsar in Rajasthan, Hissar in Haryana, Raichur in Karnataka, Aralam in Kerala, Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. National Seeds Corporation Limited is managing two Seed Farms : viz Foundation Seed Unit, Thangadencha, Nandikotkur in Andhra Pradesh, and Breeder Seed farm, Bangalore in Karnataka.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question dose not arise.

Poultry Industry

2874. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import breeding stock particularly stock for poultry industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the Indian poultry industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Import of poultry breeding stock is permitted against a license issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade on the recommendation of this department which is given after examination of each case on its merit. However, import of grand parent poultry stock is under free list.

Funds for Fishery

2875. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation made to various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan to promote fishery, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to promote inland brackish water and marine fisheries in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the possibilities explored in this regard; and

(d) the details of allocation of funds made available to that State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (d) Allocation is not made to the States. However funds are released to them according to their requirements and performance/achievements. The year-wise releases made to the States during 9th Five Year Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

In Andhra Pradesh there is a scope for development of brackish water fisheries and Marine Fisheries.

i) A Freshwater area of 5.17 lakh ha. has been estimated to be available in the form of tanks and ponds for inland fish culture in the State. Besides 2.34 lakh ha. of reservoir are also available. In order to promote freshwater aquaculture 22 Freshwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) were set up in the State.

ii) Out of an estimated 1.50 lakh ha. potential area for shrimp culture, an area of 74,226

ha. is reported to be under culture during 2000-2001. To develop brackish water Fisheries in the State, the Government of India have sanctioned six Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) in the districts of Krishna, Nellore, Srikakulam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Prakasham.

iii) Two Scheme viz, Motorisation of traditional vessels and Reimbursement of Central excise duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanized fishing vessels below 20m. are under implementation for development of Marine Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Rs. 44.50 lakh was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1999-2000 under the Scheme on Inland Fish Marketing as the 2nd and last instalment.

Statement

Details of Funds released to the States towards Central Share for Development of Fisheries during 9th Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Funds Released during	
		1997-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	581.43	2.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	63.33	0.00
3	Assam	53.75	0.00
4	Bihar	220.41	48.54
5	Gujarat	3192.01	19.16
6	Goa	232.99	2.45
7	Haryana	121.02	1.50
8	Himachal Pradesh	84.04	1.50
9	J&K	132.64	33.21
10	Karnataka	1952.91	159.50
11	Kerala	2560.45	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	771 .31	20.45
13	Maharashtra	2444.47	9.00
14	Manipur	100.16	0.00
15	Meghalaya	40.97	0.00
16	Mizoram	60.00	0.00
17	Nagaland	305.41	0.00
18	Orissa	841.36	5.89
19	Punjab	153.20	16.00
20	Rajasthan	56.74	20.26
21	Sikkim	17.26	0.00
22	Tamil Nadu	3244.63	21.50
23	Tripura	174.01	18.60
24	Uttar Pradesh	1409.80	2.00
25	West Bengal	1981.33	152.00
28	Pondicherry	621.19	40.25
27	Chhattisgarh	35.00	0.00
28	Uttaranchal	27.07	0.00
29	A&N Islands	51.18	0.00
30	Daman & Diu	194.96	0.00
31	Lakshadweep	3.30	0.00
32	Fishcopfed	235.99	
33	Port Trust	315.00	
34	Others	83.85	
35	Jharkhand		89.93
	Total	22363.17	663.74

Export of Coaches

2876. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been actively planning to export rail coaches to various countries;

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

(c) whether in a bid to export rail coaches, the Government propose to manufacture coaches, in the existing factories or propose to set up more factories in the country;

(d) the details of the existing rail coach factories alongwith their capacities;

(e) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing capacities of rail coach factories; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail India Technical & Economic Services and Indian Railway Construction Organisation (PSUs of Ministry of Railways) are in touch with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nigeria for the export of coaches.

(c) Coaches for export are proposed to be manufactured in the existing factories.

(d) There are two coach manufacturing factories under the Ministry of Railways, Integral Coach Factory at Perambur and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. The two units have an installed capacity of 1000 coaches each. Two more units are in the Public Sector viz. M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Limited at Bangalore and M/s. Jessops near Calcutta which can manufacture upto 300 coaches each.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Proposal for Setting up of Geothermal Plants in Chhattisgarh

2877. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up some Geothermal power plant in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the proposal expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry have already sanctioned a project for the development of Tattapani geothermal fields in Sarguja District, Chhattisgarh for power generation. Under the initial phase of this project, a pilot demonstration geothermal power plant of 300 kW capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.60 crore will be installed at this site through the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation.

Shifting of PSUs

2878. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Central PSUs under his Ministry have decided to shift their operations from some States; and

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

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

(b) IBP Company Ltd., had shifted its Detonating Fuse and Cast Booster Manufacturing facility unit from Manesar in Harayana to Korba in Chhattisgarh. IBP is also relocating its R&D Centre from Manesar to Korba and Noida Office of Business Group (Chemicals) to its Corporate Office at Kolkata. It has been done with a view to minimise overhead costs, for administrative convenience and for better contacts with major customers etc.

Floods in West Bengal

2879. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a common practice for the Central Government to step in decisively and assist the State when a calamity of rare severity occurs;

(b) if so, whether the floods in West Bengal in 1998 and 2000 were calamities of rare severity; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's response to assist the State Government in meeting the relief and rehabilitation work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Central Government's role in assisting the States for dealing with severe calamities is dependant on the awards of the Finance Commissions. Thus, while in 1998, the mechanism of Central assistance to States in this behalf was through the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), during 2000, it was through the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the recommendations of Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions respectively. In 1998, Rs. 66.33 cores were released from the NFCR following landslides in Darjeeling and floods in Malda and other districts of West Bengal. In 2000, Rs.103.25 crore were sanctioned from the NCCF for severe floods. These amounts were in addition to the release of Central shares to the Calamity Relief Fund of the State which was Rs.42.69 crore in 1998-99 and Rs.75.83 crore in 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Doubling of Barabanki-Ramdyalu Rail Line

2880. MOHD. SAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding doubling of remaining portion from Barabanki to Ramdyalu station (Muzaffarpur) via Siwan and constructions of washing peat and diesel lobby at Siwan junction;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Representation for doubling of remaining portion of Barabanki-Hajipur-Ramdyalu rail line has been received. No representation has been received in the recent past regarding provision of pit line and diesel lobby at Siwan Station. Based on operational requirements, following 3 sub sections between Barabanki and Ramdyalu have been sanctioned for patch doublings:

(i) Chhapra-Hazipur

(ii) Gorakhpur-Sahajanwa

(iii) Burhwal-Jarwal Road-Gonda

The sectional capacity utilization from Barabanki to Ramdyalu does not qualify for doubling of entire route at present. Double line in three sub sections sanctioned is being progressed as per availability of resources. The doubling of Gonda-Maijapur has already been completed and that of Maijapur-Jarwal Road is proposed to be completed during 2001-02.

Conversion of Residences of National Leaders into Monument/Museum/Memorial

2881. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of residences of our national leaders converted into monument/museum/memorial in Delhi and other parts of the country till date, location-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Comprehensive Fuel Policies

2882. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have likely to issue guidelines for captive power generation to the States and also to formulate a comprehensive fuel policy for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power has circulated guidelines on captive power to States, Union Territories and concerned Ministries of Government of India in July 2001. These guidelines have been recommended to the States to enable a more liberal framework for setting up captive power plants. The main features of the guidelines are as under :-

I. If captive plant is of hydro or co-generation, such plant, irrespective of its size, may be permitted liberally.

2. If captive power plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas such plant way be allowed and capacity of the plant permitted up to 200% of the requirement of industry (if the State is deficit in power).

3. Captive power plant may be allowed if State/ SEB or successor entity is unable to supply the required quality of power. Such a captive power plant can be considered for the uninterrupted power supply to the industry even if the State is surplus in power.

4. If the cost of generation from captive power plant is found to be lower compared to the tariff of the power supply from the Grid, the proposal may be considered after thoroughly examining the cost and tariff aspects.

Gobar Gas Scheme for Domestic Use

2883. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Gobar-Gas Schemes for domestic use; and

(b) the details of allocation of funds under the scheme to various States during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Biogas (gobar gas) plants are being promoted for domestic use in all States and Union Territories under a Central Sector Scheme- National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), since 1981-82. It provides for Central subsidy for setting up of biogas plants; turn-key job fee to non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs for construction and supervision services, including first three years' free maintenance warranty; training courses for masons, turn-key workers and women-users; State level Biogas Development and Training Centres; publicity and extension, etc. A target of setting up of 1.80 lakh family type biogas plants has been planned for the year 2001-02. Besides the State nodal departments and agencies, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai; All India Women's Conference (AIWC), New Delhi; and Sustainable Development Agency (SDA), Kanjirapally, Kerala, are implementing the project.

(b) Information on release of funds to States and agencies during the last three years, i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-2001 under NPBD is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Funds released to State Governments and agencies during the last three years, i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-2001 under the National Project on Biogas Development

State / Agency	Funds released (Rupees in lakh)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1975.00
Arunachal Pradesh	22.50
Assam	24.79
Bihar	26.00
Goa	22.85
Gujarat	725.25
Haryana	159.00
Himachal Pradesh	97.65
Jammu & Kashmir	6.00
Karnataka	1481.00
Kerala	238.56
Madhya Pradesh	1430.55
Maharashtra	1392.04
Manipur	50.19
Meghalaya	14.24
Mizoram	43.00
Nagaland	43.38
Orissa	1014.65
Punjab	469.65

1	2
Rajasthan	56.00
Sikkim	48.05
Tamil Nadu	186.17
Tripura	27.69
Uttar Pradesh	991.58
West Bengal	1589.99
KVIC	3845.04
AIWC	179.03
SDA	676.20

Import of Jute and Its Products

2884. SHRI C.N.SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has now become the largest importer of raw jute and jute products in the world;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of jute and its products imported from different countries during each of the last three years and estimated for the current year, product-wise and country-wise;

(c) the reasons for import and its effect on domestic industry; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) As per the bi-annual report of FAO (Rome), India happened to be the largest importer of raw jute in 1999 (calendar year). However, India was not the largest importer of jute goods during this period as per the report.

(b) A statement regarding import of raw jute and jute products during the last three years is enclosed. Regarding Country-wise import of raw jute and jute products, the data is not readily available. However, most of the raw jute and jute goods imported into India come from Bangladesh. No estimates are available for import of raw jute and jute goods for 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) Import of raw jute/jute goods is under Open General Licence (OGL). Import of raw jute is mainly of higher grade, which is not available in the country and is by and large used by the mills for manufacture of diversified jute products and export market. The raw jute prices have remained higher than Minimum Support Price (MSP) levels after November 2000 till now. Prices of jute goods also did not show any significant fall. Domestic jute Industry continues to get protection under Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

Statement

Import of Raw Jute and Jute Products and their value by India

Qty.: in Tons

Value : Rs. In Crores

Year	Raw Jute	Value	Jute Products	Value	Total Import	Total Value
1998-99	9,061	8.15	1,215	1.94	10,276	10.09
1999-2000	140,837	143.80	21,178	36.88	162,015	180.68
2000-01	49,093	58.45	53,474	94.12	102,567	152.57

Rehabilitation of Stretch in Dhaka

2885. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railway Construction Corporation has signed any contract for rehabilitation of the 45 Km stretch in Dhaka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A contract for the work of rehabilitation of 45 Kms. of road from Auskandi to SLihet Road Over Bridge on the Dhaka-Sylhet Road was signed in Dhaka on 02.07.2001. IRCON has secured this contract as a Joint Venture with a local partner on 50:50 basis. The total cost of work is Rs. 143.60 crores.

(c) IRCON is expecting to earn a profit of Rs. 6.10 crores in foreign exchange from this work.

Agricultural Extension Scheme

2886. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether agricultural extension scheme is proved weak in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether only 25% of the agricultural technology is reaching to farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to revitalize and strengthen the present village level workers and community block based on extension scheme?

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

(b) and (c) However, with a view to revitalize and strengthen Extension services the Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing the following schemes :

A. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC)

i. The Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project is being implemented on pilot basis in seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab and following activities are organized under the project :

- New institutional arrangements for technology dissemination are operationalised by establishing Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in four districts of each Project State as autonomous bodies at district level representing stake holders responsible for technology dissemination.
- Block Technology Teams (BTTs) and Farmers Advisory Committees (FACs) at Blocks have been set-up and Farmers Interests Groups (FIGs) are being formed at village level to achieve integrated, farmer responsive and speedy technology dissemination.
- Strategic research and Extension plans (SREPs) have been developed after consultation with farmers, to reflect the felt-needs of the farming community, such that research and extension agendas are demand-driven in a "bottom-up" mode.
- Application of Information Technology including connectivity amongst various Project implementing Agencies is being promoted to improve information access to the farmers.
- Research-Extension-Farmer linkages are being strengthened to achieve adoption of latest technology.
- Private Extension Service Providers such as Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Farmers/Women Farmers Organizations are being supported to facilitate technology transfer to farmers.

ii. Strengthening of Extension Services in the States.

iii. Human Resource Development - Training Support to Agriculture.

iv. Information Support/Management Information System.

v. Women in Agriculture.

vi. Danish and Dutch assisted programmes on Extension and Training of Women in Agriculture.

vii. Food Security Programme funded by UNDP.

B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Extension Division of ICAR also plays an important role in technology assessment, refinement and its dissemination through training of farmers and in service extension personnel. Major schemes implemented are as follows :

i. As many as 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are imparting training and extension support. And in addition, 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZRSs) have been re-mandated to take up the additional functions of KVKs in the districts where there is no KVK.

ii. Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP).

iii. Establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes to provide single window service to the farmers.

iv. 8 Trainers Training Centres (TTCs) are in operation for capacity building of Extension functionaries.

[Translation]

Lucknow Circular Rail Project

2887. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress of work regarding Circular Rail Project in Lucknow so far;

(b) whether the progress of the project is according to time schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The work of electrification of Circular Railway around Lucknow area has been taken up & is targeted for completion by March, 2002.

[English]

Release of Instalments for Tourism Project of Karnataka

2888. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether a proposal for floodlighting and illumination at Gumbaz and Tippu Summer Palace at Srirangapatna, Karnataka was submitted to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have not released the second and final instalment for the said project;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has already submitted the utilisation certificate/completion certificate to the Union Government;

(d) if so, the main reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the second and final instalment for the said project is likely to be released?

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

(b) The project for decorative illumination/ floodlighting of Gumbaz and Tippu's Summer Palace at Srirangapatna was sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 21.99 Lakhs which includes Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 17.23 Lakhs and State Component of Rs. 4.76 Lakhs. First instalment of Rs. 5.00 Lakhs was released to the State Government of Karnataka in March, 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) For claiming the balance amount of Central Financial Assistance, State Government of Karnataka is required to submit utilisation and completion certificates to the Government of India.

Release of Funds for Tourism Project of Karnataka

2889. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for public convenience and drinking water facility at Bidar near Nanak Jhara, Karnataka was submitted to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be considered and funds likely to be released?

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

(b) The proposal has been sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 7.20 lakhs during 2000-2001 and first instalment of Rs. 2.16 lakhs was released on 29.11.2000.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Coal Bed Methane Gas Hydrates

2890. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal bed methane and gas hydrates have been identified as important alternatives for petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether commercial production of coal bed methane and hydrates has commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Gas Hydrates have been identified as alternative sources of energy. Commercial production of CBM can only be undertaken if the commercial viability is established through exploration. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL) have already undertaken activities relating to exploration of CBM in two blocks. Under the CBM Policy, 7 blocks in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and West Bengal have recently been offered under international competitive bidding system with the bid closing date of 31.8.2001.

The activities worldwide relating to gas hydrates are in Research & Development stage only, since no proven technology is available for commercial production of gas hydrates.

Exploration of Deep Water Blocks under NELP

2891. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the ONGC have tied up to explore deep water blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work likely to start on these deep water exploration sites;

(d) whether any earlier or preliminary survey of this area has been done;

(e) if so, the imperative circumstances for Indian Oil Corporation Limited to invest its surplus funds in this oil exploration;

(f) whether IOCL is unable to find other investment avenues; and

(g) if so, the steps proposed to review IOCL's involvement in oil exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Two deep water blocks, MB-DWN-2000/1 and MB-DWN-2000/2 have been awarded to the consortiums having Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) as partners under the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed recently on 17.7.2001. Exploration work can start after the Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) for respective blocks are issued.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) IOC has expanded its activities in the Exploration sector as a business decision, primarily for availing assured supply of crude oil, for balancing of profits, growth & market capitalisation and for saving foreign exchange.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Facility of Payment

2892. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have granted facility

of payment of freight by credit-note-cum-cheque to parties of good standing which have regular and adequate monthly transactions;

(b) whether good amount of money is yet to be recovered from many of the parties to whom credit note-cum-cheque facility has been provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the amount alongwith the interest thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. A total amount of Rs. 83.85 crores is outstanding against various parties to whom Credit Note-cum Cheque facility has been provided all over Indian Railway.

(d) Recovery of outstanding dues is a continuous process. In all cases where payment is not realised on presentation of Credit Note-cum Cheque, 'To Pay' surcharge is levied and the same is realised. The security deposit/bank guarantee furnished by the parties are adjusted against the outstanding dues. The facility of Credit Note-cum Cheque is also withdrawn from the defaulting parties.

[Translation]

Participation of Railway Employees and OBCs Organisation in Management

2893. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether other backward classes railway employees unions have any participation at board, regional and divisional levels in the management of railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor in view of the fact that other welfare associations like I.R.P.O.F. and F.R.O.A. and All India Railway Security Force Association etc. have been involved in the management;

(d) whether the railway administration have formulated any transfer policy in respect of the elected representation of these welfare organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it differs with the transfer policy for trade union representative and the reasons for this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Don't arise.

(c) A group called "Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM)" was constituted as a forum for discussing policy issues concerning Railways, which are relevant to all sections of employees, such as Earnings, Economy in expenditure, Safety and Other organisational matters.

IRPOF, FROA and AIRPFA, besides AIRF and NFIR, are the constituents of PREM group. The principle behind this arrangement is to include representatives from certain selected segments of Railwaymen in the discussions for formulation of future policies of the Railways while the OBC Association is a welfare Association to look after the interests of specific sections of employees and thus cannot be equated to the Staff Federations.

(d) No, Sir. The normal rules for transfers apply to elected representatives of these organisations too.

Uniformity in Land Laws

2894. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a 'Land Revenue Code' to bring uniformity in the land laws pertaining to ownership, transfer and succession of land in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir. The land revenue is a State subject as per Entry 45 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the

Constitution of India. Therefore, the Land Revenue Codes have to be formulated by the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Capacity Utilisation of Refineries

2895. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the high international prices have affected the bottom lines of most refining companies as they are finding it hard to sustain the minimum gross margin level;

(b) if so, the details of refineries particularly in the public sector which are unable to fully utilise the installed capacity;

(c) the reason why when one of the biggest refineries in the private sector has managed to earn huge profit the refineries in the public sector are not able to do so; and

(d) the steps taken to make the refineries in the public sector to achieve the maximum capacity utilisation with a view to increase their profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The gross margin level of refineries gets affected with increase in the prices of crude oil without commensurate increase in the product prices.

(b) Refinery-wise installed capacity *vis-a-vis* actual capacity utilisation for the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The profitability of a refinery depends on its configuration, product pattern, management, etc. whereas, the capacity utilization of a refinery depends on number of factors including product demand, refinery on stream days, technical snag etc. Consequent to the Government decision taken in November, 1997, the retention system of pricing for the refineries have been abolished with effect from 1.4.1998. Refineries are now being paid for the controlled petroleum products at import parity basis.

Statement

Refineries Installed Capacities and Crude Oil throughout

Capacity in Million Tonnes

	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-01		
	Capacity As on 1.4.98	Actual	% Utilisation	Capacity As on 1.4.99	Actual	% Utilisation	Capacity As on 1.4.2000	Actual	% Utilisation
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IOC-Refineries									
IOC-Mathura	7.50	8.91	118.8	7.50	8.13	108.3	7.50	7.13	95.1
IOC-Koyali	9.50	10.94	115.1	9.50	11.11	116.9	12.50	12.00	96.0
IOC-Haldia	3.75	4.71	125.7	3.75	4.11	109.5	3.75	3.87	103.0
IOC-Barauni	3.30	2.20	66.8	3.30	3.41	103.4	4.20	3.12	74.3
IOC-Gauhati	1.00	0.84	83.6	1.00	0.91	91.4	1.00	0.71	70.8
IOC-Digboi	0.65	0.55	85.2	0.65	0.60	92.8	0.65	0.68	104.5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IOC-Panipat		2.21		6.00	4.15	69.2	6.00	5.71	95.1
IOCL	25.70	30.36	118.1	31.70	32.42	102.3	35.60	33.23	93.3
HP Refineries									
HP-Mumbai	5.50	5.21	94.6	5.50	6.00	109.1	5.50	5.58	101.4
HP-Visakh	4.50	3.86	85.8	4.50	4.55	101.2	7.50	6.41	85.4
HPCL	10.00	9.07	90.7	10.00	10.56	105.6	13.00	11.98	92.2
BPCL	6.00	8.87	147.9	6.90	8.90	129.0	6.90	8.66	125.5
CPCL Refineries									
CPCL Madras	6.50	6.10	93.9	6.50	6.38	98.1	6.50	6.05	93.0
CPCL Narimanam	0.50	0.64	128.8	0.50	0.64	127.2	0.50	0.58	115.8
CPCL	7.00	6.75	96.4	7.00	7.01	100.2	7.00	6.63	94.6
KRL	7.50	7.77	103.6	7.50	7.83	104.4	7.50	7.52	100.3
BRPL	2.35	1.66	70.4	2.35	1.91	81.1	2.35	1.49	63.4
NRL-Numaligarh					0.21		3.00	1.45	48.4
Sub-Total PSU Ref.	58.55	64.47	110.1	65.45	68.83	105.2	75.35	70.95	94.2
MRPL (JV)	3.69	4.07	110.3	3.69	5.20	141.0	9.69	6.44	66.4
RPL–Jamnagar					11.67		27.00	25.72	95.2
Sub-Total JVC /PVT/Ref.	3.69	4.07	110.3	3.69	16.88		36.69	32.15	87.6
Grand Total	62.24	68.54	110.1	69.14	85.71	124.0	112.04	103.11	92.0

Ethanol in Petrol

2896. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted any task force to examine blending of ethanol in petrol as an automobile fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement with Brazil has been entered into conversing this technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that many advanced countries like France, USA have adopted this product as substitute of petrol; and

(f) if so, the effect on savings and environment as a result thereof?

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

(b) The details are given in the statement enclosed

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) USA has adopted ethanol as an oxygenator.

(f) Use of 5% and 10% ethanol would save about 3.3 lakh tonnes and 6.6 lakh tonnes of petrol per annum respectively in India. Its use is reported to result in about 10% to 20% less carbon-dioxide emission than petrol. It is almost sulphur free and hence it generates negligible sulphur.

Statement

MOP&NG vide Office Memorandum No. P-45018/4/2001-CC dated 12.06.2001 have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to evolve new standards of blending of ethanol with MS from 5% to 10% and above, to study the feasibility of blending of ethanol in diesel and to enter into cooperation with countries like Brazil, USA etc. The composition of the Task Force is as under: -

1.	Addl. Secretary, MOP&NG	Chairman
2.	Joint Secretary (V), MOP&NG	Member
3.	Representative of Ministry of Agriculture	Member
4.	Representative of Department of Road Transport & Highways	Member
5.	Representative of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research	Member
6.	Representative of Department of Revenue	Member
7.	Representative of Department of Chemical & Petrochemicals	Member
8.	Representative of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	Member
9.	Representative of Govt. of UP	Member
10.	Representative of Govt. of Maharashtra	Member
11.	Dy. Advisor (PT), MOP&NG	Convener

The terms of reference of the above Task Force are as follows:

I To prepare a road map to switch over to ethanol blended gasohol from ordinary MS within a stipulated time frame and towards this end.

II To evolve new standards of blending of ethanol with MS from 5% to 10%.

III To study the technical, operational, environmental, logistic aspects of blending of ethanol with diesel (HSD).

IV To evolve procedure for co-operation with other countries such as Brazil, USA etc. for ethanol blending with transport fuel.

V To spell out action to be taken by different Ministries of Government of India to achieve the milestones, including Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs, Deptt. of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Finance (Revenue), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals etc.

Defacing of Monuments

2897. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "callous defacing of a protected monument" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 22, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to stop the defacing of the protected monuments in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Government are aware of the media report in this regard.

(b) to (d) The Raja Ugrasen-ki-Baoli, the protected monument mentioned in the media report is in a good state of preservation and specific conservation measures are taken for its repair and maintenance as required.

Supply of Energy for Sustainable Development

2898. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ninth Session of the United Nations' Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York during April, 2001;

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the Session;

(c) whether India has called upon rich countries to provide funds and technology to developing countries to help them access affordable supply of energy, especially non-conventional energy for sustainable development;

(d) if so, the names of the countries who have agreed to the proposals made by the Indian representatives; and

(e) the details of the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was held in New York from 16-27 April 2001. In this Session, the Commission discussed issues relating to energy, transport, atmosphere, and information for decision-making and international co-operation for an enabling environment.

(c) In the field of renewable energy, India called upon the developed and the industrialized countries for making available new affordable technologies to the developing countries on concessional terms as the role of non-commercial sources of energy such as bio-fuel on meeting crucial energy requirement in rural areas cannot be ignored.

(d) The issues raised by India pertaining to technology transfer and provision of new and additional resources to developing countries were well received by different countries and groups which participated in the CSD.

(e) The Chairman's summary of the High Level Ministerial Segment of the Session on Energy is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Extracts from the Chairman's Summary of the High Level Segment of the 9th Session of CSD, 16-27, pertaining to Energy for Sustainable Development.

Energy For Sustainable Development

Ministers affirmed the critical role of energy in sustainable development given its impact on a whole range of economic, social and environmental issues. In the period since United Nations Conference on Environment and Development there has been significant change in the energy sector, primarily owing to institutional restructuring and shifts in strategic priorities resulting from climate change issues. However, the main challenge continues to be the provision of energy services to over 2 billion people in developing countries currently without access to such services. In this context, some proposed that World Summit on Sustainable Development should adopt a target of cutting by half the proportion of people without access to clean fuels and electricity by 2015.

The main goal of energy for sustainable development should be poverty eradication. International efforts to achieve this goal should be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Given the wide diversity of country conditions, energy resources, knowledge and experience, many speakers felt that the ninth session of the Commission should not be prescriptive with regard to energy policies and technologies. It was generally agreed that countries should be free to choose from a menu of different options for energy policies, taking into account their special conditions, needs and national priorities for sustainable development.

Access to energy is crucial to economic and social development, and alleviation of poverty. It was felt that lack of access to energy is the main cause of poverty. Since 75% of all poor people live in rural areas, one of the main challenges is rural electrification. Improving access of the rural poor to modern energy services has the potential to improve standards of living and health, and to create new jobs and business opportunities. Decentralized generation and distribution of electricity constitute an alternative approach to the provision of electricity through large-scale traditional grids. The challenge lies in building the capacities of local communities, and in creating a market for renewable and small-scale energy systems through access to credit and financing, particularly micro-financing.

It was estimated that US$ 100-300 billion would be required annually over the next 20 years to build adequate infrastructure to meet the energy needs of developing countries. Since the private sector is now the primary source of funding for energy supply expansion, Governments should establish an appropriate enabling environment to facilitate private investment.

While it was widely recognized that private sector investment must be promoted, it was also acknowledged that there was often a discrepancy between social needs and private investment priorities. There was also discussion of a range of market based measures, such as the polluter pays principle, that could be employed to finance sustainable energy development. One speaker proposed that in order to capture all the issues related to financing of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and to discuss market based approaches involving public/private sector partnerships; a special segment on "green investment" should be included in the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The potential for gains in energy efficiency range from 25 to 45 percent over the next 20 years. Governments should, therefore, promote investment in new energy efficient technologies to replace outdated equipment and adopt a broad range of energy demand management measures. Energy efficiency improvements can also reduce the need for investments in new electricity generation capacity. Other energy efficiency measures could include promotion of market-based instruments, removal of harmful energy subsidies, adoption of energy efficiency standards for appliances and provision of fiscal and financial incentives. Building technical capacity, establishing cleaner production centers, promoting technology transfer, and developing clearinghouses for exchange of information and identification of business opportunities were also mentioned.

Another key to sustainable energy use is the wide scale development and deployment of renewable energy technologies. It was noted that wind, solar, geothermal and small hydropower currently represent only about 2 percent of world energy consumption. The commercial scale development of renewable energy by some developed and developing countries with significant lending by multilateral development banks can provide new impetus to these, largely, emission free energy sources. Many countries indicated they are setting targets for renewable energy portfolios in their energy supply mix.

Several speakers noted that the key to greater replication of renewable energy technologies includes policies to facilitate technology transfer, innovative financing and credit schemes, and providing the right market signals for private sector investment. There was broad consensus that renewable energy systems are most appropriate for decentralized rural electrification and should be promoted as a means of encouraging economic development in rural areas and increasing social equity.

Lack of access, or uneven access to energy within a country raises problems of social equity, particularly with regard to the role of women. There are burdens on women owing to collection of fuels in rural areas, owing to lack of refrigeration of foods and medicine, and owing to increased time required for cooking with traditional fuels. Indigenous people throughout the world also face inequities regarding control of energy resources and access to energy services, even in land areas over which they have nominal control.

Nuclear power raises a number of safety concerns including the management and handling of spent fuel and other waste products that are perceived as serious risks by many countries and many groups within society. While some experts, organizations and countries believe that no energy option should be foreclosed and support further research on issues of nuclear safety, many participants expressed strong opposition to any further development and deployment of nuclear technology.

Funds for APDP

2899. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide more funds to strengthen the Accelerated Power Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the action plan for improving efficient power distribution is ready;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this plan is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Government of India approved Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in November, 2000 with an outlay of Rs.1000 cores for 2000-2001. The Government have enhanced the outlay to Rs. I500 crores during 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Power constituted a Committee of Technical Experts to prepare technical manuals for formulation of projects, technical specifications of equipment, energy accounting and training. The Expert Committee has submitted a draft report, which is being discussed with the States. The technical manuals will provide guidelines to the States to formulate projects aimed at improving/upgrading the sub-transmission and distribution network.

(e) The Government have approved APDP to continue till the year 2012. In the first phase, 60 distribution circles have been taken up for upgradation of distribution network.

Enron Holding in DPC

2900. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to buy Enron holding in DPC;

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

(c) the cost involved therein;

(d) whether any meeting was held with Enron to settle the fate of the project; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra have set up a Negotiating Committee to carry out discussions with promoters of the Dabhol power project and other concerned parties with a view to reducing the tariff as well as sale of power of the project. Several meetings have been held of the Negotiating Committee in which representatives from Enron have taken part. Enron representatives have also had meetings with the Central Government with a view to reaching an amicable solution to the various issues arising out of the contracts signed by Dabhol Power Company. The Central Government is committed to facilitate an early solution to the issues and has appointed Sh. A.V. Gokak, Secretary (Retired) as its nominee on the Negotiating Committee set up by the State Government.

(e) The Negotiating Committee is having discussions with concerned parties and is yet to give its recommendations, which will be submitted to the Government of Maharashtra.

Retail Outlets by Private Companies

2901. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow private firms to set up retail outlets for petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move of the Government to allow private sector to set up retail outlets for petrol and diesel would have any impact on the Public Sector oil companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Government propose to have any control on such private retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels viz. Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil exploration and production companies producing atleast three million tonnes of crude oil annually. Full de-regulation of Petroleum Sector is targetted from 1st April, 2002.

In this regard, as per the detailed Marketing Guidelines to be notified, private players fulfilling the laid down conditions would be entitled to have the marketing rights for transportation fuels.

Protection of Cave Paintings and Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions

2902. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to protect the early cave paintings and Tamil Brahmi inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of locations where these cave paintings and Tamil Brahmi inscriptions are found in Tamil Nadu so far;

(c) whether the ASI have made any recent study on the early Tamil Brahmi inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The following monuments with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions are already protected by the Archaeological Survey of India:

1. Natural Cavern with stone beds and Brahmi and old Tamil inscriptions called Eladipattam, Sittannavasal, Pudukkottai District.

2. Panchapandava bed, Jain statue and Brahmi and Vatteluttu inscriptions, Keelayur-Kilavalavu, Madurai District.

3. Rock-cut cave and inscriptions, Thiruparankundram, Madurai District.

4. Boulder stone bed and Brahmi inscriptions on the hill and rock-cut temple with inscriptions at the foot of the hill, Kunnakudi, Sivaganga District.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Inland Fishery

2903. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the second largest producer of inland fishery in the world next only to China;

(b) whether India has set a target of 8 million tons of fishery produce by 2020;

(c) whether a national seminar on Riverine and Reservoir Fisheries was organised at Kochi recently;

(d) whether the Seminar recommended evolving a national code (Guidelines) for conservation and Utilisation of inland water resources;

(e) if so, whether the Government is working on these recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such seminar has been organised by the Government of India.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Support of Potatoes

2904. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of potatoes is very low in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether due to this low price it is very difficult to meet the cost of potatoes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of potato growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The price of potato in the country including Bihar is ruling higher in the current year as compared to previous year. The seven month average of wholesale price index of potato in 2001 exhibited an increase of 76.2% over the corresponding monthly average of the previous year.

(b) The price estimates indicate that the current wholesale price of potato in Patna market of Bihar is higher than cost of production.

(c) However, in the event of prices falling below the cost of production; to safeguard the interest of potato growers in the country, the Government of India implements a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticulture items of importance. Under the scheme concerned State Government/UT need to make a formal written request in this respect and willing to share the 50% loss, if any, incurred in undertaking the scheme.

DMS Losses

2905. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government has asked the Delhi Government to take charge of Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, the reaction of Delhi Government in this regard;

(c) the actual losses being incurred by DMS, Year-wise;

(d) the steps taken to increase the efficiency of D.M.S.?

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

(b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has not yet intimated its decision in this regard.

(c) Accumulated losses of DMS upto 31.3.2001 was Rs.569 crores (provisional). The deficit for the last three years is as follows :-

1998-1999	57.72 crores
1999-2000	55.68 crores
2000-2001	7.80 crores

(d) Various steps have been taken in different areas of operations such as marketing, transportation and plant operations to increase the efficiency of DMS.

Production of Arecanut, Groundnut etc.

2906. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of arecanut, groundnut, tea, tobacco and pepper produced in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) whether the research and development work in the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute have been upgraded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The latest estimates of production of arecanut, groundnut, tea, tobacco and black pepper in India are available for 1999-2000 and are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod (Kerala) is doing research on different aspects of coconut, arecanut and cocoa. There are 85 on going research programmes in the institute including 17 National Agricultural Technology Projects. The Institute has well established laboratories in the field of bio-technology, bio-control and study on phytoplasma diseases and also caters to the needs of farmers through its Transfer of Technology Wing which includes two Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Institute Village Linkage Programme and the Agriculture Technology Information Centre.

The expenditure incurred for carrying out these projects is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Non-Plan	Plan	Total
1990-91	326.37	65.35	391.72
2000-01	993.03	184.00	1177.03

Statement

Production of Arecanut, Groundnut, Tea, Tobacco & Pepper During 1999-2000

(Thousand Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Arecanut	Groundnut	Tea*	Tobacco	Black Pepper
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.3	1119.9	-	152.0	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	52.9	-	414.1	0.7	-
4.	Bihar	-	6.4	0.1	13.4	-
5.	Goa	1.9	2.2	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-	717.5	-	103.7	-
7.	Haryana	-	0.7	-	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	0.4	1.5	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	128.0	-
10.	Karnataka	143.0	791.0	5.4	49.0	1.7
11.	Kerala	80.7	5.4	67.8	0.2	56.4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	252.8	-	0.2	-
13.	Maharashtra	7.5**	545.2	-	11.0	-
14.	Manipur	-	-	0.1	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	12.5	-	-	0.5	-
16.	Mizoram	0.6	-	-	0.4	-
17.	Nagaland	-	3.6	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	-	72.6	0.1	4.0	-
19.	Punjab	-	6.0	-	-	-
20.	Rajasthan	-	264.0	-	1.6	-
21.	Sikkim	-	-	0.1	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.6	1384.6	128.1	9.3	0.1
23.	Tripura	4.2**	1.7	6.7	0.1	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	94.9	0.4	128.2	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	West Bengal	13.1	39.6	180.2	6.7	-
26.	A & N Islands	6.1	-	-	-	0.1
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	0.4	1.9	-	-	-
	Others	-	-	1.0	-	-
	Total	333.8	5310.4	805.6	609.0	58.3

* For 1999

** Data relate to 1998-99

Operation Flood Project

2907. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under Operation Flood projects liquid milk marketing capacity of 100.2 lakh litres per day has been set up;

(b) if so, the present per cent utilisation of this capacity, plant-wise in different States;

(c) whether processing capacity in rural dairies was 100.9 lakh litres per day and for metro dairies this was 30.0 lakh litres per day;

(d) if so, the corresponding utilisation, State-wise;

(e) whether any corrective steps are proposed to any lopsided faulty planning at NDDB/Ministry and whether decentralization will be considered especially since Agriculture is a State subject, but hijacked by the Central Government organizations without any advantage to the States;

(f) Government in August, 2000 a single authority to administer all food laws was to be set up; and

(g) if so, the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

(e) Dairy Development is a State subject. The seasonal variation in capacity utilisation of the Dairy plants cannot be attributed to any lopsided planning process. Operation Flood Programme immensely helped the States in augmenting their efforts for the development of Dairy Sector resulting in the formation of 72700 Anand Pattern dairy cooperative societies benefiting 9.32 million farmers in different States in the country.

(f) and (g) Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) organized four Regional Seminars at Calcutta, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow to elicit regional inputs towards formulation of National Food Processing Policy. In these seminars, there was a consensus that apart from formulation of a National Food Policy an appropriate development oriented legislation be conceived as the present enactments are impending the growth of the sector. Accordingly an approach paper towards formulation of a processed food development act has been prepared and circulated to various Central Govt. Departments, State Govt., Industrial Associations, Research & Development organization and experts. Taking in to consideration the input received from the cross sections, a draft bill has been drawn up. The draft bill envisages harmonization and simplification of existing laws, Development orientation in defining standards through Processed Food Development Act.

Sale of Coconut Water

2908. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tender coconut water is more hygienic and contains more protein than mineral water;

(b) whether the tender coconut water is also cheaper than mineral water;

(c) whether any new technology is to be developed in the country like mineral water for its bottling and sale of tender coconut water for general consumption:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh and other States in the country are producing large quantity of tender coconut; and

(f) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take for the promotion of tender coconut water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Tender coconut water has natural taste and flavour and contains sugars, minerals vitamins and proteins. Tender coconut water also contains enzymes in minute quantities.

(b) Same volume of tender coconut water is costlier than mineral water.

(c) and (d) The Coconut Development Board in collaboration with the Defence Food Research Laboratory has developed technology for preservation and packing of tender coconut water in pouches and cans. This technology has already been transferred to five entrepreneurs. This technology transferred to one of entrepreneurs in Karnataka has started production. The packed tender coconut water is now available in market as Cocojal.

(e) Large quantities of tender coconut are being produced in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(f) Coconut Development Board is encouraging the development of tender coconut variety. Besides the Board is also promoting the consumption of tender coconut water in the country by providing assistance for setting up of tender coconut water parlours. Brochures and advertisements are also released through mass media for generic promotion of various nutritional and medicinal properties of tender coconut water.

Assistance for Relief Operation

2909. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a Memorandum to the Centre to release Rs. 350 crores to the State to take up relief operations in the drought affected State; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Centre for Karnataka for the said purpose?

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

(b) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 29.36 crore has so far been released to the State for immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought.

Investigation Against Companies

2910. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

DR. BALIRAM :

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3767 dated 22.03.2001 regarding RPG Enterprises and state:

(a) whether investigation has been completed against the companies under Section 209-A;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, the inspection in respect of M/s RPG Life Science Ltd. and M/s. Instant Trading &

Investment Co. Ltd. under Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956 has been completed. In the case of M/s RPG Life Sciences Ltd. order for filing prosecution under Section 372 of the Act has been issued. Registrar of Companies has also been advied to issue Show Cause Notices for violation of Section 217(2A) and Section 211 read with Schedule VI of the Act. In the matter of M/s Instant Trading Co. Ltd., orders for filing prosecution for violation of Section 383A and Section 224(8) of the Act have been issued. Registrar of Companies has also been advised to issue Show Cause Notices for violation of Section 211 read with Sch. VI, 217(3) and Section 193(1A) of the Act.

Inspection of M/s Ceat Financial Services Ltd. is proposed to be commenced with effect from 09.08.2001.

[Translation]

Opening of more Reservation Counter at Siwan Railway Station

2911. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers have to wait for a long to get railway reservation at Siwan Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation for increasing the number of reservation counters at Siwan Railway Station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) At present three computerised reservation counters are functioning in two shifts at Siwan railway station. A demand was received regarding opening of additional reservation counters at this station. The matter was examined and it was found that the daily number of requisitions handled per counter per shift is 111. For this level of traffic, the existing number of reserevation counters is considered adequate.

[English]

Testing of Railway Bridges

2912. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways have asked the CSIR to test all bridges which are longer than a 1000 metres;

(b) if so, the number of rail bridges which could come under this proposal; and

(c) the time by which the testing work is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

High Yielding Seeds

2913. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various schemes for developing higher yielding variety of seeds of crops have been launched;

(b) if so, the achievement of those schemes in the matter of production and productivity;

(c) whether crores of rupees have been invested during 1992-97 on dissemination and distribution of seeds to popularise new high yielding varieties of seeds;

(d) whether 90 per cent of those seeds indented and distributed were of varieties older than 10-25 years;

(e) if so, the inquiry conducted into it and the responsibility and accountability fixed therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme for developing high yielding varieties and hybrids is a major research activity in all Crop Research Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). The ICAR and SAUs are continuing the efforts to increase crop productivity and quality through developing improved hybrids and varieties in all crop plants of economic importance. Our scientists are the first to develop hybrid technology in pearl millet, castor, cotton and pigeonpea. The country not only have an intensive programme on genetic upgradation of crop varieties for higher productivity and better quality but also have one of

the largest networked programme for testing these varieties under the All India Coordinated Crop Research projects. This project which is an excellent example of Centre-State collaboration, have so far given rewarding results in indentifying varieties adapted to different regions and crop growing conditions.

(b) During the period 1991-92 to 1998-99, the production and productivity increased in all major crops. This has created a significant impact on the national agriculture during this period. The increase in production and per hectare yield in some of the major crops are presented in the statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Nearly 53-57% of the varieties indented and distributed during the year 1992-1997 are those released and notified during the preceeding ten year period.

(e) Question does not arise under the circumstances explained above.

(f) Question does not arise under the circumstances explained above.

Statement

Changes In the Production and yield of major crops during the five Years (1991-92 to 1998-99)

Sl. No.	Crop	Production (Million tonnes)		Productivity (Kg./ha.)	
		1991-92	1998-99	1991-92	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rice	74.68	86.08	1751	1921
2.	Wheat	55.69	71.29	2394	2590
3.	Coarse Cereals	25.99	31.34	778	1068
4.	Oilseeds	18.60	25.21	719	944
5.	Pulses	12.02	14.81	533	622
6.	Sugarcane	254.00	295.73	66,069	72,560
7.	Cotton	9.71	12.18	216	223
8.	Jute & Mesta	10.29	9.70	1662	1720
9.	Tobacco	0.58	0.70	1369	1522
10.	Vegetable	58.53	87.53	10,500	14,900
11.	Potato	16.39	22.50	15,900	18,500
12.	Banana	7.79	15.07	20,300	32,500
13.	Grapes	0.66	1.08	20,600	25,400
14.	Papaya	0.80	1.58	17,800	23,400

Koel Karo Hydro Project

2914. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Koel Karo Hydro Project (770 MW) in Bihar was originally approved in June, 1981 at a cost of Rs. 446.97 crore but even after nearly 20 years, the project is lingering on and the revised cost estimate has gone upto Rs. 2368.41 crore vis-a-vis higher tariff amounts to Rs. 7.13 per unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Koel Karo HE Project (710 MW) in Bihar (now in the newly formed Jharkhand State) was originally approved in June, 1981 at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.67 crores at March 1980 price level. However, no major work could be started due to resistance from the local people to the acquisition of land. In August, 1984 a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India demanding inter alia the scheme for rehabilitation of the displaced persons. On submission of the R&R package, the stay was vacated on 6.2.89, and the Court directed that the rehabilitation plan must be implemented and the compensation must be paid. Government of India, approved the revised cost estimate for the project amounting to Rs.1338.81 crores in November, 1991.

2. In a meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted by the Government for reviewing Central Sector projects making slow progress, held on 26.2.1997, it was decided to freeze further expenditure on the project thereby putting a stop to work on the project.

3. Based on the request of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bihar, Ministry of Power took steps to revive the project. Koel Karo HE Project is one of the projects identified as a Mega Power project under the Mega Power Projects Policy approved by the Government on 8.10.1998. The mega projects are entitled for concessions which would make the tariff from the project more attractive.

4. Thereafter, Ministry of Power requested the Government of Bihar for conducting fresh survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in order to enable NHPC to formulate the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme Court. MOEF has brought on record that the Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Plan submitted by NHPC is not based on fresh survey of PAPs. They also desired that a fresh survey of PAPs be carried out.

5. Government of Jharkhand has written to the Ministry of Environment & Forests in June 2001, stressing that it would be essential to conduct fresh survey of PAPs to identify the actual beneficiaries for implementing the R&R plan. They have decided to conduct a fresh survey of Project Affected Persons. This is an exhaustive and time consuming exercise. The R&R involved in this Project is high.

6. Orissa and West Bengal had declined to purchase power from the project as the tentative tariff of Rs. 7.13 per unit was considered too expensive by them. Bihar and Damodar Valley Corporation had signed Power Purchase Agreements with NHPC, committing them to purchase power from the project in accordance with the tariff as notified by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). After the formation of the new State of Jharkhand, this project now falls in Jharkhand. NHPC has been asked to seek the commitment of States outside the Eastern region for purchase of power from Koel Karo H.E. Project, as it is necessary to have firm commercial commitment from buyers for power from Central Sector Power Projects.

Production of Fish

2915. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total financial assistance provided by the Centre to States for Fish industries during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether India's share of fish and fish products in the world market is declining very fast; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of Fish and fish products in the country so that this downsliding is arrested immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Details of financial assistance provided by the Department of AH&D to States for promoting fisheries during the last three years are furnished as statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The export of marine products is looked after by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). According to them the share of India's export to the world export was 0.81% during 1998 compared to 0.76% during 1999 in terms of quantity. In terms of value, the share of India's export is 2.28% to the world export during 1998 compared to 2.10% during 1999. The Government is providing Central assistance to various Plan Schemes to ensure that the overall strategy to increase fish production is achieved.

Statement

Details of financial assistance provided by the Centre to States for fisheries during the last three years

(Rs in lakh)

States	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	18.50	150.07	147.15
2. Arunachal Pradesh	4.33	8.00	27.00
3. Assam	3.50	5.00	3.75
4. Bihar	-	86.36	6.25
5. Chhattisgarh			35.00
6. Gujarat	1089.20	804.79	655.97
7. Goa	23.41	84.09	46.22
8. Haryana	22.00	51.46	20.75
9. Himachal Pradesh	15.50	22.50	27.47

1	2	3	4
10. Jammu & Kashmir	2.80	41.45	12.72
11. Karnataka	527.06	472.27	212.43
12. Kerala	120.48	164.53	589.92
13. Madhya Pradesh	203.00	199.64	102.89
14. Maharashtra	418.86	372.49	589.92
15. Manipur	15.35	5.10	49.47
16. Meghalaya	3.42	1.95	
17. Mizoram	10.00	10.00	30.50
18 Nagaland	63.33	48.31	152.65
19. Orissa	29.07	109.55	384.12
20. Punjab	34.00		50.00
21. Rajasthan	7.00	20.10	8.25
22. Sikkim	-	3.50	2.90
23. Tamil Nadu	136.66	393.70	860.20
24. Tripura	20.55	57.58	62.12
25. Uttar Pradesh	168.75	409.84	499.05
26. Uttaranchal	-		27.07
27. West Bengal	244.43	321.68	908.68

Rush at Ticket Counters

2916. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that pace of issuing rail tickets at counters for "current booking" is slow and there are long queues at such counters in Delhi;

(b) whether at times passengers have to miss a train not for want of seats/berths in some important trains but far failure to obtain the requisite ticket from the current booking counters; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the service at current booking counters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The pace of issuing rail tickets at counters for current booking at stations in Delhi is not slow. During peak hours when a large number of trains depart within a short duration, there may be rush at the counters for unreserved tickets resulting in queues and this leads to a possibility of missing the train when a passenger arrives at the station without sufficient margin.

(c) Steps taken to improve the speedy issue of tickets, include :-

- Computerised Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTMs) have been provided at the booking windows at important stations to ensure speedy issue of unreserved tickets.
- SPTMs also permit universalisation of counters thus distributing the queue across all counters.
- Improved SPTMs are gradually being brought into service to replace the older machines.
- Opening of additional booking counters during peak season and during the extra ordinary rush period.

Construction of Railway Line in Orissa

2917. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand to provide broad gauge rail link between minerally rich and tribal dominated areas of Sundargarh, Augul and Dhenkanal districts of Orissa with Gopalpur and Paradeep Ports via Augul and Hindal and Augul and Kamakhya Nagar and Sukinda respectively; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following three new lines are involved in these links and position is as under:

(i) Angul - Sukinda new line - This is a sanctioned work. The final location survey has been completed. Preliminary works like preparation of plans and estimates have been taken up.

(ii) Talcher - Gopalpur new line - The survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(iii) Talcher - Bimlagarh new line - The survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Release of Funds for Tourism Project of Karnataka

2918. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether a proposal for public convenience and drinking water facility at Shiradi, Hassan District, Karnataka was submitted to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be considered and funds likely to be released?

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

(b) The proposal was prioritised and processed for central financial assistance of Rs. 7.20 lakhs during 2000-2001 but could not be approved due to want of certain documents/information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) On receipt of information called for from the State Government, the proposal would be processed and funds released, subject to availability.

Maintenance of Charminar in Hyderabad

2919. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a portion of Charminar in Hyderabad fell down in June, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for proper upkeep of the historic monument?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Due to heavy rain on the 11th June, 2001, a chunk of plaster fell down from the south west corner minar of the Charminar in Hyderabad.

(c) The ASI has initiated steps for the repair of the monument.

[Translation]

Terminal Facilities in Bihar

2920. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of terminal facility available at various railway stations/junctions in Bihar;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide terminal facilities at the remaining stations and junctions in Bihar;

(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 RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Report of Committee on Agricultural Development

2921. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.L. Guru to suggest changes in the existing set up of agricultural marketing has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations

and the reaction of the Government on each of them; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) Major recommendations of the Expert Committee are as follows:

(i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country.

(ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.

(iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information, (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Poster Colour Tea at New Delhi Railway Station

2922. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that white poster colour is being used for preparing tea at New Delhi railway station as reported in Jansatta on May 10, 2001;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. In pursuance of the press report, Northern Railway conducted intensive checks in the months of June and July 2001 and no case of use of poster colour preparation of tea was found. Railway is continuing checks against unauthorised hawkers.

Propagation of Research Work of Agriculture

2923. DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the measures being adopted to publicise and propagate the new technology and benefits of the researches being conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Agriculture Research Institute throughout the country in the era of liberalization particularly amongst the farmers residing in far-flung areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : In order to publicise and propagate the new technology and benefits of the researches being conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research including its Institutes to the farmers, various measures were adopted as follows:

* Established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) with

the State Agricultural Universities (SAU), ICAR Institutes and Non-Government organizations (NGO). The activities of KVK include on-farm testing to establish location specificity of technology, frontline demonstration to establish its production potentials on the farmers' plots, training of farmers to update their knowledge, and training of in-service personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology.

* The Council have also strengthened the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in 53 districts where there is no KVK.

* The Council have sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) with the selected SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window support system for availability of technology products, information and services to the farmers.

* A programme on Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution-Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) has been launched by the council in 70 centres of ICAR Institutes and SAUs.

[English]

Production of Paddy Seeds by C.R.R.I.

2924. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has produced a number of high-yielding paddy seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum and variety of seeds supplied by the CRRI during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring improvements in the working of the institute?

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

(b) The Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack has till date developed and released 63 high yielding varieties of paddy for different Agro eco-systems. The details of these varieties are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The CRRI is mandated to produce breeder seed which in turn is used for production of foundation and then certified seeds by seed producing agencies. The quantity of breeder seed supplied (in quintals) by the C.R.R.I. during the last three years is given below:

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
105.9	113.3	88.0

Variety-wise distribution is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) To intensify further research and farmworthy technology development, additional funds are provided. During the IX Plan, budget allocation of the institute was enhanced to Rs. 1471.00 lakhs from Rs. 639.40 lakhs of 8th plan. Due to this it has been possible to undertake upgradation of laboratories, create farm facilities and procure essential equipments. Funds were also provided to build the institute facilities in terms of boundary wall, net houses and other facilities which had been damaged due to super cyclone.

Statement-I

Details of 63 rice varities developed and released by C.R.R.I., Cuttack for different ecologies

UPLAND		IRRIGATED		RAINFED LOWLAND	
13		27		23	
Varieties	Year of release	Varieties	Year of release	Varieties	Year of release
				Shallow water (upto 25 cm) :15	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bala	1970	Padma	1968	ADT. 27	1955
CR 146-7027-224	1977	Ratna	1970	Mahsuri	1955

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sattari	1980	Krishna	1970	Malinja	1955
Kalinga-III	1983	Vijaya	1970	Samalei	1980
Neela	1985	Saket-4	1971	Anamika	1980
Kalyani-II	1988	Shakti	1973	Savitri (Ponmani)	1983
Heera	1988	Kalinga-I	1973	Moti	1988
Vanaprabha	1988	Kalinga-II	1973	Gayatri	1988
Vandana	1988	Supriya	1973	Kalashree	1988
Annada	1988	Jayanti	1973	Dharitri	1988
Sneha	1992	Vani	1975	CR 1014	1988
Dhala I Leera	1996	Kiran	1976	CR 1002 (Aditya)	1992
Anjali	2000	Indira	1980	Seema CR 1016	1992
		Ramkrishna	1980	Radhi	1996
		Pallavi	1980	Pooja	1999
		Narendra-I	1981	*Medium deep water (up to 50 cm) : 4*	
		IET 7280	1982	Utkal Prabha	1983
		CR 138-928	1983	Panidhan	1988
		Khitish	1984	Tulasi	1988
		Sarasa	1985	Sarala	2000
		Udaya	1985	*Coastal saline areas : 2*	
		Tara	1988	Lunishree	1992
		Kshira	1988	Sonamani	1996
		Shaktiman	1990	*Scented rice : 1*	
		Tapaswini	1996	Sugandha (Bihar)	1986
		Chandrama	1998	*Deep water (upto 100 cm) : 1*	
		Satabdi	2000	Durga	2000

Statement-II

Supply of breeder seed (in quintals) from CRRI, Cuttack during the last three years

Sl.No.	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Annada	13.4	11.5	11.6
2.	Kalinga-III	13.8	0.3	0.4
3.	Heera	3.2	5.5	5.4
4.	Dhala Heera	1.0	4.2	4.2
5.	Vanaprabha	3.8	20.3	2.5
6.	Ratna	7.0	-	4.7
7.	IR 36	-	0.4	0.3
8.	Radhi	-	14.0	14.4
9.	Tapaswini	17.0	10.0	6.5
10.	Savitri	29.2	39.0	30.0
11.	Pooja	-	1.5	1.4
12.	Sonamoni	-	0.5	0.5
13.	Lunishree	8.5	0.8	0.8
14.	Gayatri	-	2.0	2.3
15.	Dharitri	-	1.8	1.6
16.	Utkal Prabha	-	1.5	1.4
17.	Neela	2.0	-	-
18.	CR 1014	7.0	-	-
	Total	105.9	113.3	88.0

Poor Conviction Rate

2925. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item caption "The disorder of law-poor conviction rates underline the failure of the system" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated May 20, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reform the system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Sir, no such newsitem has been found in the 'Indian Express' dated May 20, 2001;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Law Commission of India in its 154th Report have recommended measures *inter-alia* to improve the quality of investigation of cases, quality of prosecutions and to prevent the witnesses turning hostile. The Law Commission's recommendation relating to establishment of separate investigating agency was forwarded to State Governments for implementation. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1994 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 9th May 1994 *inter-alia* proposes to insert a new Section 25-A in the Cr.PC to empower the State Government to establish the Directorate of Prosecution which is likely to enhance the quality of prosecutions.

Foreign Exchange spent on Import of Crude Oil

2926. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantum of foreign exchange spent on the import of crude oil during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : The foreign exchange spent on import of crude oil during 2000-2001 was US $ 14.403 billion.

Publication of Research Papers by IASRI

2927. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Scientists of Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute under ICAR are encouraged to publish research findings;

(b) if so, the total number of research papers published in national and international journals by Principal Scientists, Heads of Divisions, Joint Director and Director of this Institute, category-wise, scientist-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of their publication during each of the last three years category-wise and scientist-wise?

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

(b) Total 71 papers as detailed in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details have been presented in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Category-wise and Year-wise break-up of the Research Papers Published

Category	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Total
Director	02	02	01	05
Joint Director	02	-	03	35
Head of Divisions	12	10	05	27
Principal Scientist	12	08	14	34

Statement-II

The details of their publication last three years category-wise and scientist-wise.

Director : Dr. S.D. Sharma

i An empirical study of ratio-regression type estimators. By SHARMA, SD AND SINGH, ***A.K.J. of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, 51(2&3), 349-360(1998)***

ii. Agricultural statistics and Computer Application in agriculture: past, present and future orientation by SHARMA, SD AND BATHLA, IASRI Souvenir entitled ***"Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications" brought out on the occasion of 50th year of Independence, pp 01-20 (1998)***

iii. Some vedic mathematical methods and their use in computer software by Sharma, SD and DAS, MN ***in statistics computer applications 1 (1): 73-78(1999)***

iv. Crop response to fertilizers in different Agro-climatic regions of the country by SHARMA, SD; SHARMA, VK AND RAO, CH. ***Fertilisers News 44(4): 17-20 & 23-26(1999)***

v. Regional disparities in socio-economic development in Tamil Nadu by NARAIN, P; SHARMA, SD; RAI, SC AND BHATIA, VK ***J. of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics 53:35-46 (2000)***

Joint Director : Dr. A.K. Srivastava

i Estimation of regression coefficient from survey data based on test of significance by RAI, ANIL AND SRIVASTAVA, ***AK. Communications Statistics Theory methods 27(3) 761-773 (1998)***

ii. Small area estimation techniques in agriculture by SRIVASTAVA, AK; AHUJA, DL; BHATIA, DK AND MATHUR, DC ***IASRI Souvenir entitled "Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications" brought out on the occasion of 50th Year of Independence, pp 32-45 (1998)***

iii. Outlier robust finite population estimation under a linear regression model. by SRIVASTAVA, AK and GEETALAXMI, V. ***J. of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics 53(1):20-34. (2000)***

iv. Estimation of population mean in repeat surveys in the presence of measurement errors by SUD, UC; and SRIVASTAVA, AK. ***J. of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics 53(2) 125-133(2000)***

v. On a biased estimator in repeat surveys, SUD. UC; SRIVASTAVA, AK and SHARMA, DP ***J. of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics 54(1) 29-42(2001)***

Head of Divisions

Head Sample Survey : Dr. H.V. L. BATHLA

i Agricultural statistics and Computer Application in agriculture: past present and future orientation by SHARMA, SD AND BATHLA, HVL IASRI souvenir entitled ***"Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications" brought out on the occasion of 50th Year of Independence, pp 01-20 (1998)***

ii. Sampling methodology for estimation of fish catch by BATHLA, HVL and KHER, KK. IASRI souvenir entitled ***"Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications" brought out on the occasion of 50th Year of Independence, pp 21-31 (1998)***

vi. Agricultural statistics research in India by GOEL, BAL BPS and BATHLA, HVL ***J. of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistic 51(2 & 3) 407-426 (1998)***

Head Design of Experiments: Dr. V.K. GUPTA

i A-optimal block designs under a mixed model for making test treatments control comparisons by GUPTA, VK; ARCHANA PANDEY and RAJENDER PARSAD ***Sankhya B, 60(3) 496-510 (1998)***

ii. Optimality aspects of experimental designs by PARSAD, RAJENDER; GUPTA VK and JAGGI, SEEMA IASRI souvenir entitled ***"Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications" brought out on the occasion of 50th Year of Independence, pp 106-117(1998)***

iii. Weighted a-efficiency of block designs for making treatment - control and treatment-treatment comparisons by GUPTA, VK; DVV RAMANA and PARSAD RAJENDER ***J. Statistical Planning and Inference. 77: 301-319(1999)***

iv. Construction of non-proper balanced bipartite block designs by JAGGI, SEEMA; PARSAD, RAJENDER AND GUPTA, VK ***Cal. Statist. Assoc. Bull. 49 (March-June): 55-63(1999)***

v. Universally optional block designs for diallel crosses by PARSAD, RAJENDER; GUPTA, VK and SRIVASTAVA, R. ***Statistics and Applications 1(1): 35-52(1999)***

vi. An alternate strategy for design and analysis of experiments involving split application of fertililser by BATRA, PK; PARSAD, RAJENDER; GUPTA, VK and KHUNDURI, OP. ***Statistics and Applications 1(2) 175-187(1999)***

vii. Robustness of designs against missing data by LAL, KRISHNAN; GUPTA, VK and BHAR, LAL MOHAN. ***J. of Applied Statistics 28(1), 63-79 (2001)***

Head Biometrics : Dr. Prajneshu

i Five decades of research in biostatistics and statistical genetics. An overview by Rana, P.S. and Prajneshu ***IASRI Souvenir Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications brought out on the occasion of 50th year of Independence: PP 172-179(1998).***

ii. Teaching and Training activities at IASRI by SRIVASTAVA, R AND PRAJNESHU, ***IASRI Souvenir Advance in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications brought out on the occasion of 50th year of Independence : PP 261-263 (1998).***

iii. Some contagious distributions for describing spatial spread of aphids (Hompotera: Aphididae) when negative binomial distribution fails by PRAJNESHU AND SARADA, ***C.J.Aphidology, 13: 17-26(1999).***

iv. Ven Bertalanffy growth model in a random environment by PRAJNESHU AND VENUGOPALAN, R. ***Can.J.fish Aquat Science, 56:1026-1030(1999).***

v. Growth models for describing statewise wheat productivity by Prajneshu and Dass, P.K. ***J. of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, 34, 179-181 (2000).***

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Head Forecasting: Dr. Ranjana Agrawal

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Power Projects in Rajasthan

2928. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up additional power station in Rajasthan to meet the growing demand especially in Western Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to make additional allocation of funds to the Government of Rajasthan for the development of power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Details of proposals in Rajasthan accorded Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority are given as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
A.	**CEA Cleared/Appraised**	
1.	Dholpur CCGT, Dholpur	702.7
2.	Barsingsar Lignite TPP, Bikaner	2x250
3.	Anta CCGT St. II, Kota	650
4.	Mathania Integrated Solar CCPP, Jodhpur.	140
5.	Ramgarh CCGT St.IL, Jaisalrner	75.325
6.	Suratgarh TPP St. III, Sriganganagar	250

A proposal for setting up of Kota TPS Unit 6 St. IV (195 MW) is under examination of Central Electricity Authority.

(c) and (d) The outlay for 2000-01 for power sector for the State of Rajasthan was Rs. 925.60 crores. During discussions in Planning Commission on annual Plan 2001-02 in respect of State of Rajasthan, the proposal of the State Government for an outlay of Rs.1340 Crore was agreed to by the Working Group on Power.

In addition, under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), for 2000-01, a sum of Rs. 45 crore (50% loan and 50% grant) was provided to Rajasthan for its various schemes.

The Power Finance Corporation has indicated its willingness to finance power projects in Rajasthan liberally as envisaged in the MoU on reforms signed between the Government of Rajasthan and the Ministry of Power.

Suburban Transport in Mumbai

2929. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Railways have studied the problems of increasing traffic and passengers in Mumbai suburban Railways in last few years;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the role of World Bank;

(d) the present status of the suburban transport; and

(e) the financial implications and the provisions made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1994, a comprehensive Transport Plan for Mumbai Metropolitan Region was prepared with World Bank assistance. This plan concluded that Rail Transport would continue to be the principal mode of mass transport in Mumbai. Accordingly, 14 Rail Projects were identified for infrastructure development and capacity augmentation. These projects have been designated as Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP).

(c) Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra have jointly approached World Bank for funding of MUTP projects. The total cost of MUTP rail projects is approximately Rs. 5618 crores out of which nine projects costing Rs. 3114.9 crores will be executed in Phase-I. World Bank funding element is being sought for around Rs. 1606 crores in Phase-I.

(d) The Mumbai Suburban Railway network caters to approximately 5.4 million commuters every day and runs approximately 2047 suburban trains per day.

(e) The total cost of the project is Rs. 5618 crores. Nine projects costing Rs. 3114.9 crores have been identified for execution in Phase-I. The cost of the project is being shared by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra on 50:50 basis and shall be partially funded through a World Bank Loan.

Territorial Army

2930. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are facing embarrassment of only a few officers and staff turning up at the training camps of the regiments of railway engineers, despite the expenditure on these Territorial Army (TA) formations having increased exponentially in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Status of Chairman of DVC

2931. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of Damodar Valley Corporation has been given the status of Minister of State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same status had been accorded to the Chairman of said corporation earlier also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present Chairman of DVC (Shri J.C. Jetli) was enjoying the status of Minister of State in his previous assignment as Member of 11th Finance Commission. On his request, the competent authority has accorded the same status in his present assignment also.

(c) to (e) The status of Minister of State has not been accorded earlier to any Chairman of DVC.

[English]

Engagement of Private Contractor for Annual Maintenance by IASRI

2932. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute under ICAR is getting most of the annual maintenance and other work done through a private contractor who does not even possess a registration number;

(b) if so, the list of all the work awarded to private contractors for the last three years along with the details of bid amount of the firm/party, registration number of contractor etc.;

(c) whether fresh open tenders were invited every year;

(d) if not, the reason therefor;

(e) the details of the members of the committee(s) responsible for estimating cost of contract, bid opening and bid evaluation and acceptance; and

(f) whether CBI inquiry is proposed to be ordered in this matter and as well as other irregularities committed by the above institute over last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Fresh Open Tenders were invited every year during the last three years.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The details of the members of the Works Committee are as follows :-

1. Joint Director - Chairman
2. Welfare Officer - Member
3. Chief Administrative Officer - Member
4. Assistant Engineer - Member
5. Finance & Account Officer - Member
6. Assistant Administrative Officer (Maintenance) - Member
7. Assistant Administrative Officer (Works) - Member Secretary

(f) No, Sir.

Externally Aided Projects Undertaken by IASRI

2933. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) under ICAR is free to take up externally aided/AP Cess-fund projects apart from the projects falling within the mandate of the institute;

(b) if so, the details of such projects started during last three years, including the funding agency, cost of the project and expected profits to the Institute;

(c) whether any laboratory equipment, computers, laptope, AC or other equipment, were purchased under these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, category-wise, cost-wise and year-wise along with justification for their purchases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Dairy Industry

2934. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether animal husbandry and dairy industry of the country has not been so organised as to ensure proper supply of its products to the public;

(b) whether annual budget during the last two year is on the decline;

(c) if so, whether the Government have identified any places to start animal husbandry and dairy schemes during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details of the facts in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The production of animal husbandry and dairy products has been steadily increasing over the years. The production of milk and eggs has increased manifold to reach the present level of 81 million tonnes from 17 million tonnes

in 1950-51 and 32420 million from only 8000 million two decades ago respectively.

(b) The Plan Budget of the Department during first four years of the 9th Plan was as given below:

Year	Budget allocation (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	319.15
1998-99	381.90
1999-2000	381.90
2000-2001	300.00

(c) to (e) The schemes being implemented by the Government in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying are meant for the overall development of animal husbandry and dairy sectors throughout the country. Some of the schemes, such as, Integrated Dairy Development Project in non-Operation Flood, hilly and backward areas are implemented in selected areas.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 386 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3913/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3914/2001]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ircon International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3915/2001]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3916/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) The Companies Passing of the Resolution by Postal (Ballot) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 337 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001.

(ii) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 385 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3917/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table – a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3918/2001]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3919/2001]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3920/2001]

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3921/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table – a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 622(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2001 directing that the commodities specified in the notification shall be packed in jute packaging material, for supply or distribution, in such minimum percentage as mentioned therein till the 31st July, 2001 or until further orders, issued under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Jute Pacakaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities Act, 1987)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3922/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table – a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3923/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3924/2001]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the J & K Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the J & K Sheep and Sheep products Development Board, Srinagar, for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3925/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 :-

(i) G.S.R. 179 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2001 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Retirement) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(ii) G.S.R. 180 (E) published in Gazette

of India dated the 13th March, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 22 (E) dated the 12th January, 2001.

(iii) G.S.R. 192 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' Grant of Advances for Festivals and Natural Calamities) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(iv) G.S.R. 193(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees (Superannuation and Age of Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(v) G.S.R. 194(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulation, 2000.

(vi) G.S.R. 204(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2001 approving the Paradip Port Trust Employees' (Contributory Outdoor and Indoor Medical Benefit after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(vii) G.S.R. 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Grant of Advance in connection with Festivals) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(viii) G.S.R. 233(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(ix) G.S.R. 234(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(x) G.S.R. 246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xi) G.S.R. 247(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xii) G.S.R. 264(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2001 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xiii) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xiv) The Mormugao Port Employees' (Grant of Advances for Building of Houses) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 287(E) dated the 24th April, 2001.

(xv) G.S.R. 288(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 72(E) dated the 27th January, 2000.

(xvi) The Mormugao Port Employees' (General Provident Fund) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 289(E) dated the 24th April, 2001.

(xvii) G.S.R. 305(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xviii) G.S.R 325(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xix) G.S.R. 361(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Pension Fund) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xx) G.S.R. 362(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Contributory, Outdoor and Indoor Medical Benefits after Retirement) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxi) G.S.R. 363(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Grant of Advance for purchase of Conveyances) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xxii) G.S.R. 364(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Allotment of Residences) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxiii) G.S.R. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxiv) G.S.R. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Festival Advances) First Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxv) G.S.R. 367(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Licensing of Pilots) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xxvi) G.S.R. 379(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2001 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Appointment, Promotion etc.) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxvii) G.S.R. 417(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xxviii) G.S.R. 431(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2001 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' (Medical Attendance and Treatment) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxix) G.S.R. 432(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2001 approving the Cochin Port Employees' (Allotment of Residence) First Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxx) G.S.R. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2001 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees' (Festival Advance) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxxi) G.S.R. 442(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees' (Contributory, Outdoor and Indoor Medical Benefits after Retirement) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

(xxxii) G.S.R. 443(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Pay and Allowances) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxxiii) G.S.R. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001 approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees's (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulations, 2001.

(xxxiv) G.S.R. 495 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001 approving the Chennai Port Trust Employees's (Appointment, Promotion, etc.) Amendment Regulation, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3926/2001]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 2001.

12.02½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Third Report

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR) : Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (both Hindi and English version) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

12.03 hrs.

MOTION RE : TWENTY-THIRD REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 8th August, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

> "That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 8th August, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Recent killings of members of minority community in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

> "Situation arising out of recent killings of members of minority community in Doda, Jammu & Kashmir and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Hon. Speaker Sir, Members are well aware that terrorist groups in J&K have continuously showed total disregard for the yearning for peace and normalcy on the part of people of J&K, and did not respond positively to the Government's unilateral Ramzan peace initiative.

Following the withdrawal of Non Initiation of Combat operations, the security forces have stepped up operations against terrorists. Significant success has been achieved in these operations, with the number of terrorists killed in June being 217 and in July being 233.

In an effort to divert this pressure, terrorists have been resorting to high visibility acts of violence in J&K. During this period terrorists have carried out such attacks on innocent civilians in J&K, attack at Sheshnag Amarnath Yatri Camp on 21st July 2001, two separate incidents of killing in Doda, Kishtwar area on 21st-22nd July 2001, a third incident in the same general area of Doda, Kishtwar on 4th August; and indiscriminate firing on innocent people at Jammu Railway Station on 7th August 2001.

The objectives of the militants in carrying out such attacks appear to include the following :

- To stretch the security Forces by forcing them to provide protection in more and more areas thereby hoping to blunt present thrust and momentum of counter-terrorism operation in J&K.
- To create a communal divide with possible repercussions not only in J&K but also in the rest of the country.
- To strike terror among the common citizenry.
- To force minorities to flee to safer places thereby giving the terrorists space for their activities to be carried out freely.
- To attract media attention both nationally and internationally.

Government is determined to thwart the nefarious designs of the terrorists and their mentors across the border and not to let the counter insurgency grid be thinned out. Nor would we reduce anti-infiltration posture of our security forces. We remain committed to take all possible steps for the protection of remote, scattered and minority populations in the State of J&K.

My colleague, Shri I.D. Swamy along with the Special Secretary (J&K Affairs) in my Ministry visited Srinagar and Sheshnag on 22.7.2001 to assess the security situation in the State and held detailed discussions with hon. Governor, J&K and Security Forces and State Government functionaries. Shri Swamy again visited Jammu on 23.7.2001 along with Shri Chamanlal Gupta, MOS (Civil Aviation) and a senior official of MHA and reviewed security arrangements in the Jammu region. Shri ID. Swamy further visited villages Atoli and Gopalgarh on 6th August 2001 along with Special Secretary (JKA) and thereafter held a meeting with members of the Ops group of the UHQ at Jammu.

Yesterday, a meeting was convened in New Delhi by me to have a comprehensive review of the security situation in J&K including in Doda, Kishtwar region. The meeting was attended by the Defence Minister, Railway Minister, Governor J&K, Chief Minister J&K along with senior officers of the Home and Defence Ministries, State Government, Army, CPMFs and Intelligence agencies.

The State Government has decided to extend the already declared Disturbed Areas as per the Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 to the remaining portions of Jammu province. (At present only the 20 kms. belt along the International Border/LoC in Jammu province and all districts of Kashmir valley stand declared as "disturbed' since 1990).

The Unified Headquarters have been directed to initiate fresh tactics and modified dynamic deployments to ensure that people in affected areas, and especially in Doda, Kishtwar region, feel reassured and confident.

The number of SPOs authorised for Doda has been increased by 1,000 and, along with increasing the effectiveness of existing Village Defence Committees, setting up of Dhoke Defence Committees for the grazers who go into the remote forest in higher reaches will also be experimented with.

Special intelligence driven security force operations based on surprise and speed would also be considered as per requirements of the ground situation.

Measures for upgrading security arrangements at Jammu railway station including its fencing and better illumination as well as coordinated security efforts for the station were agreed upon.

It was also decided that measures as per law against the overground supporters of the terrorists would be stepped up by the J&K Police.

I wish to assure this august House that the Government shall spare no effort and leave no stone unturned in bringing back peace to Jammu & Kashmir. However, the Government shall need, in this endeavour, understanding and support of all of you who represent the masses of India. It must be appreciated that what we are fighting is a proxy war of multiple dimensions unleashed by an inimical neighbouring country which has had no qualms in rationalising the brutal killing of innocent men, women and children as "a freedom struggle".

I seek the support and co-operation of all Members of this hon. House for the Government's determined bid to crush militancy and terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is a serious

matter. I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take it seriously.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when on the *Raksha Bandhan* day, last weekend, sisters of 13 poor shepherds in Kishtwar Tehsil of Doda district in Jammu & Kashmir were waiting nervously for their brothers to return from the meadows where they had gone to graze the cattle and accept their *rakhis*, and, instead, they got the shocking news that they were no more and that they had been massacred, gloom and tragedy descended on those poor families.

But with the terrorists establishing once again that they could choose the time, the place and the target of their attack at will, the much touted reputation of the hon. Home Minister as possessing the steely fibre of Sardar Patel was shattered to smithereens. Sir, in his statement the hon. Minister has accepted that there was a series of attacks during the last few days. I would like to know from him whether it was all unexpected or whether it was not really expected after General Musharraf had publicly declared from here that it was in fact *jehad* by the "freedom fighters" for their country, a term which he patronisingly uses, as the hon. Minister himself said, for people who are engaged in perpetration of crime from across the border.

Sir, speaking from Mumbai, the hon. Minister had declared that the Government would take proper action in view of this recent spate of killings. Yesterday, we got a glimpse of that 'proper action' by the Government. The entire State has been declared as a disturbed area under the Special Powers Act. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is this his recipe for meeting the challenge that is emanating from across the border. If that were so, is he thinking of declaring Delhi also as a disturbed area?

The other day only we got to know that the supporters of terrorists were spotted even in Hyderabad. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the members of *Lashkar-e-Toiba* were associated in this heinous crime once again.

His colleague was miffed when Shri Madhavrao Scindia made a reference to the hon. Minister of External Affairs escorting those foul-mouthed members of the Laskhar-e-Toiba to Kandahar. I would like to know from him whether they have not come back and whether they have not regrouped after their release. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, if you are not interested in this discussion, you can leave the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I would also like to know whether they have not formed splinter terrorist outfits to attract more and more youngsters from this country.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs had earlier been talking and now we hear Shri V.K. Malhotra, their spokesperson, also talking of a pro-active policy. This is yet to be unveiled. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify whether they have any such policy up their sleeve and if so what the details thereof are.

What action can you expect from this Government to ensure the safety of the innocent people in this country? As we have seen, there seems to be a system or a scheme in the recent killings. Innocent poor Hindu families have been targeted. There is a reference in this statement that perhaps the terrorists want to stretch the security forces and resort to a sort of ethnic cleansing. If that were to be so, what are the steps that the Government is really taking? Was yesterday's meeting only confined to extending the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to the entire State or something more than that? That has not come before us.

The statement made by the hon. Minister, to say the least, is most disappointing. We learn - and I would like the hon. Minister to share with the House the true picture about it - that the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Rashtriya Rifles and the Special Task Force pickets had been withdrawn from the upper reaches of Kishtwar about six months ago. Was this withdrawal, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, not enough to turn the beautiful landscape into a safe sanctuary of terrorists? Did it not tantamount to an invitation to turn the Heaven on Earth into a field of mayhem? Was it not an invitation to the terrorists to plan killings with impunity? These are questions to which I would like to have answers from this Government and particularly the hon. Minister of Home Affairs today.

We have had brave words from the Government. Only yesterday, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs said that it was time not to just use brave words but to devise means to act and to translate them into action commensurate with the situation prevailing on the ground. Today, is it not a fact - I would like to know that from the hon. Minister - that since January this year over 500 civilians and nearly 300 security personnel in the State have laid down their lives at the altar of the nation's unity and integrity? Yet, the attitude of the Government continues to be casual, cussed and callous.

The hon. Minister, in his statement, referred to the visit of his colleague Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, the hon.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation to the affected areas. Is it not a fact that when he went there, he rather added salt to the injury of the poor people there by saying that nothing had happened to them? Did he not really blame the State Government there? Did he not try to fish in troubled waters in a precarious and delicate situation like this? Did his hon. colleague not also blame the Unified Headquarters? This has the portends of demoralising the forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta has, perhaps, not followed what I said. Before becoming the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, he was known more for his propensity to whip up communal feelings there. I am sure that today, that compulsive nature would not reassert itself again. Today, as the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has said, it is time for each one of us to get together. We do not want and we do not wish to see the hon. Minister of Home Affairs beleaguered, as he is by utter failures all around.

Sir, I do not want to refer to failures everywhere else. We are concerned about his success because his actions have a repercussion for the whole of the country. What he does today has its consequences for the whole of the country. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir had not asked for more forces. As we get to know from the newspapers, their Minister says that the response of the Central Government has not been commensurate to their need. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what other steps he has taken besides saying that the number of PSOs has been increased.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proper action that he thundered about from Mumbai is confined only to expanding the ambit of the Special Powers Act or whether they are really thinking of something else so that these incidents are not repeated again, so that the designs of the foreign powers, of the inimical powers that he talks of do not really succeed in creating a wedge between an Indian and an Indian, so that their actions do not lead to a backlash elsewhere in the country, so that with a determined mind the country can surge forward as it has been doing in the past.

I would like the hon. Minister to clarify these points. I would only like to remind him in conclusion that two years back when he had gone to Jammu and Kashmir, referring to the incidents of the earlier seven years he had said - if he is not suffering from amnesia; I would seek pardon for reminding him of this - that the Minister had then announced during a visit to the site of carnage in Jammu that he would resign if such massacres recur in any part of the region. ...*(Interruptions)* Did he really say that two years back? Does he remember that? Does he not equate the gravity of the incidents which have taken place now with what he had then seen then? If he really does he not remember his words and would he now show the courage to own moral responsibility and quit? Unfortunately, the present Government confines the concept of answerability only to answering questions here and making a statement here in this House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he remembers all that he had been saying when he was standing on this side and whether he would now gather the moral courage to say - 'Yes, I have failed; I do not possess the steely fibre of Sardar Patel and I leave it to others to run the affairs of the State'.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am representative of the Chandni Chowk Parliamentary Constituency. The incidents taking place in Jammu and Kashmir have a direct bearing on my constituency. I would like to clear that I have no doubt that whenever such incident or external aggression has taken place the whole country and the whole House has remain united. Its latest example is Agra Summit. At that time the whole country and all political parties supported the Prime Minister. I am not in a position to understand that why the congress is trying to gain mileage on the issue of increasing terrorism. Right now Pawan ji has drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, this is a Calling Attention Motion. The hon. Member is supposed to ask pointed questions and seek clarifications. It is not a debate. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, the procedure is you have to ask a clarification. This is not a debate on the statement. You have to only ask clarifications.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I have a right to speak for minimum five minutes as per the rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, but the procedure is you have to only seek clarifications. This is not a debate.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Opposition parties are creating hue and cry today. Today Congress has ruled over the country for more than 50 years. Today, you are shouting. Whether the then Minister of Home Affairs had resigned when three thousand sikhs were killed in Delhi? Whether any Minister had resigned when Smt. Indira Gandhi was brutally assassinated? Whether anybody thought about any change when Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee and rendered homeless? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Vijay Goel Speakers.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they do not interrupt then I will speak only for three minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

I would like to express the view that terrorism of Jammu & Kashmir has a direct bearing on my constituency. Banatwala Ji always raise issues of Muslims. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please ask clarificatory questions.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I would like to say that do not make it a political issue. I would like to know if you were the Minister of Home Affairs, would you have eradicated terrorism of Jammu & Kashmir *...(Interruptions)* In the time of crisis... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : They communalise the issue. *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am not communalizing the issue... *(Interruptions)* I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that he cannot wipe out terrorism from the country in the absence of appropriate law. To wipe out terrorism Shri Rajiv Gandhi brought TADA Act in 1985 which was later on repealed by the Congress in 1995 to play election politics. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask clarificatory question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the Law commission in its 173rd Report in April 2000 had talked about the prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2000. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You all sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Hon. Minister of Home Affairs should tell the house as to when the law is being brought. I would like to inform the opposition parties that we cannot combat terrorism in the absence of TADA like laws *....(Interruptions)* Therefore, you should rise and support that we would not oppose such law. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Your party is in the Government at the movement.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Last days the issue of Madarasa was raised....*(Interruptions)* There are a number of madarasa in my Chandni Chowk area. *...(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of West Bengal himself has said that. *...(Interruptions)* A number of madarsas situated at the bordering areas of West Bengal are backing terrorism. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that there is a need to combat terrorism wherever it is and I would also like to tell that the Shahi Imam in Delhi. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please stop for a minute. What is your point of order?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the whole House shares concern on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

No one is politicising it. We have always welcomed and supported the initiatives taken in the past few months by the Home Minister and by the Government of India.

My point of order is that Rule 197(2) on page 71, under chapter which deals with Calling Attention, says :

> "There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question and the Minister shall reply at the end of all such questions:"

Sir, this is a Calling Attention. He should ask only clarificatory questions.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I can also quote from 'Practice and Procedure in Parliament' written by Kaul and Shakdhar.

MR. SPEAKER : I am also telling the same to the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please understand that you have to ask clarificatory questions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the feeling of Shri Madhavrao Ji....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to seek only clarifications from the Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : You allowed him to make a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the seriousness of the subject. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Shri Bansal made a speech for 15 minutes. You should allow him also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Is he your advisor, Sir?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I honour the views expressed by Shri Madhavrao ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadav Ji, please take your seat. It is not your turn now.

[English]

Shri Pappu Yadav this is not 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)** .

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, you have to seek your clarification from the Minister and not from Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pawan Kumar Bansal talked about change. I had reacted on it. I have started my speech with these words that the nation is united on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs visited Jammu -Kashmir recently. In this regard. I am reading a para of the report of the committee, which important to the House.

The report says :

[English]

"The Committee has been given to understand by the State Government authorities that after the lapse of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) the enforcement agencies are finding it extremely difficult to cope with the challenges being thrown by the terrorists.

* Not recorded.

The absence of an anti-terrorist law is proving to be a major handicap for the police. In spite of continuing heinous crimes, terrorists go scot-free as the existing law falls short of leading to their conviction. Keeping this mind, the Committee is of the view that in order to enable the police to curb the activities of terrorists, a suitable law needs to be enacted with adequate in-built safeguards to prevent misuse, as it happened in the case of TADA."

[Translation]

I would like to know from the Home Minister as to what new legislation is being brought which might be equivalent to TADA. If you go through the ruling of Supreme Court, you will find that even the court has legitimised TADA and in the second ruling the court has pointed out that the Government cannot evade to enact a law on the pretext of its apprehension of some possible misuse of TADA. At a time when Agra summit was held in this country, the Shahi Imam had made a statement that on going fight in Kashmir, which Pakistan repeatedly claims to be a jehad, is nothing but sheer terrorism. I welcome this statement of the Shahi Imam. About the second point, I would like the hon. Home Minister to pay attention. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say this should not be made a political issue because terrorism is not a recent phenomenon. When Jagmohan was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir it was you people who had built up pressure to remove him because he was doing good work. When hon. Home Minister had talked of pro-active Kashmir policy. Natwarji had questioned it as to what it was I request that the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government should be empowered so that they could fight terrorism.

More time should be given for formulating scheme and not for fighting over it in the House. I hope that Home Minister will provide clarifications as to which laid equivalent to TADA is being introduced in the country to control terrorism. Thank you. ..*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terrorists, the foreign missionaries in Jammu and Kashmir and rioters of this country and abroad are posing a challenge to the constitution, national integration and policy related principles of this country. The carnage took place in Chattisinghpura and it did take place on the day when Mr. Bill Clinton had come to India. We know that there was unilateral ceasefire after the incident which was extended more than once. This ceasefire was initiated by the Government on its own. But when some problem cropped up in the matter, we were called for consultation in this regard. We want to know from the Government why the unilateral ceasefire continued despite the increasing number of terrorist violence and killings of our soldiers and innocent people during that time.

Sir, there were terrorist attacks on Amarnath pilgrims last year. Killing a number of people and there is same story this year as well. Earlier the terrorists had also announced that they would attack the pilgrims. They generally attack with pre warning and kill the people. Why does government sleep then? What do their administration, strict laws do that time? Even after the fiasco of Agra summit, the terrorists reiterated that they would continue their militant activities and aggravate their attacks. This is what has happened. The mayhem is a order of the day in Doda district. Same is the story of kishatvad village where it took place twice and then in Jammu. They keep on saying that there should be peace and they believe in peace. I want to know for how long they will go on chanting the word peace when so many people are being killed? Do they have any assessment with regard to foreign militants or are they blindly pursuing everything? There must be some terrorists who might have been provided training here only. ...*(Interruptions)* I mean to say that there might have been such terrorist in our country itself. ...*(Interruptions)* If you begin to feel something fishy in the House itself, I would only say that a facility conscience cannot shed off its darmed stance. The terrorists in our country both Indian and foreign are not only Pakistani but Afganistani also. ...*(Interruptions)* The rioters are not going to gain anything in Bihar, they can operate here only. We people know how to deal with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, here we can remember of the statements of the Prime Minister and Home Minister that if the terrorists do not desist from their activities, they would be eliminated them.

Time and again the Prime Minister has been asserting that he has a solution to deal with the terrorists. We want to ask how many more killings will take place till you use your wisdom, stamina and capacity. Tell us whether you would react only when such killings take place. The terrorists have been killing people. They have also killed seven or eight CRPF personnel in the North East. Terrorism is out of your control. The country is in bad shape. Whatever I am saying in the voice of the people of the country.

A document has been shown by Hon. Pawan Kumar Bansal that two years back he had promised to resign in case. Such incident took place. ...*(Interruptions)* then it

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

was reported in newspapers that the Home Ministry had been distanced regarding Kashmir issue and the PMO was monitoring it. Then there came the news that in the game of tussle, the Home Minister asserted that he alone would look into Kashmir issue. Would we be able to stamp out terrorism in such a manner? Is it right that PMO and the Ministry of Home should have such a tussle between each other. This is a question of external and internal security of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* That the country should pay in price the tussle between PMO and the Ministry of Home Affairs should not let it happen in any case. ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It should be made clear and the country should not be kept in the dark. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has referred to the quotation and the newspapers have reminded the hon. Home Minister of the latter's statement, we want to ask when he is going to resign as per his statement. Please tell us after how many killings he will submit his resignation. This country is on the verge of destruction. ...*(Interruptions)* You should hold talk but please do not do this by keeping the country under pressure. We had already warned them with an announcement even before the summit that he would hold talks with you but you alone would be whole blamed for its every consequence. But now the Prime Minister is saying unstarred and not he, is to be blamed for anything. If the problems of the country are dealt with half hearted manner and is dilly dallying way the internal and external security of the country is likely to come under threat.

There is a tale in the Hitopadesha that once various types of birds used to dwell on a tree. One day a big he cat took shelter there and told everyone that he had given up eating flesh as he had started observing Ekadashi. He was trying to win their confidence so that he might eat up all their and young when ones the birds were away. ..*(Interruptions)* in the same way you think terrorists.. ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except that Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

* Not recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : These are not going to solve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

I urge upon the Home Minister not to treat Kashmir issue so lightly. ...*(Interruptions)* Many innocent people are being killed. This Government has been a failure in settling Kashmir issue. ..*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister is trying to conceal his failure. ...*(Interruptions)* If you continue to follow such policy, the Kashmir issue is not going to be settled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Raghunath ji, please sit down.

....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this government has been a failure on every front. It has no right to continue in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you giving direction to the Chair?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Speaker, they do not want any discussion to take place in the House. So, you should adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The time is running out. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadav, please do not disturb the House repeatedly. Please sit down. It is a serious issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I object to certain words. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you saying? Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : All right I am sitting, but I want to request. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, should I speak or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you doing a good work?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri P.R. Das Munsi says.

(Interruptions) *

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his statement in the last paragraph, the hon. Home Minister has said: "I seek the support and cooperation of all Members of this hon. House for the Government's determined bid to crush militancy and terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

Sir, I will seek a few clarifications. Is there any doubt in the mind of the Government that in dealing with the situation of Jammu and Kashmir they never got any support from all the parties present in the country and in Parliament? Let him clarify in this regard.

Sir, today is a very significant day and it is linked with this Calling Attention Motion. Today is the 'Quit India Day'. So, the pledge of the House should be that 'the terrorist outfits of all forms and designs, foreign agents of all forms and designs, viz., ISI, and others, should quit India by the might of the people as we did it on 9th August, 1942.' There is no denying the fact that there is no difference of opinion on this issue from this side or that side.

What we are trying to seek through this Calling Attention Motion is not to score any points on individual issues against Shri L.K. Advani *versus* Opposition or BJP *versus* Congress party. It is the question of responsibility of a vigilant Home Minister of India in a given situation of Indian political scenario prevailing in a few States of India including Jammu and Kashmir. We want to know whether he was sufficiently alert and whether he took the cognisance of the facts.

Sir, from his own statement, I will seek clarifications. Mr. Home Minister, you may recall that before the arrival of General Parvez Musharraf, it was you from your Government who did smell that 'the Agra Summit may not be a success. There cannot be more expectation.' You did say it; we did not say it. It means, you were more vigilant to understand and apprehend what kind of things would be coming in Jammu and Kashmir after the visit of General Parvez Musharraf You are in command of the entire Home Ministry.

People say that you are also trying or specialising your ideas and concepts on various matters or issues like North-East and Jammu & Kashmir. It is fine.

On the 15th of July General Parvez Musharraf had the Press Conference. Then, you said, Mr. Home Minister- not in the House, but in a public meeting one week before- that General Parvez Musharraf's Press Conference you knew, I know nothing will happen and situation will deteriorate. It is your own assessment. On 15th July morning, it was your assessment that, situation will deteriorate. On the night of 16th July, General Parvez Musharraf left. On 17th July, you came back to Delhi. The first incident took place at the Sheshnag Amarnath Yatri Camp on 21st July, as per your statement. The second incident took place at Doda-Kishtwar on 21st and 22nd July. The third incident took place on 4th August again at Doda-Kishtwar. And now, another incident took place at Jammu Railway Station.

Mr. Home Minister, from July 15th up to 7th August, you did not find time to take cognisance of the issue and you had your first meeting to plan for some action only on 8th August. That is why I say that your competence is in question. You, being the Home Minister, could not take

* Not recorded.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

cognisance of what could be the fall out of the situation after the cease-fire is over and you could not take cognisance of what could be the fall out of the situation after the Agra Summit is over.

So, as a Home Minister - not as Shri L.K. Advani - you failed to take cognisance of this issue. Why did you not call for a meeting, right on the 17th July? This is my question. Are you not an alert Home Minister? You knew that General Parvez Musharraf is leaving India with messages like 'freedom struggle' or *jehad*. You are the Home Minister and you could not summon your Defence Minister, you could not call the Chief Minister and you could not call the officials of the Home Ministry right on 17th July, on your reaching Delhi, to take stock of the situation and to have some action plan. Why did you not do it? Why did you take time till 8th August, that is yesterday, to do it? Were you waiting for some incidents to develop so that you can act? This is where you failed to justify your competency, your alertness to sit in the chair of the Home Minister. Can you deny the fact? Were you waiting? You did not even have the courtesy to justify the importance of the chair. The situation demanded that you should have gone to Jammu & Kashmir personally instead of having sent your MOS. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) : Are we to understand that the Home Minister can take no action without calling for a conference of all the people? Am I to understand that way? Is it your contention? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Whatever I say here are the views of many hon. Members of that side only. Why are you interrupting me now? ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question is this. Did you receive any official communication either through the Unified Command or the Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdulla's Government saying that they needed more security support in terms of battalion or company or platoon or whatever you may call, since there was a huge deployment for Amarnath pilgrims? If so, what are the details and what was the action that was taken? My second question is this. As a Home Minister, after the fall out of the Agra Summit, did you have a meeting instantly with the Jammu & Kashmir Government to share your apprehension or concern and to plan for a joint operation with the Unified Command? The third question is this. Is it not a fact that a Minister of their own Government, Shri Chaman Lal Gupta and his own administration made clear, umpteen number of times to the Home Ministry, the difficult terrain in which Doda is situated and the vulnerability or the access of the terrorists to that terrain?

The Home Minister himself admitted in his own statement that one of the objectives of the terrorists or the militants was to create a communal divide. If it was your own understanding from your own assessment, was it not clear to you that to ensure that there is communal divide, the militants would play their game in the Jammu Region? Was it not clear to you that they would create tension in the country and that too, in the difficult terrain?

If all this information was in your hand, why Doda was kept unsafe with only three sepoys with 302 rifles, one chowki and unarmed village force? I am not pleading on behalf of Shri Chaman Lal Gupta. Even your own Minister expressed this concern, both to the Jammu and Kashmir Government and to you. Yet, you have failed. You did not respond.

Under your command, 12 pilgrims of Amarnath, I am not communalising the issue, have been the victims. You may think of it, Mr. Home Minister. Had it been done in a Government in which you had not been the Minister and a different Home Minister had been sitting here - the Hindu pilgrims had been the casualties in the hands of the terrorists - you would have planned for the *Bharat Bandh* or would have undertaken another Rath Yatra. But, you did not do any of these things. We believe in secularism. And, I salute the people of Jammu and Kashmir who, in spite of all provocations, are maintaining secular amity. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS) : I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)* He is making such a long speech. Why is Madhav-raoji silent now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like to quote what the hon. Home Minister has said in his statement. He said :

> "We remain committed to take all possible steps for the protection of remote, scattered and minority population in the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNOR) : Please ask him to put the question and not to continue with debate on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why did you not act in time? Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister of India has failed completely to take cognisance of the situation both after the ceasefire and after the failure of the Agra Summit. ...*(Interruptions)* We will give all support to the Government to meet the challenge, but not under the stewardship of yours. You have failed miserably and you must quit.

MR. SPEAKER : Though the rules do not permit, as this is a serious matter, yet as a very special case I would permit a few hon. Members to ask specific clarificatory questions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had expected, as you have expected as this is a very serious matter and the House should discuss it in equal appreciation of the importance of this matter. Today's Calling Attention may be restricted to what has happened in Doda but since the notice was given, Jammu killings have also come up. Therefore, today, I would like to restrict to that. I am thankful to the hon. Speaker for giving us this opportunity of seeking some clarifications.

I am sure all of us, most strongly and unequivocally, condemn the barbaric killings that have taken place. These are dastardly events and it is essential that the entire House and the country should react very strongly against this act of what I call cowardice on the part of the militants to fire upon the innocent civilians and kill them. As has been expected, and as the hon. Home Minister has been saying quite openly and vocally, President Musharraf came here with a purpose. It was known that the Summit would not be successful and what was apprehended was happening. What is the role of the Government in protecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir? I must confess our utter inability to understand or even find out any coherent policy. We see that the Government only reacts. Meetings are held. Governors and Chief Ministers come and meetings are held. This is the way of demonstrating the Government's resolve to fight.

13.00 hrs.

That is what is reflected in today's statement. I must confess that I have been very disappointed with the statement. Sir, you will find that the hon. Home Minister has referred to four items regarding what are supposed to be the objectives of the militants. These are nothing new. These objectives are : stretching security forces, trying to make a communal divide, spreading terror among citizens, and drawing media attention. What is new in this? It has been said for umpteen times. Therefore, you are not making us wiser by repeating this. We would like to know what our Government is doing, what is our Government's policy, and why there are repeated failures.

Sir, the most disquieting thing is that they come, kill people and go away. Nobody is apprehended. This has happened repeatedly in all the incidents in Doda. Sir, 12 militants came and killed 21 people. Unfortunately, they were all from one community and then all the militants managed to escape. That is what happened on 22nd also. Sir, on the 4th August also, they came, 13 people were killed, 22 villagers were taken away, and they went away. Therefore, it just depends on the sweet will of the militants to walk in at any time they like and they can get away at any time they like.

What happened in Jammu yesterday or the day before? They came and only one terrorist was killed by some sort of retaliatory action or more out of a reflex action.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : What is your clarification?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is too much. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : What is the clarification? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you please permit me also to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am trying to find a clarification from the hon. Home Ministers' statement as to the steps taken to prevent such incidents. This is the clarification needed. You need not be upset. Sir, there was a response on the Doda killing on the 4th of August when the hon. Home Minister said that 'this is the second such tragedy that has occurred in recent days and I think, we would have to plan a proper response'. This is what is my charge and on that I want a clarification. It is all *ad hocism*. As and when an incident takes place, you are trying to react to the situation. That is why, the citizens of this country who have fought heroically to remain as part of India, who had rejected communalism, who had rejected the two nation theory, and who had rejected the religion as the deciding factor have to sacrifice their lives.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

We all salute them for their sacrifices. They are being left totally at the good wishes of the terrorists. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will there be a debate on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I take my seat. We shall wait for the proper opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I would not ask for it. We cannot go on in this manner. Let there be a proper debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Topdar, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Sir, as it is, you have stretched the rule in your wisdom to allow additional Members. Now, what wrong has been done by us in asking him to seek a clarification? ...*(Interruptions)* There is no need to get annoyed about it. The rule has already been stretched. In a Calling Attention Motion, only four Members are allowed. Now, you have stretched the rule and allowed the members to ask clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)* So it is not within the rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tripathi, please understand that the time is very short.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would have concluded by this time but for the interruptions. You, in your wisdom, have called me to speak. I am not that much articulate as Mr. Tripathi is that I could finish speaking everything in two minutes. I have to learn that articulation from him. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I do not know as to why they should feel nervous. We know that they have let down the people. Now, I am trying to find out one point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, this is too much. Every time you have been disturbing the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What happened in Jammu Railway Station? Apparently, three of them came. One of them was killed by more of a reflex action by one of the armed personnel and two of them left. Now we are being told of illumination, guarding and boundaries, etc. being constructed. There was supposed to be a CCTV functioning but it was not functioning. Mr. Home Minister, was it not functioning? We would like to know on this point. We are told that this is a very well protected place. Then, how could it happen? This is the clarification which I want. Even if you had all the precautions, all the people guarding the railway station, three people could come and kill innocent civilians. Two of them could leave by killing so many people. What were those people doing? Who is responsible for this?

Another important point is, who is really in charge of this? Is it the Central Government or the State Government which is responsible? It is because we find serious allegations made against the State Government. One of the Ministers of the present Council of Ministers has demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister, Here, I am mentioning the name of Shri Chaman Lal Gupta because he is present here. He has said :

> "The security forces there said about 300 to 350 militants were staying put in these mountainous areas and had set up camps."

He further asked as to what those security forces were doing and why they did not pound these camps.

> "Gupta, who has been elected to the Lok Sabha from Doda, said that J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, as leader of the Unified Command, cannot escape responsibility for shifting of troops, leaving villagers vulnerable to militant attacks. Four battalions were required to cover the land-locked area. ..."

They have been removed and that is why, these killings have taken place. He is sitting here. He can contradict me.

There are supposed to be Village Councils. How

* Not recorded.

have you armed them? What are the supposed activities of these Village Councils? What have you provided them? It is reported that about Rs. 200 is to be given to them per month. Even that is not being given regularly. They have some old 303 rifles which cannot obviously match the AK-47 or AK-56 or whatever it is. When they themselves are vulnerable, how can they fight against militants who come armed with sophisticated weapons? What is the policy and programme of this regarding such incident?

The main constituent of the Government, the BJP and the Shiv Sena together, is demanding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude, Mr. Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am trying to show as to what is the Government's reaction to this. When the main constituent of this Government is criticising the State Chief Minister, who will be in charge of this? I would like to know on this point.

Bandhs and hartals have been declared. The BJP President of Jammu has demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister and has held him responsible for this. I would like to know the Government's response to that. The other thing that I would like to know is that whether the Government has completely given up the question of giving autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir or the Kashmir Valley. This is extremely important. It was very unfortunate and we protest against the Home Minister's total and outright rejection of the demand for autonomy. The Assembly has passed a Resolution with respect to this. At least, you consider the possibilities, what can be given and what cannot be given. You cannot reject it outright. This is also affecting the morale of the people there.

I would like to know very categorically from the Home Minister as to why the incidents could not be prevented and how could they come and get away whenever they like. How can the Village Defence Councils be made more functional? ...*(Interruptions)* Who is in-charge of the security operations in Jammu and Kashmir? Shri I.D. Swamy has said that shifting of the armed forces and the army personnel from that area had its repercussions there. Was it anticipated or not? Why did you remove them? These questions have to be answered.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (JAMMU) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on this subject.

Sir, two points have emerged prominently here. Firstly, the hon. Prime Minister's statement that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it is our lifeline. Secondly, in the meeting that was held yesterday between the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, other security agencies and Union Ministers, it was decided to declare the entire region of Jammu as disturbed area and certain sowers have been given to the military and security officers. Keeping these two things in mind, I would like to ask whether the Chief Minister of our state also corroborates the statement of the Prime Minister that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and it is our lifeline? Because unless and until central Government and the State Government cooperate with each other terrorism cannot be uprooted from here.

People of Jammu and Kashmir speak in three different voices. Firstly there are certain people who say that Kashmir is a part of Pakistan, it should be handed over to Pakistan, plebiscite should be carried out here. Secondly, there are people who are demanding freedom and thirdly, there are people who are seeking autonomy. When we ask them to elaborate further on the issue of autonomy, then they say that they want to revert to the situation which was prevalent before 1953, they do not want the President, they want their own constitution, their own flag and supreme court, they neither want election commissioner nor Auditor General and whatever legislations of India are in force they want them to be withdrawn. My question is that what is the difference between these two things and the demand for freedom. Both are chips of the same block. None of our Chief Minister has said it any times that an agreement should be signed with Pakistan by declaring line of control as border line.

All the parties unanimously passed a resolution in this Lok Sabha itself that we have only one point of friction with Pakistan that it has illegally and forcibly occupied a part of Kashmir and it should leave the land. Ignoring our national resolution on the subject he said that line of actual control should be declared the border line and an agreement should be signed with Pakistan in this regard. It is a part of Kashmir and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir should accept it as an integral part of India. People who talk autonomy and freedom, they should realize that Jammu and Kashmir would get autonomy to the extent to which other states have got it. The state will not be meted out unfair treatment.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : This is a matter concerning the massacre in Jammu and

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

Kashmir. This is not a debate to score points. ...*(Interruptions)* we must probably talk about that and find out a solution to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : I am coming to that. Jammu and Kashmir would get that much of freedom as other states have got. But the point which the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned during Agra Summit that the President of Pakistan is assuming that the fruit has ripened and it is about to fall their hands, may be all these factors have led him to believe that the fruit has ripened. I had placed the data of census carried out there earlier in the House. I want to quote some of them. According to the census of 1981 there was a difference of four lakh in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the latest census, about four and half lakhs of Hindus have migrated from there and nearly 2 lakhs of Muslims have also migrated from there to protect their family members, population of Kashmir is stated to be more than ten and half which is a manipulated figure. The voters list is also counter checked and voter's list far Jammu is longer. The displaced people of Kashmir have not been removed from the voter's list while the Election Commission has also asked to do so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This subject is with regard to the recent killings of minority community people in Doda.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Due to all this, Pakistan has started believing that fruit has ripened and about to fall in their hands. Unless and until there is uniformity in the statements and behaviour of the Union Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmir issue would not be resolved.

Secondly, it has been stated that we are declaring Jammu as disturbed area. It was declared earlier also. Kashmir, Poonch and Rajouri were also declared as disturbed areas. Today, Jammu has also been declared as a disturbed area. What difference it will make, when we will have the will to do so only then it will make a difference. We have the example of Punjab infront of us. Terrorism ruled the roost in Punjab for ten years. Our two Chief Ministers and police officers resolved that they have to uproot terrorism from the state and they were successful in doing so because of their firm determination. If the administration of Jammu and Kashmir and the central Government work together with determination only then terrorism can be uprooted from there. The Defence committees over there should be strengthened. They should be given modern arms and weapons. They should be provided with the means of telecommunications, wireless sets and financial assistance only then we can stop all these things which are taking place today. The administration of Jammu and Kashmir is also responsible for the present scenario. There is fundamentalist element in the administration and the earlier Governor of the state weeded them out. It was definite that they were the agents of Pakistan's ISI. But they were reinstated later on. They are occupying important posts in the administration and the Government. A thorough scrutiny should be carried out to weed them out.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is not a single question from you. What are you speaking?

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : It has been stated that around 6 thousand terrorists have been nabbed. But not a single out of them has been punished. If there was any loophole in the law. ...*(Interruptions)* Our state had a constitution....*(Interruptions)* We had consti-tution. ...*(Interruptions)* then why was it not strengthened further? ...*(Interruptions)* those people were recruited in the Police Force. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sharma, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : They have been recruited in our administration. ...*(Interruptions)* as long as these people will remain in administration. Terrorism will never be eliminated. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that keeping in view the entire situation, the union Government and state Government should cooperate with each other and develop an approach to eliminate terrorism. I think our Home Minister is a man of word and with this belief I conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, one of the best parliamentarians, has

mentioned my name about the insufficient security arrangements. If you give me liberty, I would like to make a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister is here, he would reply to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TRUNELVELI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan there is no time. Whatever notices I have received in the morning, from that, I have called two or three names. You have sent your slip just now only.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give a suggestion. Please give me one minute only.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I will complete my speech in two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : On the other hand, I have been to the area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swami, it is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I would complete my speech in two minutes. Give me two minutes, Mr. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. It is not a debate. I am appealing to you to resume your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : My approach to the issue is totally different. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time, Shri Pandiyan. Hon. Home Minister has to make a statement in the other House also. Please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : It is a touchy issue. I must participate. Please give me two minutes. I would complete my speech. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly permit me to make a speech for two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L.K. Advani, please resume your seat.

Shri Pandiyan, you can pose only one question please.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I have been following the speeches of my colleagues. ...*(Interruptions)* My speech has a different tone. When the militants killed our villagers on the night of 21st in Jammu, villagers were asked to raise anti-India slogans before they were shot dead. I am only on that point. Militants have asked the villagers to raise anti-India slogans before being shot dead. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: What is the allegation? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PH. PANDIAN : It is a failure on the part of our intelligence network and the inability of the security forces to foresee the crushing of the militant activity in that particular area.

After the Party Leaders' Meeting and subsequent to the visit of General Musharraf, after the summit, there was escalation of violence. My first charge would have been against Pakistani militants. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not charging the Minister first. I am charging the Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that he is not charging the Government. Why are you unnecessarily disturbing his speech?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I am not charging the Minister first. I am charging the Pakistan President, General Musharraf, who had a diabolic role in coming to India, ascertaining the situation, having failed in talks, now he is waging a war, in silence, over India.

Sir, a war is being waged by Gen. Musharraf against India. But here we are discussing on different lines.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please understand that I have allowed you as a special case. Please conclude now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, I am not using any unparliamentary word. This is an important matter. The

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

President of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf has come over to India to gain and to bargain for future talks, he is instigating these militants to kill our people in Jammu and Kashmir. But we are not talking about him. We are talking about Shri Advani here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, the subject relates to Doda killings, not about Gen. Musharraf.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, Doda killing was engineered by the diabolic activity. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if I talk about Shri Advani, they will raise their voices. They do not know international politics. Do they want me to talk only about local politics? This is a serious international problem. It will not be solved overnight. It has been there for the last 54 years. Everyday, there are killings either in Doda or in Amarnath and we have been witnessing them. Where is the end for such killings? If they substitute Shri Advani, can they crush the militants? I want an assurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we have to eschew violence. We have to eschew militant activities by our intelligence network. It is not going to stop overnight. It is on the front page of newspaper everyday. We are losing ground in Jammu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, being a former Speaker of the Assembly, you are not supposed to violate the rules. Please conclude now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, the President of Pakistan is waging a silent war against us. I request the Government of India and the Home Minister to crush the militants. I would urge the Government of India even to wage a war against Pakistan to save our people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Home Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav and Shin Ramdas Athawale, both of you please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, the Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to give me only two minutes. I will only make a brief submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ali Mohd. Naik, I am appealing to you, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ali Mohd. Naik, there are certain procedures in the House, but you are not following the procedure. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ali Mohd. Naik, this is too much. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the Minister says.

* Not recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank to all the members who have participated in the discussion through the calling attention of my colleague Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and also to those who you have given a chance to speak on such an important issue by bypassing the rules. I think even if there is criticism during the discussion even then that is also a grievance, a concern. I have no doubt about what Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have spoken in his speech that all parties are ready to cooperate with the Government against terrorism, there is no doubt about it. But what I urge upon is not cooperation and support only.

[English]

I have used the word "understanding"

[Translation]

But the struggle, the manner in which we are fighting against them should be understood. It is necessary to understand the nature of challenge. At times it is not comprehended fully. If only we have to fight against terrorism, I think that not only Government of India, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has the capacity to combat terrorism.

[English]

But this is not just terrorism. This is state sponsored terrorism.

[Translation]

It can be said that a war is an open war and there are many ups and downs in the war and either one side or other side appear to be the winner. If we treat it a proxy war the ups and downs will come in it due to proxy war. It is not possible that one side will always win. I think the recent incidents of Doda which we have discussed in the House today are not the result of the success of cross border terrorism. This is wrong to think that it has happened due to Agra Summit. Since the Pakistan's President had come to Agra and on his return he had given a public statement that he had returned from Agra empty handed. This terrorism has not come out of it, it has been there constantly, which was to end on 31 May, but on 23rd May, the Government of India decided to run a non-initiation of combat operation. We never used the term 'ceasefire.' Now we have directed the security forces that they should not only retaliate whenever they are attacked but also can initiate action against the militant groups and eliminate wherever they find them. I think the reason for recent attacks upon which we have expressed our concern and discussed here, are security forces because it is a continuous fight.

[English]

The security forces have been securing successes.

[Translation]

Unfortunately, it gives impression that

[English]

the security forces are failing. It is not a failure. It is the success of the security forces in combating this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The interruptions will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : First they will give a speech from the front seat then interrupt from the back seat.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am willing to reply to every question that has been posed. *...(Interruptions)*

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

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri I.D. Swami had visited Kishtwar and Doda and after his return he told me that no killings have taken place in those villages where VDC's were in operation. If any killings have taken place, it occurred there where our villagers have gone to hilly areas to graze their cattles in a temporary structure called "Dhok" after leaving their villages. The VDC's asked them why they had gone to hills? Had they not gone there the incident would not have occurred better have you remain in your villages. *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : There were no Dhok's at Jammu Railway Station.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not talking about Jammu. I will speak on Jammu later on. I am trying to make you understand that Doda is a vastly spread district, therefore they reached the village. It is impossible to deploy BSF, CRPF, J&K police and Army in every village. They might have been killed in village. I came to know that they did not succeed in killings in any village. They killed those villagers who had gone 'Dhoks'. It was discussed yesterday that whether we can't experiment to constitute 'Dhok Defence Committee' on the lines of village Defence Committee? I have mentioned it in my statement.

Pawan Kumar Bansalji has said that the whole Jammu and Kashmir has become disturbed area now. It is not so. Ladakh is still not a disturbed area. The whole valley of Kashmir was disturbed area. Now some areas of Jammu adjacent to LOC and International Border have been declared disturbed areas. I would like to mention about a massacre which was occurred in Doda in 1998 in which 25 persons came in a wedding were killed, at that time, I talked to the State Government first time. I asked the state Government whether Doda can be declared a disturbed area because there main focus was on Doda? The Union Government as well as the State Government have the right to declare any area as a disturbed area but it is an important issue, therefore I talked to the Chief Minister of that state.

He has said that his Government did not have any view so far in this regard but he would like that the centre should take decision in this regard as per the advice of the State Government. I told him that was ready for it. Yesterday, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir itself thought it necessary that we should decide it. They came here and talked with us. After our discussion in yesterday's meeting final touch was given to it. Its notification would be issued in a couple of days. I do not admit that.

[English]

This is the recipe for tackling militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

I would admit that recipe could not be verbal and oral. It could not be my declaration or harsh words. Ground reality could be a recipe. In this context I would like to inform you that the militants have not got any help in this fight during the last three months. I have seen all previous records. There is no any month in which the number of slain militants have not increased. In the month of June this figure was 217 and in July it was 233. The Lashker-e-Toeba militants committed the heinous crime in Kishtwar. You are right that Lashker-e-Toeba committed it. It is the achievement of the security forces that they traced and killed the area commander Abu Gulam. Two-three months back three-four terrorists came and hide in the mosque. They were hard-core militants. To cardon off and kill them without damaging the mosque was also an achievement. I can enumerate such achievements.

I would like to say in this regard that all these incidents that took place in Kishtwar, Jammu or Doda are related to the continuous success of the security forces during these three months. These incidents have no association with the Agra Summit. After understanding it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : What are your measures? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, what is this?

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : His name is Adhir, he cannot have patience. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : When we speak, your Members are not sitting quietly. Shri Mahajan, why do you not tell Members also? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : After tracing the Deputy Chief of Hizbul Mujahaddin, he was executed. Similarly ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, my main question was, whether Jammu & Kashmir Government asked additional security support immediately after Agra Summit and during the journey to Amarnath. You have to give the answer, 'yes' or 'no'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can tell you this much that the strength of my Central Para-military Forces in Jammu & Kashmir is more than the pre-Kargil strength. This is the situation. Similarly, as far as the Army is concerned, the Army is present in adequate strength and the Unified Command is constantly in touch with us. Whatever is needed there has been provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : My question was, whether Jammu & Kashmir sought additional security support immediately after Agra Summit and before the ceasefire was over. Please respond to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I would like to tell Shri Priya Ranjan Ji that today the problem of terrorism is also in other parts of the country. The country as well as the army is not in a position to provide security support asked by North Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir and the southern states. But so far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, whatever is needed there has been provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (MAHASAMUND): You had withdrawn twenty thousand soldiers from there under confidence building measures. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : The Government should have been alert in the wake of people being killed for so many days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Many people were killed there. Only three security men were deployed there. Why were they deployed there? ...*(Interruptions)* Such a major incident took place and only three security men were deployed there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a Calling Attention Motion. discussion is not going on under rule 193.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why you are disturbing the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to complete his reply. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : I am not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdas ji, please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Dissatisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I walkout from the House.

13.49 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ramdas Athawale left the House.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given the reply to their simple question.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am replying to all the questions one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have to protect me. We raised three pertinent questions. My question was, whether the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir sought additional security support. He is not answering our questions. He is giving a general reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the hon. Minister to complete his reply. Let him complete his reply. Then, you can ask your questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, he is not answering his questions. It is most unsatisfactory. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not giving a general reply. I am saying that the Chief Ministers from various States have naturally asked for more and more forces. As far as

[Shri L.K. Advani]
Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, whatever is needed has been provided, and it will continue to be provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : What was sought by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we want to know whether what was sought by the Chief Minister was provided. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not replied to the specific question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the senior Minister does not want to answer the questions that have been raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has asked a specific question and that has not been answered by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How is it that your Members are obstructing the hon. Minister? Is this the way to behave in this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he is avoiding. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.51 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the opposition has walked out from the House in the leadership of Shri Ramdas Athawale. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, you have given a clarification on a point of order that often questions are asked, clarification is sought during calling attention. Some members sought clarification. Main stress was on this point that the Government have failed to combat militancy in Jammu-Kashmir. An hon. Member described the attempts of the Government as failure, failure, failure. I would like to say that reality is totally opposite to it during the last three months.

[English]

It has been success after success after success.

[Translation]

And after attaining the success, the security forces attack weak and vulnerable targets. Therefore, we do not astonish at it. Yesterday, it is compulsory and I understand that we should give protection while formulating a plan therefore I have said that.

[English]

"Special intelligence driven security force operations based on surprise and speed would also be considered as per requirements of the ground situation."

[Translation]

It means that we should retaliate after their attack and kill the area commander. It is not sufficient. We should search the militants and attack and eliminate them. During yesterday's evening sitting a point was raised that there is need to take action against the people who are living underground and encouraging terrorism. But there are other people who are living overgrown and encouraging terrorism by their speech and various other means. I have also talked about it.

[English]

"It was also decided that measures as per law against the overground supporters of the terrorists would be stepped up by the Jammu and Kashmir police."

[Translation]

Whatever Shri Vijay Goyal ji have said in this context, is equally important. There was the TADA Act to combat terrorism. It has been repealed. Terrorism affected states like Tamilnadu and others have made their own laws.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far I, remember that once a meeting of Chief Ministers was held in which I made a point that the Union Government was prepared to enact a

* Not recorded.

law if they all agreed. But for that all the parties should support the Government. And if the Union Government does not have support, every State Government should enact laws separately to fight against terrorism. I had also said that I would consult the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue and, if required, advise them to enact proper law.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept that recent events are certainly very unfortunate and painful. All of us would certainly like to see the atmosphere of hope and trust building up in areas of Doda and Kishtwad.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can remember that once when I had visited the place. The local residents of the area had requested me to declare the area as a disturbed area. Even at that point of time, I had told talk with the State Government but it did not accept the proposal. I am happy that yesterday the Government accepted the proposal. Certainly this decision would lead to strengthening the hope and trust in the area and we would get success in dealing with terrorism there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again I thank the House that the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the whole country are supporting it despite prevalence of embarrassing situation there. Given this, I am sure that the way India defeated Pakistan thrice in the war in the same way it would defeat Pakistan in this proxy war as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House is adjourned till 2.35 p.m.

13.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty-five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

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14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-Eight Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up matters under Rule 377.

14.39 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to ensure smooth functioning of telephones in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA): Sir, the telephone service in my parliamentary Constituency is out of order. The telephones which are out of order remain so for long and the new telephones hardly work for one or two days. When I talked to the telephone official about it, he told me that there was paucity of power, battery was of very low voltage and O.F.C. cable was not available whatever be the reason, the duties of telephone officials are to rectify the faults of telephone for which the consumers pay the rent. It has been observed that the telephone staff do not take interest in making these telephones functional and complaints are not being disposed of properly.

Through you, I urge upon the Government to enquire into the matter and make out of order telephones functional in time.

(ii) Need to Establish a Separate Directorate for Ayurvedic Branch of Medicine

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present various systems of medicines are in use for maintaining good health and curing the diseases. Out of these, Ayurved is the most ancient system of medicine which is the best not only from curing diseases point of view but also from maintaining good health.

It is easily available and cheap and most safe. That is why this is being adopted in India and abroad. A lot of research is being conducted in this field. New experiments are being done. Comprehensive study is being conducted in regard to herbs.

For the country like India, this is a system of medicine which is being used in every home for thousands of years and crores of people benefited by its use. However, more research is required to make Ayurvedic system of medicine more popular and acceptable.

Therefore, I request that all should look forward to accept this safe system of medicine with a view to create more health awareness and cure the diseases. For this,

there is an urgent need to establish a separate Directorate for Ayurvedic system of medicine.

(iii) Need to provide more railway facilities in Nawada district, Bihar

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (NAWADA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been much progress in railways in the country. Whereas the Ministry of Railways is busy in introducing ultra modern trains in addition to the existing Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express, there are also some areas in the country where status quo prevails and no progress is made despite the fact that the attention of the Government is being drawn to the problem through various means. Nawada district of Bihar is one such area, where no attention has been paid for the development of Railways. Even after 54 years of independence. There is no express train connecting this district with New Delhi and Kolkata, though it has common borders with Rajgir and Pawapari which are famous pilgrimage place.

Through you, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to pay an urgent attention for the development of this rail route of Nawada district which is backward due to absence of development of rails. The work on Kieul-Gaya rail route where no development has taken place even after 54 years, should be taken up on urgent basis.

(iv) Need to run proposed Rajdhani Express between Ranchi and Delhi twice a week

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Sir, it has been announced in this year's Railway Budget that Rajdhani Express would be introduced between Delhi and Ranchi the capital of Jharkhand from 2nd October. No doubt the traders and Government employees would be able to avail this train facility. But this train service is once a week. Whereas there is public demand that it should be available for two days in a week. Since this route remains very crowded, it should be originated on Friday from Delhi and on Sunday from Ranchi. It is also demanded that Ranchi must be connected with other States by more express trains.

I urge upon the Government to run the Rajdhani train twice a week instead of once a week.

(v) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for providing relief to people affected by drought in the State

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (SANGLI) : Madam, Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the severe drought situation in Maharashtra particularly in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada region. Failure of crops, acute scarcity of drinking water, non-availability of fodder have made life of the people miserable in the drought affected areas of Maharashtra. Persistent droughts have made the situation so bad that State Government's efforts to provide relief to the people have not been enough. The State Government have already spent Rs.700 crore for Employment Guarantee Scheme and Rs. 225 crore for drinking water facility. I would urge upon the Central Government to immediately provide special Central assistance to help the people of drought affected areas of Maharashtra.

(vi) Need to provide gauge conversion work between Bijapur and Gadag *via* Bagalkot in Karnataka

SHRI R.S. PATIL (BAGALKOT) : Madam, the conversion of meter gauge railway line into broad gauge between Bijapur and Gadag *via* Bagalkot has been pending for the last twenty years. Bagalkot is the central place in Northern Karnataka not only geographically but also in all other respects. Hospet is a very important centre of industry (steel industry) in Karnataka which is yet to be connected with Bagalkot and Bijapur by railway line. At present all the materials that are essential for this centre of industry, Hospet, are being transported from Bagalkot and Bijapur only by road. This is not only a strenuous exercise but also a costly and time-consuming one. In fact, one MoU was signed in this regard between Karnataka Government and the Railways, but there is no progress.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to take up the gauge conversion work between Bijapur and Gadag *via* Bagalkot without any further delay.

(vii) Need to review Jute Packaging (Compulsory Packaging of Commodities) Materials Act, 1987 for allowing Non-Jute Packaging.

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (BANSWARA) : The Ministry of Textiles vide its order issued on 25.1.2000 under Jute Packaging (Compulsory Packaging of Commodities) Materials Act, 1987, had decided to fix 100% reservation for packaging sugar and foodgrains in jute and 20% for fertilizers. Later on, the reservation percentage was reduced by 10% for sugar and foodgrains and 5% for fertilizers in pursuance of the order of Gujarat High Court.

Jute Industry is faced with a number of problems which aggravates the crises in respect of packaging. Firstly the cost of jute packaging is double the cost of alternate packaging. Secondly, 100 kg jute gunny bags are being manufactured which is in contravention of the norms of International Labour Organisation. As per the norms, the lifting of weight beyond 55 kg. has been forbidden for the workers as it is fraught with health and safety hazards. Thirdly, Jute gunny bags containing jute batching oil are used for packing the edible items meant for inland consumption and this oil is injurious to the health.

I would urge upon the Central Government to repeal the Jute packaging (Compulsory Packaging of Commodities) Materials Act, 1987 and help to overcome packaging crisis in the country.

(viii) Need to accord status of deemed University to Kalamandalam Institute in Kerala

[English]

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM) : Sir, Kerala Kalamandalam Institute is one of the prominent institutions in the country which is rendering a valuable service in the cultural and educational field. Students from all over the country and also abroad come to study in this world famous institute. Kalamandalam Institute was established and patronized by the legendary literary personality, late Shri Vaqllathol Narayan Menon.

Kerala Kalamandalam has been in the forefront in providing education. It is running educational institutions upto the level of Graduation. This institute has been requesting the concerned authorities to upgrade it to the status of a deemed university which will enhance its further development to enable it to contribute more in the field of art and education. But Sir, the request is still pending with the Central Government for sanction.

It is a long cherished dream of the people of Kerala that the Kalamandalam be upgraded to a status of a full fledged university. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard without any further delay.

(ix) Need to allocate more funds to Andhra Pradesh under National Rural Road Programme

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR) : Sir, under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojna for rural connectivity in Andhra Pradesh, the State has been allocated only Rs. 75.75 crore during 2000-2001. This allocation is very meagre keeping in view the large scale work involved. This allocation should be increased. Moreover, under the procedure prescribed, powers of the sanction in this regard vests with the Central Government. In this connection, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Central Government to allow the State Government to implement the programme subject to overall guidelines of the Government of India.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to look into the matter and accede to the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government made in this regard and also increase the allocation made under the National Rural Road Programme to provide all-weather roads in the State at the earliest with additional sanction.

(x) Need to clear the proposal of Government of Bihar for setting up of a Leechi Consortium

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (MONGHYR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 80% of the Leechi is grown in Bihar only. However, in the absence of proper preservation facilities, latest techniques and infrastructure almost 70 thousand tonnes of Leechi perishes every year. Europe alone requires 30 thousand tonnes Leechi annually. But not even 50 tonne is exported from Bihar. Whereas Madagaskar and Israel earns huge foreign exchange by exporting 80% and 90% of its Leechi production respectively. There is no facility to transport fresh leechi to the other cities of the country for want of production technology, preservation facility, processing industry, storage facility and transportation. The Central Government is providing assistance to farmers of other States in improving the quality of their produce and its marketing through establishing Spices Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Coconut Board But the Central Government is not paying due importance to this fruit grown in Bihar though the Bihar State Export Corporation, Patna has sent a proposal to the Union Government to set up a Leechi consortium.

Hence, the Agriculture and Commerce Ministries of the Government of India are requested to set up this Leechi Consortium at the earliest.

(xi) Need to lay Rail Line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi in Bihar

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rail line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi

under North-East railways in Bihar was washed away in 1944 by the floods in the Kosi river. This railway line was laid during the British rule. Now the people of this area have to take a 300 kms. circuitous route passing through six districts to reach their district headquarters, Supaul. The Government had allocated Rs. 2 crore for laying the said railway line after getting a survey conducted for the construction of a bridge over Kosi river. However, the amount allocated has not so far been utilised.

I would like to urge upon the Government to provide relief to the people of this area by laying this 40 kms rail line between Nirmali to Bhaptiyahi.

(xii) Need to open Regional Institute of Technology in Bihar

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a result of bifurcation of Bihar, one of the important regional technology Institute of Bihar i.e. Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur has come under the jurisdiction of Jharkhand State. Besides this two other important technology Institutes, BIT Sindri and BIT Mesra have also come under the jurisdiction of Jharkhand State. This has created a shortage of opportunities in the field of technical education as a result of which students of Bihar have to go to other States for technical education. There is a great demand of Technical Education in the State. One regional institute of technology has been set up in almost every State of the country. There is a need to compensate this loss which has taken place after bifurcation.

Through this House, I would like to request the Government that a regional institute of technology should be set up in Bihar at the earliest.

14.54 hrs.

PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHT BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will go on to item no. 14, to further consider the motion moved by Shri Nitish Kumar on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill. The total time allotted is four hours. We have already consumed one hour and eleven minutes. So, the time now left for completion of this discussion is two hours and forty-nine minutes.

Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu was on his legs. Now, he is not present. So, Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, which has been introduced by the Government. Since agriculture is a state subject, therefore, no amendment can be made without consulting the State Governments.

This is an inter-state issue. The Union Government has the right to seek opinion from State Governments on desired points. Today, the Government has brought this Bill. I strongly support this Bill. Despite TRIC coming into force, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Phillippines are yet to enact a legislation with regard to the plant varieties. India has taken the initiative in this regard for which I congratulate the Union Government. The Union Government has done a good job by considering this issue.

This Bill is related to the registration of seeds by the farmers. It is almost impossible to develop such varieties of seeds. The bill fulfils all the four yardsticks of novelty, uniqueness, homogeneity and stability.

This process has been set in motion by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and seed varieties of cotton, maize and tomato have been developed and used in farming. This farming is being widely opposed in America. There are 350 varieties of seeds available to the farmers today. My submission is that the farmers should themselves develop seeds. India is rich in bio-diversity resources. But bio-diversity is on the brink of extinction due to lack of proper attention in this field. We are capable of achieving record production in agriculture but the seeds cannot be grown and germinated again. I request the Government to ponder over this. The people are increasingly believing that unbridled use of fertilizers is adversely affecting human health and an unbalanced use of fertilizers is telling upon the fertility of land. The farmers have an apprehension that the use of American fertilizers will hinder the smooth production of crops. There should be a provision under which the Indian farmers are able to grow the seeds themselves and put them to use. It is my duty that I should support this Bill. In America the genes of the cattle are blended with plant seeds and then the cultivation is undertaken. This is being widely opposed. We should create an awareness amongst the Indian farming community against such use. I hope that the hon'ble Minister will seriously consider what I had said. The Union Government should try to convince the farmers about the efficacy of seeds. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, agriculture, TRIMPS, TRIPPS and fourth GATT have been included in WTO agreement. Inclusion of agriculture in it was the most dangerous thing which is against the farmers. Then, came the issue of trade related Intellectual Property Rights. Though the Government have claimed that it would protect farmers by bringing this Bill, but in fact, it is going to harm the farmers a lot.

15.00 hrs.

As our ancestors were carrying out research in turmeric, myrobalan, basmati rice and several other things during ancient times and our farmer is producing the same things... *(Interruptions)* And we people are utilising same things. Now, America is patenting turmeric and basmati rice. Japan is patenting curry, an eatable we prepare with the help of curd and besan (gram flour). I would like to tell the Government that it has entered into a dangerous agreement. Our farmers will have to keep fighting since this agreement is against their interests. Though Government of India have taken up this issue, but I am not aware of the decision of International Court of Justice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our ancestors have produced myrobalan, pumpkin, lady-finger, parvel etc. potato is a foreign product. We have been producing wheat, gram, barley, Kandmool, maize etc. since time immemorial. Some of those things can be cultivated in low irrigation areas and take lesser time. These all products have been created by our ancestors and today our farmers are producing the same. Today, some multinational companies are conspiring and are patenting all our products. Some developed countries are trying to deprive us of our products. Though this Bill has been brought in the name of providing protection to the farmers, will it have any effect on farmers?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when this issue was raised in the House, it was referred to the committee. Though the committee worked very hard, but the Bill which the Government have brought defines the farmer as producer and not promoter. A farmer in Samastipur Agriculture farm produced maize seeds mechanically, he challenged America and defeated it too. Though, the farmer created a new variety but under the provisions of Plant Protection Bill, he is called a producer and not promoter which is a very dangerous thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our farmers have been creating new milestones in the field of agriculture. If a farmer produces any good variety, his neighbour buys seeds from him and produces it. But after implementation of this Bill, such farmers will be deprived of such rights and will not be able to sell the seeds. It has been a practice in rural areas that if one farmer sows good variety, his neighbours next year buy seeds from him and produce same variety of fruit, vegetables or grains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, WTO agreement has been signed and TRIPS has been patented, but these multinational companies are not good in the interest of farmers. As per our new agriculture policy, multinational companies will come to India and take agriculture land on lease. Ours is a agriculture based country. It is said that 80 per cent of our population depends on agriculture.

Hereafter, American and other multinational companies will take land on lease and they will bring their own seeds. They will bring two types of seeds out of which one would be terminated one, which is called terminated seeds, which will be very dangerous. Reason - the product of terminated seeds cannot be used again for sowing, it means every year new seeds will have to be purchased from those companies only. It is a great conspiracy. Our innocent farmers will not be able to differentiate between normal seeds and terminated ones. So, it may pose a danger. I would like to ask the Government if it has any mechanism to save our farmers from their clutches. Highly priced American hybrid seeds are coming to India. They say that large sized tomatoes can be produced by this variety of seed. As all of us are aware, we buy apples and eat. One gentleman gave an apple to me which was of extraordinary large size. A paper was wrapped on it whereon 'Washington' was written. But it was not as tasty as our Indian apples are. I do not know how it was produced, it was devoid of proteins but it was very good to look at. I was accompanied by Buta Singhji, who has visited foreign countries many times. He said that apples are not produced in Washington. No idea, from which of the countries apples are being brought here. Since our country was slave for hundreds of years, therefore mental set up of our people is still the same We think foreign items are very good. More use of foreign products is destroying our farmers. Why a farmer has not been considered a promoter. What was the compulsion of the Government? Why the farmer has not been brought under the ambit of producer and promoter in this Bill? It is said that the farmer has been given rights. He has been given the right of a producer. He can buy and sow the seeds of MNCs but cannot re-sow it. How dangerous is it? The Government should clarify, how it is going to protect the interests of our farmers from the danger looming large. How we will depend on multinational companies. Today, such sort of situation is created that the food security of

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

India can be de-established and it can be used as a weapon against India. In a country of one hundred crore, food shortage will again be created and the farmers will be discouraged. If rights of farmers are not protected, it is going to happen. Our farmers cannot contest against multinational companies. Attractive marketing will certainly lure the customers. They will sell packed milk and curd saying that it contains all vitamins. Who will buy from our traditional milkman who use to bring milk in drums, buckets and tokanies? Packed milk and curd only will find buyers. MNC's will bring hybrid seeds claiming it contains all vitamins. Therefore, our farmers cannot stand against MNC's. Therefore, my submission is that the interests of our farmers should be protected from the clutches of provisions of WTO and TRIMPS, TRIPS and GATT. We got some respite in Seattle. All developing countries should take a united stand during forthcoming conference. 47 backward countries have been given 15-20 years time as grace period but our country's name does not figure in that list.

What I have observed that whenever our representative goes abroad, he signs the agreement blindly. He just signs as have read and understood. So, how the rights of farmers and national interests can be protected? India's name do not figure in the list of 47 countries who have been granted relaxation. How can I support this sort of Bill when I know that the interests of farmers have not been taken care of in it. It is stated in it that the Bill has been brought to protect interests of farmers, whereas in fact, it is not so. It is not only curtailing the interests of farmers but it does not recognise agriculture as an industry also. Hence, it will neither promote agriculture nor protect interest of farmers. It contains no provision to protect our ancestral bio research germ plasma and it suggests no measures for development and promotion of agriculture. Therefore, my submission is that Government should take it seriously and put case of Indian farmers strongly in WTO's meeting scheduled to be held shortly wherein another agreement is likely to be signed, otherwise the farmers will be helpless to fight against the Government as they have been fighting against flood, rain and other natural calamities. Since they are capable of fighting against nature they can definitely fight against an anti-farmers Government and can make it to eat a humble pie.

With these words I urge the Government to carry out suitable amendments in the Bill so that it can protect interests of farmers, otherwise, in its present form, I oppose it.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJ) : Sir, Raghuvansh Prasad ji has told lot of things before the House. Personally, I oppose this Bill, but since I was a Member of JPC and policy of my party says that we all have to run the country so we have to sign WTO agreement. The world is getting shrunk and if we do not join it we would be isolated. But I would urge the Government to not to come under such pressure whereby the farmers are put in trouble. As it has been just said that farmers reside in villages and they depend upon agriculture. Decades back, 80 per cent of our population was depending upon agriculture, where as now percentage of such people may have come down to 60 or 55 per cent. It will further come down in the years to come. Our land holding is getting smaller. Though name of extant Bill is Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, but rights of farmers have not been addressed properly in it. I rise to say something in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, the Committee constituted to deliberate on this Bill visited all the States. Wherever, I visited, I found that not a single farmers' union in any of the state supported this Bill. Excuse me, as the phrase goes, "small is beautiful," even small farmers in the villages opposed this Bill, some by giving in writing and others verbally. I would like to put it on record that farmers in none of the states are happy with this Bill

Though, NDA Government consists of several political parties, yet I would like to ask my friends in BJP that theirs' is the same party which strongly opposed Paris Convention Act, though some years back I was in the same party, now what has happened to it.

Today, you have got an opportunity to rule the country and some of the organisations such as Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, a sister concern of BJP oppose some of the policies of the Government openly and even oppose the Prime Minister, yet the Government have entered an agreement with WTO. For the last several years, these outfits have been propagating swadesh movement and opposed everything that was alien, what has happened to these all? Since, the Government would need some kind of favour from them, that is why it is bringing this Bill under their pressure.

Small scale industries and even heavy industries are on the verge of closure. In the name of globalisation and modernisation, excess liberalisation has lead to scams one after the other in Banks and other frauds, several industrial units and small scale units are either

turning sick or getting closed. Closure of industries will render the industrialist and 5-15 workers, if it is a small unit, jobless. It means, be it a small unit or a big industry, be it Tata or Birla, all will have to surrender before multinational companies. Britishers ruled India for hundreds of years and 55 years have passed since India became independent, still our farmers in villages plough their fields. Our independence was political one. Small, medium and large size industries which constantly need Government help are dying today. Labourers and other people associated with these industries including others who were depending upon the people working in these industries are dying of hunger. Similar is the condition of agriculture sector. Large American firms own lakhs of acres of land and their agriculture is totally technical or machine based, whereas Indian farmer still ploughs his fields with the bullocks. Unfortunately, we are not able to mechanise it. We have small agriculture holdings and power is not available. Even today, our farmers do not get remunerative price of their produce, if it is surplus and facilities for storage, cold storage are not available. When monsoon sets in, the Government forecast a bumper crop. I would like the Government also to be kind enough like India and do something good. Different parties have come to power after India achieved freedom, but the condition of farmers remained more or less the same. Even today, farmer ploughs his fields. He does not get remunerative price for his produce. We have several varieties and if we are able to get them patented, we can say India can be the richest country in the world. People in Kalahandi, Orissa are dying of hunger. But these tribals search out such type of vegetation that if they do not get food even for fifteen days they can still survive with that. Our Rishis used to live the same way, they used to survive only on air and herbs. We have so unique vegetation in our country that by eating it a man do not feel hungry for days together.

We have produced several things using non-fertilizers such as fruits. If foreign countries patent these all things then what will be the fate of our farmers? The Government should protect our produce and provide guidance to the farmers in this regard. Machinery should be provided and if any farmer wants to patent it, he can. If anyone else utilises it he should be severly dealt with. Sir, I hail from Gujarat. The pattern of farming in Gujarat is much better than that of Israel. In Gujarat, we have bottle gourd as long as two feet and tomato weighing one kilogram, bringal weighing one to two kilograms. Our State Agriculture Institute is first of its kind in India. We produce coloured cotton. If such farm products are not patented we will be definitely at loss. These items should be patented in the name of farmers. These all aspects should be incorporated in the Bill.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (SWAI MADHOPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers Rights Bill, 2000 which has been introduced in the House for discussion and I thank you for giving me the time to speak.

Madam, I was listening to the views of the speakers who spoke prior to me. For the first time, the Joint Parliamentary Committee has prepared the draft of this Bill by studying it meticulously. Their efforts will go a long way in helping the farmers of India. It has been considered for the first time that the farmers should have the right over plant varieties and protection. Had enough attention been paid towards taking various steps for the progress of the farmers and providing plant protection rights to them during the last 50 years some farmers could have adopted the scientific agriculture norms besides the majority of them coming out of the deplorable economic condition they are in today.

India is the epitome of all the knowledge and virtues in the world. Down through the ages the saints, sages and the scholars have written a lot about organisms. No other country posses as rich a knowledge on bio-diversity in India. I would like to recite a shloka wherein the number of plant and animal species has been mentioned. Shloka is as follows 'Sthavar Vinshanti Lakshanch' i.e. there are 20 lakh varieties of plant in the world, "Jalaj Na Lakshanch" i.e. there are 9 lakhs species of the organisms living in water : 'Kumarashya Ruda Lakhsam' i.e. there are 10 lakh species of birds and 'Trinshanti Laksham Pashumanch i.e. the number of animal species is 30 lakhs and 'Chaturtha Laksham Cha Banra i.e. the number of monkeys is 4 lakhs. Hence as per our mythological tradition, the number of total species of organism is 84 lakhs.

When the issue of livestock import was being discussed, I was perturbed to note that even the aquarian animals were being counted in it. These were being counted from the view as to how much they have been contributing in our agrarian economy. Similarly many of my learned colleagues were talking in very confined way as regards to the Protection of Plant varieties and farmer's right Act. I would like to submit that our Standing Committee has submitted its report on the issue of the importing right of protection of the plant variety to farmers. All the apprehensions and doubts have been cleared in this report. On the page 75th of this report, it a clear-cut clarification has been given of the issue raised by our senior parliamentarian Shri Raghuvansh Babu. It has been

[Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena]

mentioned in it that for the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the filing of an application for the granting of a breeders right to a new variety or for entering such a variety or for entering such a variety in the official register of varieties in any convention country shall be deemed to render that variety a matter of common knowledge from the date of the application in case the application leads to the granting of the breeder's right or to the entry of such variety in such official register as the case may be. I hope that it might have resolved the apprehension or doubt expressed by the hon. Member through which he had tried to convey to the Government to remain cautious. Much concern has been expressed in the House in regard to the supremacy of knowledge and expertise possessed by the other countries in the field of bio-diversity while their knowledge is based on the pool of information we have in this sector. Though a potato weighting five kilogram can be cultivated abroad, they can not match the quality of Indian potato. I have a personal experience to narrate. When I was milking a buffalo, a foreign lady asked me as how much milk my buffalo yielded. I replied that it was five kilogram only while your buffalo yields more then 60 k.g. Listening it the foreign lady remarked that the 60 kg. milk yielded by our buffalo is equal to the 5 kilogram of milk yielded by your's. I would like to say that it can not be denied that the Indian's farmers have a lot of knowledge as regards to the quality and morphology of the produce. I would also like to say that 80 percent of our farmers are illiterate. Hence in order to rule out the possibility of their traditional knowledge being taken advantage of by few educated persons, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to pay special attention for making arrangement for the easy registration procedure so that the illiterate farmers who possess a lot of traditional skill and knowledge may be able to get their plant variety registered.

I am apprehensive that now when the tribunal has been constituted, rural farmers will visit it to get their plants registered. There illiterate farmers might get confused in filling up the application forms and a broker may take advantage of their helplessness. Hence I submit to the hon. Minister to make the mechanism of registration extremely simplified and convenient while considering over this provision of the draft Bill. There are many rich and educated farmers also who own big farmhouses. They have been growing and protecting a large varieties of plants there. Today when we talk about plants in context of bio-diversity and the medicinal plants, reference about these by farmers becomes pertinent to make for these farmers have been growing and protecting these costly plants in various herbal and gardens and nurseries. There is a possibility that these farmers may get these plants registered in their names. There are several such plants having great medicinal value which grow in our surroundings and even I can recongnise some of these plants though I don't know those by name. When even I cannot pronounce the botanical name of these plants, how can the illiterate farmers do so? To cite an example, such a plant grows in our region, the decoction of whose leaves immediately stops bleeding house over deep the wound may be. Not even a qualified doctor can check the blood flow so quickly. There is a great need for the protection of such invaluable plants and herbs.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a provision for organising orientation, programmes for creating awareness among the villagers about their sugar is also included in this Bill then it will go a long way in helping them to protect their traditional knowledge and rights.

Neem is famous for its medicinal properties all across the globe. It has been traditionally been used by the Ayurvedic practitioners and hakeems etc. as a medicine for the cure of various ailments and the Indians have always been fond of growing it. Similarly the peepal tree has also been venerated and worshipped through the ages whether or not the illiterate persons were aware of this thing that this tree release oxygen during day as well as night. They consider it as the abode of good for it contributes in the creation as well as in sustainability of life. I would also like to submit that many a rare medicinal plants and herbs have been mentioned in our traditional books, the shartras. Everyday is aware of the Sanjivini story in Ramayana. This Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Right Bill contains provisions for the protection of and registration for plants. I would like to submit for making it more transparent and accessible for everyone so that even an illiterate person may become aware of the provisions in it and able to protect his rights. With whatever little I know, I would like to say that India has a unique and such biodiversity in that it has rare varieties of plants which are nowhere to be found. So there is a need to develop a knowledge for the protection of such numerous plant varieties across the length and breadth of the country. If a provision to the effect of opening a college or university for plant protection is made in this Bill then the farmers may also contribute in the development of such knowledge through their traditional pool of knowledge besides being greatly benefited from it.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this bill. This bill has been brought to protect the interests of International and Monopolistic Seed Corporation. It is neither useful for the farmers nor for the country. This bill recognises the role of farmers as only a producer not as a market. It does not provide rights to the farmers to produce and sell the seeds. We need approx. 60 metric tonnes of seeds to cater to the requirement of the country. Out of it 15% seed is supplied through National Seed Corporation and State Seed Corporations. Rest 85% seeds are produced by the farmer himself. This bill has brought to deprive the farmers of this right. Now farmer will not be able to sell the seeds and earn profit.

Many multi-national companies are indulged in seeds production. Through this bill you have tried to keep a check on food system. Therefore, I oppose this bill. Our farmers protect the seeds. New seeds will encroach the rights of farmers. Therefore, before bringing this bill, it should have been discussed with the State Government. However, State Governments concurrence was not sought. Therefore, I oppose it. The bill envisages a grace period of 15 years to get the seeds patent. Providing such a long period would not be useful. It should be 12 years. Due to all these reasons. I oppose this bill. With the passage of this bill farmers would be deprived of their rights. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the contents of this bill can not be discussed just now. A joint Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sahib Singh to consider this bill. We worked together for almost 1 ½ years. I would like to draw your attention towards some important points of this bill. I would like to state something on dissent. You must have read in Economic Times that a Mumbai based company is producing a new seed under a new nomenclature. I was feeling the need of such news for quite sometime. This bill was essential but it got delayed.

I would like to talk about the dissent of this bill. The bill was presented in the House. A meeting WTO was held in Jeheva where the bill was strongly opposed. However, I would not go into that. Singh Sahib was the Chairman of the Committee concerning this bill. I am grateful to him. Several MPs were included in this Committee. We all worked together very well. At that time we have stated that the bill is being brought in the national interest. There is no pressure on the Government in this regard. This bill has been introduced because the Government had accepted the WTO agreement. We said to remove the TRIP because the pressure was mounted there only and it would be sue-generous. These days hi breeding is taking place. 47 countries including ours mentioned about the age of a tree which was then reduced from 18 to 15 years. They have fixed 18 years for the patent but our Government has fixed 12 years though we had stated 9 year at the time of registration. Registration and patent could be granted only if distinctiveness, novelty, uniformity and stability is there. We are of the view that uniformity should not be included in the bill. Multinational companies are entering our country. Poor farmers will prepare the seeds but the bidder chapter in the bill has been separated. I had stated not to include the uniformity because if multi-national companies set up their own forms, the poor and middle class farmers of our country will face difficulties.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, problems had arised in 1956 also when multi-national companies were not operating in our country. That's why I mentioned all the four things so that registration and then patent of seeds could take place. We are doing all this to save the upper part of the tree but we lost the real thing when we sign the WTO agreement. I request the Government to consider this issue. I have given a small amendment in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can move your amendment later.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Protection of Plant variety and Farmer's Rights bill. This bill is against the interests of the farmers. Therefore, I oppose this bill. The title of the bill is–The Protection of the Plant. I would like to know which plants are endangered and which plants need conservation and whether the rights which have not been provided to farmers so far are being discussed here. I would like to tell you that this bill is affecting the traditional and conventional right of farmers to Protect and Conserve the seeds. Therefore, their statement that they are protecting the rights of farmers seems contradictory. For ages, our farmers have been sowing their own seeds. They have been conserving them to use according to their needs. Now, a check is being imposed on this right of farmer. In spite of that, it is being stated that rights of the farmers are being protected. Therefore, I would like to say that the title of this bill should be Protection of Plant Breeders Rights Bill. It is not protecting the interests of farmers from any point of view. Through WTO multinational companies are trying to make

Shri Bal Krishan Chauhan]

the Government toe to their lines and want this law to be implemented for protecting their own interest. One of the bio-tech company, 'America Delta' company has invested 20 billion dollars in it. Seeds produced in this company gives 20% more crop in 1st year only. Thereafter, the quantum of crops goes down.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, seeds have an important place in food chain. Our food security can be endangered if foreign companies take seeds under their control. A country can not remain safe if its food security is not protected. We can see the example in the annals of history. During British regime, they had control on our farming. At that time, farmer had to take licence for cultivation. They were compelled to grow Tobacco, opium etc. to fulfil the colonial needs of Britishers. British rulers compelled our farmers to cultivate the crops as per their requirement. The same situation can be faced in near future. Multinational companies will get all rights regarding the seeds and farmers would be compelled to purchase the seeds on the company's dictated terms. Another aspect is that these seeds can not be sowed again. Therefore, if a farmer does not purchase seeds from one of these companies, that company may send him to jail or imposed fine on him.

I, therefore, request the Government to kindly reconsider this Bill and think over the interests of the farmers. The Government should look into history to continue with their old conventional practices. During the British regime, when they were responsible for enacting laws for agriculture and farmers, crores of people died of starvation and famine. They did like this. And now the multinational companies are going to benefit from the law of our country. Farmers are much more in number in India as compared to other countries of the world.

In other countries only one percent people are engaged in agriculture where as in our country 70 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture. Therefore, we should not play with their livelihood. The government should reconsider these aspects. The Government should reconsider it on the basis of agriculture and food security of the country and should not implement any law under pressure on the basis of TRIPPS under the WTO.

In the recent past, the Government had to introduce Bill in order to prevent the removal of quantitative restriction under the WTO. I request the Government that they should reconsider the matter so that it may not put our food security in danger and may not come again with a fresh Bill to curve those ill effects in future.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Madam, Chairman, fortunately your goodself is in the Chair and Meena Bahen ji is also present here. A woman has a different conscience. They have a lot of love and affection. A mother loves her child to her utmost, no matter how the child behaves. She has a conscience of mother. But Madam this bill has not been brought with good intention. Today farmers have become wise enough and even in my constituency they grow good variety of plants and export them. I do not understand as to what was the necessity to bring this Bill. I think the Government do not have any other work to do. Farmers are very much in distress, there are not good mandis in our country due to which the farmers do not get good price of their produce. Some areas are facing famine situation. There are not sources of irrigation, but no one thinks over these problems.

Hon. Madam, when I was MLA some foreign companies supplied varieties of plants to our state but none of the plants survived. I raised that issue in the legislative Assembly and those companies refund the money. I visited the Konkan region and noticed that some medicine is given to the farmers for good production of Mango fruits. Initially the medicine is sold at cheaper rates. but lateron it becomes very expensive. Now it has become necessity for the farmers to use that medicine without which there is no production of mangoes. So, this is all a false love and crocodile's tears for farmers. Our friends in the treasury benches often talk about Swadesh Jagaran. But there is a lot of difference in their preaching and practice. Farmers are wise enough, but they should be provided with the facilities and resources. Farmers of India are very firmly heading towards the path of progress, but they should be provided with facilities. A nursery is developed only through hard efforts of a farmer, they also do all other manual work, this labour of the farmer would go in vain if we go in for other sources. I, therefore, strongly oppose this Bill and wish to say that there is no need to introduce this Bill.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Madam, please allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Palanimanickam, the debate is over. You have come now and you are giving your name on the list.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Madam, I will take

one minute. It is a very important thing. I have a question to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question to the hon. Minister. I am calling the hon. Minister to give his reply.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI) : Madam, please allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I am sorry. I called your name twice. You were not in the House. I cannot keep going back to the list. Shri Palanimanickam, please ask your question.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Madam, I have gone through this Bill on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights. The Establishment Authority has nine members in which there is no representative of farmers. How can they protect the farmers rights? I want the hon. Minister to consider this aspect. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, the hon. Member has raised a very important point for your consideration.

Shri Prabodh Panda to speak now.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE) : Thank you Madam. You have called my name earlier. I am sorry that I was not here as I had to go to hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panda, you can just raise two or three points. The hon. Minister is about to reply. You were not in the House and I called other speakers in your place. So, you please raise whatever points you want to raise. There is no need for a detailed speech.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Yes, Madam. I would like to be very brief.

My point is that the JPC on this Bill did not serve the purpose. They made some amendments. I thank them for this. As per the amendments they cleared many things. There is one chapter for protection of the farmers in general which has been inserted there. I rise to oppose the Bill, even as amended because it did not serve the purpose. I think that agriculture is a State subject. So, before going to adopt the Resolution, the States should be taken into confidence and they should be asked to send their views. This is as per the federal structure of our constitution.

My second point is that it is said that the Bill has been made under international obligations. I think this is not required. The part or the wordings about 'international obligation' should be deleted.

My next point is that this Bill does not take into account the biodiversity of our country. I am of the opinion that the peasants and farmers in general are the main breeders and they breed thousands of varieties. This Bill will curtail their rights. It is not only that but we should also see the policy of the multi-national corporations. Through this Bill the multi-national corporations are getting entry and our food security will be jeopardised.

I oppose this Bill. I think this Bill should be referred to the States for seeking their views.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : Thank you Madam. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th December, 1999. Thereafter, the Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament (JPC) comprising of 20 Members from the Lok Sabha and 10 Members from the Rajya Sabha under the Chairmanship of Shri Sahib Singh. The Joint Committee presented its report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 25th August, 2000. The JPC visited 15 States and recorded oral evidence of representatives of farmers, experts, individuals etc. and received 132 memoranda containing suggestions.

16.00 hrs.

The Joint Committee have revised the Bill based on their extensive interaction with the representatives of farmers, experts, individuals etc., during their visit to various States.

The revised "Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000" provides prominence to protection of 'Farmers' Rights'. A separate chapter relating to 'Farmers' Rights' entitles a farmer the same level of protection as in the case of breeder if he has bred a new variety. Farmers' variety, like other extant varieties will also be entitled for protection. A farmer, who is engaged in conservation of genetic resources of land races, wild relatives etc., is also entitled for recognition and reward. The farmers' rights also include his traditional rights to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed or a variety, protected under this Act, with the exception that he will not be entitled to sell branded seed of a protected variety. There are other unique features like protection extended to farmers for innocent infringement and compensation to be given to farmers if the registered variety does not meet the promised level of performance under given conditions.

[Shri Shripad Yasso Naik]

The concept of Plant Breeders' Rights arises from the need to provide incentives to plant breeders engaged in the creative work of research which sustains agricultural progress through returns on investments made in research and to persuade the researcher to share the benefits of his creativity with society. A system of plant breeders' rights encourages better and mission-oriented research for development of varieties that are fully suited to a given agro-climatic region.

India has developed commendable strength in agricultural research. Indian breeders working mainly in the public research system have developed a large number of new varieties. In the absence of plant breeders' rights, these varieties would be freely available to others for exploitation. New varieties developed on the basis of these varieties could get protected in other countries without any benefit accruing to Indian institutions/ organisation, whereas the availability of varieties developed in countries which provide for plant breeders' rights would be restricted in India.

The objective of the proposed legislation is to give a significant thrust to agricultural growth by providing an effective system for the protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights which will stimulate investments for research and development both in the public and the private sectors for the development of new plant varieties by ensuring appropriate returns on such investment. It will also facilitate the growth of the seed industry in the country through domestic and foreign investment, which will ensure the availability of high quality seeds and planting material to Indian farmers. The proposed legislation recognises the role of farmers as cultivators and conservers and the contribution of traditional rural and tribal communities to the country's agro-biodiversity by rewarding them for their contribution through benefit sharing and protecting the traditional rights of farmers.

The debate has raised several important issues. I would like to reiterate that the Bill recognises the role of the farmer as breeder and conserver of varieties. The Bill protects the traditional knowledge and rights of farming and tribal communities and I wish to reassure you that we are finally committed to the interests of the farmer.

The present title "Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill" suggests that rights of breeders of plant varieties who are also seed producers are protected along with rights of farmers.

The revised Bill furnished by JPC incorporates representatives of SAU's besides representatives from Seed Industry, Tribal Organisation, National or State-level Women's Organisation and National or State-level Farmers' Organisation. Besides, the Chairman can appoint any committee, as may be needed, with experts from different fields.

Presently, clause 7 prescribes that the Chairman shall be the Chief Executive of the Authority and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed. Since Chairman in his capacity as Chief Executive of the Authority will be performing administrative nature of work, it was felt that the details of his functions may not be prescribed in the Act, which can be elaborated in the subordinate legislation.

In the original Bill of 1999, the appeals from Authority would directly go to High Court. However, in the revised Bill, provision of Tribunal having members with legal and technical experts has been provided. Appeals can be preferred to the Tribunal within the prescribed period, on any order or decision of the Authority or Registrar as prescribed in clause 56(1) of the Bill. However, in the course of natural justice, any decision of the Tribunal can be referred to the Supreme Court.

As the process of registration involves testing of variety for distinctiveness, uniformity and stability, the cost of seed may increase. However, this increase may not be substantial. Further, IPR to the breeder will encourage the seed industry to earmark extra funds for varietal development and breeding of new high-yielding varieties with other superior agronomic traits. In the long run, availability of quality seeds will be more... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Madam, we need clarification. The Minister seems to be in a great hurry to get over this. The Minister of Agriculture should come here. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your objection?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : If the Minister of Agriculture is in the other House, we have nothing to say. If he is not there, he has to come here. It is a very important Bill.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the Minister's maiden appearance as a Minister! Do not disturb him. Let him try to answer the points. He is answering your questions.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : This shows the attitude of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody has to make a start. He is replying to the questions. Be patient. Give him a little time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Madam, every party is represented in the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : The Minister is quite capable of defending himself. Why are you defending him? I am here. I am dealing with it.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : The Minister of Agriculture should come here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is also the Minister. You please listen to his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : The hon'ble Minister is giving a good reply, you must listen to him.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : You should let Hon'ble Minister complete his reply.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR) : The question is, it is a very important Bill and naturally we expect the hon. Minister of Agriculture to be here.

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : It is true that intensive breeding for uniformity and stability may lead to shrinking of plant bio-diversity. Therefore, in the proposed legislation provisions have been kept for encouraging and supporting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources including *in situ* and *ex situ* collections from the National Gene Fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This has come from the Committee. It was referred to the Committee and after detailed study it has come back to the House. All parties were there on the Committee.

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Madam, Shri Mahboob Zahedi has raised specific points relating to the need for mentioning the TRIPS Agreement in the Preamble of the Bill, period of protection and the need to redefine the criteria of protection. I would like to point out to Shri Zahedi that the need to mention TRIPS in the Preamble is essential for legal and constitutional reasons. The period of protection that is envisaged in the Bill has been acknowledged to be the minimum period all over the world. Forty-seven countries which have similar legislations, have the same period of protection - 18 years for trees and 15 years for crops. The criteria of protection in the Bill too are accepted all over the world.

Madam, I request that the House may consider the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000, as reviewed by the JPC with amendments proposed by my Ministry, and pass the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, if the House agrees, within 5-10 minutes we will pass this Bill. Then, we will go on to the next item, that is, Discussion under rule 193.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Right Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

Clause 2 - Definitions

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA) : I beg to move:

Page 2, -

omit line 3 (3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 3 moved by Shri Mahboob Zahedi to vote.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Amendment made :

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an Amendment by the hon. Minister.

Page 2, line 37, - *omit* "either" (14)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 - Establishment of Authority

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 2,- *for* "which" *substitute* "whom" (15)

"Page 5, lines 8 and 9,- *omit* "The allowances for non official members for attending the meeting as prescribed." (16)

Page 5, lines 25-26, - *omit* "at the meeting". (17)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6 - Officers and Employees of Authority

Amendment made :

Page 6, lines 6 and 7,–*for* "the scale of pay" *substitute* "salary" (18)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill

Clause 8 - General Functions of Authority

Amendment made:

Page 6, line 32,– *for* "ensure the maintenance of the National Register of plant variety" *substitute* "ensuring the maintenance of the Register". (19)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 15- Registrable Varieties

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are amendments no. 5 and 6 to clause 15 in the name of Shri Mahboob Zahedi.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : I am not moving the amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two Government amendments to this Clause.

Amendments made :

Page 8, line 6, *omit* "made by the Authority". (20)

Page 8, line 21, *for* "commonly known" *substitute* "common knowledge". (21)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to say that these amendments are all in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Committee. So, the Bill is being amended to that extent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17- Compulsory Plant Variety Denomination

Amendment made :

Page 9, line 28, *for* "provided" *substitute* "specified". (22)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 18- Form of Applicant

Amendment made :

Page 10, line 7, – *for* "application in such" *substitute* "application shall be in such". (23)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you may please be little bit more alert. You may have to move amendments.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, why the hon'ble Minister is in hurry? He should first rise and then speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speak little louder

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : I have spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many clauses.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Therefore I am saying trying to listen. There are 80 clauses in it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, you have to help the young Minister. He is a new and young Minister. You all have to be little bit patient.

...(Interruptions)

Clause 19 - Test to be conducted

Amendment made :

Page 10, line 25, *for* "under" *substitute* "referred to in". (24)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Clause 21 - Advertisement of Application

Amendment made :

Page 11, line 5,– *for* "on the" *substitute* "on any of the". (25)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 22 and 23 were added to the Bill.

Clause 24 - Issue of Certificate of Registration

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are amendments to Clause 24 moved by Shri Mahboob Zahedi and Shri Anil Basu which I presume they are not moving.

Amendment made :

Page 13, line 17,– *omit* "aggregate". (26)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 25 was added to the Bill.

Clause 26 - Determination of benefit sharing by Authority.

Amendments made :

"Page 13, line 33, – *for* "or non-governmental organisation" *substitute* "or firm or governmental or non-governmental organisation". (27)

"Page 13, – *after* line 35, - *insert* "Provided that such claim shall only be submitted by any -

(i) person or group of persons, if such person or every person constituting such group is a citizen of India; or

(ii) firm or governmental or non-governmental organisation, if such firm or organisation is formed or established in India" (28)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 and 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29 - Exclusion of certain varieties

Amendments made :

Page 16, line 9, – *for* "under sub-section (2) above" *substitute* "in sub-section (2)" (29)

Page 16, line 11, - *omit* "Including" (30)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Clause 31- Special Provisions relating to application for registration from citizens of convention countries

Amendment made :

Page 17, lines 3 and 4,– *for* "the last preceding sub-section" *substitute* "sub-section (2)". (31)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 31, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 32 and 33 were added to the Bill.

Clause 34 - Revocation of Protection on Certain grounds

Amendment made :

Page 18, line 6, – *omit* "provisions of" (32)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 34, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 35- Payment of annual fee and forfeiture of registration in default thereof

Amendment made :

Page 18, line 15, – *for* "and after" *substitute*, "by" (33)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 35, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 36 was added to the Bill.

Clause 37 - Correction of Register

Amendment made :

Page 19, line 2, - *for* "and any" *substitute* "and may" (34)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 38 was added to the Bill.

Clause 39 - Farmers' right

Amendments made :

Page 19, line 28, – *omit* "a farmer" (35)

Page 19, line 29, – *for* "Who" *substitute* "a farmer who" (36)

Page 19, Lines 31 and 32, – *for* "as specified in the Article 18(h)" *substitute* "if it contains declaration as specified in clause (h) of sub-section (1) of section 18" (37)

Page 19, line 33, – *for* "who" *substitute* "a farmer who" (38)

Page 19, line 39, - *for* "Shall" *substitute* "a farmer shall" (39)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 40 to 42 were added to the Bill.

Clause 43 - Authorisation of farmers' variety

Amendment made :

Page 21, line 8 and 9, – *for* "section 28 and sub-section (6) of section 23" *substitute* "sub-section (6) of section 23 and section 28". (40)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 43, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 44 was added to the Bill.

Clause 45 - Gene Fund

Amendment made :

Page 21, line 41, – for "other expenditures", *substitute* "expenditure". (41)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 45, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 45, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 46 was added to the Bill.

Clause 47- Power of Authority to make order For compulsory licence in certain circumstances

Amendment made :

Page 22, line 37, – *for* "such licence under sub-section (3) of section 29" *substitute* "the title of such application as licensee under subsection (4) of section 28". (42)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 47, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 48 to 54 were added to the Bill.

Clause 55 - Composition of Tribunal

Amendment made :

Page 24, line 9, – *omit* "this" (43)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 55, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 55, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 56 - Appeals to the Tribunal

Amendments made :

Page 24, line 38, – *for* "registration" *substitute* "order or decision of the Registrar relating to registration" (44)

Page 24, – *for* line 39, *substitute* "(c) order or decision of the Authority relating to claim for benefit sharing;" (45)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 56, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 56, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 57 was added to the Bill.

Clause 58 - Procedure of Tribunal

Amendments made :

Page 25, lines 18 to 20, – *omit* "the point shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority, if there is a majority, but if the members are equally divided," (46)

Page 25, line 32, – *for* "measuring" *substitute* "meaning". (47)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 58, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 58, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 59 to 61 were added to the Bill.

Clause 62- Budget, accounts and audit

Amendment made :

Page 26, line 36, – *for* "Auditor General" *substitute* "Auditor-General of India." (48)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 62, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 62, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 63 to 66 were added to the Bill.

Clause 67 - Opinion of Scientific Advisor

Amendment made :

Page 27, line 35. - *for* "enquire" *substitute* "inquire into" (49)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 67, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 67, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 68 to 70 were added to the Bill.

Clause 71 - Penalties for selling varieties to which not authorised or to which false denomination is applied etc.

Amendment made :

Page 29, line 2, – *for* "power" *substitute* "possession" (50)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 71, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 71, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 72 to 81 were added to the Bill.

Clause 82 - Evidence of entry in register, etc. And things done by the authority And the registrar.

Amendment made.

Page 31, line 46, *for* "Registrar or the Authority", substitute "Authority or Registrar" (51)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 82, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 82, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 83 to 87 were added to the Bill.

Clause 88 - Protection of action taken in good faith

Amendment made :

Page 32, line 28, – *for* "done in good faith", *substitute.* "in good faith done". (52)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 88, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 88, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 89 to 92 were added to the Bill.

Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 53 to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Committee. It was crystal clear that such a situation may arise. Then, why should the Minister come with an amendment at this stage? It was thoroughly examined by the Committee. What is the necessity for bringing an amendment in the procedure? It is an uncommon thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a technical requirement for the record and procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.53 to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an adoption of New Clause 92A. That is why this motion was brought before the House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But the Committee has not recommended this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, the hon. Member wants to know what this clause is about.

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Madam, this is about power of Central Government to give directions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all. There is no objection to that. You cannot object to it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : My argument is that they should have anticipated this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was left out. So, with due permission, he has introduced the amendment.

...(Interruptions)

New Clause 92A - Power of Central Government to give directions

Amendment made :

Page 32, *after* line 45, *insert* –

Power of Central Government to give directions.

"92A. The Central Government may give directions to the Authority as it may think necessary in the public interest for the execution of all or any of the functions of the Authority under any provisions of this Act or rules and regulations made thereunder." (53)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That new clause 92A be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New clause 92A was added to the Bill.

Clause 93 was added to the Bill.

Clause 94 - Power to make regulations

Amendments made :

Page 33, line 6, – *for* "of this Act", *Substitute* "matters, namely :-" (54)

Page 33, line 15, – *for* "of variety" *substitute* "to a plant variety" (55)

Page 33, line 23, – *omit* "to specify" (56)

Page 33, line 24, – *for* "under" *substitute* "to be specified under sub-section (1) of". (57)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 94, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 94, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 95 - Power of Central Government to make rules

Amendments made :

Page 33, line 38, *for* "under sub-section (7)" *substitute* "and the allowances for non-official members for attending the meeting under sub-section (8)". (58)

Page 33, line 46, *for* "scale of pay" *substitute* "salary" (59)

Page 34, *after* line 7, *insert* –

"(viia) the orders by the Authority or the Registrar as to cost under clause (b) of section 11;". (60)

Page 34, line 21, *for* "provision to section (1)" *substitute* "the proviso to clause (1) of sub-section (1)" (61)

Page 34, lines 24-25, *omit* "referred to in sub-section (1)," (62)

Page 34, – *for* lines 29 to 31, *substitute* "(xvii) the manner of giving notice and the fee payable therefor under sub-section (2) of section 21 :" (63)

Page 34, – *omit* lines 36 and 37. (64)

Page 35, *after* line 9, *insert* "(xxiva) the fee for review and renewal under sub-section (6) of section 24;" (65)

Page 35, – *omit* lines 17 and 18 (66)

Page 35, line 24, *for* "under" *substitute* "under the proviso to" (67)

Page 35, *for* lines 40-41, *substitute* "(xxxviii) the manner of issuing notice to registered breeder of a variety or his successor or to each registered agent or registered licensee (not being the applicant) under sub-section (10) of section 28;" (68)

Page 36, *after* line 21, *insert* "(lia) the manner of recognition and reward from Gene Fund under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 39;", (69)

Page 36, for lines 24 and 25, substitute "(liii) the manner of issuing notice and filing objection under sub-section (3) of section 41;

(liiia) the manner of receiving benefit sharing under clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 45;

(lib) the manner of applying Gene Fund under sub-section (2) of section 45;". (70)

Page 36, line 32, *for* "under", *substitute* "under sub-section (1) of, (71)

Page 36, *omit* lines 36 to 41 (72)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Such a big list of amendments has come from the Government. It is a very good way of doing it. If the entire draft Bill comes from the Government, then we will discuss the matter. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to compliment the Government for accepting all the amendments.

The question is :

"That clause 95, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 95, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 96 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 - Short title, extent and commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 6, – *for* "2000" *substitute* "2001" (13)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is .

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1, – *for* "Fifty-first Year" *substitute* "Fifty-second Year" (12)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Preamble was added to the Bill.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Such a big list of amendments has come from the Government side. Then, why has the new draft Bill been given by the Government? Our Standing Committee can discuss the matter again. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : All the amendments are from the Government side. The Government has adopted all the suggestions made by the Standing Committee. So, the number of amendments is big.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for having clarified it. I hope he will maintain the same respect for all the Reports of the Standing Committees. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : All the Reports of the Standing Committees are honoured io the extent of 99.99 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not listening to me. What can I do? In respect of Reports pertaining to legislations, we are honouring it to the extent of 99 per cent.

Long Title

Amendment made :

Page 1, – *for* "to encourage" *substitute* "and to encourage" (11)

(Shri Shripad Yasso Naik)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Long Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

The Long Title, as amended, was added to the Bill.

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

16.46 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of Life and Property due to Floods, Drought and other Natural Calamities in various parts of the country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (KORAPUT) : Chairman, I am thankful that I have been given an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party on the discussion on natural calamities under rule 193. Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards severe destruction caused by cyclone, foods and drought in the state of Orissa.

I feel that it is the destiny of Orissa to face famine, floods and cyclones. There is hardly any year when Orissa has not faced any natural calamity. One can, very well imagine the hardships being faced by the people of Orissa. The month of July has been an unfortunate month of flood for Orissa. But i is a matter of regret that the Union as well as the State Governments have not even thought it prudent to deliberate on some permanent measures to save the people of Orissa from natural calamities. Every year the Government take some short term measures at the time of any natural calamity. The poor and rural people of orissa are compelled to suffer the curse of these natural calamities without any solid support in a democratic set up such a condition of the people should have been viewed seriously by the Government, but this did not happen. The Government sits idle and waits for the next calamity to occur. Quick decisions has to be taken to fix the accountability for short sightedness and to pacify the natural anger of the people of Orissa. Despite the advancement in science and availability of latest sources of development, one cannot leave the people of Orissa to their destiny. Whether the people of Orissa do not have the right to have progress and prosperity. Whatever may have been the political equation of Orissa, but it is the basic right of its citizen to ask for sufficient help from the union as well as the State Government.

16.49 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

The details of areas affected by the severe flood and damage caused as on 4th August, 2001 is like this – the 24 districts affected by the floods are – Koraput, Angul, Baleshwar, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Bauddha, Katak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharasuguda, Kalahandi, Kendrapada, Nayagarh, Naupada, Puri, Raigada, Sambalpur, Sonpur and Sundergarh. 216 blocks, 41 urban areas, 2700 Gram Panchayats and 18608 villages are affected by the floods.

Out of 3 crore 87 lakh population of the State, around one crore people have been affected by the floods and hundreds of people have also died. Thousands of domestic animals have been killed. The crops, worth Rs. 6200 lakhs and 9 lakh hectares of land has been ruined. 2,50,615 houses have been damaged. Upto the month of July, 504 mm of rain was recorded in the State which was 40% of the total rainfall of the State during 4 months of monsoon.

The State Government had declared a red alert on 16th July, 2001, but the problem of flood remains unchanged for the last 30 days. Besides, very meagre amount has been provided as relief fund and due to insufficient relief measures people are facing many problems, like cholera, malaria and snake-scorpion bites. In Kendrapada district two people fell victim of crocodile. It is evident from the occurrence of so many deaths that the disaster management has failed in the State.

The assistance of 430 crore rupees, which the hon'ble P.M. has declared after his aerial survey, is not sufficient.

According to the assessment of the State Government, there is a need to give assistance worth Rs.15,000 crore by the centre, besides own resources of the State.

I would like to mention about the losses caused by flood in Koraput district which is my parliamentary constituency. In the hills and terai region of Koraput, landslides occur frequently and the plains face the problem of drought and floods every year. This time 14 blocks, 3 urban local areas, 122 village panchayat areas and 560 villages have been badly affected by the floods. In Koraput, around 26182 people are facing various problems and struggling for life. The crops in 7536 hectares of land have been ruined due to silt and 2505 houses have been damaged. So far the State Government have given only Rs.17 lakhs from Central Relief Fund. It cannot be ignored that in this district around 10 people and 1400 animals have died. According to my assessment, Koraput district alone needs an immediate assistance of Rs.20 crore. Besides this, in the past also the State and Central Government both have neglected tribal majority districts like Koraput. Today there is an urgent

need to construct 5,000 houses under Indira Awas Yojana which should be treated separately from the houses proposed to be constructed under Indira Awas Yojana during the financial year 2001-2002.

I would like to make some suggestions in order to deal with the problems of floods, drought and cyclone before concluding my speech.

The Disaster Management Authority has been set up only at State level. I feel that this Authority needs to be set up at the district level also, besides state level.

The Central Government in co-operation with the State Administration should monitor the work relating to rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. For this purpose, separate central resources will have to be mobilized. Funds should be earmarked in advance before October, 2001 for the above four areas. This has to be done because Orissa faces cyclone generally during October-November.

Flood can also be checked by constructing barrages on the small rivers flowing from Hirakund Dam to Cuttack. For this purpose, funds should be provided by the end of next year.

Dredging operation should be started under the Coastal Area Development programme so that the people could get relief from water-logging which takes place in the area of 200 kms, the State and Central Government tried this during last cyclone.

In order to avoid the problem of water logging in Cuttack, Sambhalpur, Jharsuguda and Jajpur cities, arrangements should be made to link the rivers to the sea by adopting modern scientific system under a time bound programme of six months. If it is not done the very existence of these cities will be in danger. If we do not solve these problems in time, then we will have to repent over these in the coming years.

Topographically we can divide Orissa into three parts on the basis of the natural calamities which occur there every year namely coastal belt, South Orissa and West Orissa. These three parts should be given separate packages because the people of South and West Orissa are affected due to floods while the people in coastal areas suffer due to water logging and not due to floods. If the sand dunes between the sea and the rivers in coastal belt is removed then the rivers may directly fall into the sea and the coastal belt may be freed from water logging due to floods.

The State administration should set up a new department and provide it all necessary resources so as to accelerate the pace of rescue, relief and rehabilitation work. Simultaneously, adequate training should also be imparted to the personnel so as to cope up with such calamities.

The Central Government should provide all scientific devices and information to the Disaster Management Authority.

The Central Government should also provide necessary basic facilities to the Disaster Management Authority for these works before the end of 2001.

17.00 hrs.

Finally, Orissa should be given the status of a Special Category State. I hope the Central Government would act to provide maximum assistance and all facilities to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in Orissa

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday evening after conclusion of Shri S. Bangarappa's speech my name was to be called. Today what went wrong that I have not been given opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no problem. You will also get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday it was clearly said that my name will be called first.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. I have called Shri Bikram Keshari Deo.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words regarding the flood and drought situation and other natural calamities affecting our country today.

I would like to start with floods because currently floods are ravaging the country right from the planes of Bihar to the States of Orissa. In Kerala also there are floods. Therefore, there is a need for emergent mitigation of the hardships. I would like to stress upon the flood situation in the discussion. As it is obvious that the annual precipitation including snowfall is about four thousand billion cubic meters in the country. Out of that, 80 per cent is from seasonal rainfall from the South-West monsoon and 20

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

per cent is from the North-East monsoon between June and September.

It is seen that the major cause for the floods, which are today affecting the countryside, is that the riverbed has risen. The volume of water which used to be held 50 years back cannot be held now because the water beds have risen and the banks are overflowing. Here, I would like to mention that today we are discussing about floods, though floods were discussed in this august House in the year 1954.

In September 1954, the Union Minister of Planning, Irrigation and Power placed two statements before the Parliament regarding 'Floods in India, Problems and Remedies' and 'Floods in the Country'. This was the first national policy to be formulated for floods. After that, it is seen that this policy projected a three-phased programme to mitigate floods. The first was immediate and emergent measures which could be taken to save the flood affected areas and flood affected victims. The second was short-term measures and the third was long-term measures. But it was seen, when the assessment was made later on that these measures were not implemented.

I have been hearing from the Opposition Benches for the last one-and-a-half day putting all the blame on the present Government, that the Government is not able to meet the flood situation in the country. But I would like to ask them, before this Government came to power, previously there were other Governments also. In a Government report, it has been stated that the Government's could not contain and could not meet the problems which were projected in the report.

Therefore, Sir, they had failed completely to mitigate the sufferings of the people caused due to floods. When an assessment was made in 1967. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly be brief. There are several Members who want to speak on this.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, our State has been very badly affected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. Please be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : Sir, Kalahandi had floods for the first time over the last 50 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Then, *Rashtriya Barh Ayog* was formed in July, 1976. It had submitted its Report in 1980. This Report had 207 recommendations to be implemented by the Department concerned. I am very sorry to state here that when the next Report was placed, only 25 recommendations out of 207 recommendations were implemented. Now, flood is affecting rural masses very severely and the situation has become very grave because these recommendations were not implemented by the previous Governments.

Considering all these, the Government then decided to form a Working Group on floods. It is a very shameful matter that nobody could ever take floods seriously in the country. Today, our Government is trying to do something for the people. The hon. Prime Minister went to Orissa and announced a sum of Rs. 435 crore to mitigate the sufferings of the people due to floods. We thank him for that. Also, the people in Bihar have been affected by floods. We also feel sorry for them. The people of North Bihar and Uttar Pradesh should understand that whatever recommendations and reports given by the Committees and Sub-Committees, which were formed to mitigate the problems due to floods, were not carried out properly. That is why, Bihar has been subjected to floods every year.

According to the findings of one of the Committees, it has been estimated that 40 million hectares in the country are being affected by floods practically every year. So, allocation in the Budget should be made accordingly. Today, the total allocation in the Budget for the Ministry of Water Resources or for the concerned Department comes to about five per cent only. If you add flood relief, then it compounds to eight per cent. Therefore, I request the Government to allocate ten per cent of the total outlay in the Budget itself. If it is done, then the problems relating to floods can be solved to a great extent.

Sir, in 1987, a Committee for UP, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa was formed. They also did nothing. They just gave their Reports, which were not properly carried out. Then, an expert committee for prevention of erosion in the Ganga was formed. Murshidabad and Malda districts in West Bengal were severely affected. In 1996, an expert committee was set up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, you are not giving me time. I have to speak about drought also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Earlier itself I had requested you to speak in brief.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Our area is affected by flood.

[English]

Please give me more time. We are getting an opportunity to ventilate the feelings of the poor people of Kalahandi. If we do not ventilate their feelings, people will not be happy with our performance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please be brief.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I am speaking in brief only.

[English]

The Centre has gone out and helped the people of West Bengal, especially, Maldah and Murshidabad area people, by giving 75 per cent allocation from the Central pool. Twenty-five per cent is supposed to be given from the State pool. But I am sorry to state that this money is also not being properly given by the State Government there. They are unable to implement that. The Centre is ready to help.

Sir, I do not think you will give me much time. Then, there is the Brahmaputra Board. Master plans have been made for the Brahmaputra flood control. Master Plan II has been made for the Barak River consisting of 49 tributaries. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are another 30 names.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : These schemes are not properly implemented. Reports are piled up in the State Governments. But there has to be an *Iccha Shakti.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Please give me just two minutes more.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that Kalahandi in Orissa has been severely affected by floods. My good friend, Shri Trilochan Kanungo has already mentioned about Kalahandi. We have had a rainfall which we never had for the last 50 years. Today that district has been completely devastated along with coastal districts of Orissa, namely Kendrapara, Cuttack and all those districts. But until long-term measures are taken, these things will continue.

Sir, I am going to conclude within a minute.

Now, I want to talk about drought. As you know, parts of Western Orissa, parts of Madhya Pradesh, parts of your district, parts of Maharashtra, parts of Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh are reeling under severe drought conditions. So, to mitigate this, the Government has to take steps. Long-term measures have to be taken. Dams have to be built. More irrigation potentials have to be given. Re-charging of groundwater has to be done because there has been a severe depletion of groundwater. So, all these measures have to be taken on a war-footing. Then only, we could mitigate these problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I am going to conclude. This is the last minute I am taking.

Natural calamity has been a big drain on our country's resources. So, all the heads should get together and formulate some types of policy. If required, a Commission should be formed. As some of the Members have said, like the Election Commission, a Natural Calamities Commission should be constituted by which that money could be properly utilised and could reach the poor people.

I have got a lot of points to say. A lot of points are there. The problem of cyclone is there. Then, there is hailstorm. I am prepared for that.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You tell these things to hon'ble Minister personally.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : All right. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing an important issue of damage to life and property due to flood, droughts and other natural calamities in various parts of the country under rule 193. Natural calamities such as flood or drought etc. affect all

[Kumari Mayawati]

sections of the society but the poor are most severely affected. Besides, the farmers also are adversely affected. They have to restart their lives and experience a lot of difficulties.

Under such a condition, helping the affected populace by all means is the joint responsibility of the Union and the State Government and a joint endeavour should continue every year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every year, one or the other part of the country experiences either flood, drought or other natural calamities. This year, a large area of our country has been affected by floods. It happens nearly every year. As per the Government figures, 335.16 lakh hectare area was affected by flood but I am afraid, area actually affected is larger. The most affected region includes the states of Orissa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. Even Uttar Pradesh has not remained untouched. The Purvanchal area, bordering Nepal from one side and Bihar from the other, is the most affected. This area experiences flood every year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the western part of Uttar Pradesh is under the grip of severe flood for the last three-four days. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the districts, especially of Meerut, Bijnor and Moradabad where devastation by floods is more severe. Even in these districts, the villages located on the banks of river Ganga are totally inundated. They are in bad condition. Floods have occurred in many parts of the country. The Purvanchal and western part of Uttar Pradesh are most affected. Therefore, the Government should be more concerned about this area. Hon. Minister of Agriculture who has just assumed his charge belongs to western Uttar Pradesh. I want to submit that once a person assumes a post of responsibility, he should be concerned about the whole country. Since he comes from western Uttar Pradesh, he may have special attachment with that area. I request that the whole flood affected parts of the country including western Uttar Pradesh need to be provided funds to tackle floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every year, the flood affected populace is provided relief by the Union Government. I request that relief work in flood affected areas should be undertaken expeditiously by the Government and funds should be made available to the maximum extend possible. Assistance provided on behalf of the Union Government is meagre as compared to actual damage caused by flood, drought and other natural calamities. Therefore, I request the Union Government to find out ways and means to provide maximum funds to flood affected areas. Besides, I also request hon. Minister to send a central team to correctly assess the damage and provide assistance to flood victims accordingly. We should rise above party politics in the matter of helping victims of flood, drought and other natural calamities. Union Government should not think of providing assistance to states where their own party is in Government and not helping the opposition ruled states. At the time of calamity, Government should not discriminate. Centre needs to intervene in the event of flood, drought or other natural calamities. Utilization of funds is not properly monitored. No assessment is done whether the affected people are getting the assistance amount or not. During the earthquake of Gujarat, several complaints were received that the really needy persons were not getting the assistance. It happens everywhere - be it in Orissa or other states. With the connivance of bureaucrats and politicians, the local politics reign supreme in relief work and the innocent victims suffer great difficulties. In view of this, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to extend all possible assistance for the sake of humanity by rising above party lines. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for two days we have been discussing a serious issue. We are elected to the House to resolve the humanitarian issues and to discuss all issues–whether internal or external. Every year, during the winter session, we discuss the issue and all Members express their concern over it. But we have not been able to solve those problems even though 53 years have passed since independence. The country has seen a number of revolutionary Agriculture Ministers and Irrigation Ministers and the present Agriculture Minister is a person whose family commands highest respect throughout the world. I trust that this year we would make serious efforts to solve the problem besides holding discussions and delivering speeches. We play politics, make speeches in the House and win elections but the people, who elect us, on whom we base our politics, for whom we express concern, their problems have not been solved even when 53 years have passed. The Member of the House, be they of the earlier House or of the present one, do not reach a conclusion but delve in discussion based on parties and personalities and thus goes our politics.

We are not able to make progress. Several states of the country such as, Bihar, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat have suffered due to natural

calamities. They have become victims of it. But Bihar is a state where people die of natural calamities as well as of man-made calamities. My Parliamentary Constituency borders both Nepal and Bangladesh. I represent Purnea. The border of Nepal is at 40 kms distance and that of Bangaldesh is at 60 kms. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may well understand that the people of Bihar have to experience natural calamities of Nepal before independence and after it. People are living there at the mercy of God. It was being discussed here that Orissa is getting Rs. 400 crore. I believe that we should not object even if Orissa gets more than Rs. 400 crore and if there is a need, other states should also come forward with their shares for the people of Orissa. It is my feeling. The State to which I belong, also experiences natural calamities.

I feel that illiteracy is one of the main reasons but there are scientific reasons behind these natural calamities. The hon'ble Minister will say that these are not natural calamities. Every year, crores of people of Gopalganj, Sitamarhi, Mujaffarpur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Purnea, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Moghyre, Samastipur, Madhepura, Araria and Kishanganj of Bihar state fall victims of flood. Last time also I made a submission on this issue. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present in the House. I would like to make some suggestions. The Treaty made with Nepal and Bhutan should translated into action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is an important issue. You are making good points but other hon'ble Members are also there to speak. Please make your submission brief.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, Bihar Irrigation Commission was constituted in 1991 which was headed by a State Minister of Bihar itself.

He had given a report in 1993 that even 5 percent of the proposed flood prevention work could not be taken up in Bihar. Bihar suffers a loss to the tune of Rs. 2000 crore every year. At the time of election in 1998, Bihar was in the grip of flood, due to which the date of election for Bhagalpur and Purnea was extended by a month. Both these areas suffered loss of Rs. 140 crore, out of it loss of Rs.136 crore was suffered by Bhagalpur alone. The time of election was extended in Bhagalpur and Purnea only and not in any other part in the country but so far no central or State assistance has been provided for this purpose. The problem cannot be solved only by pondering over the matter as to how we can sign a treaty with Nepal. A long debate could be held on the report which was an issue of hot discussion for Karpoori Thakurji and the leader of the country, Choudhary Charan Singh. We can say that such incidents are taking place because the Government of India is not entering into any agreement with Nepal. Hon'ble Minister, there is a solution to this problem. As dams should be constructed for that purpose. It may be said that thousands of villages will be washed away if dams breaks. It has been reported in the intelligence report. I feel that this is not correct. We should take a decision before constructing the dams that it will last for 100 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, I am not delivering any speech here. I would like to say that life of this dam will be 100 years. But arrangements should be made for de-siltation every year so that the dam does not break all of a sudden by the pressure of water. We can also construct small dams in low lying areas. Then waters of Kamala Balan, Ganga or Burhi Gandak rivers can be diverted to Southern Bihar for irrigating the area by Lift Irrigation system. If dam is constructed in dry area of Southern Bihar and water is stored there, that area can get irrigation facility round the year. The quality of land in Bihar is better than not only other states but other countries of the world. Even then poverty and starvation in Bihar is unprecedented. Perhaps such a situation does not prevail in any other part of the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

Yesterday it was stated that hon'ble Prime Minister made an aerial survey of the area from the helicopter. Raghuvansh Babu is not present here. I do not want to level allegations and counter allegations. There is a need for thousand crores of rupees for Bihar. Lalooji was king maker during the tenure of Prime Minister Shri Devegowda, Shri Gujral and Shri V.P. Singh. I would like to tell the House that Gujralji was a Member of Rajya Sabha elected from Bihar and he waived of loan of farmers of Punjab. Had Lalooji ever asked for a rupee for Bihar. He only demanded that cases against him should be dropped. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now your speech will not go on record.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Till date the Chief Minister of Bihar did not come to the Union Minister of Agriculture. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken for 15 minutes. There is a time limit.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : No matter, whether Lalooji was the Chief Minister of Bihar or Rabri Deviji, but after 1990 no Chief Minister of Bihar ever met hon'ble Prime Minister for raising the issue of power projects. Why Devegowdaji did not take up this issue with Nepal when he was the Prime Minister. Here in this House he would go on blaming the Government that Bihar is getting step motherly treatment but what he himself did, Karnataka was given a special package but the king maker was not able to take a single rupee for Bihar. Hon'ble V.P. Singh was made the Prime Minister, then why he did not take up the issue of flood with Nepal. It is an irony that I come from Bihar. I request the Union Government not to make any discrimination against eight crore people of Bihar for the fault of one person. One person may be responsible for injustice and ruining Bihar but the eight crore people of Bihar are not at fault. I request the Union Government that if it is not possible to construct small or big dams, the river should at least be broadened. It is essential to take the sand out of rivers annually and permanent arrangements should be made for this purpose. I feel that flood problem of Bihar can be solved by diverting the water of rivers to fields through small canals.

This time sixty people died there. Every year people are killed in firing. Bihar not only faces the fury of flood and drought but also suffers communal violence and terrorist violence. People of Bihar face natural calamities on the one hand and human cruelty on the other. The incident of firing took place there and attention should be paid towards such incidents. Compensation and loan should be paid to affected persons. It will be a good thing if we do politics for the development of the country in this House but at the same time we should also do politics for the people, who elect us. Therefore, a package should be given for Bihar and Rs.50 thousand crore should be given to Bihar to fulfil the dreams of Choudhary Charan Singh. Choudharyji had more love for Bihar than Uttar Pradesh. The lives of eight crore people of Bihar is now in the hands of hon'ble Minister of Irrigation and you. I beg this package for Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR) : Sir, Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. I do not want to go into the detail of it because more or less, everyday we have been discussing this same subject. Last year, on 31.11.2000, a discussion was held on the same subject, and I took part in that debate. During my speech, I had said, how the cyclone had hit and damaged our State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. Kindly allow Shri A. Krishnaswamy to deliver his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappu Yadavji, your speech is not going on record. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)***

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : This time, I am participating in this discussion due to the drought situation prevailing in our State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. What is this? Nothing is going on record. This is too much.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech is not going on record. Then what is the purpose of speaking in this manner.

*(Interruptions)***

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Krishnaswamy may continue now.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, last year also on 30.11.2000, we had the same discussion. Every year, we have floods in some parts of the country and drought in some other parts and we also discuss about that and give our suggestions. But I do not know what sort of development or what precautionary steps are being taken by the Minister.

India is a vast nation. One part of the nation is affected

* Not recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

by flood every year and another part is affected by drought. Every year we are discussing the same subject and we are giving valuable suggestions as to how to have flood management. When the Government is nationalising everything, why should they not nationalise the rivers?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I will be allowed to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be allowed to speak. Please wait.

[English]

It is not fair

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : The rivers in the northern States are fully wet and those in the southern States are fully dry. This year, the States of U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Kerala, etc. are affected by heavy floods and our State of Tamil Nadu is affected by drought due to failure of monsoon.

India is a vast nation. One part of the nation is affected by flood every year and another part is affected by drought. Every year we are discussing the same subject and we are giving valuable suggestions as to how to have flood management. In our State, there is scarcity of water. We do not get water even to drink.

In one of the Committee tours, I visited some parts of Himachal Pradesh. I saw that the rivers were full of water.

17.44 hrs.

(SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL in the Chair)

The State of Himachal Pradesh is utilising water for hydro power projects. But unfortunately, we in the southern States do not even get water. Our long-pending demand is to link Ganga and Cauvery. I would like to make a request to the hon. Human Resource Minister regarding this. When the Minister of Information and Technology is able to link everything through satellite, why is the Minister of Water Resources not able to link those two rivers? Even though it requires a huge expense, he must link those two rivers; then only, the flow of water will be balanced throughout the nation.

All the rivers must be nationalised, then only we can utilise the water equally.

Regarding flood management, the Delhi University scientists have given certain valuable suggestions to the Government. Those valuable suggestions should be adopted. We should manage the flood according to that. Instead of every year spending money on flood, we have to plan beforehand to control and manage the flood.

In our State, day before yesterday, 27 innocent persons suffering from mental disorder died in a fire accident in Erwady, Tamil Nadu. Our beloved leader, Dr. Karunanidhi condemned this incident. I would say that such incidents also should be treated as natural calamity. Last year there was an earthquake in Gujarat. To overcome this natural calamity a Committee was formed which visited the affected areas to decide about the financial assistance to be given to the State. On the similar lines, the Water Resources Minister could also form a Committee comprising of the Members of Parliament. A team of MPs can go to the flood affected areas and can suggest the relief fund to be given to a particular area.

Our hon. Prime Minister has increased the MPLAD fund to Rs. 2 crore. Last time when our area was affected we could not spend money. The relief given under the Natural Calamity Relief Fund may be allotted to the MPs also. It will be very useful for us when we are trying to develop our constituency. In my district, people are suffering without drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not talking to the point. Please speak to the point and conclude.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : I had requested the Minister of Water Resources to allot some fund through Central Government Water Board to dig borewells all over the State of Tamil Nadu, particularly in my constituency. This will be of great use to us.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (ICHALKARANJI) Hon. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on the flood and drought has been going on here since yesterday and I listened to it carefully. Extensive damage to life and property has been caused in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. In south, lots of problems are being faced by the people in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa due to drought. There is good rainfall every year in the parliamentary constituency Itchalkaranji from where I hail. However last year it was very scanty and this year also whatever rainfall took place, it was upto 15th June only and thereafter there has been no rainfall.

[Shrimati Nivedita Mane]

Hence the problem of drinking water has arose in rural as well as urban areas. Maharashtra Government have started the works like borewelling, installation of hand pumps and loging down of pipes for temporary water supply in addition to supplying water through water tankers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 23,954 villages of the 26 districts out of the total of 35 districts in Maharashtra have come into the grip of famine. About 55 per cent of villages and 41 per cent people i.e. 4 crore fifty lakhs population of the state have fallen victim of drought. The crop of 45 lakh hectares of land has been destroyed. There has been no rainfall anywhere else except Parbhani and Hingoli of Aurangabad anywhere. Hence the Maharashtra Government have declared 23954 villages famine stricken.

Thousands of people are working under the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Maharashtra Government have spent Rs. 700 crore during the last six months under this scheme. I would like to submit that the Government of India should allocate at least Rs. 500 crore in it. It is a as small a demand as a drop in the ocean. The lives of many a people and livestock are under the constant danger for want of foodgrains and fodder. Until the rabi crop is harvested the people in most of the departments in Maharashtra should be covered under the food for work programme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to industrial recession many people in urban areas have lost their source of livelihood and the people in famine struck rural areas also are not getting any work. Hence people are migrating to cities and problems in cities is increasing.

Many looms, auto looms and mills have been closed down owing to recession in textiles industry. I want to bring it to the notice of hon. Minister of Textiles who is present here. The textile workers have been rendered jobless and they are in a nowhere situation today. I would like to bring their plight to the notice of the government and I would like to submit that the sick units should be revived and the workers rehabilitated by providing job opportunities to them in the cities itself. The people who have migrated to cities are willing to move back to their villages for the urban dwellers are moving towards the villages owing to the closure of mills in the cities. You must pay attention to provide employment to them in the cities.

Sir, I am the daughter of a farmer, hence I can easily understand the plight and sufferings of the farmers. A news item with a photograph illustrating it was published in one of the newspapers of Maharashtra wherein the picture of a poor farmer was given and was titled as debtridden farmer living a life of a misery. A farmer needs two bullocks for any agricultural activity to put any equipment to use, however the above-mentioned farmer had engaged his wife in place of another bullock for he did not have money to purchase another bullock or hire the services of a bullock. It was a very heartrending scene. Such is the miserable condition of the farmers in Maharashtra and I want to draw the attention of the government towards it. Hence, through you, I would like to submit to the government that it should immediately release funds for the drought affected areas of Maharashtra.

With these words, I conclude by thanking you once again.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really unfortunate that we have to hold discussion under Rule 193 every year during the monsoon session about loss to life and property due to floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

Sir, I was happy over the way Shri Pappu Yadav expressed his viewpoint. He did not confine himself to the issue of modus operandi of providing relief, rather he suggested to find out a permanent solution of this problem. We have been the witness to the natural calamities striking our country for the last 53 years. While I had not been associated with politics especially of Bihar, I was under the impression that only one crop in a year was grown in North Bihar. However, when I visited Bihar in the last two years, I found that two crops are taken every year in Bihar. One crop i.e. crop is gulped by the officers. Everyday it is reported in newspapers as to how the poor are being distributed lesser quantity of food grains under PDS than the normal fixed for them. I fully agree with what Pappu ji has said about Bihar. The story of relief will go on unhindered if the existing condition persists. If we don't think for evolving permanent solution for our problems then we will continue to face these problems of floods etc. and nobody will take care of us. I would like to give some figures about Bihar though I don't believe in them for these don't offer solutions.

The length of bankments along rivers of Bihar was 160 kilometers in 1952 which has increased to 3465 kilometers at present. More than Rs. 800 crore were provided as relief during this period. Consequently the flood affected area increased from 25 lakh hectares in 1954 to 68.8 lakh hectares today. It is difficult to understand as to what kind of bankments and dams were constructed.

No scientific research or effort was involved as far as this sector was concerned and everyone acted at his own will. Now the same set of persons who were making merry during the 40 years regime of previous government are doing so with the present government running for the last ten years. I do not want to level charge but I would like to ask as to why the work was not done on a scientific manner. How is it that only 25 lakh hectares of land used to be inundated in 1952 when the length of the bankment was only 160 kilometres and now when the length of the bankment has been increased to 3465 kilometers, an area of 68.8 lakh hectares is getting inundated? If the same situation continues for 53 years then in land area of 170 lakh hectars will be inundated. It has been mentioned in the report of committee in Agriculture that 87 per cent land is cultivable out of which 75 per cent remains inundated. This session will come to an end on 31st August, but the menace of flood would continue in North Bihar till December. We have heard that the water level of river Ganges has started increasing. The rivers originating from Nepal bring huge quantities of soil with them. As regards old embankments, I would cite an example. There is a village called Nirmali.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a ring-dam that has been constructed around village Nirmali has saved the village. But now the situation is that may be today, or tomorrow, or next year, Village Nirmali will definitely be submerged under water and the people there will lose their lives, but it is ironical that no one, till date, has made efforts to check the silting process there. Everybody is pursing an unthinking imitation. And that is why it is the need of the hour that all persons should collectively make a request to the hon. Minister to find some scientific solution to the problem instead of giving temporary relief and should work in the direction of checking accumulation of silt as also flood in that area. As assistance of Rs. 387 crore has been asked for by the state Government of Bihar for making good the damage and destruction caused by floods in the state. I wish that the said amount may kindly be given, but at the same time I also hope that the hon. Minister would kindly tell us in the next session as to what initiative, or efforts have been made on scientific basis to check the menace of floods as also what has been the outcome thereof.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the year I was contesting the elections, it was the time of the onset of monsoon. I still remember those days when, I was moving from village to village on boat, begging for votes with folded hands, and the scene that appeared before me was so pitiful which cannot be described here. There were a few villages which had just one or two pucca houses, whereas all slums were submerged in water. People were defecating on roofs of their houses. I cannot describe the sufferings of those people. Similarly, when I was going to Hayaghat towards Jatmalpur, I saw a group of people in a village, carrying a dead body on a boat which had to be burnt in the midst of the road, in a dry place. Therefore, today there is no need to provide temporary relief, but to tackle and check such a situation that cause floods and that too on scientific basis. There is a dire need to get rid of the menace of flood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree to the viewpoint of pappu ji. The Himalayas stand as a young mountain for us even today. If we compare the Himalayas with the Alps or the Aravali range, we would find that it is still more young even after thousands of years. In Nepal, due to indiscriminate felling of trees the soil, as also the weak sedimentary rocks erode and flow with the water in the plain areas of Bihar. The level of all rivers – Koshi, Kamla, Balan, Bagmati, or Boodhi Gandak – is touching the ground level.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to relate you something that I have witnessed with my own eyes. There is a place called Kusheshwar in Bihar. 20 years back, heavy downpour took place there which led to a massive flow of water. It caused floods and water accumulation in a low lying land called 'chour'. The water did never drain out. Today Kusheshwar is considered as one of the best bird sanctuaries of the world. A Japanese team went there and the team was so impressed that it asked the Government to provide a watch tower there and the team would develop the area by constructing roads etc. there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to inform the august House that we have to finish this discussion today, and 18 hon. Members are left to speak, and so, the time of the House may be extended till the summing up this matter. Does the House agree to it?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the consent of the House the time of the House is being extended till the end of discussion on this matter.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this place holds an important place amongst the best bird sanctuaries of the world. I extend my thanks to you for having given me a chance to speak and hope that all the hon. Ministers of this House would collectively make a request to the hon. Minister for combating with the menace of floods and famine on, scientific basis and a discussion could be held

[Shri Kirti Jha Azad]

on this topic in the coming session, so that the hon. Minister could tell us about the efforts as also the results of such efforts taken for resolving the curses of flood and famine. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET) : Sir, after joining the Lok Sabha, this is my third deliberation or speech on natural calamities. Every time, I am seeing a different Minister of Agriculture who is in charge of it. Somehow or the other, the Ministry of Agriculture is one of the important Ministries in the Central Government. People like Shri Jagjivan Ram and Shri C. Subramaniam held that portfolio. But now it seems that people are running away from that portfolio. They prefer Railways and some other portfolios. Why I am telling is that this Government is showing this type of scant concern as regards agriculture, particularly in respect of a country like India. This Ministry is looking into important aspects of natural calamities etc.

The worst world disaster occurred between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn which is inhabited by the poor countries like ours. We are in that global margin. More than 90 per cent of the victims of natural calamities belong to Asia and Africa. Africa accounts for 50 per cent and Asia accounts for 40 per cent. Most of the Asian disasters are floods and droughts. We are witnessing devastating earthquakes, floods and cyclones. You will be surprised to know that during 1953-55, the loss due to floods was to the extent of Rs. 9720 million. This has become a regular feature in the country. And also, the discussion in Parliament has become a regular feature. But, so far as I know, either the Centre or the State has done nothing to redress the grievances of the sufferers.

Yesterday, I was keenly observing the debate. Some of the hon. Members suggested that an institution like the Election Commission should be set up to handle disaster. This is what I was telling the State and the Centre that a Disaster Management Authority, not an institution like the Election Commission, should be set up. It should be an independent body headed by somebody who should be, independent, judicious in deciding matters. It should organise relief operation whenever it is necessary. The Authority should have power in respect of drafting the State Government employees and the Defence personnel. Today, I heard that Bihar is being neglected. All the hon. Members from Bihar are accusing the Government in this regard. It has been said that Orissa was favoured. That is what they were telling. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR): That is not a fact. It has not been done like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : That is what I understood. Of course, it being not a fact is a different matter. But that is what I heard. This type of trading of charges will not be there if it is an independent Authority, if it is not a political Authority.

My friend Shri Shinde is bringing forward a Private Members' Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been listed for tomorrow. I am only helping him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is referring to the matter which has been brought forward by Shri Shinde. Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : He has mentioned about an Authority like the Election Commission in that Bill. But there also, I differ from him. He wants the Minister of Agriculture to be the Chairman. My view is that the Minister should not be there. Of course, the Government employees can be there but not the political people. It should be headed by a judicious man, an administrator or a Judge. So, it should have authority to take the Defence personnel to do relief operations in such a situation.

I am telling this from my own experience. I held the portfolio of Disaster Management for eight years in Andhra Pradesh. In the worst disaster in our area, after the tidal wave, for the first time, 10,000 people died in the country. I was in-charge of it. From my experience, I even today suggest that there should be a judicious and powerful authority with all the facilities. Such an authority should have operational freedom and financial freedom. It must be allowed to use the equipment it wants. A permanent research study should go on. It should not be an ad-hoc management authority.

According to the present study, 20 per cent of the country is always either under drought or floods. Today, Kerala, Orissa, Bihar and some other parts are reeling under water. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have no water. As far as I know, Andhra Pradesh is in a very bad situation. Orissa, as we see, is in a very bad situation. Yesterday, in his speech, Shri Trilochan Kanungo, while referring to the previous Super Cyclone that hit Orissa, mentioned that two people saved Orissa. One is *Puri Jagannath* and the other one is Shri Chandrababu Naidu. He has given Shri Naidu the second

place, perhaps, *Balabhadra*. Everyone in Andhra Pradesh has given one pair of cloth to your State. There is no politics in it. Nobody has driven them to do so. They themselves came forward. The first person who arrived in Orissa was Shri Yerrannaidu's man. He reached the place with a cell phone.

Right from the days of British, when any drought took place, the severity of drought is estimated by the number of deaths and number of gruel centres opened. The situation has changed. We are not dealing that way. Now-a-days, if anybody dies because of lack of food or starvation death takes place, we consider it a stigma on the State because we think that we have improved and that we have food for our people. We are not stopping gruel centres to supply gruel. We are making the poor man work for food; giving them work so that he may improve his purchasing capacity.

Today, supply of drinking water and fodder are necessary in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Yesterday, an hon. Member from the Telugu Desam Party, who comes from the drought affected area, was mentioning that the Government needs some six lakh tonnes of rice. I need not, or for that sake anybody, should support it. My Party and myself would support it. More than that, Shri Chandrababu Naidu has got a say in the Government of India. He would manage. He would get his share. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : You should also ask for it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : That is what I have done now.

If we look at the present situation, the rainfall was never so bad in the history of Andhra Pradesh. In the East Godavari, from where our Speaker hails, it is minus 69 per cent. In Srikakulam, from where Shri K. Yerrannaidu comes, it is minus 83 per cent. In Nellore - my own district- it is minus 100 per cent. That means, there is no rain at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

From 25th July onwards, there was some rainfall. Anyone who knows about agriculture, understands well how badly it affects if a dry spell lasts more than a week. In spite of rain in Andhra Pradesh recently, it is of no use at all. The State Government should overcome this situation. I request Shri Kanungo to speak to Shri Balabhadra and remedy the situation.

Recently, there were elections to the Zila Parishads. Shri Yerrannaidu won these elections in his district. Everybody in the Parliament says that according to the Constitution (Amendment) Act, the Panchayat is a nucleus of planning. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say that my State is not having a District Planning Cell headed by a Chairman of the Zila Parishad. It is called the 'District Development Review Committee' - DDRC - headed by a State Minister. The Chairman of the Zila Parishad is also a Member of that committee. Why do they not hand over the subjects like drought, drinking water, labour, drought relief work to the Zila Parishad and make it work? It is not so in our State. Unfortunately, the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act is very clear that the Chairman of the Zila Parishad should be the head of the Planning Cell. It is not there. Every day, I see in the newspapers the Minister of Rural Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, saying that it is an unconstitutional way of dealing with the things. But they have appointed a Minister for the Planning Board. It is called 'DDRC'. This is an aspect about which everybody is fighting today.

SHRI K.YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : In Andhra Pradesh also, just before the elections, we had decided to establish District Planning Committees. After the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, we are giving powers phasewise to the Zila Panchayats, Mandal Panchayats and Gram Panchayats. The Zila Parishads and the Mandal Parishads only execute all the works. They have the infrastructure. They have the Departments of Engineering, Agriculture and Cooperatives. In Andhra Pradesh, the execution of the work is done only through the elected bodies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Reddy, please note and continue to give new suggestions.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I request Shri Yerrannaidu to let Chairman of the DDRC also be an elected one in place of the nominated Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the point. You have already spoken for 15 minutes. You can speak for a few minutes more. Please conclude. There are still 18 Members who are yet to speak.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : It is unfortunate that even in irrigated areas like the Krishna Delta and the Godavari Delta, sowing is not in full. So, you can imagine the situation prevailing there.

Shri Ajit Singh, you are from a family of farmers. Your father had been a known leader of the farmers. You are an expert in computers. Now, everybody is a computer

[Shri N. Janardhana Reddy]

engineer. But the basic affinity is not lost. Unfortunately, the present Government is now looking at the position of sensex in the Munibai Stock Market. They are worried more about that and not about the rainfall or the natural calamity or the welfare of the agricultural community. It is seen openly. The Minister of Finance is looking at it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, please give me two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not talking to the point. You please talk on the subject.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The Finance Minister has to give the money.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask for some money and please do not bring in any other subject.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : What I mean to say is that unfortunately, this Government has missed the bus. It is not helping the farmers. That is the impression that has gone to the people.

It was a case of open partiality when recently a CM was arrested. We saw it on TV that he was being mishandled. We all condemned it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not bring in other subjects into this debate.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I am sorry, I do not want to continue then. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Are we not allowed to speak in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, he has been sitting for quite a long time, he may be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is speaking on the matters which are not related to the subject and thus taking the time of the House.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I am not criticising anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given you enough time. Please conclude in five minutes.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, why I am telling all this is that when somebody was humiliated we all condemned it and the Central Government immediately took action. Whereas when it was planned to arrest some other Chief Minister with the help of Military, everybody condemned it, but the officer who made the arrest was promoted. This kind of a political attitude is not good for the drought work or the natural calamities. That is what I want to say. The Disaster Management Authority should be developed immediately and this glaring discrimination should go.

As my friends have already requested the hon. Minister in the previous meeting, and I have also met the hon. Prime Minister, not to consider the views of other party members as they will go their own way because they do not belong to Andhra Pradesh. I request the hon. Minister to help, though we have not participated in that meeting.

I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister to help the State to get over the situation. But at the same time, let the Central Government insist on the State Government to have planning boards, zila parishads to be effectively used for the distribution of relief and rehabilitation work.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion on floods is being held in this august House for the last two days. Flood and famine are issues of national importance 41 million hectares of land out of 329 million hectares of land in the country are affected by floods every year, and 32 million hectares of the land can be prevented from floods every year. If some concrete plan is made. In 1954 severe floods occurred and then National Programme for flood Management was launched. But no successive Governments and administrative machinery took any concrete steps in this direction. Every year we face floods for six months and famine for six months in one or the other area. No other remedy is there for these natural calamities, a permanent solution to them. All states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are either under the grip of floods or excessive rains especially Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the states which are most affected by floods.

I am discussing all this so as to find a solution. It is unfortunate that discussions are held for the sake of discussion, but there is no outcome. Every year we face the problems of floods and famine and every year a discussion is held in the House. Maximum stress is laid on providing relief. People of India are being made handicapped by making them relief minded. Shri Kirti Azad, an hon. member from Darbhanga adjacent to my constituency, has rightly said that relief minded has become a crop. Relief is being asked for by the hon. Members of Orissa, Shri Samantray and Shri Kanungo and other hon'ble Members. There is shortage of water to drink and food to eat. Relief for some time is fine. But it is not a permanent solution to any natural calamity. Having been made relief minded people are becoming weaker. It would lower their morale. The country will not become strong with this. The country cannot become self reliant. So, this practice of making Relief minded or providing relief is politically motivated. It is right that providing immediate relief is in the interest of the people, but' this problem cannot be solved by making people relief minded. This is what I understand and this is my approach.

I would like to make a suggestion to solve this problem. Country can not make progress until there is water management. Water is of several kinds flood water, underground water but there is no management. Besides, there is also river water. Floods occur in North Bihar and Uttar Pradesh due to the rivers of Nepal whether it is Gandak, Kamla Balan river, Kosi, Bhotahibalan or Avdhara groups of rivers–All these rivers originate from Nepal. These floods cannot be controlled till such time multi-purpose high level dams are constructed on these rivers. If a high level dam is constructed on river Kosi alone, it is possible to generate 300 M.W. electricity. The hon'ble Minister can understand the situation clearly if he goes through the proposals passed in 1967 and 1977. High level dams should be constructed to save Bihar. This problem cannot be solved till a treaty is signed with Nepal on constructing a high level dam on Nunther and Kamla river. Since this issue is between two countries, thus the problem can be solved only if Ministry of External Affairs, Home Ministry and the Minister of Water Resources under the charge of Shri Arjun Sethi make a concerted effort in this regard. There is no alternative but to construct high level dams.

Sir, few days ago a discussion was held in the House on Oarai Assembly constituency. The leader of the Legislative Assembly segment and of JD(U) Mandal Shri Gandesh Prasad Yadav is on hunger strike over the issue of cheating in relief distribution. There is resentment among people in this regard. When they agitated against it, firing was ordered on people and 6 people were killed there. Five of them have since been identified while one is yet to be identified. Like-wise half-a-dozen people were killed last year also. Ex-MLA, Shri Ram Charitra was also killed. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai has been pursuing this work in Sitamarhi. Sitamarhi is the most flood-prone area. Flood water enters Madhubani Darbhanga, Araria, Samastipur, Gopalganj and seven also. Floods in North-Bihar destroy the crops there. A team was sent by the hon'ble Minister to assess the losses. 21 lakh agricultural labourers from 17 districts of North-Bihar alone are migrating to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi for employment and livelihood. There is hardly any employment opportunity left there. Migration of 21 lakh people from the State will not only affect the man power of the State but will also have an adverse effect on the State's agriculture. The areas from Gopalganj to West Champaran are in the grip of flood and 10 persons have already died. The existing river embankments were constructed before independence 57 years ago and should be scrapped now. These embankments are unable to protect the villages because when they collapse, water enters into the villages. I hail from Madhubani district which is also a flood affected area. The whole area is inundated. There is a village called Bhagvanpur where there are two embankments. Due to collapse of Kamalabalan embankments, the whole block is inundated with flood water because river beds have become shallow. Embankments collapse because of the pressure of water. Embankment project was started very unscientifically. A solution which was evolved to check the flood failed completely. Every year crores of rupees are spent for the maintenance of these embankments but it all goes wasted. Sacks of sand and bricks are put to use to protect the embankments but the whole exercise becomes futile. Last time also a wide discussion was held on it. It was proposed to set up flood forecasting network at 16 places. At how many places forecasting network has been set up to provide advance information to people. This will help people go to safer places to save their lives. Recently 10 persons died. Prior information on floods could not be made available. I would like to submit the points of 11th Finance Commission. At present the ratio of Central Government and State Government in calamity relief fund is 75:25 per cent. It is proposed to increase this amount from Rs.6000 crore to Rs. 11,000 crore during 2000-2005. In this context, a calamity contingency Fund was set up with Rs.500 crore with an objective to help the State affected by natural calamites which are not having their internal resources. Apart from grant of National centre for

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

calamity Management, how much grant has been given to Bihar? During recent super cyclone in Orissa, Rs.400 crore were given to the State. The loss occurred there cannot compensated even after the grant of crores of rupees. No help was given to Bihar from Calamity Relief fund during 1999-2000. Recently, a Committee was constituted to release funds under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister for famine affected and flood affected States. The states which are most affected by natural calamities for the last 10 years will get their share from this fund.

However, the Finance Minister has taken a lopsided decision and allocated equal amounts to Bihar and Jharkhand without assessing their respective losses. This is not in accordance with the directives of the 11th Finance Commission. Bihar and Orissa should get more funds as they suffered more losses than others but the area of the state has been made the basis of allocation. I am leaving this question to the august House to consider. My allegation is that the larger interest of our state has been divided? Area should not be made the basis. The basis of providing grant should be on the basis of the Finance Commission recommendation and the losses suffered. On this basis, funds will be released to the states be it a drought affected state or a flood affected state. However, it was not followed. Flood affected states were ignored in the process. A management group has been constituted for these states under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. Even then interests of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa were not looked at. The grant of Rs. 400 crores is a temporary one. The loss cannot be authenticated on the basis of recommendations.

The Central Government are implementing disaster management plan. However, the achievements are nil and only formalities are being observed. What did the Central Government do now? A high powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J.C. Pant has been constituted for disaster Management. A Committee upon the Committee has been constituted. Since 1999 this Committee is being constituted when International Decet for Natural Disaster Deduction was wound up.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : They are all academic committees without any power. Under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, there is a Committee; there is a Natural Disaster Management Committee. They are all committees only in theory.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You are right.

[Translation]

Sir, a high powered commission for the States affected by natural calamities should be constituted without bureaucrats. Only the representatives of people should be taken. That commission should assess the condition of the Natural Calamities affected states and submit the report for a permanent solution to this problem. Water management should be done for rain water, flood water and other sources of water treating them as a unit. This could be the only way to find a solution to this problem. Therefore, I request that a committee should be constituted to check all these irregularities and also monitor the funds released for this purpose.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with a great sense of responsibility and a deep sense of anguish that I am participating in this discussion under Rule 193, knowing fully well that this is the highest legislative forum in our country, the largest democracy of the world where the supreme will of the people is manifested. Sir, for 34 years I have had the occasion to speak about cyclone, floods and drought, right from 1967 when I first entered this House. My first, maiden speech was on drought of Orissa. I am pained that 750 of us, Members of both the Houses of Parliament raise this issue and nothing happens. There are many senior colleagues of mine here, many are of my seniority and I find some of them of second generation, sitting here with me. Whatever we have been saying, cutting across party lines, is falling on deaf ears.

It is no use trading charges between us, sitting in this august House. It is no use trying to score a debating point. The fact is that the Central Government does not have the adequate powers enshrined in the Constitution to do anything about floods or drought. If you see the answers given by the hon. Ministers earlier, it is the responsibility of the State. We have been debating it for 53 years. Everybody knows that India is prone to floods and weather-related phenomenon – whether it is cyclone or drought. But flood is an annual feature of India. Next to Bangladesh, India is the second frequented country in the world where 30 million people, that is three crore, are affected every year. In the Nineties it rose to 51 million people i.e. five crores.

The Central Government has only a role of advisory capacity - forecasting and utilising the science and technology for improving the forecasting and giving advice which the States may follow, may not follow. With a

growing population the flood-grain zones of the command areas have started shrinking and diminishing. Therefore, the incidence and the damage of floods is on the increase. But, at the same time, the State Governments do not have the capacity, ability, capability or resources to look after their problem - be it the problem of drought or the problem of floods, the problem of flood-protection, embankment, etc. Regarding cyclone we can only minimize it by reducing the difference between the low pressure and high pressure belts. There is no way of preventing. But prevention of drought and flood can be done. It has been done. It is mostly a man-made problem.

The Parliament House Library has prepared a monograph culling out information from very many sources over the last 50 years. I would like to ask my first question here. Do we have a policy on floods? Is there a national policy on floods? I know the hon. Minister of Agriculture has to answer because the Tenth and the Eleventh Finance Commissions have ordained it. We, the 750 Members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha cannot change a comma or a full stop. Therefore, the most disastrous and severest cyclone of Orissa could not be declared a national disaster. The United Nations could do it. They were Year of disaster and the Decade of disaster etc. But our 'Holy Bible' or 'The Bhagwadgita' does not allow us this supreme legislative forum of changing a comma or a full stop.

The first thing that I would like to know is – what is the policy on floods? What is the long–term strategy for it? Do we have a policy on floods? Secondly, the other day the hon. Minister of Water Resources – our good friend and colleague, from my home State, very near my district – was piloting the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill. He was kind enough then to place before this august House, just four days back, the situation on floods in the State. So, I will not go into the details.

But this amendment came because of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission which all of us, on both sides of the House, are very keen to quote. The Sarkaria Commission has also observed in the previous page, page 492, that we have failed to evolve a national water policy and to develop our water resources in an integrated way by which inter-basin, transfers inter-State and beyond the State water could be harnessed, could be trained and drained. This country is a flood-prone country right from Jammu and Kashmir up to Tamil Nadu or Kanyakumari, with the tri-junction of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The eastern sector, the entire old Bengal Presidency, Orissa, Bihar, Bengal and portions of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh are prone to flood. Even the desert area of Rajasthan also had floods and more than 100 people died in floods in Rajasthan only a few years back. In Gujarat also, the annual average rainfall is 15 inches. They also have floods. So, these vagaries and these flash floods do come, but in a scientific and in a technical age, we have not been able to husband or harness our water resources so that 60 per cent goes down into the sea. We do not have even 40 per cent of irrigation potentialities. Since 1953, every year, the damage due to flood is of more than Rs. 1,000 crore, and the planning is such that where we have allocated Rs. 300 crore, the damage is worth Rs. 900 crore.

If you see the figures of the last 10 years, especially the last five years, the allocation for flood management and the amount we have ploughed from the National Calamity Relief Fund or the newly created NCCF, created on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, has not been sufficient. NCCF is a contributory fund between the States and the Centre in the ratio of 75:25, as was told by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. The figure comes to three or four times the amount of allocation we have planned for. What sort of planning are we doing? Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was raising something to be reflected in the Tenth Plan.

We, 700 or 800 Members of Parliament, are accountable to the people. We are responsible to the people. We have to go and meet them while they are suffering and mitigate their sufferings. Shri Kirti Azad was mentioning how he goes in a boat. This time, on 19th and 20th, two of my sub-divisions, Athmallik and Birmaharajpur, were cut off from the rest of civilisation. I had to swim, I had to go on a boat, I had to go on a motorcycle and then only the officers arrived, one hour after I had reached my constituency. I must compliment the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik. When I rang him up, he himself flew down in a helicopter and dropped packets of food at Athmallik, Kiakata, Birmaharajpur and Sigulia, but the people in Bhubaneswar did not know that these two sub-divisions had been cut off for the last seven days. The hon. Chief Minister himself had to go and drop food packets. This is the sorry state of affairs everywhere, but the politicians, the MPs, the MLAs and the Ministers are held responsible because there is no system. It is a total failure of the system management at the ground level.

Sir, may I confine to floods alone because I have paucity of time?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, it is worthwhile finding out that there was water logging for 14 days due to waters of Hirakud and Rengali dams built on the Mahanadi and Brahamani. When these two dams were allowed to be opened, the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer, who were held responsible and accountable, had retired in March, 2000. Why were no replacements for these two senior engineers connected with these major projects in Orissa not in place by the time rains came in July, 2001?

Who should be held responsible – the Parliament, Shri Ajit Singh or Shri Arjun Sethi? Their writ does not run in Orissa. When Shri Devegowda went to Bolangir when there was drought in Orissa, six out of 14 BDOs were missing. When I went to Birmaharajpur, the Collector was complaining that there was no SDO or BDO for the last six months. Now, what is the point of castigating either the Central Government or the State Government?

Cyclone, drought, and now the severest floods have beset our poor State, Orissa. Twenty-four out of 30 districts were affected by drought; this year, and now floods have affected 24 out of 30 districts. What can a poor State do where 58 per cent people are living below the poverty line? Year in and year out, our backbone is broken. The hon. Chief Minister of Orissa has given a memorandum containing proposals worth Rs. 733.80 crore. Most of it, if you read, is only for repair and restoration. When do we start living?

You do not want to treat Orissa as a special category State because it is not enshrined in the Constitution as a Sixth Schedule State. When you can give it to Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, and Uttaranchal, why can you not give it to Orissa? Orissa has been a laboratory for everyone right from Emperor Ashoka who learnt non-violence by killing us two thousand years ago. After the severest cyclone in Orissa, you learnt a lesson so you could rush aid and relief to Gujarat in two days time. Now, you will learn another lesson from Orissa where people are marooned and are dying; for 15 days, the standing crops were in water and they have just decomposed. Three years of continuous weather-related phenomena left the farmers, agriculturists, and landless labourers in a pitiable condition, no insurance for crops, human, animals and it is a question of life and death for us. I am sure, my hon. colleagues will agree with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am trying to conclude, Sir.

To add to it, I would like to refer to the news item of today. The old President of my college, Shri Trilochan Kanungo, had already mentioned about the scam pertaining to the cyclone funds as well as the funds given by the Ministry of Water Resources to Rengali, which was pointed out in the C&AG's Report. I would just request you to bear with me. The latest C&AG's Report says that 77 per cent of Rs. 845 crore, which were cyclone-related relief funds given by the Central Government, has not been spent from 1999 till November, 2000. Somebody's head must roll for this. When was the money given? After a great debate here, the announcement was made by the hon. Prime Minister in October 1999. When was the money given? It was given in March, 2000. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kanungo, let him make his point.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am not yielding. When the old President of my college spoke, I did not interrupt him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your point.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am making my point. The first instalment was given in March 2000 when neither Shri Giridhar Gamang was the Chief Minister nor Shri Hemanand Biswal was the Chief Minister. It is a pity that from March 2000 till November 2000, they could not spend 77 per cent of the money given by the Centre for the severest cyclone of the Century. We are unnecessarily quarrelling amongst ourselves, but the fault lies somewhere else. There is diversion and misutilisation. This is what the C&AG said, and I am not saying it. Take the case of Rengali Project. The initial estimated cost of the Project, which was Rs. 273 crore, has gone up to Rs. 850 crore because of overpayment and diversion of funds. Nobody has been held responsible for it.

We are beating our heads here in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I would now come to my constituency. Here is a letter that was written by Shri Bandaru Dattatreya in 1996-97. Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, the then Minister of Urban Development sanctioned Rs. 30 crore for two water supply schemes in my constituency – Angul and Dhenkanal. The hon. Minister says, 'However, as informed by HUDCO, no action has been taken by the State Government although they have taken the first instalment of Rs. 37.77 lakhs for Dhenkanal and Rs. 24.92 lakhs for Angul'. Someone should find out as to where that money has gone, if it has not gone for these two specific projects.

Sir, I agree with my very young colleague – whose father was my colleague – Shri Kirti Azad that what we require is a permanent solution to this problem. For that solution, there is no use of our debating it here or forming a Committee. The Constitution Review Committee is already there. It is represented by the Members of Parliament. I think, we must evolve a system and find out whether – instead of debating this issue in every Session – constitutionally the Centre can help in stepping up investment. It is because the States cannot do it on their own. Here we have a Government of 24 Parties – one national Party and 23 regional Parties. I am sure, this Government would be able to cope with this. Our Government is supposed to have failed in the last 50 years. But this Government should not fail. Do not suffer from a sense of delusion of grandeur and satisfaction that our Government could not solve anything. A plenty has been done in the last 50 years in this country for which today you are at a take off stage. So, if this Government has erred somewhere, then they should correct it.

Sir, next I come to the question of disaster management. We have been debating on this issue for the last three years. Had the disaster management been given the due importance both by the States and the Centre, the loss of lives would have been minimal, loss due to weather-related phenomenon would have been minimal. It is because in countries like the United States of America and in other countries of Europe, they have a trained manpower and a standing operating procedure.

Sir, you had been an Administrator. You had been a Collector and a Commissioner as well. You know that all these are only in letters and in statute. They are never followed. Had the Famine code been followed, then these two sub-divisions along with the other 24 districts in Orissa would not have been marooned and suffered. People have ran away from their posts, but nothing has happened.

Sir, once again I would like to submit that just debating this issue would not help matters. We have to change our mindset. We have to evolve a system where the States and the Centre together must co-operate; otherwise we would only be debating this issue and nothing will happen.

[Translation]

*SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) (BIJAPUR) : Mr Chairman Sir, for the first time I have got an opportunity to speak, on this vital subject under rule 193, a discussion regarding loss of lives and property due to floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country. I am grateful to you for this. The irony is that some States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, are reeling under severe drought situation and we see the havoc of floods in States like Orissa, Kerala and others. Many honourable Members from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and other States have already dealt in greater details about the nature's fury. I, therefore, shall confine only to the problems of the people of Karnataka due to severe drought. 146 taluks out of 175 taluks in the State are affected by drought. There was no rain in most of the districts. In our State we have 117 lakh hectares which is cultivable. Out of this only 24% is fit for irrigation. Rest of the land is completely dependent upon the rain god.

19.00 hrs.

Horticulture is a very important part of cultivation among farmers in Karnataka. The total area of land which comes under horticulture is 15 lakh and 74 thousand hectare. Our farmers produce substantial quantity of fruits, variety of vegetable coffee. Floriculture is very prominent in many parts of Karnataka. But unfortunately now, all of them are in trouble due to failure of monsoon. The total number of small and marginal farmers is 43.16 lakh. There are 49.99 lakh of agricultural labourers. These people are in deep trouble.

Shortage of fodder is another problem of the farmers of Karnataka. Karnataka produces 412 lakh metric tonnes of fodder each year. This year we have only 140 lakh metric tonnes and this has created panic among rural agriculturists.

The total loss in the entire State due to severe drought according to the information provided by Karnataka Government is Rs 2189 crores. Yesterday our Hon'ble Chief Minister led a delegation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Prime Minister was very kind and sympathetic to us. He assured us that Rs 29 crore would be released from the calamity relief fund immediately to Karnataka take up relief measures. He further said that one lakh metric tonnes of food would be provided to the State immediately for the food for work programme. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this act of kindness on behalf of all the people of Karnataka.

Many Hon'ble Members have emphasised the importance and urgency of taking up permanent measures

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri Basangouda R. Patil (Yatnal)]

to check the havoc of floods and drought. I am confident that our Government will take up this matter seriously and do the needful under the able administration of our leader Shri Atalji.

It is better late than never. We have to find out permanent solutions for these perennial problems created by floods and drought. It is not enough if we speak on relief measures year after year. Linking Ganga and Cauvery rivers is one of the permanent solutions about which we are hearing for the last several decades. The Government of India should take up this long pending project of the nation which can solve almost all the water disputes between States and the country can usher into a new era of progress and prosperity. The Centre should also take other important works like repairing canals, dams, de-siltation of tanks and see that the ground water level is raised. In fact, the Centre while sending the financial assistance to the States should instruct the States about this very vital point, i.e., to raise the ground water level.

19.03 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

In Karnataka the irrigated land is only 24%. According to Bachawat Award we have to utilise 734 TMC water. Unfortunately this is not happening. The Centre should make it a point that water and water resources are distributed equally among the States. These days regional parties are raising their ugly heads and they are succeeding in their attempt to influence the Centre. This is really a dangerous sign especially for the unity and integrity of our nation. Our Hon'ble Minister Shri Arjun Sethi is here and my humble request to him is to bring a national water policy to put an end to all problems like inter-State river water disputes and other water sharing complications. Now sharing of Krishna waters has become a serious problem. The States involved in the Krishna river water dispute are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

There are hurdles for Karnataka to take up the ambitious disiltation work of several thousands of tanks. Strangely our neighbouring States are going ahead with their own plans. National water policy is the only permanent solution for all these disputes.

Sir, I urge the Centre to release at least 100 crore of rupees immediately to Karnataka for taking up urgent relief work in all the drought affected taluks. Once again I want to thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his kind gesture towards Karnataka.

I thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak on this most important and urgent issue and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the chance.

India is a vast country; and every year, in one place or the other, we are facing either flood or cyclone or super-cyclone or drought or earthquake. Thousands of people are getting killed by natural calamities and we cannot talk in terms of exact number of dead. It is not the question of number of deaths that is counted; it is a question of sentiment. It is the question of sad and sorrow; and it is the question of mourning. If a mother loses her son, we cannot say that she lost only one son; or if a wife loses her husband, we cannot say that she lost only one husband. It cannot be said in numbers. This way, the entire country is in grief due to natural calamities.

But we are talking and talking about this. Really, almost in every Session, we are having a debate either on flood or on drought, but nothing has so far come out of that. If something has been resolved, it is okay, but the Government is not ready to explore the decision properly. What is happening today? There are floods in Orissa. Orissa had super-cyclone also. In a place where there was drought last year, this year, that very same place is having floods. Kerala is flooded with water; Bihar is flooded with water. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh, northern parts of West Bengal, Assam are suffering from drought. There is no rainfall in those States. There is no rainfall in the place from where I had been chosen to represent here, which is the northern part of West Bengal. We have drought there. People are crying for water. They are praying to God Allah so that he gives clouds and rains. 'Allah Megh De Pani De.' This is our condition.

But what the people who are in Government doing? They are happy with giving relief. Even in giving relief, there is discrimination. I must say this. What happened to Orissa? There was super-cyclone initially; then it had drought; now it has floods. He went there. Our Prime Minister went there by helicopter. He offered Rs. 400 crore to Orissa. It needs more money. It should be given more money.

Sir, you are from Bihar and you know that. You also know what happened to West Bengal last year. Due to heavy devastating floods, we lost cattle, housing and other things worth Rs. 10,000 crore. But what happened later?

A Central team visited; it put forward a note. It said that at least Rs. 1400 crore should be given to West Bengal.

What is the amount that has been given? The hon. Minister is here. He would agree that we were given only Rs. 103 crore. Bihar is under water. I do not know what will happen when water will be receding. Our part of West Bengal will be submerged. What is the situation in Bihar? It is not the question of which Government is in power there. The people of Bihar are the citizens of India. It is the duty of the Central Government to give them relief They are, after all, our brothers and sisters. But the Government has not given a single pie. Did not give even a single pie- why did it happen? If I may say, the Government is simply shedding crocodile tears for West Bengal and Bihar. This is their bounded duty to help these States. Please, do not give step-motherly treatment to these two States.

I was listening to your speech. You said that if we wish to control the flood in Bihar, then we must have a Joint River Commission with Nepal. A number of rivers, like Kosi and Gandhak, come from Nepal. There is a similar problem in North Bengal. If we wish to control it, then we must have a Joint River Commission with Bhutan. Rivers like Torsa, Kaljani, Roydak and Sankosh flow down into our country and create flood havoc in plain area. In Assam also there is a similar position. Nepal is a foreign country. The External Affairs Department has come forward to help us in this regard. The Water Resources Minister should also come forward and help us. A few days back we had talks with the hon. Water Resources Minister. He had sent a team to Bhutan. But mere two or three rounds of meetings will not do. Something positive must be done to stop the flood havoc in the areas of Bihar, North Bengal and Assam.

In the river catchment areas deforestation is going on. It must be stopped.

At random extraction of Dolomite must be stopped. Dolomite must be extracted in a scientific manner. At random stone chip collection must be stopped.

Arrangements must be made to remove the silt from the riverbeds, whether it is in Bihar, North Bengal or Assam.

On all these scores we have not done anything. In 1954, there was flood havoc in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and North-eastern regions.

Long back in 1954, it was decided that to have a Flood Control Commission. The hon. Minister is here. He could go through the files. There was a proposal that just like Power Grid, let there be a river grid throughout the country stretching from Brahmputra to Ganges and from Ganges to Cauvery. Similarly, all the rivers should be connected. But what happened after that? There was some survey. When I was in my young age, I heard that some survey is going on. But only survey after survey is being done and nothing else. I would request that let there be a river grid from Brahmputra to Ganges and from Ganges to Cauvery to save India from the flood havoc. It would also provide irrigation facilities. We keep on saying this in the House. But what is going to happen?

I do not know my friends from Uttar Pradesh are there or not. They treat Ganga as their paternal property. What happened to Bihar? Look at Farrakka. It is just like sewage. The people of Uttar Pradesh thought that Ganga water is their water and they can use it in the manner they like. But I think there must be a committee comprising representatives not only from the Centre but also from Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. Whenever, there is any project for the river Ganga, that should be routed through that committee. This committee should decide, as to how the water would be distributed. Otherwise, Bihar and West Bengal will suffer.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : That is the crucial point on which we do not agree.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : But we do agree. It is because when you would divide water at Farrakka, you could find out how much water is flowing. Then you can distribute it to Kolkata, Bangladesh and other places. You can find out how much water flows from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar and then you distribute it properly. You can decide how much water you would give to Bangladesh. But you are not doing that.

Sir, I feel that the step-motherly treatment towards Bihar and West Bengal should be stopped immediately. Secondly, irrespective of the money involved, you must have a river grid. You have to start it at some point. That must be done.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion about flood, drought and relief is taking place in the House since yesterday. This discussion is not taking place in the House for first time and it seems that it had become a tradition that every year when flood and drought occurs we discuss it in the House. I believe that as long as this House will exist the Members will keep coming and going and the Members in treasury benches will also keep changing. I can recall that last time Nitish Kumar had replied and this

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

time Ajit Singh ji will reply but the problem of flood and drought has remained as earlier. It remains absolutely the way it had started, there is no change in that. The reply only contains the web of words. The Government keep on changing but the discussion over it never conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : what is the position of your area.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I am coming to that point. We cannot surpass the solution of this problem simply by saying that nothing has been done by Congress Government and this matter is the responsibility of the State Government. Government is a government and if the past government has not performed any job, then that is the reason that they are sifting in opposition today. Since our government is in power for the last three years, we would like to know in the House that what efforts our Government have made to save the people from flood during the last three years and what are the achievements of our Government in this regard. We would like to know that what measures have been taken to prevent floods in future in the regions such as Assam, Orissa, Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where the occurrence of flood has become their destiny. I believe, that Ajit Singh ji will tell about the efforts they have made in this regard in his reply.

Sir, we all know that there is almost similarity in the discussion but the problem of Bihar is connected with Nepal. The floods in Bihar occurred due to the water released twice. Lexicographically the word flood is made of two letters but if the situation of flood hit area is explained then those people who have personally not seen those flood hit areas cannot feel the pain and difficulty of the people living there. When the discussion take place in the House I find that fun is made of discussion on floods. Sir, there are 37 districts in Bihar and 51 lakh hectare land is cultivable. 68 lakh hectare land is hit by floods every year and 10 lakh hectares of land remain submerged through out the year. We have not been able to save such a fertile land. If that land is saved then I am sure that we will be able to feed entire India for six months. Once I had been to see the flood situation of my constituency. At the bank of Saryu river, a mother was sitting on top of her small hut after piling up two three wooden stools on it with her five month old baby in her lap. When we asked the people to move somewhere else their reply was how can they leave their ancestral property. The hut was full of water. Relief hardly helps them. Whenever flood occurs women alongwith children have to flee to safer places. They don't have another set of clothes to wear next day. Flood hits and recedes but the matter is not limited to this. After the flood recedes the area is hit by epidemic and at that time the people of lower class even mortgage the jewellery of their newly wedded bride for medicine and their daily bread. Afterwards, starts the episodes of snake bite because when flood recedes snakes come out and people of that area starts dieing of snake bites. Whether it has, become the policy of the government to control population by implementing this formula. If this is the formula to control population then I don't want to say anything but if it is not then the government cannot save its skin by simply putting the responsibility of this matter on this or that or some state government. We want the union government to fulfil its role by negotiating with Nepal for saving the lives of people of Bihar. There animals are dying of hunger. Strange environment has cropped up there.

Sir, the union government should make some special arrangements to save Bihar. At the time of bifurcation of Bihar we were shouting in House along with you against the bifurcation of Bihar, because it is going to increase the problems of Bihar. We knew that it will bankrupt the Bihar economically. At that time Minister of Home Affairs said that we are getting emotional in our statement. Also that he will make some special arrangement in the matter of Bihar. What happened to that special arrangement. Today, you have discussed the recommendations of 11th finance commission. The population had not been made the basis in that and how it could be treated on the basis of area because one side there is the population of seven and a half crore and on the other the population of two and a half crore. One state has 37 districts and other had fourteen districts only but the money is being distributed in equal proportions. The Minister of Finance of this country hails from Jharkhand. You have done injustice with Bihar. This kind of behavior with Bihar is not justified. The state government is not fulfilling its responsibility as well. If the maintenance of dams was taken care of in time then such situation would have never been arised. Whenever relief is distributed in Bihar the authorities opens fire. You had a discussion about Muzaffarpur. I don't want to say that firing was opened by the orders of Shri Laloo and Rabri but Raghuvansh Babu I would like to tell you that you speak a lot in the House but why don't you tell your Chief Minister about this, who's officials opened fire on unarmed people who were only seeking food. She should hold enquiry against them and a case should be filed against them under section 302. Why you have not said this to your government. You keep on shouting here. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : He has been suspended.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Suspension is not a penalty. You should file a case against him under section 302. You should get the incident inquired. Put these people behind bars.

Sir, I would like to tell about my constituency. We have discussed this matter in the House more than once when Dr. C.P. Thakur was Minister of irrigation. Sitab Diyara is the village of Jai Prakash Babu. People of this country are fulfilling their political interests in the name of his village.

But the major part of that Sitab Diyara has merged in the confluence of Ganges and Sarayu. Now only a minor part of it remains and I had requested hon. C.P. Thakur through the House to visit there and he had visited Sitab Diyara village and had seen the problems of people there himself. He had taken a central team with him and declared there that they will not let the flood hit this area next year. Incidentally his department has changed. Now Shri Sethi Saheb is Minister of irrigation. We have also requested him that now the security of Shri Jai Prakash ji's village is his responsibility. But I don't understand the connection between state and union government. We have requested them to put pressure on state government. When you are providing funds to state government then why can't the village of Jai Prakash Babu is saved. If the state government is not putting heed to this then you can meet Prime Minister and ask him personally to save the village of Jai Prakash Narayan ji. Besides that, you can adopt other measures to take steps to save his village. The reply will be given by our Minister of Agriculture but Minister of irrigation will intervene. They are finding it very expensive to provide relief for floods. Therefore, Minister of Agriculture will reply but intervention will be done by him. I would like to know that what steps have been taken by them or steps likely to be taken by them for saving the village of Jaiprakash Babu. I would like to tell the ministers sitting over here that simply celebrating picnic in aeroplane at the time of floods is not going to help anybody. Down there the people of villages pray to save their lives but the picnic continues in the air. Therefore, instead of the money spent on aerial surveys it should be spent on the welfare of people and for relief purposes. These surveys hardly help anybody.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per your order I am present here for taking part in the debate started yesterday. The entire country is facing cyclone, flood or drought in one place or another. Now, I would like to focus only on Bihar. All the Members, who want to speak on this issue are present in the House. I do not know as to whether hon'ble Members from Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are present here or not? I congratulate them because all the members from these states, whether they are in opposition party or in ruling party are unanimous on the issues relating to their states. The members of Congress party, opposition, any other party or ruling party who come from these states speak in one voice. Today I congratulate and thank my friend Shri Prabhunath Singh who has tried to move towards this progressive ideology. I believe that in democracy the points raised by opposition party should be considered seriously. If the Government doubts about its defeat in voting, the problem relating to any part of a state should be presented honestly and firmly. There should not be any discrimination in this regard. I went to Orissa when it was in the grip of flood. I visited Bhubaneshwar and Cuttack. Rudyji was with me. The hon'ble Member from Orissa who was speaking just now and Chief Minister of Orissa were also with me. They sat together. On reaching the affected area he noted down something on a piece of paper. I thought that he is noting down the points for his memory and he also gave instructions to concerned officials. I asked him that whether he is noting down his experiences about water logging, during the aerial survey. I also have seen the water logging in Orissa. I support their demand and do not oppose their points. The hon'ble Minister of Irrigation and hon'ble Minister of Agriculture were on our side earlier. They have gone to the other side a few days ago. On the 20th November, 2000 all the MPs from Bihar, including Dr. C.P. Thakur, Shri George and Shri Nitish Kumar and all the Ministers from Bihar gave a memorandum. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Irrigation as to whether he has seen that? ...*(Interruptions)* why should we send its copy. It was given on 20th November, 2000. My speech will become lengthy. Please excuse me, with your permission, I would like to read this matter about water management. Please note it down as points relating to your subject are included into this. The basic infrastructure relating to irrigation especially main irrigation systems is being damaged constantly for the last many years because there is lack of funds for its maintenance, repair and modernization. For bringing more areas under irrigation and improving the ability and capacity of existing system, there is a need to modernize and construct additional canals.Irrigation in northern and central Bihar can be increased easily by installing shallow

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

tubewells because ground water is easily available there. Besides the schemes of revival of the Government tube-wells should be implemented there as a large number of tubewells are lying out of order.

Most of the rivers of northern Bihar come from Nepal and 61 per cent catchment area of these rivers fall in the jurisdiction of Nepal. The slope of these rivers is very steep. As a result of it these rivers enter Bihar with utmost pressure and cause soil erosion. These change their course of flow at times and huge silt is deposited there.

Until a dam is constructed to regulate the flow of water, the flood will continue to come repeatedly in Bihar. About 10 lakh hectare of land in Bihar is in the grip of the problem of water logging. The atoll area of water logging of about one and half lakh hectares is spread over on the bank of Ganges from Patna to Fatuha, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Gangania and Kahalgaon. There is a need to provide more assistance for this atoll area so that yield of this fertile land could be doubled. Approximately 9 lakh hectare of land remain submerged in all the districts of Bihar. Heavy rains, lack of outlets for water, higher level of water in rivers and silt deposits in various rivers are the reasons for this.

Mr. Chairman, 54 MPs from Bihar had given a memorandum to the hon'ble Prime Minister. What action has been taken on it? Two years have passed after submission of the memorandum. The hon'ble Minister assured us for redressal of grievances of Bihar. There are 35-37 districts in Bihar out of which 29 districts are in the grip of flood and remaining 8 districts are drought affected. Paddy is cultivated on 38 lakh hectare of land in Bihar and so for only 15 lakh hectare of land could be cultivated and 23 lakh hectare of land has remained uncultivated. Hon'ble Minister is the incharge of the Department of Agriculture and leader of farmers, he also went to USA for doing computer engineering. There is saying in our area: "Poorva ropes poorva kisan, aadha khakhri, aadha dhan." Poorva star will emerge after Magha. Only a few days are there, when paddy will be cultivated on remaining land. We are affected badly by drought and floods. You get an opportunity to say so. Where is the controversy when points are raised by Raghuvanshji, Prabhunath Singhji or Rajiv Pratapji. You get an opportunity to say that there is difference of opinion among MPs and Government of Bihar. This is the reason that we gave a joint memorandum on 28th November, 2000 in the chamber of hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like to know that what arrangements have been made in this regard or what is proposed to be done in near future? Hon. Minister of Irrigation and Agriculture both are present here. Just now a lady Member from Madhya Pradesh has stated that a farmer had only one oxen so the oxen on one side and wife of the farmer on the other side were yoked for tilling the fields. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a senior member and Rajo Singhji is also a senior Member. I would like to know from the hon'ble Member that whether any project has been submitted by the State Government in this regard or whether the State Government has given any information about the follow up action on what was written by them?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister, please tell that in your reply.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no point of Senior Member. Prabhunath Singhji is also there and he can be asked as to whether any information was given in this regard?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : it is correct, I cannot deny that.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a memorandum was given on 28th November, 2000 and the hon'ble Minister has not even convened any meeting with MPs to tell as to what extent work has been taken up in this regard. Whether the Government need not to tell this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : hon'ble Minister, the hon'ble Member wants to know that any project has been taken up by the Bihar Government in the context of the Memorandum given in this regard.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : He has not asked at all. I would have given information, had he asked for that from me. He could have also asked from the Members of treasury benches. The Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar was also present in the House, he would have asked him that to whom the memorandum was to be given and where the proposal of project to be submitted and who has to take action in this regard and what is to be done by Bihar Government for constructing dam on river which originates from Nepal. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, you have come here by chance at the time of election and you will be here upto election only. You were Minister of Agriculture during the tenure of Narsimha Raoji. *...(Interruptions)* Please listen to my points then reply to that. Who is preventing you from doing so? You can give complete

reply. I would like to say that in the context of Bihar's position regarding agriculture, floods and irrigation, a discussion with all the Members should be held and on the basis of this memorandum a decision should be taken on the matters relating to floods, agriculture and drought. Discussion on these issues may continue. A new issue for debate will be taken up under Rule 193 on Monday, another issue may be taken up on Tuesday but no concrete outcome can be expected by it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir with these words, I would like to remind the Government that information should be given to us on the action taken on memorandum given on 28th November, 2000 and I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Respected Chairman, Sir, as a number of Members have said, every year, there is flood or drought. The debate takes place. The answers are given but without any concrete efforts to stop such type of happenings. Like every year, this year also the Nature's fury had presented itself in different ways causing havoc in some parts of the country. While some States had floods and some had drought, the States like Orissa, Kerala and Bihar are affected with floods causing a loss of hundreds of lives, cattle and damage to the crops. More than a lakh of families had to be evacuated to the relief camps. They have to be provided food and shelter. The damaged crops and roads made the lives worst. The fishermen of the area have been badly affected as their source of livelihood got affected.

Some of the States like Andhra Pradesh are facing an acute drought situation owing to the failure of monsoon in the State this year. Due to the continued dry spell and near failure of monsoon, the State is facing unprecedented drought.

As many as 911 Mandals – almost 81 per cent of the total Mandals – in Andhra Pradesh are reported to be deficient in rainfall during the season. The monsoon failed during June and July. There was very less rainfall. It was the prime period for starting the agricultural activities. The situation in Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda districts of Telangana is alarming as these areas received scanty rainfall. The situation in Rayalaseema, Nellore and Prakasam districts in the coastal Andhra Pradesh is no different. The dry spell has affected the agricultural operations adversely, causing shortfall in the acreage under paddy, groundnut and even dry crops.

The irrigation canals originating from the Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailam and Sriramsagar could not be opened up in time because of non-filling up of reservoirs due to scanty rainfall and non-release of water from Almatti Dam in Karnataka in time. It rendered the farmers covered by these projects without any work and forced the farm labour in Mahbubnagar to migrate to other places in lakhs.

These things have caused severe drinking water problems, due to depletion of the ground water, as well as most of the tanks in rural areas becoming dry. This has caused the fodder scarcity forcing the farmers to resort to distress sale of their cattle.

Sir, the hydel power generation has also come down because the Nagarjuna Sagar and Sreesailam Sagar dams could not get filled up. Sensing these things, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken many steps to relieve people from the drought situation. Sir, a sum of Rs. 140 crore was released for providing fodder, drinking water and generation of work, besides a sum of Rs. 208 crore allotted for release on account of natural calamities for the purposes of giving rice at five kilograms and Rs. 30 as daily wages per head.

Sir, under these circumstances, the Government of India should come in a bigger way to rescue the States, which are affected with floods as well as the States affected with severe drought because a number of States are having financial crunch. So, unless the Government of India comes in a bigger way, it will be difficult for them to manage it.

I would request the Government of India to allocate more funds to the Natural Calamity Relief Fund to meet the demands of the affected States Governments and to help the Government of Andhra Pradesh by releasing funds as per the memorandum submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the Government of India some time back. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and others have also met the hon. Prime Minister today morning and apprised him of the situation in Andhra Pradesh. So, I would request the Government of India to immediately release the funds as per the memorandum submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, there is a very strict competition between Bihar and Orissa all the time with regard to who is more poor. I would say that poverty has a very intense relationship with the natural calamities. Sir, the poor States like Orissa have always been devastated by cyclones, super-cyclone, drought and

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

floods. It is only the earthquake, which has not affected us and we are waiting for that only.

Sir, I will finish it within two-three minutes with regard to the flood situation in Orissa because basically in the deltaic area of Orissa in the coastal area there are four rivers, Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarni and Sabarnarekha.

Sir, Mahanadi is having a catchment area of 1.41 lakh cusecs water and its maximum probable flood in hundred years' period has been calculated to be 17.40 lakh cusecs. Against this, the carrying capacity of Mahanadi and all its branches, without any distress caused, is only 8.7 lakh cusecs. The Hirakud dam has also not been of much use because in the downstream of Hirakud, 22,000 sq. miles of catchment areas contribute flood water to Mahanadi. As a result, the flood problem of Mahanadi is far from being mitigated. So, the only solution is to build another reservoir between Hirakud and Mahanadi delta-head to make possible reduction of floodpit at Mahanadi Delta.

20.00 hrs.

Brahmani river requires some river moderation work. Baitarani river also requires moderation and a reservoir of adequate size in order to reduce the flood peak from 4.38 lakh cusecs to 2 lakh cusecs. Ultimately, Sir, in my own District, Subarnarekha river, which is considered to be 'The *Hoyang ho*', devastates the entire Balasore district consisting of Baliapata, Basta Bhograi and Jaleswar. Completion of reservoirs in Jharkhand area is required. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a very good Qrator. I insist that you should conclude quickly. You only give suggestions.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will conclude within two minutes. The pressman from Orissa are sitting in the press gallery. If I don't speak they will say that the Members from B.J.P. did not speak on any thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not forbidden you to speak. I only want to submit that you should speak in brief.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : However long you may speak, they will only write one line on it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : All right, at least they will write atleast one line

[English]

Sir, in Orissa, there has been no Master Plan till now to moderate the floods. Flood is a natural calamity, which cannot be totally eliminated. In my own district, Bhadrak, there is a river called Salandi, which was devastating Bhadrak when I was a student. A dam had been constructed 20 years back and due to that, flood had been moderated. So, my suggestion is that the Central Government should insist that the Government of Orissa should have a Master Plan. What happens is that whenever any MLA becomes powerful, he goes for a *'gheribandh'* – in Oriya it is called *'gheribandh'* – and prevents water entering his place. Wherever water is entering the village, they have an embankment around that village. In the next year, in the places where there were no floods earlier, water enters those places. They put up stone patching and other things. It is creating a lot of havoc in other areas, which had not experienced floods.

Firstly, there should be a Master Plan. Due to widespread deforestation in Orissa jungles, the natural calamities – floods, cyclone and drought – are taking place.

Lastly, I will tell you that Orissa Government requires more money. This point has already been mentioned by Shri Trilochan Kanungo. I do not want to repeat it. I would only request the Central Government to come forward to help Orissa Government to dig one lakh lift irrigation points so that agricultural production could be doubled and so that people could have *pucca* buildings which would not be affected by the super cyclone.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SHOLAPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening to this debate since yesterday. I have been keenly listening the debates for the last seven to eight years whether it takes place in this House or in Rajya Sabha. Only short term solutions are found for the problems of floods or the drought. No Government talks for long term planning. We target only short term planning to seek solutions. Only flood relief is extended to the affected persons without going into the original cause of and solution of the problem. Similarly only relief measures for drought are taken in case of drought affected areas. A team from the Government of India and the money is sent to the affected areas and the

work is deemed to be completed. However, I would like to know as to whether, despite the passage of fifty years after independence, whether any comprehensive plan has been made to identify flood prone and drought prone areas in the country? Whether the Government have taken initiative as the basis of data collected. I don't think that any attention has been paid in this regard. A state is affected by floods as well as by drought. As Shri Rajo Singhji was saying. 11 out of 33 districts of the state are struck by flood while the remaining districts are affected by drought. The situation prevails every year. Same is the situation in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. However, whether we have tried to solve this problem at the national level. Some days back I was very meticulously reading about Agricultural policy. My sister from Maharashtra was talking about Textile policy. I don't want to talk in due to time constraint but I would like to know as to whether the Government have tried to for pay its attention to frame a policy in this regard as the cotton is abundantly produced there. Whether the Government will think once it in the future?

I would like to thank the Lok Sabha Secretariat for enlisting my Bill among the private Member's Bill and the Bill 'National Commission for Disaster Management Bill' is scheduled to be introduced at No. 10. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak on the today's subjects. Speak on tomorrow's subject only tomorrow.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am only mentioning the subject on which the Government have to manage. You don't know that a team has been sent. I have the paper from Sholapur with me. Marathwada and the Western Maharashtra has become a drought prone areas. The Chief Minister held a meeting there one month back and apprised the Government of India that Marathwada and Western Maharashtra are in the grip of drought. The water level in ponds has gone down by 40 percent. The Government of India provided a grant of Rs. 100 crores to the State. I have with me a paper dated, 21st July 2001 published from Sholapur. A Central Team visited the affected area. A news item published in the newspaper named Jharokha under the caption "Bangla vela Telluketeel Dushkanachi Kendriya Patka Tanun Pahani". It has been reported that the central team visited Nagpur, Nasik, Dhule, Marathwada and also Mangalvoda village in my constituency from where it went to Sangali. It has been reported in the newspaper and I don't have any information in this regard. This team visited these places like a tourists. What result can be expected from the findings of such a team which has covered three to four districts in a day without collecting samples from the affected areas. The team did not even visit the affected crop of sugarcane grown on a stretch of over 100 miles which had dried up owing to the drought. Still it is said that everything will be managed. I know what will be done. A demand of Rs. 500 crore has been made by the Maharashtra Government in its report and on 17th July. Today 50 percent population of Marathwada and western Maharashtra is drought affected and 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' is in operation there.

The 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna' was launched with a great fanfare here. I talked to the Chief Minister to seek solution and provide employment to the people. The employment can be provided to the people through Employment Guarantee Scheme.

I was listening to the speech of hon. Food Minister a few days back wherein he had mentioned that we have plenty of foodgrains in our godown. If such is the case then why don't the Government of India provides foodgrains to the Government of Maharashtra for which it has made a submission. The Union Government should release foodgrains to the Government of Maharashtra for generating employment under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Government must immediately accede to this demand in such a hard time.

I would like to raise one last point in view of the time constraint. I have especially mentioned about the disaster management in the Bill which a likely to be introduced in the House tomorrow. We only wake up when the calamities like floods' drought and earthquake strikes us shaking the entire country but we don't have any permanent infrastructure to Combat there calamities. The Government should institute a permanent fund and employ permanent staff to deal with these problems. As for agriculture is concerned, a fund should be created under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture with the Chief Minister of all the states as its Members. Whatever necessary arrangement are required in this regard, should be made without losing anytime. Whenever some region in struck with a natural calamity, this it team should immediately be dispatched there by the centre and the necessary funds should be sent later on. There is a need to institute a fund like consolidated fund for the farmers to provide relief to the farmers in times of distress.

I on behalf of Maharashtra Government and the MP's from Maharashtra would like to submit that the Maharashtra Government had demanded for Rs. 500 crore in July. Now much time has passed hence the Government should provide at least Rs. 800 crores as grant.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for calling me after a very long wait.

Since yesterday, we have been discussing about the severe flood situation prevailing in many parts of the country. At the very outset, I want to mention that when we are discussing about natural calamities, all of us, belonging to all sides of this House, should rise above petty politics.

Many parts of our country and many States including Orissa, Kerala and Bihar and a few areas of Himachal Pradesh have been affected by floods. But I will try to confine my references to the situation prevailing in my State, Orissa.

There is one aspect that hurt me when I was listening to the speeches since yesterday with rapt attention. Some hon. Members have tried to join issue with Orissa. I do not want to compare between States. I do not want to go into the details of which State is more affected and which State is less affected. This is a misery of the common man. There is no comparison between miseries. Has the hon. Prime Minister committed a sin by going on an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of Orissa and conducting a review meeting? Has the Government of India and the Prime Minister committed a sin by allocating a few 100 crores of rupees to meet the devastating situation in Orissa?

I have not seen the situation in other States but I have myself seen the prevailing situation in some parts of my State. As Shri Trilochan Kanungo said yesterday, Orissa has a long history of natural calamities. It dates back to the pre-Independence era. I want to take you back to the 19th century. The severest drought of the millennium, I should say, occurred in 1866 and that was called *Naanka Durbhikya*.

At that time more than one-third of the population of Orissa met with starvation death. This was unprecedented in the whole of the world. This was more precarious than the situation that prevailed a few years back in Ethiopia and certain African countries. This is the history of natural calamities in Orissa.

Sir, if you have been noticing, during the last three to four years Orissa has been repeatedly hit by the natural calamities. First, it was hit by the super-cyclone. As many of the hon. Members have mentioned, an unprecedented cyclone hit almost one-third of the State. I do not know about the number of people died as per the Government's estimate. But according to a layman's estimate, the death toll was not less than 50,000. Orissa is still reeling under the after-effects of that super-cyclone.

The next year saw a drought situation. Around 24 districts, out of 30 districts of the State, mostly belonging to the western parts of the State, went through a very serious drought situation. The State is still reeling under the effects of that drought. This year saw this devastating flood.

Sir, I compliment the Government of India and particularly the hon. Prime Minister that in spite of all his busy schedule and in spite of his hectic activities during the Agra Summit, he could find time to visit Orissa, at least for a few hours and he promptly announced some assistance. If you go into the details of the losses suffered, the assistance provided to Orissa – Rs. 100 crore financial assistance, three lakh metric tonnes of rice, one lakh houses under the *Indira Awas Yojana* – is not enough.

I want to present, in a nutshell, about the devastating picture that is prevailing in my State. This is as far as the preliminary assessment is concerned. The final assessment has not been done. It will, of course, take some time. It is but natural. As of now, more than 16,000 villages of Orissa have been affected. Orissa is having around 46,000 villages and more than one-third of Orissa has been affected. You cannot believe that even today there are hundreds of villages which are still marooned and the water has not receded so far and the people there are still cut off from the rest of the world and civilization. Some 2,429 *Gram Panchayats* have been affected and 199 blocks – around 200 – out of the 314 blocks have been severely affected. Orissa's population is 3.5 crore and about one-third of it, around one crore people, have been affected. This is the situation there in my State which is severely affected.

I belong to that State. My own area has been affected. More than 15,000 cattle and domestic animals have died; crops in seven lakh hectares of area have been severely affected and more than three lakh houses have been damaged. This is the situation this year.

Sir, do you know what has happened two years back when the super cyclone hit the State or when the State faced severe drought situation last year? Thousands and thousands of people, poor cultivators, migrated to Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country to save their lives, in search of livelihood. This is the situation there.

We compliment the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India for the prompt assistance. But whatever assistance the State of Orissa has got so far, is very meagre. More financial assistance is required to meet the situation.

You cannot imagine one situation. My hon. friend from Kalahandi was speaking this afternoon. Kalahandi is known for its continuous drought year after year. Kalahandi is famous for starvation deaths. Flood in Kalahandi is a dream. But this year the drought-prone Kalahandi district has also been affected by flood. In my area, Sambhalpur, the longest dam of Asia, perhaps of

the world, the Hirakud Dam is situated. That dam is in my constituency. A time came during the last floods when people, the engineers apprehended about the safety of that dam.

Sir, our hon. Minister of Water Resources, who belongs to my State, is sitting here.

Hon. Agriculture Minister is also sitting here. My sincere appeal to them, my humble suggestion to them is that Hirakud Dam is one of the first dams in the independent India. It was perhaps constructed along with Bhakra Nangal Dam and initiated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It is the longest urban dam of Asia and, perhaps, of the world.

Sometimes, reports are appearing in the newspapers expressing apprehensions about the safety and future of the dam. Sir, God forbid, if something happens to Hirakud Dam, two-thirds of Orissa will be nowhere. It will be totally marooned and destroyed. It will be completely washed away. So, my humble suggestion to the Government of India is that the Union Government should constitute a high-level expert committee to go into the details, the safety aspects of the Hirakud Dam and suggest preventive measures. If the Government of India adopts a very negligent attitude towards the Hirakud Dam, then, a time will come when the people of India and the people of Orissa will not pardon this Government.

Sir, I have some suggestions. I am not going into details of certain permanent measures that are required to be taken for controlling flood in different parts of the country. Many hon. Members have hinted on that point.

Sir, so far as my State is concerned, it is completely under a debt trap. We have a debt of more than Rs. 22,000 crore. As Shri Trilochan Kanungo mentioned yesterday, out of our total revenue, 92 per cent of our internal revenue is spent on repayment of loan and interest on loan. Which other State in this country is spending 92 per cent of its internal resources to meet the loan burden? Sir, this is the poorest of poor State in the country. Shri Kharabela Swain was saying that all the time, there is a competition of poverty between Bihar and Orissa and this time, Orissa has superseded Bihar. Now, 47 per cent of population living below the poverty line in this country is in Orissa.

Sir, I have a suggestion to make. My first suggestion is that the Government of India should completely waive the Central Government loan which is given to the Government of Orissa. This has happened in the past also. When Shri I.K. Gujral was the Prime Minister, some hon. Members were mentioning, loan of Rs. 5,000 crore on Punjab was waived in a single stroke. Last year, in Punjab, when there was disruption, there was hue and cry, under pressure from the Punjab Government, subsidies were allowed to the farmers of Punjab by the Central Government. Why will this facility not be allowed to poor States like Orissa, Bihar and Chhattisgarh? My humble submission is let the Government of India either completely waive the loan burden of Orissa or if it is not feasible, let there be a moratorium for at least three years. Within that period, the Government of Orissa should not be compelled to repay the loan. After the period of moratorium is over, there should be rescheduling of the loan. After 10 or 12 years, the Government of Orissa will not come to the Union Government with a begging bowl for financial assistance. This is the minimum requirement that is to be met by the Union Government in the interest of States, poor States like Orissa, Bihar and new States like Chhattisgarh. I hope, the Government of India will take special care of the situation that is prevailing in the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue regarding floods, drought and natural calamities is being discussed in the House for last many days. Hon'ble Members have given several precious suggestions in this regard. Serious discussion was held on this issue last year also. It is a very serious problem and due to it loss of life and property on large scale and distress of devastation has to be suffered.

Coordination among several departments is required for solving this problem. In such a situation this matter should be discussed in presence of hon'ble Prime Minister so that all the question raised here may be replied at the same time. I am really sorry to say that after one year again discussion is being held on various aspects of flood and other natural calamities. The whole country is watching the position of the House and the Government in this regard. The viewpoint of the Government towards this serious problem can be guessed by this. Sir, several suggestions were given by you in your speech and I agree to those suggestions. The government needs to take large scale measures to find out a permanent solution to this problem. For this purpose, assistance from the concerned departments technical experts and scientists should be taken so that the flood prone states like Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Kerala and other states may not face flood situation every year. Rajo Singhji has rightly said that last year all the Members of Parliament gave a collective memorandum on behalf of the people of Bihar to hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the problems of floods, drought and other such issues. We also discussed the matter with hon'ble Nitish Kumarji but so far no action has been taken on that memorandum. No one could know as to what is the attitude and plan of Government in this regard. Whether state government have not cooperated and shown any reluctance or state government made their own demand or whether the state Government gave any specific reply or nothing was known. We did not get any information about it, which is really surprising. Last year southern Bihar came in grip of floods which ruined the

[Shri Subodh Roy]

Bhagalpur and Monghyre districts of the state totally. The national highway No. 80 was also damaged. Several dams or embankments broke due to it. Several thousand acres of fertile land was filled with sand. 70 people died in Bhagalpur district alone. Houses of more than 50 thousand people were destroyed and more than five thousand cattle died. The, then Minister of Agriculture Shri Nitish Kumar conducted an aerial survey. He alongwith all the officers of the team of the Union Government assessed the loss. But nothing was known about the action taken after that silence has been maintained about the report submitted by the team of the Union Government I think that it revealed the insensitivity of the Government towards Bihar. The same thing is about Bengal, 1400 people died there. Demand of Rs. 1300 crore was raised and only Rs. 103 crore were given however nothing with regard to Bihar has been mentioned. It is a fearful situation. I do not know as to how this Government is functioning.

It should not be so. We have full sympathy with the people of Orissa and Gujarat who became the victims of natural calamities. In the hour of crisis all the people of this country along with poor people of Bihar came forward to help but whenever there is any such problem in Bihar neither the Union Government nor people of other states come forward to help them. Our colleagues have not taken this problem seriously. This issue should be discussed in the presence of hon'ble Prime Minister. A comprehensive programme should be prepared to find out permanent solution to this problem.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, the issue of floods and drought is being discussed in the House for last two days and like other previous years we are having a discussion on it. It seems that we have resolved to sit till late in order to raise this issue in this House. A lot of hue and cry is raised over this issue in Zero Hour but by the evening the matter is forgotten. This has been going on for years and even before I got elected to Lok Sabha. My constituency is in grip of flood this year. I went there and I feel that there is no need to elaborate this issue as several hon'ble Members have raised different aspects of this problem. I have decided that today onwards, I will not raise this matter again nor waste the time of the House. Every year minister changes. The building of Lok Sabha was constructed long ago but the persons who planned it had taken care of requirements of the next 100 years. This House needs such people today. Ajitji is present here. In our political career we heard discussion about his father. Fortunately, two ministers are present here. The debate is being held on Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Every year flood causes destruction in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In case of any war the development of country goes back by 5 to 10 years but whenever there is severe flood in any area, it goes back by 50 years. This fact should be taken into consideration as we all are affected by it.

Sir, we raise this issue in the House. The natural resources are being exploited due to which this havoc is being caused. The drastic change in nature is the reason for this loss. Every year Bihar and Uttar Pradesh suffer loss due to floods and it will continue. During the discussion on this issue presence of four ministers is required the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Water Resources, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Finance. We see that economy of our neighbouring country Nepal has been ruined. The hilly regions of Nepal have been denuded as a result of which water is not absorbed or collected in catchment area and flows directly to whole Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Today water catchment area has been expanded and causing destruction. Economic system has ruined there. The whole forest area has been denied in last 50 years. Today the Government of India has to work at two levels. If afforestation work is undertaken by India in Nepal even after spending foreign exchange that would show its good results after 20-25 years. If we want to control floods, then more assistance should be given to Nepal for construction of barrages, power sub-stations and hydro-stations. The Government should think over it.

Every year we assemble here and try to resolve the problem of floods in Bihar, we discuss about it but upto when we will be able to find a solution of that destruction?

Only few Members are present in the House right now. The hon. Minister will give his reply and afterwards like every year the news will be telecasted tonight or tomorrow morning that a Member of Parliament from Chhapra constituency raised a matter about his constituency. Hon. Minister, Sir, I rise here to say that if you really want to resolve this problem then kindly constitute a committee. For that you can adopt any measure which is needed. If you need the help of Members any negotiations with Nepal is needed then we are ready for that. Please bring some concrete measures before the House. If you are able to resolve this problem. Then future generations will remember you for good.

The hon. Minister gave his statement in the House. Officials are sitting here. It is shown in the report that how the water enters from Nepal but where lies the solution? ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister, Sir, if you really want to save us from this problem and want to offer something to this country then you can do that. Your background is such that you can give us direction. Whether it is at departmental level or at international level, Minister of finance and Minister of Water Resources should come together to evolve some concrete solution in this regard. In fact I would say that people of the Ministry of External Affairs should also be consulted. We keep on speaking with great anguish but nobody is there to hear. After all, how long Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will remain as laughing stock? Each time we keep on raising this matter and the precious time of the House goes waste. All the Members who had

spoken in the House were trying to put emphasis on the subject so that you can understand the gravity of this matter. My request is that you should take some concrete action in this matter.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important matter. Every year one or the other part of our country is affected by drought, flood, cyclone or land sliding. This year also the severity with which Orissa and Bihar is affected, has made us sad and our sympathy is with these states. But I oppose the double standards being adopted for reaching at decisions. Declaring a fund of Rs. 400 for Orissa is a welcome step. But it is not enough. They should be provided more funds. Justice should be done with Bihar as well. I hail from Bengal and the way 8 districts of West Bengal got affected last year and Jalpaigudi and Coochbihar districts of north Bengal were affected. It is a matter of great sorrow that industries, tea gardens and plants have been ruined there due to floods. Tista, Tursa, Sankos, Raidak and Jaldhaka rivers flows through Bhutan and dolomite extract is taking place in Bhutan, deforestation is taking place and the levels of rivers is becoming shallow. We met the hon. Minister of Water Resources of West Bengal and suggested him about the necessity of constituting Indo-Nepal Commission at the earliest so that we could find a permanent solution of this. We should make efforts to minimise, the losses caused by natural calamities and I would also like to request Minister of Agriculture that he should also make efforts to save the cultivable land.

Many hectares of cultivable land is ruining in north Bengal. Jaigaon is disappearing under silt. What you propose to do for rescuing people from this problem? Minister of Water Resources should immediately constitute an Indo-Bhutan joint river commission with the cooperation of Minister of External Affairs. They should think over it. What scheme you are going to draft for rescuing north Bengal from floods? Talks should be arranged with Bhutan at the earliest and efforts should be made to find the solution of this. This will not only reduce the problems of the people of West Bengal but also of the people of north eastern region. Due to the closure of National Highway people don't get food grains there. Therefore, as an alternative we had demanded for laying a railway line between Chengra Banda to New Mainagudy. That should be done at the earliest. This will benefit the people of North-east alongwith north Bengal. Thanks, for giving me the opportunity to speak. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : Mr. Chairman, since yesterday, this discussion under Rule 193 on the issues of floods, droughts and other natural calamities is going on in this House. So, I will be very brief in my speech.

Many parts of our country have suffered and are suffering heavy losses due to natural calamities, viz., flood, cyclone, earthquake, drought, famine, etc. So, to resolve the problems caused by natural calamities, it is all the more necessary that the long-term policy is formulated. All such old policies are required to be reviewed. Also, the famine code and relief manuals are required to be amended.

Sir, my Constituency, Kutch District is one of the very unfortunate parts of our country which has witnessed the wrath of natural calamities from time to time. It has witnessed more than 32 droughts-famine during the last 53 years. It has also witnessed two worst ever cyclones during the last five years.

Sir, we have lost more than 3,000 precious human lives; movable and immovable properties worth crores of rupees and more than three lakh fruit-bearing trees during the 1998 cyclones. Similarly, during 1999 cyclone, we have lost more than 50,000 cattle-heads.

Sir, then in the killer earthquake of 26th January, 2001, my Constituency suffered a loss of more than 18,000 precious human lives, and movable and immovable properties worth crores of rupees. During that devastating earthquake, four municipal towns and 181 villages were completely damaged; and several other towns and villages suffered losses upto 70 per cent.

So, I request the hon. Minister to please take special care of the devastated areas of Kutch District where the whole economy is shattered due to that killer earthquake.

Sir, lastly I want to say a few lines about the Narmada project. Delay in execution and completion of Narmada project is causing a loss of crores of gallons of water which flows in sea. My request is that if this project is completed, the drought problems of Kutch, Saurashtra and North-Gujarat will be solved permanently.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and see that this project is completed at the earliest.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Here the debate took place about the flood which occurred in Orissa and Bihar. I support all those Members who participated in the debate. I would like to narrate the painful story of Maharashtra in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Give your suggestions.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Severe famine hit Maharashtra. Out of 35 districts of Maharastra 26 districts were hit by famine which includes 23954 villages and live-stock of 3 lakh 64 thousand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tell the remedies for affected people.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : A huge procession was carried out in Malegaon on 27th. There were hundred and fifty bullock carts in the procession. Women, farmers and labourers participated in the procession. They were demanding, employment for labourers, supply of water through tanks and free fodder for cattles. The bullock carts came from as far as 20 kilometers but nobody gave heed towards their problem.

Bulls attached to these carts were also hungry. Thus, you can see that it is a serious problem. Maharashtra Government had spent Rs. 500 crore till date in this regard. Rs. 11 crore have been spent for water. I would like to request the Union Government to provide Rs. 400 crore for combating drought at the earliest. 8 tehsils of my constituency Nasik are drought hit. Two and a half months are gone and rainy season has also passed but this area has not received any rainfall. I would like to request the Government that maximum assistance should be provided to Nasik district.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, House is discussing natural calamity. Our friend Shri Rudy was telling us that we discuss this issue every year. What else can we do? We are elected MPs and we can provide information about our constituency in the House. We try to be as truthful as possible in it. Hon. Minister is aware of the situation, but the cabinet may not be knowing it. In my opinion states suffer both from drought as well as flood. If people give correct information regarding flood prone rivers, a lot of losses could be avoided. Run off from high rainfall area could be diverted towards rainfall deficient areas. Flood causes damage to the crops and also kills people and livestock. Drought has similar effects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two-thirds of the world is water and one third is land. People do not live in water. Research should be conducted on sea water. This responsibility should be borne by Shri Vajpayee ji. Orissa is afflicted from cyclone and flood. Last year also, lots of damage occurred due to storms. This year flood caused a lot of damage. Government should first experiment with sea water in Mumbai, only then the results should be applied to Orissa. It is our responsibility to face the challenges posed by the natural calamities to the country. Kutch suffered immense damage. Ten thousand people were killed in earthquake in Maharashtra.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand that Government should set up calamity Relief Commission and every year it should be given Rs. 20,000 crores for relief work.

Let my state Maharashtra have some funds. I belong to Maharashtra. Pandharpur under Sholapur district is suffering from drought. The Maharashtra Government has demanded Rs. 500 crores from Union Government. Government of India should provide that fund. I trust that this money would be provided. Otherwise, Shiv Sena would be withdrawing their support. Therefore that 500 crore rupees should be provided.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have said what you had to say and you have also given your suggestion. Now please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Please allow me to speak a little longer. I only have to say that assistance should be given to Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given your suggestion. Rest you can give in writing. Now please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I also write poetry. I want to say a couple of lines:-

"Jab Atal ji ka Raj jayega, tabhi Baadh waala chain se khayega.

Jab hamara raj aayega, pure desh mein ujala hi ujala chhaega."

We have to do that. Shri Ajit Singh is an expert and should not have changed sides. But, since he is there I request him as well as the Government to consider this issue seriously.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. In India, on the one hand the southern States are facing flood and on the other, the northern States are faced with drought and famine. The Government of India is spending crores of rupees as the relief fund. About 25 years back the Government of India thought of linking Ganga with Mahanadi, Godavari and Cauvery. By this, not only the drought could be checked but we could also control the flood. So, this has to be looked into. The hon. Minister of Agriculture comes from the farming community and he knows the problems being faced by the farmers. I hope he will take care of all these things.

This year in Karnataka we have lost the crop because there was no rainfall at all. The entire State is facing the drinking water problem. I would like to submit that Netravati river is there in the Western Ghats. At least for the drinking water purposes we should have a high level canal from that river which could solve the water problem of 72 talukas having the lowest rainfall. Our Chief Minister, Union Ministers belonging to the State of Karnataka as well as Members representing our State had made a representation to the hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday, we met the Minister of Agriculture also. I request the Government to immediately release the money, in addition to the normal calamity relief fund, asked for. Just as the Government is giving extra fund to the States of Orissa and Gujarat, considering their extraordinary situation, it

should also give extra money to the State of Karnataka because of its extraordinary situation.

I do not wish to take much time of the House. In the end I would only like to say that for desiltation of tanks, which is a very effective method to check flood, the Government of Karnataka has prepared a special project. Kindly grant us fund, either from the World Bank or any other organisation, for this project.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Member to put his influence on the Chief Minister of his State to release water, being stored in the Almatti, to Andhra Pradesh. We are facing a great difficulty in this regard. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has already made a request to the Chief Minister of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MIUNIYAPPA : Without the permission of the Government of India, your State has taken a canal from there and thereby created inter-state water disputes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Yerrannaidu, you should draw the attention of the Government, and not the Member, towards this.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after a long wait, it is a welcome relief to have a say in this important debate on flood and drought.

Sir, I believe that it has become an annual ritual to pay tributes to the sufferings caused to the people due to natural calamities for years together. I do not know whether any Government has thought of a long term plan to solve or to mitigate the natural calamity problems due to such discussions. I do not know whether this Relief Work will be construed and understood by the Government of India to relieve the burden of the people which is caused by the natural calamities.

Sir, flood and drought are the annual phenomena in one part or the other of the country. Many hon. Members have pointed out that since 1950s, it is being debated and committee after committee have been formed. Sir, I will be suggesting one thing. This is a welcome departure, at least, this time, when many hon. Members have expressed their concern for a long-term plan instead of asking for a relief. When we can amend the Constitution to meet our requirements, and when we can change our economic system to meet the international requirements, I do not find any reason how the Constitution would not come in the way of changing the responsibility of the Central Government. The Minister has said that it is the responsibility of the Central Government and that it is the State Government's responsibility. But it needed to be changed.

For that reason, I shall be suggesting two ways. Either a Commission on the lines of Election Commission should be constituted consisting of experts to formulate a policy to tackle this problem on a long term basis. I am asking a simple question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Can he just tell the House the amount that has been sanctioned by the Central Government in the shape of Central assistance right from the days of its existence till today! I am sure it must be running into several thousand crores of rupees. But does it really give relief to the people who are suffering from natural calamities? My State of Orissa and my Constituency Kendrapara in particular, are a victim of natural calamity every year. Either it would have a cyclone or flood or drought. For the last five years, the mother-nature is very unkind to the people of Orissa. We are becoming victims every year. Around 50,000 lives have been lost in cyclone. This year more than 1000 people lost their lives. One-third of the population has been affected. I would be suggesting one thing. As suggested by my friend just now, the problems of the Hirakud Dam have to be reviewed by the Central Water Commission and the river water basin that has come up, need to be excavated. The chocking mouth of the rivers is to be dredged. I am not referring to Orissa alone But I am talking about all the river mouths from West Bengal to Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, dredging operation should be carried out prior to monsoon. If that is done, I believe that damage to property and life due to heavy floods will be reduced there in any part of the country.

Sir, it has been pointed out by many hon. Members that Orissa has got very kind attention from the Central Government. Sir, if the hon. Members are not convinced with the plight of the people of Orissa due to recent floods, then I would suggest to the House to form a House committee.

21.00 hrs.

Let them have a look at the problems of the people Now, even after about a month of the calamity, the people are still cut off from the market area and are yet to be approached. They are still under the open sky. The Central Government has been well told about the financial position of the State Government and with the misery of the people in mind, I would appeal to the Central Government to assist the State Government with at least Rs. 15,000 crore so that our people can come out of their misery

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : Sir, I would only like to intervene briefly. I would just like to reply to some of the points raised by the hon. Members from both sides of the House.

At the outset, I am very much thankful to all the hon. Members that they have given their considered views in the House as well as drawn the attention of the Central Government to the problems that are being confronted by different State Governments in the country. We all know that flood and drought are the two major problems with

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

the Central Government and the State Governments are facing every year. And these problems of drought and flood are becoming more and more acute and, as has been stated here by the hon. Members, have assumed alarming proportion. There is no doubt that the Government at the Centre as well as the State Governments are trying their best to mitigate the sufferings of the people. But the problem is simply so big that it is very difficult to protect the areas affected by flood and drought in the country.

In short, I would like to highlight some of the measures which we have taken. Some hon. Members have stated that there is no water policy and that water is not being used properly due to which floods and drought are very common in the country. But I would like to just point out here that we very much have a Water Policy of the Government of India under the Ministry of Water Resources. The National Water Policy had been adopted by the Government in 1987. This Water Policy is being enforced and as per the guidelines that have been provided. It is not only that the Central Government alone is involved in the adoption of the Central Water Policy but all the State Governments of the country have also been involved. They have adopted the National Water Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of the country. So, in the National Water Policy, flood management and drought management have been dealt with in detail.

For the information of the hon. Members, I would just like to cite a relevant sentence from the National Water Policy.

"While physical flood protection works like embankments and dykes will continue to be necessary, the emphasis should be on non-structural measures for the minimisation of losses such as flood forecasting, warning and flood plain zoning so as to reduce the recurring expenditure on flood relief."

So far as drought management is concerned, I would like to read one sentence.

"Drought prone area should be made less vulnerable to drought associated problems through soil moisture, conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimisation of evaporation losses, development of ground water potential and transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate."

Sir, so far as drought mitigation measures are concerned, the National Water Policy emphasises that transfer of water from surplus area to the deficit area should be immediately effected to, so that surplus water which causes flood and damages to properties and human lives lost could be transferred to the deficit areas of the country. This would not only solve the problem of flood but also the problem of drought. This is the solution or policy which has been adopted by the National Water Council under the chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister, very recently, while addressing the electronic media, has stated that NDA Government would not allow the water to go waste. But I should point out here that all the hon. Members know that transfer of water from surplus basin to deficit basin requires the concurrence of all the State Governments. Unless all the State Governments agree, it is very difficult to have this transfer of water from surplus basin to deficit basin.

When our friend from Andhra Pradesh, Shri Yerrannaidu, appealed to our another friend, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, to release water from Almatti, the instant response was that they themselves have diverted water from this area to that area. He mentioned the name of that particular area. So, unless all the States agree to have sharing of the surplus water, the areas that come under flood cannot be minimised, hence the drought prone areas cannot be provided with water. Many hon. Members, especially from Bihar, have pointed out that the Government has not done anything to have some sort of a treaty or arrangement with Nepal or Bhutan. In this regard, I have the details with me. Over the years we are trying our best to arrive at a solution. Many a time the officials from our Government have visited and had interactions with the officials of the Nepal Government. As all of us know, both of us are sovereign countries. Unless we sit together and come to some sort of consensus to control these rivers which are flowing from Nepal or Bhutan to Uttar Pradesh or to Bihar or to West Bengal, it cannot be solved. We are trying our best and I can assure the House that the Government is very sincere to have some sort of an arrangement with Nepal so that this problem which is becoming acute and which is threatening to assume dangerous proportions could be minimised and people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh can be protected.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sethi ji, do you plan to have a high level meeting? Different sentiments have been raised by Members here. Whether any such proposal of Nepal Bhutan and India is under consideration of the Government?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Yes, high level meetings had been arranged. The House must be aware that that Government of India has already signed with the Government of Nepal to use the water of Sarada river. We are having discussions at the highest level. When former Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, visited India, I personally met him and had discussions with him.

So, it will certainly take some time. High level discussions are going on. Similarly, with the Government of Bhutan, discussions are going on. Our officers have

visited a number of times. It is not only in respect of Bhutan but also even in respect of China, our officers have visited. In connection with the flash floods which caused enormous damage in Himachal Pradesh, our officers have already visited China and had discussions.

You will admit and all the hon. Members will agree with me that to have an international treaty, it requires time. It is not only my Ministry but the Ministry of External Affairs as well as the Government of other countries are concerned about it. So, it will certainly take time.

Since we are very much concerned about the time factor, I will finish my speech in just a minute. Now, I would like to mention about Sittabdiara. Shri Prabhunath Singh mentioned about the village of the late Shri Jayaprakash Narain. For him, it is a very good news. Sittabdiara Anti-Erosion Scheme involving a sum of Rs. 3.26 crore, the work has to be executed in three phases, has been approved by the Ganga Flood Control Commission. The execution of the first phase of the scheme amounting to Rs. 27 lakh will be taken up soon by the Government of Bihar. This is the information I would like to share with the hon. Members of this House.

Similarly, about Hirakud also, I would like to point out one thing. My friend has some apprehension that Hirakud dam is not safe. I can well assure him that there is no question of panicky. Hirakud dam is very much safe. It has been examined by the CWPRS. ... *(Interruptions)* There is no question of panicky. There should be no apprehension regarding the safety of the Hirakud dam. It is all right. I assure the hon. Members from Orissa about this. I would also like to direct and invite the CWPRS to examine it once again so that the question of apprehension is removed from the minds of some Members.

Within the short time, I have highlighted some of the points. There are many points which I could not attend to. However, if possible, I would write to all the Members regarding the points raised by them. With this I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the seven hours of debate, many hon. Members have expressed their concern and deep sense of anguish at the loss of lives, property and livelihood because of floods and drought. I wish to state that myself and the Union Government share the concern and the anguish of the hon. Members.

Most of the hon. Members have cited the problems faced in their States. Many of them have also mentioned that there should be some long-term flood control measures or drought-relief measures. My colleague has mentioned some of the points about the water policy and the drought-relief policy. But, as far as flood control measures are concerned, I would like to point out, as the hon. Member from Orissa has himself pointed out, that this is a State subject. The Calamity Relief Fund or the National Calamity Contingency Fund is for immediate relief control. They are not for flood control. The Planning Commission allots money to States for flood control and in the last four years, over Rs. 3000 crore has been given by the Planning Commission to the States for control of floods.

In the year 1976, the National Committee on Flood was formed. That Committee gave its report in 1981 and made many suggestions. Some of these have been implemented and many are yet to be implemented.

Again, I would like to point out that State Governments undertake flood management works and the Central Government only renders technical assistance. It is the responsibility of the State Government to construct *bhands* and *cuts*–that is what you were mentioning in Bihar. The question as to whether any flood control measures have been effective or not, I would like to say that the National Committee on Floods estimated that there was 41 lakh hectare, which was flood prone, on a regular basis. As per estimate, more than 16 lakh hectare have been made flood-proof now. Obviously, we have a long way to go. These are the regularly, perennially flood-prone areas. There are many areas where the floods, which was not there previously, had affected and as everybody is saying that this is a calamity. These are natural disasters. They cannot be totally prevented or eradicated. All we can do at this level is that when it happens we promptly give relief. I can assure the Members that in giving relief, no politics is played.

Some Members have expressed their concerns. I would also like to point out that while many Members have asked for assistance for their States and many of them have mentioned about the assistance given to Orissa. I am sure, no Member can grudge the assistance given to Orissa. What Orissa has faced is not just floods or droughts this year. They have had, for the last three years, disasters. Therefore, I am sure, no Member should feel and I am sure every Member wants more assistance for their States. They should ask for it; they should demand; they should give us the details; and they should ask the State Governments also to forward these demands for more assistance. But nobody should begrudge the assistance being given to Orissa. I would also like to point out that whatever assistance has been given to Orissa is on an *ad hoc* basis. The Government is yet to assess finally as to what damage has been done. Assistance from NCCF is yet to be given.

I can assure the Members from Orissa and the Members of this House that the Government here fully shares their concern. There are constraints, both financial and resource. There is a procedure to be followed in giving assistance. But no politics is intended. These are human tragedies. I do not think any question of helping one State and not helping the other State has arisen. This side or that side, especially in this House, we all know each other. Many people are on this side or that side. I have friends

[Shri Ajit Singh]

on both sides. Many of my erstwhile friends from that side are now on this side. Shri Yerrannaidu is sitting here. Shri Arjun Sethi is here. So, there is no question of playing partisan politics. Some Members may feel that assistance has not been coming promptly. I will come to State-wise and tell you as to what has happened, as to what should have been done by the State itself and as to how we could have responded faster, if certain things were carried out.

Before going on that, I would also like to mention that many Members have mentioned about the disaster management. As far as the policy initiative is concerned, in August, 1999, a high-powered Committee was formed. The hon. Member, who is now presiding over the House, was correct in naming the person heading it as Shri J.C. Pant. It is not Shri K.C. Pant; the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission. The hon. Member was right. It was Shri J.C. Pant who headed that Committee and his final report will be submitted by 30th September of this year.

Due to the calamity in Gujarat a National Committee on Disaster Management was constituted with the Prime Minister, as Chairman, and Shri Sharad Pawar, as Vice-Chairman. The mandate of the Committee includes disasters, both natural and man-made. The Committee is required to suggest measures for legislation, and organisational arrangements in the field of disaster management.

The kind of arrangements that may be made at national level such as having an authority or a commission are being looked after by this Committee. To avoid duplication and to provide expert assistance to this Committee, the high-powered Committee referred above has been asked to serve as a Working Group of this Committee.

Sir, the hon. Member from Orissa also suggested that there is a Constitution Review Commission and maybe, they can look into how the Constitution can be amended so that flood control can become a Central subject. I would beg my friend to take up this issue with his party, which is opposing the review of the Constitution. They may be opposed to it as a policy, but there are many such things where the whole country will benefit if we review how the Centre and the States can cooperate more or where the Centre can make a policy, which covers the entire country like the National Water Policy. Now, sharing of water is becoming a big problem. No two States will agree and given the chance, no two districts will agree. Nobody wants to share water. So, maybe, these are some of the issues, which can be taken up by the Constitution Review Commission.

Some hon. Members from Bihar have raised the issue about division of the Calamity Relief Fund. The basis as to how the Calamity Relief Fund is given to different States is decided on the recommendations of the Finance Commission. At present, this is the award of the Eleventh Finance Commission, which has been duly approved by Parliament and even the Finance Minister has no role in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : The Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission has been accepted by the Government, but it has not been debated in Parliament.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Even if it is debated, we cannot change anything.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : It has been debated or not, I cannot recollect offhand. Anyhow, it cannot be changed. Let us accept that.

As far as division between Bihar and Jharkhand is concerned, it has not been exactly 50:50. The State of Bihar has got slightly more than Jharkhand, that is, about 56 per cent as compared to 44 per cent for Jharkhand.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Hon. Minister, allocation was made on the basis of area, but as per 11th Finance Commission funds should be allocated to the states on the basis of expenditure on natural calamity during last 10 years. Thus the direction of finance commission was not applied. I also wrote a letter to hon. Minister of Finance in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let it be replied first.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR): All the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission have not been accepted by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, the issue raised by the hon. Member from Bihar is not the concern of this debate, but his point is well taken and his views and feelings will be conveyed to the person whom he has named and who may be concerned about this.

Now, let me come to Bihar, because, at least, yesterday many hon. Members made the point that no assistance has been provided to Bihar and the Government is not concerned about Bihar. Till yesterday, there was no communication or memorandum or plea for any assistance from the Government of Bihar. Just by reading newspapers, we decided *suo motu* that a Minister would visit Bihar. Otherwise, the Government of Bihar did not seem to be concerned or did not seem to know that there is CRF, there is NCCF and that they can ask for assistance. Anyway, a team was sent there. My colleague, Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, the Minister of State for Agriculture, went there and he interacted with a lot of people. I will go into that, but before that I would like to say one more thing. The Finance Ministry has framed certain

guidelines under which the Calamity Relief Fund could be given to the States.

In fact, the Calamity Relief Fund is given in two instalments to every State. The Finance Commission fixed it. Two instalments are there to any State that has been flood-affected or drought-affected and has asked for it. The second instalment which was due in October. That has been given to those States who asked for it right away.

In the case of Bihar, last year, about Rs. 70 crore were due to the State of Bihar. The share of the Central Government is 75 per cent while that of the State Government is 25 per cent. But they did not open the account as required in the guidelines given by the Finance Commission. Therefore, that money could not be used. It is still with the Government of Bihar. Before asking for any assistance, they have that Rs. 70 crore.

This year, about Rs. 71 crore are due to them. Again, it is 75 per cent and 25 per cent share. But I do believe that the Government of Bihar has taken steps to do something about it. I would like to congratulate Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that finally the Government has woken up and is worried about the poor masses that are suffering because of flood. They have initiated the steps to at least use the money that is due to them from the Central Government.

Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation accompanied by Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner and Chief Engineer, Flood Management in the Central Water Commission visited Bihar on 8th and 9th August to make an on-the-spot assessment of the flood situation in that State. Apart from the aerial survey of eight affected districts, they also had a meeting with the district officials of Gopalganj at one of the block headquarters of the district. The team also had meetings with officials and Ministers concerned and also with the officials concerned with Flood Control Management later in the day. The team was handed over a memorandum which assessed the total damage caused by floods at about Rs. 300 crore and seeks further assistance of Rs. 95 crore. According to the State Government, it is as per the Central Government norms. The steps to constitute a Central Team to examine the extent of damage in the light of the memorandum have already been initiated. The Team was informed that the State Government has opened the CRF account as per the Central Government schemes. The documents made available by the State Governments are being sent to the Ministry of Finance so that they may satisfy themselves about the account having been opened according to the guidelines of the Finance Commission and release the Central share of the CRF.

So, any assistance that the Central Government gives - whether it is drought or flood - is based on the memorandum giving the assessment made by the State. They have to take certain steps before we can give any assistance. If it is drought, they have to declare districts as drought-affected before we can give food for work.

Now, the Central Government has decided that whether it is drought or flood, any State, which requires food for work, would be given that amount without any burden on the State Government. Many State Governments have asked for it. But before that, the State Government has to follow certain procedures. They have to notify the drought-affected districts. They have to give an estimate of how much food would be needed at a particular time because the cost would be born by the Ministry of Rural Development here. They have to instruct the FCI how much food is to be delivered, at what place and at what time schedule.

The Central Government, besides CRF, is also having NCCF. Now, the NCCF is the Contingency Fund. The CRF, as I said, has been allotted to the States. Two instalments are given. But the NCCF is the Contingency Fund and money from that can be given only after we receive a memorandum. Then, we send a team from here that visits the States and talks to the officials concerned. I would like to emphasise again that some people have complained that the Central Team came, they visited and they saw. They went to four districts in one day. The Central Government is not going to question the data given by the State Government authorities. We do talk to them. But if the State Government says that such-and-such district is drought-affected and this much amount is needed, the Central Government is not going to go into the nitty-gritty of that.

We take them on good faith, as again, I said, it is a question of human misery, we want to give relief. But there are certain procedures and before we give relief, we have to have to know where to give relief, what time it is scheduled and when it has to be given.

Many States have followed that, Chief Ministers and Members of Parliament representing many States have come here, have met the Prime Minister and apprised him of the situation. I must compliment the people of Karnataka, the Member from Karnataka is here, that there was no internal politics as far as Karnataka is concerned with regard to the present situation. People are accusing the Central Government for playing politics and politics at the State level also. All Members of Parliament from Karnataka, irrespective of their party affiliations, came together and made their case. A team had been sent there. It has come back and its report will be studied. Based on that and considering the resource that we have, the commitment that we have made, and the requests that we are receiving from the other States, whatever assistance can be given will be given.

We have already given one lakh tonnes of food for work to Karnataka. They wanted two lakh tonnes of cattle

[Shri Ajit Singh]

feed, that has also been given. Again, as soon as we receive the schedule from any district where it has to be delivered, the Ministry of Rural Development will take necessary action.

As far as Kerala is concerned, the Government of Kerala has been allotted 5,000 metric tonnes of rice free of cost. Their share of CRF has already been advanced to them. They also had some strange phenomena of multi-colour rain and some insects raining in Kerala. The Minister of Science and Technology has ordered a team of his Department to visit Kerala to make a scientific study of red rains and other environmental degradation. This was decided after a discussion in the Rajya Sabha.

With regard to Bihar, I have already mentioned.

As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, they have sent a memorandum for assistance for cloud burst on 6th of August. They are still assessing the damage themselves. They only sent a communication about it.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has not reported any cases of drought. The only problem they have is that Chennai town has always perennial water problem. I do not know whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is going to help them or not in that regard.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We have released the water and it will be reaching Tamil Nadu.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : But the shortage of drinking water is there and really it has been asked to supply water to the Chennai town.

The Government of Maharashtra did not send any memorandum in the year 2000 or 2001 until 9th of June. A team did go there from 19th July to 23rd July. They have given a report. Half lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains have been given to them. Until recently, the Maharashtra Government wanted cash and they did not want food for work. But finally they have agreed and we have given them about half a lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains.

Well, I am sure, as every Member has stated that these floods and drought have become an annual feature and debate takes place every year here in this House, I share the anguish of the Members that some States have floods every year. We should look into any long-term plans that we can make. As I said, this is a State subject. But as far as Bihar is concerned, a foreign Government is also involved, I can only assure the Members from Bihar that a sense of urgency needs to be imparted to my Cabinet colleagues in the External Affair or any other Ministry. I assure them that I will convey their feelings, their anguish and that need of urgency is there, it will be conveyed to them too. I am sure, we will initiate some steps and follow them vigorously because whatever Central assistance the Central Government may nor may not give to Bihar, but Bihar floods cannot be controlled until some kind of arrangement we have with the Nepal Government.

Therefore, we have to covey that sense of urgency not only to our Government but ask them to convey to the Nepal Government also because many other Treaties can take time. This flood in Bihar really affects the lives of the millions of people. It has been going on for so long and we have to do something about it right away.

Again I would like to thank the hon. Members for listening to me and also, before that for giving their suggestions and pointing out the problems that their respective States face. Again I would like to assure you that the Government within their constraints, within the limits of the procedure that has to be followed will do anything in their power to help so that the hon. Members can go to their constituents and assure them that whatever best can be done is being done.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Hon. Minister, it is an extraordinary situation in Karnataka. You know it very well. Like Gujarat and Orissa, there is no fodder for cattle, no rainfall and no sowing. We have lost one crop in this year. So, kindly give some money, in addition to the money released from Calamity Relief Fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The hon. Member is welcome to come and discuss with me.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : I would like to mention one more point to the Minister of Water Resources. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about the national issue. We have to think about recharging of water, building dams and other measures. Regarding the Water Policy, kindly call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers under the chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister for linking the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing of what you say will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

21.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 10, 2001/Sravana 19, 1923 (Saka)

*Not recorded.

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