

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 24, 2003/Phalgun 5, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. Uttar Pradesh Government made a murderous attack on the demonstrators ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): An effort was made to kill Mulayam Singh Yadav ji. An attempt was also made to kill Samajvadi Party leader, Shri Akhilesh Yadav ...*(Interruptions)* I have also been attacked with the same intention.

MR. SPEAKER: If one of you speak, it will be better. I must know what you are saying. One of you two should sit and let the other speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice of adjournment motion. An attempt has been made on the life of our leader. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Both of you are members of the same party, if one of you speak, it would be better.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Therefore, I request you to adjourn the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have been prevented from participating in the proceedings of Parliament.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Uttar Pradesh Government has deliberately made a murderous attack on him. It was already announced that on 21st a peaceful demonstration would be held by Samajvadi Party against POTA, on the problems of farmers and on the issue of unemployment. On 19th Uttar Pradesh Samajvadi Party leader Shri Ramsharan Das wrote a letter to the District Magistrate of Lucknow and Senior Superintendent of Police and sought permission to hold the demonstration. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise this issue during Question Hour. You can take it up later.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Leave all matters aside. On 21st when Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was travelling from Delhi to Lucknow by Gomti Express a barbaric lathicharge was made on the activists at Etawah in his presence only. It has been reported in the Nav Bharat Times. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh was also present in that meeting. After that meeting Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Shrimati Sushila Saroj wanted to return by Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines to participate in the proceedings of the House. They were prevented deliberately. Democracy has been stifled. In Uttar Pradesh, Mayavati Government is doing a destructive work deliberately. POTA is being imposed on Legislators. Nothing is being done to solve the problems of unemployment, starvation etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Akhilesh, please tell what do you want to speak. Please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It involves a matter of breach of privilege also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received the notice from Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: How it can be raised in the Legislative Assembly? Members of Parliament are also involved in it. This involves a question of breach of privileges. Mr. Speaker, Sir, indiscriminate firing was opened there, many vehicles were set on fire. A murderous attack was made just to stop Mulayam Singh Yadav ji. Section 144 was enforced. Activists have been arrested deliberately. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Law and order is a subject matter of the State Government. I am sorry I cannot admit the Adjournment Motion on this issue. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Friday, in your absence. ...*(Interruptions)* When Shri Pandian was in the Chair, Shri Harin Pathak and Sushma Swaraj promised that they would collect all the information from the State Government and then make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know as to the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, what do you want to say?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a judicial inquiry should be conducted into the whole case. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, please sit down. Now, please let Akhilesh ji speak.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, please see this photograph in the newspaper. *...(Interruptions)* Lathi charge and firing is being made by the police.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot show photos in the House. Put this newspaper down. You can show this only in my chamber, not here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. *...(Interruptions)* On Friday, the Government had said that a statement would be made today after collecting information about the whole case. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, please sit down. Akhilesh ji, if you do not want to speak, I would start question hour. Q. No. 81

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you have called my name, please hear me. We were addressing the functionaries of youth organisation of Samajvadi Party on 21st Feb. in the capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow at 19 Vikramaditya Marg at the Samajvadi party office at 10.30 a.m. At 11.00 A.M. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, the Samajvadi party leader and leader of the parliamentary party, came on the stage and Shri Akhilesh Yadav incharge of youth affairs of Samajvadi Party and M.P. from Kannauj was also with him. As soon as they came on the stage, at the instance of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Police personnel first pelted stones and then fired tear gas shells indiscriminately which had a dazzling effect on our eyes. Then they resorted to indiscriminate firing. I have the used shells with me. *...(Interruptions)* This has happened with an M.P. Please do not make a mockery of it. It could also happen to you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mane ji, please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This incident happened with a Member of Parliament. This can happen with you too. *...(Interruptions)* I have got all the papers with me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen all the papers.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the tradition of the Parliament that whenever any such incident happens with any Member of Parliament the entire House support the member. This was done when the police misbehaved with Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. When such an incident happened with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, all the members showed unity and had supported his cause. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you that in the incident that happened with Parliamentarians like Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Akhilesh Yadav and myself in Uttar Pradesh the Chief Minister of U.P. had hatched a conspiracy to eliminate our national leadership. *...(Interruptions)*

So I would like to submit to you that keeping in view all this, a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted and it should visit the spot. *...(Interruptions)* It should investigate the whole matter and submit this report to the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the notice for Adjournment Motion. We now go to the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. *...(Interruptions)* There has been an attack on the life of an hon. Member. We support the notice given for Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we are deeply concerned. *...(Interruptions)* This is a serious matter. I have also given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

Hon. Members of this House were attacked and assaulted on Friday. Whenever such incidents have taken place in the past where hon. Members of this House were assaulted, the whole House has stood united. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who was assaulted this time?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who was assaulted? Please mention the name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we were informed that the Government would come before the House and make a statement. Where is that statement?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In spite of the assurance given by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs these things are happening. I demand that the Government should make a statement and should take cognisance of this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: They are bonded labourers of Mayawati. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the question hour go peacefully now. I have heard you. I am disallowing your adjournment motion. Shri Dileep Sanghani please ask your question.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and State Minister of Home Affairs assured me on Friday that he would give statement on the incident of Uttar Pradesh on the same day. The House could not run owing to lack of quorum on that day. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Please ask the Government to talk to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and to give statement in the House. Though they are a party themselves in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. But we would like to know as to what is being done by the Government of India in this regard, what information they have, because the Government have assured; so let us be informed about the time.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will get the information from the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you get the information on this issue as to what statement the Government wants to make and if they want to make a statement, they should make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you, now please sit down. You know when Speaker is on his legs you will

have to take your seat. I have allowed you, that does not mean that whole question hour will be devoted to this issue only. You mentioned that hon. Minister accepted this and promised it. If the hon. Minister accepted this I have directed the Government to place the briefing in this regard in the House after question hour is over. When demand has been accepted then what is there in making noise. I have accepted your demand.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This incident happened with me.

MR. SPEAKER: When the hon. Minister request for this only then you request for this, only then you mention the incident; not this time.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Please give the ruling to the Government to give information after question hour is over.

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving ruling.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I want to keep these empty cartridges in your cognizance. ...(Interruptions)
Please take these in your protection and direct the Government for necessary action.

11.12 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Schemes for Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries

*81. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by the Union Government for animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries during the last three years;

(b) the funds provided for the purpose, separately during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether any subsidy has also been provided by the Union Government for these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has implemented number of centrally sponsored and central sector schemes relating to animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries during the last three years. The details of these schemes are enclosed as Annexure-I.

Under the centrally sponsored schemes of the Department, the funds are released to the State Governments mainly on the basis of availability of funds, past utilization and viability of the proposals received from them. A statement indicating the State-wise release of fund under these schemes during the last three years is enclosed as Annexure-II.

Subsidy is provided under various schemes of the Department relating to animal husbandry and fisheries. The details of these schemes and amount of subsidy are indicated in the Statement enclosed as Annexure-III. The Government however, does not provide any subsidy for poultry farming.

Annexure I*Details of the Schemes implemented during Ninth Five Year Plan*

1. National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme
2. National Ram/Buck Production Programme
3. Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development
4. Assistance to State Poultry Farms
5. Assistance to States for Fodder Development
6. Assistance to States for Control of Livestock Diseases
7. Creation of Disease Free Zones
8. Central Cattle Development Organisation
9. Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hisar
10. Central Poultry Development Organization
11. Central Fodder Development Organization
12. Directorate of Animal Health
13. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme
14. Project on Animal System
15. Cattle Insurance

16. Preservation and Development of Pack Animals
17. Professional Efficiency Development
18. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication
19. Assistance to States for Improvement/ Modernisation of Abattoirs and Carcass Utilisation Centres
20. Integrated Sample Surveys for estimation of production of livestock products
21. Strengthening of AH Division
22. Fishery Survey of India
23. Maintenance of Dredger
24. Fishing Harbours at Major and Minor Ports
25. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture
26. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries
27. National Welfare of Fishermen
28. Inland Capture Fisheries
29. Development of Fisheries in Hilly Regions
30. Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, Cochi
- 30A. Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore
31. Integrated Fisheries Project, Kochi
32. Fisheries Training and Extension
33. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture
34. Assistance to Coastguards
35. Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics

Annexure II*State-wise Release of Funds during Last Three Years (Rs. in Lakhs)*

Sl. No.	State/Ut	Years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166.85	1505.15	1070.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	102.62	269.91	114.00
3.	Assam	91.00	44.74	181.94
4.	Bihar	159.37*	124.45	191.33
5.	Chattisgarh	—	77.50	924.57

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	103.85	70.91	51.33
7.	Gujarat	1078.94	888.00	599.07
8.	Haryana	668.05	585.40	548.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	695.29	191.34	331.11
10.	Jharkhand	—	2.00	138.95
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	533.25	25.91	156.54
12.	Karnataka	1243.41	457.04	536.70
13.	Kerala	861.07	670.65	1003.33
14.	M.P.	271.2**	807.30	958.29
15.	Maharashtra	967.44	1449.50	922.90
16.	Manipur	226.69	169.58	72.67
17.	Meghalaya	70.06	271.76	152.66
18.	Mizoram	286.49	198.82	352.86
19.	Nagaland	347.25	370.58	689.57
20.	Orissa	694.32	673.63	380.40
21.	Punjab	561.18	566.52	114.09
22.	Rajasthan	94.93	277.58	760.34
23.	Sikkim	132.61	249.53	342.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	1282.93	949.77	1113.52
25.	Tripura	344.16	170.54	392.03
26.	U.P.	557.37***	853.41	998.38
27.	Uttaranchal	—	27.07	298.00
28.	West Bengal	640.57	1047.43	1638.47
29.	A&N Islands	75.22	101.33	106.44
30.	Chandigarh	6.40	6.58	97.65
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.00	1.50	1.20
32.	Daman & Diu	32.25	74.80	112.25
33.	Delhi	30.66	26.31	28.33
34.	Lakshadweep	11.92	10.50	13.00
35.	Pondicherry	189.35	242.73	135.29
Total		11539.76	13459.77	15528.22

*Includes Jharkhand, ** Includes Chhattisgarh

***Includes Uttaranchal

Annexure III

Details of the subsidy provided under various schemes for animal husbandry, poultry farming and fishery activities during last three years

1. Assistance to States for control of Animal Disease

Under the Foot & Mouth Disease component of this scheme, subsidy is provided for the cost of vaccine @25% by Central Government and 25% by the State Government.

2. Cattle Insurance

Under this scheme subsidy is provided on the insurance premium of cattle @ about 44% of the premium amount.

3. Development of Coastal Marine Fishery

Subsidy is provided on the following components:

- Motorisation of traditional fishing craft @Rs. 12000 for IBM and @Rs. 10000 for OBM.
- Reimbursement of excise duty on HSD oil @Rs. 351.75 per kl. of HSD.
- Purchase of gear box @Rs. 6000.

4. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture

The subsidy is provided for the following components:

- Renovation/Reclamation of ponds @20% of the cost limited to Rs. 12,000 per ha for general category and @25% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000 per ha for SC/ST
- Cost of fish feed, fish seed, fertilizers, manure etc. @ 20% of the cost upto Rs. 6,000 per ha for general category and @ 20% of the cost upto Rs. 6,000 per ha for general category and @25% of the cost for SC/ST upto Rs. 7500 per ha.
- Construction of new ponds and tanks in own-land @20% of the cost upto Rs. 0.40 lakh per ha for general category and @25% for the cost upto Rs. 0.50 for SC/ST. For hill States/Districts and NE Region @20% of the cost upto Rs. 0.60 lakh per ha for all farmers and @25% of the cost upto Rs. 0.75 lakh per ha for SC/ST.
- Running water fish culture in hill areas @20% of the cost upto Rs. 4000 for general category and @25% of the cost upto Rs. 5000 for SC/ST.

- (e) Integrated fish farming with piggery, poultry, duckery etc. @20% of the cost upto Rs. 16000 per ha for general category and @25% of the cost upto Rs. 20,000 per ha for SC/ST.
- (f) Provision of aerator @ 25% of the cost upto Rs. 12,500 per set.
- (g) Establishment of small freshwater prawn seed hatchery @25% of the cost with maximum ceiling of Rs. 1.60 lakh to entrepreneurs only.
- (h) Establishment of fish feed units @ 20% of the cost upto Rs. 5.00 lakh.

5. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture

The subsidy is provided for the following components:

- (a) Development/reclamation of Brackishwater fish farm and first crop input @25% of the capital cost or cost of input for the first year upto Rs. 30,000 per ha.
- (b) Establishment of prawn/shrimp seed hatchery @10% of cost upto Rs. 1.00 lakh/hatchery.

6. Welfare of fishermen

The subsidy is provided for the following components:

- (a) Construction of houses @ Rs. 40,000 per dwelling unit.
- (b) Saving-cum-relief @ Rs. 600 per annum per fishermen for marine @ Rs. 450 per annum per fishermen for inland.
- (c) Accidence insurance—Insurance premium is subsidized.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank hon. Minister for answering my questions so elaborately. But I would like to ask some questions from hon. Minister. The funds allotted to many States by the Government have increased during three consecutive years as for Andhra Pradesh Rs. 166.85 lakhs in 1999-2000, Rs. 1505.15 lakh in 2000-2001 and Rs. 1070.46 lakhs in year 2001-02, but in the case of Gujarat while it was Rs. 1078.94 lakhs in 1999-2000, Rs. 888.00 lakhs in 2000-2001 it has come down to Rs. 599.07 in the year 2001-2002.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: For Rajasthan while it was Rs. 94.93 lakh in 1999-2000; Rs. 277.58 lakh in

2000-2001 and it became Rs. 760.34 in 2001-2002. I would like to know from the Government the criteria for increasing funds and how the Government work out this so that it is different for different States? Similarly, in reply to second part of my question it has been stated that for the development of Coastal Marine Fishery subsidy is being given at the rate of Rs. 351.75 per kilolitre on excise duty on diesel price. This assistance has been given since 1990-1992. This assistance has been given since 1992. The poor fishermen have not been provided with assistance they deserve since 1992 in commensurate with the rise in the price of diesel. They have been protesting. What action is being taken by the Government to provide them assistance comparative to update value and to fulfil their demands and the time by which they will be fulfilled.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the assistance to States is given after discussing with them and they are earmarked for each scheme. This allocation is more or less or more for different years based on utilization report. The figures you have seen are not less for Gujarat. They have been increased for some States. Some States show more utilization in first year while others show it more for next year. Thus, outlay is fixed for each year scheme. So far the fisheries is concerned fishermen are given about Rs. 60 crore as subsidy on diesel each year. It was included in the Ninth Plan. How it can be included in the Tenth Plan is being discussed with Planning Commission. I would also like to inform you that there are also welfare schemes for fishermen and to include these schemes in those schemes a complete plan will be made soon.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cows from Gir is one of the best breed. Whether the Government have any scheme for them so that everyone can get their milk and dairy industry may be promoted.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: In Tenth Plan our thrust is to improve breed and how to improve country-breed in dairy sector. At the same time our target is to control foot and mouth disease in animals. It is also one of the programmes in Tenth Plan. It also includes cattle and buffalo breeding scheme. As hon'ble member stated, we also emphasis on those schemes.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to attract the kind attention of hon. Minister through you, towards Barmer, Jodhpur and Pali constituencies in West Rajasthan. There is no factory and industry there and the number of cattle are 6 per capita. There are a number of schemes introduced for them. This constituency could not get the funds allotted to it. Due to drought State Government of Rajasthan is not in a position, economically, to help these cattle-rearer.

These cattle-rearers have migrated to Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab with their livestock. It was very cold some fifteen-twenty days ago and thousands of cattle died in this cold. Such incidents have been found in neighbouring areas of Delhi also. My first question from hon. Minister is that he should clear some pending schemes sent to him by Rajasthan Government. Whether hon. Minister would help cattle-rearers by giving a good package to them to promote dairy industry?

My second question; the economic position of cattle-rearers is very bad due to drought. Their cattle died. Therefore, whether the Government will do something for one time assistance after a survey by a central team.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question regarding situation caused by drought in Rajasthan. Though this question is not related to original question but Rajasthan has been given Rs. 12 crore for cow sheds and for fodder. Beside this, 20 thousand metric tonnes fodder has been given to Rajasthan only and Rs. 25 crore from Prime Minister's fund and Rs. 25 crore from National contingency fund that is Rs. 50 crore has been given to Rajasthan for fodder. At the same time railways are transporting fodder free of cost. A meeting of concerned Minister of Rajasthan, Ministers of neighbouring States has been called on 26th regarding transportation of fodder from one State to other and problems related to cattle.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOWDHARY: Hon. Sir, thousands of Sheeps have died, what you are going to do in this regard.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: As hon. Member has said that the Chief Minister of the State has also raised this question. As hon'ble Member has suggested, a central team will be sent to make a complete survey in this regard.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Thank you very much Sir. I will be very brief and specific.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Ministry has any scheme for replenishment of livestock population which is destroyed due to natural calamities like super-cyclone, earthquake, drought, etc. If so, I would like to have the details of such schemes and funds allocated to the States during the last three years. I am asking this because as per the demarcation of the responsibilities, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture for replenishment of livestock population which is destroyed because of natural calamities.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Hon. Sir, all responsibilities go to the State regarding agriculture sector. According to the Constitution this subject is not included in the concurrent list also. But the States have been empowered under micro management schemes to select schemes of their own choices from animal husbandry schemes. They should send schemes to us and we would help them.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, in Maharashtra, due to earthquake, the entire livestock population is destroyed. In Orissa, due to super-cyclone, the entire livestock population is destroyed. Recently, due to the drought situation which is going on in different parts of the country, the livestock population is greatly affected. As per the demarcation of responsibilities, it is the responsibility of the Ministry. So, I would like to know whether any special scheme has been drawn up by your Ministry and whether you are implementing it. Whether you have allocated funds to the affected States? Sir, it is in his State also. They have not done anything.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We have a scheme, Sir. We have a three-year project for this purpose and the total money allocated is Rs. 23 crore. This year we have allocated Rupees four and a half crore for this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, hon'ble Minister has said that 36 schemes have been started for animal husbandry and pisciculture in the Ninth Five Year Plan. But there is no such scheme for those people who live below the poverty line and do goat rearing. They live on the road-side land of the Government. The economic condition of the people who live below the poverty-line depends on this work so that they can get something, there is no scheme for goat-rearing for such people. I would like to ask the Government whether they have any proposal about breeding and feeding related to goat rearing in the Tenth Five Year Plan? If anything is to be done above it, what is that?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, each State is given the facility under Micro Management Scheme to formulate schemes according to its needs. If the State Government want to spend on goat rearing then as I said, they can select the scheme under Micro Management Scheme.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are not encouraging goat rearing. There are 26 species of goats in the country.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT SINGH: People also rear pigeon.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There are Sirohi, Ajmeri and Ahmadabadi goats but the Central Government have not made even a single scheme or programme for goat rearing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to exaggerate the issue?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today animal husbandry is the occupation of the poor. The people who are living below the poverty line do not have any other occupation except this but the Government do not have any scheme for them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You asked the same question earlier and the hon'ble Minister said that if the State Government want they can do so.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Are the Government of India enemy of poor people and they will not do anything. Will the State Government alone formulate scheme?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Thank you very much, Sir. The hon. Minister has given details of many schemes. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the first scheme, that is, the National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme. In our country we have got the best breed of buffaloes, that is, 'Haryanavi' and 'Kutch-Sindh' breed. Due to continuous drought in Kutch, this original 'Kutch-Sindh' buffalo is on the verge of extinction. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that to preserve this 'Kutch-Sindh' and particularly the 'Haryanavi' breed, what measures the Government is going to take for promoting this breed and for promoting these schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We have emphasised on preservation of indigenous breeds and improvement of breeds in the schemes of Tenth Plan. Maximum expenditure is made on these schemes, one of the total.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Thank you, Sir. There is only one line question I want to ask.

Sir, there is a break out of foot-and-mouth disease during the drought situation. I want to know how much funds the Government has allocated to each State including the State of Tamil Nadu to combat the foot-and-mouth disease. The cattle and sheep are affected because of the drought conditions which recently occurred in the State of Tamil Nadu as also in other States. I

would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has allocated funds to combat the foot-and-mouth disease or to control the disease affecting the cattle.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not because of the drought but we have a special scheme going on for foot-and-mouth disease-free zones. Three zones have been created in the nation and gradually it will include other States also.

Afforestation in the Country

+
*82. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forest cover in every State/Union Territory of the country with respect to its total area at present;

(b) whether a large scale deforestation/denudation has taken place and the forest cover has been receding for the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof for each year and the reasons therefor, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any comprehensive programmes to check the fast vanishing forest area and to increase the total forest cover in each State of the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details indicating the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized during the last five years and thereafter, till-date, State/Union Territory-wise;

(f) whether any external assistance for the purpose has been provided during the said period in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

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

(h) the funds spent out of that so far during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (h) The statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State/Union Territory-wise details of the extent of forest cover and geographical area are given in the enclosed Annexure-I.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government has formulated National Forestry Action Programme to increase the forest/tree cover to 33% of the geographical area as mandated in the National Forest Policy 1988. The Five-Year Plan (2002-2007) envisages an increase in the forest/tree cover to 25% by 2007 and 33% by 2012. The State-wise

(including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh) and scheme-wise details of funds allocated and utilized during the last five years and thereafter are given in the enclosed Annexure-II.

(f) to (h) The details of externally aided projects under implementation in various States including Tamil Nadu during the last five years are given in enclosed Annexure-III.

Annexure-I

State/UT	Geographic area	Forest Cover as per State of Forest Report, 1999 (in sq.km)	Forest Cover as a per cent of the geographical area
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	275,068	44,229	16.08
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	68,847	82.21
Assam	78,438	23,688	33.2
Bihar	173,877	26,474	15.23
Chhattisgarh	1,35,194	56,693	41.93
Goa	3,702	1,251	33.8
Gujarat	196,024	12,965	6.61
Haryana	44,212	964	2.18
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	13,082	23.50
Jammu & Kashmir	222,235	20,441	9.20
Jharkhand	79,714	21,644	9.2
Karnataka	191,791	32,467	16.93
Kerala	38,863	10,323	26.56
Madhya Pradesh	443,446	131,830	29.73
Maharashtra	307,690	46,672	15.29
Manipur	22,327	17,384	77.86
Meghalaya	22,429	15,633	69.7
Mizoram	21,081	18,338	86.99
Nagaland	16,579	14,164	85.43
Orissa	155,707	47,033	30.2
Punjab	50,362	1,412	2.80
Rajasthan	342,239	13,871	4.05
Sikkim	7,096	3,118	43.94
Tamil Nadu	130,058	17,078	13.13
Tripura	10,486	5,745	57.00
Uttar Pradesh	294,411	34,016	11.55

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	88,752	8,362	9.42
A&N Islands	8,249	7,606	92.21
Chandigarh	114	7	6.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	202	41.14
Daman & Diu	112	3	2.68
Delhi	1,483	88	5.93
Lakshadweep	32	0	Nil
Pondicherry	493	0	Nil
Total	377,358	637,293	19.39

Annexure-II

Financial : Rs. in lakh

Sl.	Name of State	NTFP*		IAEPS*		AOFFP*		ASTRP*		FFCM*		IDNE*		CMMC*		NAP (2002-03)*		IFPS (2002-2003)*	
		Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl	Allo	Unl
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Andhra Pradesh	815.77	688.55	1128.90	787.91	895.87	813.74	123.98	122.80	140.10	140.10	0.00	0.00	145.07	145.07	834.50	834.50	129.00	129.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	163.75	83.10	304.57	286.37	40.12	33.88	85.40	63.81	30.00	30.00	676.10	676.10	0.00	0.00	239.95	239.95	426.02	426.02
3	Assam	270.53	222.03	437.31	250.80	858.31	355.53	0.00	0.00	25.46	25.46	925.00	925.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.85	376.60
4	Bihar	324.98	88.00	0.00	0.00	737.98	275.52	86.95	86.95	38.76	38.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	101.76	81.75	0.00	0.00	37.93	24.18	0.00	0.00	54.27	54.27	0.00	0.00	47.18	47.18	0.00	0.00	49.42	49.42
6	Gujarat	764.99	564.58	748.48	728.19	1038.94	882.36	84.03	84.03	181.56	181.56	0.00	0.00	88.11	88.11	404.30	404.30	75.00	75.00
7	Haryana	208.67	207.67	437.82	360.83	1437.04	1351.12	0.00	0.00	49.58	49.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1057.98	1057.98	70.00	70.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	202.89	167.35	327.48	233.11	744.82	588.15	0.00	0.00	201.77	201.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.17	80.17	82.00	57.40
9	Jammu & Kashmir	994.44	845.16	1801.76	1598.76	797.82	162.84	98.51	98.23	91.70	91.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	414.55	414.55	74.25	50.00
10	Karnataka	320.80	302.08	847.43	680.42	900.22	706.91	138.19	138.19	157.00	157.00	0.00	0.00	10.58	10.58	1526.79	1526.79	77.00	54.00
11	Kerala	179.48	116.98	1826.19	1557.59	467.86	383.34	0.00	0.00	123.12	123.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83.50	83.50
12	Madhya Pradesh	841.00	481.34	1711.05	1199.02	2110.30	1632.16	219.37	214.94	252.21	252.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1402.36	1402.36	158.50	158.50
13	Maharashtra	298.71	280.17	1110.17	499.67	378.41	303.53	80.81	80.81	210.08	210.08	0.00	0.00	98.88	98.88	270.89	270.89	188.92	188.92
14	Manipur	325.76	237.55	1697.46	1376.08	975.23	454.27	89.21	70.88	53.90	53.90	171.72	171.72	0.00	0.00	157.00	157.00	0.00	0.00
15	Meghalaya	133.82	79.86	44.56	24.91	123.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.29	63.29	505.00	505.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Mizoram	308.29	277.01	804.55	538.74	854.73	825.17	59.67	58.83	55.90	55.90	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	791.55	791.55	457.71	457.71
17	Nagaland	209.10	106.00	329.19	246.47	77.85	24.10	59.02	15.80	7.80	7.80	338.68	338.68	0.00	0.00	789.64	789.64	358.87	358.87
18	Orissa	674.50	520.53	3779.72	1826.50	585.47	415.33	0.00	9.00	102.14	102.14	0.00	0.00	141.23	141.23	1272.86	1272.86	100.00	100.00
19	Punjab	158.75	78.50	507.31	123.98	1204.13	190.12	0.00	0.00	28.80	28.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
20	Rajasthan	698.35	679.02	2047.98	1596.22	970.01	773.83	112.32	112.32	38.68	38.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	368.83	368.83	55.00	40.00
21	Sikkim	568.58	568.58	795.68	708.77	346.86	308.74	64.43	30.00	65.08	65.08	391.50	391.50	0.00	0.00	376.31	376.31	358.63	358.63
22	Tamil Nadu	167.78	106.75	433.18	202.57	595.97	539.06	0.00	0.00	90.30	90.30	0.00	0.00	233.67	233.67	786.28	786.28	100.00	100.00
23	Tripura	107.37	73.19	407.71	304.18	314.51	240.07	48.73	34.70	76.11	76.11	1071.00	1071.00	0.00	0.00	318.00	318.00	651.65	651.65
24	Uttar Pradesh	377.87	153.87	229.39	183.15	1062.55	888.43	0.00	0.00	136.83	136.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2042.24	2042.24	88.00	80.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25.	West Bengal	377.52	320.55	859.07	674.39	894.61	855.76	32.76	32.76	107.50	107.50	0.00	0.00	220.37	220.37	226.30	226.30	120.00	120.00
26.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	90.32	20.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Chhattisgarh	143.23	110.52	364.55	266.18	67.13	88.20	40.00	104.71	149.00	149.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	412.00	412.00	150.00	150.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	1911.72	1594.10	381.80	184.11	0.00	1.00	130.80	130.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.31	211.31	98.07	98.07
29.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	364.31	243.11	0.00	119.92	64.47	64.47	106.80	106.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.20	91.20	81.17	57.00
30.	A&N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.62	39.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		9736.89	7440.89	25247.86	18070.15	18677.80	13206.17	1467.83	1405.03	2768.84	2768.84	4577.00	4577.00	1024.89	1024.89	14079.81	14079.81	4539.96	4290.99

*NTFP-Non Timber Forest Produce (Figures for last 5 years)

*IAEPS-Integrated Afforestation & Ecodevelopment Projects Scheme (Figures for last 5 years)

*AOFPP-Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (Figures for last 5 years)

*ASTRP-Association Fire Control & Management (Figures for last 5 years)

*FFCM-Forest Fire Control & Management (Figures for last 5 years)

IDNE-Infrastructure Development in North Eastern States (Figures for last 5 years)

*CMMC-Conservation & Management of Mangroves & Coral Reefs (Figures for last 5 years)

*NAP-National Afforestation Programme

*IFPS-Integrated Forest Production Scheme

Annexure III

Statement showing the project cost and amount utilised in respect of externally aided projects which were under implementation in last five years

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Project period	Total Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Amount utilised till the end of project/till 31.3.2002 (Rs. in crores)
1.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project	1995-96 to 1999-2000	245.940	215.512
2.	Maharashtra Forestry Project	1992-93 to 1999-2000	431.510	353.437
3.	Uttar Pradesh-Uttaranchal Forestry Project	1997-98 to 2002-03	272.000	135.903
4.	Kerala Forestry Project	1997-98 to 2003-04	183.000	78.323
5.	Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project	1994-95 to 2000-01	21.966	21.552
6.	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project	1994-95 to 1999-2000	353.920	313.381
7.	Punjab Afforestation Project	1997-98 to 2006-07	442.000	203.950
8.	Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	1995-96 to 2000-01	150.919	148.034
9.	Aravalli Afforestation Project, Rajasthan	1992-93 to 1998-99	287.690	285.500
10.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana Project, Rajasthan	1990-91 to 2000-01	269.165	152.442
11.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	1996-97 to 2004-05	565.540	372.600
12.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	1996-97 to 2003-04	499.200	341.294
13.	Gujarat Forestry Development Project	1995-96 to 2001-02	608.500	534.358
14.	Rehabilitation of common lands in Aravallis, Haryana	1990-91 to 1999-2000	93.732	79.540
15.	Western Ghats Project, Karnataka	1992-93 to 1998-99	111.035	107.397

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was about the total forest area in the whole country? The cover that forest cover has been destroyed and how the forest cover is left over now? I did not get any reply of these questions? My second question is this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask the second question. Now put one question only. The second question next time.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the present forest cover is 19.39 per cent as per the 1999 survey. In 1997 survey it was 19.27 per cent. There was an increase of 0.12 per cent. That is an overall increase of about 3,896 sq. Kms. About 10,000 sq. Kms. dense forest has increased and 6,246 sq. Kms. open forest has decreased.

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: My supplementary question is that as to how much funds are given to West Bengal out of the funds received from other countries for forest Conservation. How much fund is spent on various Heads. Apart from this, I want to know whether more funds are available or not. Please give information in this regard.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as externally-aided projects are concerned, we have taken up 10 projects with an outlay of about Rs. 2,961 crore. As far as the Government of West Bengal is concerned, there is no externally-aided project as of now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, thirty-three per cent of the land should be covered with forest. The information given to us says that only 19 per cent of the land is covered with forest. This covers the North-Eastern States, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The forest cover in the rest of the areas in the country ranges from four per cent to 15 per cent. That means, if we exclude the Himalayan region, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, forest cover in the country is to the tune of four per cent to 15 per cent. This is too low. The Government has to come out with a policy with respect to afforestation of these areas. What is the plan that the Government has in view to see that these areas, which are fertile and should be covered with greenery, are afforested so

that the existing imbalance in forest cover is removed?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, hon. Member, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, has to come to my rescue in this regard. As we all know, because of paucity of funds, the Planning Commission, or the Finance Ministry, could not provide more funds for this activity. The policy of 1988 envisages that 33 per cent of the land of the country should be covered with forest. However, infusion of funds for this activity from Plan to Plan has not even been one per cent of what is required. We cannot achieve that target until and unless a minimum of five per cent of the Plan funds are infused into this activity. As per the National Forestry Action Plan of 1999, within this Tenth Plan period, we have to have a 25 per cent forest cover, and in the next Plan we have to cover 33 per cent. What would be the required fund infusion as of this year? It has to be an annual outlay of Rs. 13,400 crore. What is coming to the kitty of forest, whether of the State Governments or the Central Government? All put together, it is Rs. 1,600 crore only. That is why I request my friends, fellow Parliamentarians, to come forward and help me provide more funds.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not requesting the Chair, are you?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: You are also welcome, Sir. You are also a Member of Parliament.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, in Coimbatore and Erode Districts of Tamil Nadu, the Bhavani river is the main source of water for drinking as well as agricultural purposes. Thirty-four town panchayats, 400 village panchayats, about 100 villages, a population of about 30 lakh people, and 3,20,000 acres of land of Coimbatore and Erode Districts depend upon this river for water for drinking as well as for agricultural purposes. This river originates from Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu and enters Kerala—it does not know that it enters another State—and turns back to Coimbatore at the point of Mukkali, Attapadi in Palghat District...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, this is not related to the main Question.

MR. SPEAKER: I know this is another question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have not understood the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C. KRISHNAN: At that level, a check dam is being built, and the river Bhavani is being obstructed and diverted to Kerala, to Mannarkad area...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming to the question.

...(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: For a dam to be built in the forest area, the Kerala Government should have taken the clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, this Supplementary is not related to the main Question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming to the question. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: My question is whether they have obtained legal permission to build the dam...(Interruptions) I would also like to know how far the implications of the dam construction at that site were thoroughly studied and investigated before giving approval for the check dam on River Bhavani...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, it is not related to the main Question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what Rule are you raising the point of order? There cannot be any point of order during Question Hour. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, it is not related to the main Question...(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: In that case, forest will get dried up and wild animals will come to dwelling areas in search of water...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, it is not related to the main Question...(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, wild animals will come to dwelling areas in search of water. Have they taken prior permission from the Government of India to build a dam?...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, they have to understand his question properly before objecting to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not worry; I am here to protect his interests.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this Supplementary is not within the ambit of the main Question.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the hon. Minister spoke about paucity of funds. I do not think we need money from abroad to really green the areas which need to be greened. There was a social forestry project under which women in the rural areas were given the responsibility of preparing the seedlings and planting them; and there was no racket. Now, it has been given to forest contractors who charge for 10,000 plants and plant a thousand. They have got women and local people. He talks about joint forest management which does not function anywhere. Forest contractors are eating the money; he is talking about paucity of funds. I will go beyond that too and ask a specific question to the hon. Minister. He is talking about 25 per cent minimum forest cover requirement. Certain areas of the country which are keeping the country green are penalised and are told that there is no development and so, we cannot have schools, roads, hospitals, etc. They say that forest cover has to be protected.

I am asking the hon. Minister whether greenery can be at the cost of one section of the people in the country. My constituency has 80 per cent forest cover and there is no development because they are preventing us from doing anything. I am asking the hon. Minister whether he would consider equitable distribution of forest cover in the country and impose a minimum requirement on every State so that one set of people do not have to keep the country green for the others.

Let this become a national project and let every State be compelled to have at least 25 per cent forest cover; and everyone has to have green areas. You cannot have greenery from us at the cost of development in our areas and the rest be left to go free so that they can have all the benefits?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Central Government cannot impose upon the States to have equitable development of forests. She was a Minister previously and she knows that the Central Government cannot impose that one part has developed this much and so, the other part has also to develop this much, etc....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Then, to have development in our place, allow us also to cut down. When we cut down trees, you prevent us...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please go ahead with your reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is not a possibility at all. But it is good suggestion. We can examine it and at the same time, we can also request the Planning Commission to allocate funds accordingly so that wherever forest cover is less, they can infuse more funds and wherever forest cover is more, they can infuse less funds. But we cannot insist it from the Central Government.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered about involvement of women in the Social Forestry Programme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have not received any such request from any part of India. The hon. Member can write to me either today or tomorrow and I will reply to her...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this is an important question. More time should be given to it.

MR. SPEAKER: There are other important questions ahead. Every question is important.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you wish, I can allow Half-an-hour discussion on this. You can give me a notice.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Loans granted by KVIC

*83. ⁺ SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans provided to economically weaker persons through Khadi Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have been noticed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(d) the number of persons removed from service as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise details of loans provided to economically weaker persons through State Khadi Boards and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the last three years and thereafter are given at Annexure-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Irregularities noticed pertain to delays in release of Margin Money to the beneficiaries or release of Margin Money to ineligible units. The concerned delinquent officials of the Banks, State Boards and the KVIC have been proceeded against as per rules.

(d) None so far.

Annexure-I

Projects sanctioned/MM released for weaker section beneficiaries viz. SC/ST/women/OBC/Ex-servicemen/PHC etc.

Sr. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Projects sanctioned for weaker section beneficiaries			M.M. released for weaker section beneficiaries. (Rs. in Crore)			Estimated loan amount (Rs. Crores)		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1069	3127	399	2.32	6.89	3.62	6.96	22.05	11.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	117	2	0.01	0.26	0.02	0.03	0.83	0.06
3.	Assam	36	69	100	0.08	0.15	0.91	0.24	0.48	0.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Bihar	98	91	19	0.21	0.20	0.17	0.63	0.64	0.54
5.	Goa	187	489	215	0.41	1.08	2.19	1.23	3.46	7.00
6.	Gujarat	89	208	42	0.19	0.46	0.38	0.57	1.47	1.21
7.	Haryana	208	1213	256	0.45	2.67	2.32	1.35	8.54	7.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	29	145	298	0.06	0.32	2.70	0.18	1.02	8.64
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1303	1444	396	2.82	3.18	3.59	8.46	10.18	11.48
10.	Karnataka	2262	1803	658	4.90	3.97	5.96	14.70	12.70	19.07
11.	Kerala	1007	936	721	2.18	2.06	6.54	6.54	6.59	20.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3092	4699	526	6.70	10.35	4.77	20.10	33.12	15.26
13.	Maharashtra	1765	3713	1287	3.83	8.18	11.66	11.49	26.18	37.31
14.	Manipur	23	211	5	0.05	0.47	0.05	0.15	1.50	0.16
15.	Meghalaya	1021	366	79	2.72	.1	0.72	8.16	2.59	2.30
16.	Mizoram	91	177	4	0.20	0.39	0.04	0.60	1.25	0.12
17.	Nagaland	163	2408	81	0.35	5.30	0.74	1.05	16.96	2.36
18.	Orissa	156	117	311	0.34	0.26	2.81	1.02	0.83	8.99
19.	Punjab	1384	1879	561	3.00	4.14	5.08	9.00	13.24	16.25
20.	Rajasthan	5743	2184	1329	12.45	4.81	12.04	37.35	15.39	38.52
21.	Sikkim	0	2	0	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	552	952	300	1.20	2.10	2.72	3.60	6.72	8.70
23.	Tripura	0	13	13	0.00	0.03	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	343	4526	935	0.74	9.7	8.47	2.22	31.90	27.10
25.	West Bengal	3319	479	1480	6.69	1.03	13.15	21.57	3.29	42.08
26.	A & N Islands	14	16	25	0.03	0.03	0.23	0.09	0.09	0.73
27.	U.T. Chandigarh	10	0	59	0.02	0.00	0.54	0.06	0.00	1.72
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	3	1	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	19	22	16	0.04	0.05	0.14	0.12	0.16	0.44
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
32.	Pondicherry	5	35	3	0.01	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.09
33.	Jharkhand	0	3	96	0.00	0.01	0.87	0.00	0.03	2.78
34.	Chhattisgarh	0	47	70	0.00	0.10	0.63	0.00	0.32	2.01
35.	Uttaranchal	0	25	135	0.00	0.06	1.23	0.00	0.19	3.93
Total		23090	31519	10423	52.00	69.43	94.45	157.50	222.12	299.50

Annexure-II

Projects Sanctioned/MM released for Weaker Section Beneficiaries viz. SC/ST/Women/OBC/Ex-servicemen/PHC etc. during 2002-03 (upto December 2002)

Sr. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Projects sanctioned for weaker section beneficiaries			M.M. released for weaker section beneficiaries (Rs. in lakhs)		
		Through Banks	Through Boards	Total	Through Banks	Through Boards	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	170	73	243	161.49	69.21	230.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	3	10	0.21	0.09	0.30
3.	Assam	68	29	97	8.61	3.69	12.30
4.	Bihar	15	6	21	0.07	0.03	0.10
5.	Goa	69	29	98	12.32	5.28	17.60
6.	Gujarat	7	3	10	0.25	0.11	0.35
7.	Haryana	133	57	190	118.09	50.61	168.70
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	3	11	0.74	0.32	1.05
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	60	26	86	6.76	2.90	9.65
10.	Karnataka	184	79	263	288.86	123.80	412.65
11.	Kerala	115	49	164	120.51	51.65	172.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	86	37	123	55.58	23.82	79.40
13.	Maharashtra	220	94	314	223.48	95.78	319.25
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	39	17	56	2.91	1.25	4.15
16.	Mizoram	23	10	33	3.12	1.34	4.45
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	83	36	119	13.79	5.91	19.70
19.	Punjab	249	107	355	354.83	152.07	506.90
20.	Rajasthan	289	124	413	456.86	195.80	652.66
21.	Sikkim	4	2	5	0.04	0.02	0.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	92	40	132	38.71	16.59	55.30
23.	Tripura	32	14	45	1.09	0.47	1.55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	281	121	402	394.00	168.86	562.85
25.	West Bengal	406	174	580	181.37	77.73	259.10
26.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	U.T. Chandigarh	1	0	1	3.50	1.50	5.00
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Jharkhand	13	6	19	0.11	0.05	0.15
34.	Chhattisgarh	21	9	30	1.47	0.63	2.10
35.	Uttaranchal	120	51	171	7.74	3.32	11.05
Total		2794	1197	3991	2456.45	1052.76	3509.21

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)* The reply of the hon. Minister is vague, not satisfactory. To improve the condition of rural areas, Mahatma Gandhi ji gave suggestions for boosting Khadi Gram Udyog and he himself...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up at least five questions every day.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Khadi was developed so that Indian farmers do not depend on agriculture alone...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask question separately. If necessary ask for a discussion, I can allow a half an hour discussion on this.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: But today funds allocated in the name of Khadi have been misused due to corrupt practices adopted by the officers of Khadi Gram Udyog. Goods taken from the Market and by fixing label are being sold in the market in the name of herbal by charging 25% extra money on those. This is the condition due to which today we are not able to achieve the target of additional employment through Khadi. A grant of more than Rs. 122 crore had been given in the year 2001-2002 and more than Rs. 8 crore...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question straight away.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: I am asking the question. My question is as to how many complaints have been received about misuse of rebate given in the name of Khadi? The Government also admit that there have been irregularities...*(Interruptions)* My question is not yet complete.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not put lengthy questions, otherwise you will not get reply.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: I am not putting any lengthy question, I would like to know as to when the complaints were made; how many days have passed; how many officers are involved in this and by what time the Government are likely to take action against them?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Before giving the reply I would like to take precious time of half a minute of this august House. I am a member of the other House for the last 10-11 years but I have joined the Cabinet for the first time. This is my maiden presence in this august House. Today I am going to speak for the first time through the reply of question. So at first I pay my obeisance to you and the august House and I am giving the reply of the question by seeking cooperation and blessings from the House.

Sir, the reply of the question has been laid on the Table of the House and the full details of the point of the hon'ble member has been furnished to him.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: In part 'A' of my supplementary I would like to state that many institutions are fictitious in Khadi and they avail rebate from Khadi. I would like to ask as to whether the Government get it investigated and include the concerned members of Parliament in the investigation so that disposal can be made earlier? In part 'B' please tell me the price of the clothes which are lying in the stores of Khadi Commission for the last so many years and have become unusable. I would like to know as to whether the Government would make arrangements for their sale by sorting out the usable clothes out of that or allow the goods rot?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have been receiving such complaints and investigation has been conducted. I would like to take your one minute's time. As the sales-tax is not levied on Khadi goods, there were chances of irregularities in it.

Some times in order to get more rebate, more sale was shown on paper though lesser amount of clothes were sold. But for the past few days there has been much improvement in this. The guilty persons have been punished in such cases which came into light after investigation and many such fictitious units have also been closed. There is much improvement in this.

Recently an evaluation report of Planning Commission has been received in which the performance of Khadi and Gramodyog has been appreciated...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in today's first Question itself, my colleague, Shri Dileep Sanghani has pointed out that there was injustice to the State of Gujarat as far as allocation of funds is concerned.

As regards this question, Gujarat is the pioneer in the activity of *Khadi Gramodyog*. It was the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who first started this activity in the State of Gujarat. In view of the present Government there in Gujarat—which is anti-Gandhi and anti-activities of Mahatma Gandhi—if you see the figures in Gujarat, the fund allocation is very poor and meagre as compared to many other States. Gujarat has got a population of 22 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you to come to the question?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: In that respect, I want to know from the Central Government why the State of Gujarat is not given adequate funds for the activities of KVIC. Another point is that it hampered these activities because the rebate to be paid was not paid for many years. That was the main reason which has affected this activity. Another small question is that he has admitted that there was a mistake on the part of the officers but he has not given information as to what action has been taken against the guilty officials.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, the hon. Member has asked many questions on the pretext of one question. But I outrightly reject the allegation of the hon. Member that this Government is anti-Gandhi. The Gandhi-cap on my head shows that we are not anti-Gandhi.

SHRI PRAVIN RAHSTRAPAL: You are an exception.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving the reply for the first time. He is putting on a Gandhi Topi. That is why he is giving the right reply.

[English]

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: So far as the question of Gujarat is concerned, hon. Member is correct that Gujarat is the pioneer State in the field of *khadi*. But this activity is 90 per cent controlled by the State Khadi Board and the share of KVIC is hardly 10 per cent. This is the first reason. Secondly, there are so many schemes launched by the State Government particularly in the name of Gokul Gaon Scheme. These schemes are more attractive than this scheme.

Thirdly, so far as the question of payment is concerned, after the earthquake, the KVIC has paid the total amount due to the Union or to the Government or to the Board. But the State Board has not yet provided the amount which should be paid. The KVIC is ready to pay immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell to hon'ble Minister that even now the reply to question of Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary has not been given. Everybody knows about corruption prevailing in Khadi. The rural people know about it and we all the Members also know. He is a follower of Gandhian ideology. Will he get the matter investigated by the CBI? Thousands and lakhs of people used to get employment in Khadi and Gramodyog. Unemployment has increased due to rampant corruption in Khadi. This is the best medium of employment in today's crisis. The people devoted towards Gandhi's ideology have been sidelined. There is rampant corruption. In order to get over all these things, will he get the CBI investigation done in this matter so that the funds may be utilised in right direction and for right cause?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: I would like to go in the background that a fund of Rs. 1000 crore was constituted with the K.V.I.C. at the instance of banks. It would have been difficult for us to verify by giving loan to individual units, so it was decided that K.V.I.C. should do this job and the banks gave funds to K.V.I.C., on Central Government's guarantee. The K.V.I.C. wanted the guarantee of State Governments when they wanted to distribute that loan through State Boards. I am sorry to say that the then Government of Bihar did not give the guarantee upto last movement....(Interruptions) First please listen to me. That is why, that work did not start for long and after that Bihar was bifurcated into two States i.e. Jharkhand and Bihar.

[English]

Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary belongs to the State of Jharkhand.

[Translation]

The scheme was started last year and there is a plan to start 800 units this year. So far as the question of corruption is concerned one bank officer in Bihar had been caught. The K.V.I.C. suspended him. The permission to prosecute him has been given. Action has been taken in this matter.

[English]

I have replied to your question.

[Translation]

The investigation was conducted by the C.B.I. only.

[English]

Prosecution has been sanctioned.

Japanese Assistance for Ajanta-Ellora Caves

*85. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any Japanese aid/assistance for upkeep and restoration of Ajanta-Ellora Caves in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japan has decided to stop further aid to the project as their fact finding team has observed that aid provided by them has been diverted to some other works;

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

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps towards restoration of Japanese aid and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have contemplated any plan for renovation of Ajanta-Ellora caves complex; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India entered into a loan agreement on 9th January, 1992 with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase I). The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loan assistance was to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 127.50 crores approx. in March, 2002. The major components of the project were Monument conservation; afforestation; extension of Aurangabad Airport; Roads Water Supply & Sewerage; Electrical Power Supply and Visitors Management system. The cost of Monument conservation work was Rs. 8.86 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Government had formulated Phase II of project with an estimated outlay of Rs. 522.07 crores. The major components of project were: Monument Conservation; Infrastructure Development, Tourism Development, Improvement of Aurangabad Airport and Afforestation. The project was duly recommended to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to take up the proposal with the Japanese Government for funding. JBIC has agreed in principle to provide the loan assistance (Approximately Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Phase-II.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply which the Government have given, I did not expect that such a capable Minister will give this reply. Anyway, I ask the question on that basis. Sir, the loan agreement was made with Japan on 9 January, 1992 and the Government have taken 10 years to release the funds and I would like to know on the basis of the scheme which they have formulated, that the caves of Ajanta-Ellora are heritage of our culture. Each and every person living in India wants to see this unique work. You made Vaishno Devi a religious place attractive and convenient to attract the foreign tourists apart from Indian tourists. Is there any proposal before the Government to launch any scheme for this? If there is any proposal, will he tell the same to this august House....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, this question is whether there has been any diversion of funds which were allocated under the Scheme or not. There has been no diversion

of funds. That is what my reply is. That is a very clear reply. The question of diversion does not arise in this case particularly, because it is on reimbursement basis. First the expenditure is incurred and then the money is drawn. There is, therefore, no question of any diversion of funds.

The Scheme was sanctioned in the year 1992. This should have been completed by the year 1999. But the previous Government was not able to do so. Therefore, the Japanese Ambassador had met me and they wanted to even withdraw the Scheme because of its non-implementation. But I assured him that we would do that, and you would be very happy to know that during the last one year, the entire scheme has been completed. Not only that, the hon. Member of Parliament from that place knows it that now Ajanta-Ellora has become a symbol of our new style of governance.

The Japanese were so pleased that they have now sanctioned the second phase costing Rs. 299 crore. Not only Ajanta-Ellora, but the entire complex around that area, which include Daulatabad, Elephanta and many other schemes, have been covered. That project has been virtually agreed to. It has now been signed; the formal orders are yet to issue. That has been done primarily because Japanese were very impressed by the speed with which we have executed this project. The hon. Member from the area knows it. We have not only resettled the people; we have also got all the areas cleaned up, stalls and slums removed, re-afforested the area; made the bridges; and also introduced battery operated transport system which is environment-friendly. With cool light system these paintings have now been brought out.

A large number of jobs have been undertaken by us directly, not by the Japanese funds alone. For example, we are now constructing five big tourist huts there. You will be very happy to know that the income from this project is now Rs. 512 million more than what was projected when it was started. The number of tourists have been increased by one lakh and the duration of stay has been increased from two to three days. Therefore, this is, in fact, a success story.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a supplementary question which the hon'ble Minister replied in details, I thank him for that. I would like to know about the period during which the amount has been spent to protect the works of Ajanta-Ellora? Similarly, he has said about the improvement of airports in other parts of the country. How much facilities have been increased

and what amount has been spent for that during the last three years so that people could reach there from Aurangabad airport?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: The amount for this is with the Civil Aviation Ministry. Whatever was required to be done by us has been completed. Now, for the second phase another project is there which we are completing now. So far as the other area is concerned, as I have indicated, Daulatabad, Bibi Ka Maqbara and other areas have been taken into account and the complete project is there. A comprehensive project for the entire area is there.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has taken a very good step. I thank him for that. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first phase was in your tenure. You had asked us to complete that and a very good job has been done over there. The second phase was started in Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad with the blessings of the hon'ble Minister. I discussed a lot with him about it. The first thing is that there was a proposal of constructing a ring-road in Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad. But now I have come to know that the project has been cancelled. The people will have to take long route in the absence of ring road there, if they go to Ajanta-Ellora from the airport. So, a ring road should be constructed over there. Apart from this, the upgradation of airport should be done at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question quickly, the time is going to be over.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I asked the question earlier that the hon. Prime Minister will inaugurate the project in Ellora but what is the date. He did not tell me the date. My question is that please tell us the date? Apart from this there is the land of Sant Eknath ji in Paithan area, while inaugurating the conference to release the coin in the memory of Saint Tukaram to you had assured to develop Paithan also, and please construct a ghat over there so, that place could be made like Haridwar. This is my request.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: There are three aspects of this. As I said, the Paithan project has already been agreed to. I am going there and we will sort out the details of it. So far as the ring road is concerned, the circulation pattern has been drawn up which is now far more

smoother than what we had envisaged. I will give you all the details. You will be more than satisfied because we have taken care of all those things and provided all the facilities. So far as the temple aspect is concerned, that has also been included therein.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Narendra, Q. No. 88.

Powers to Animal Welfare Board

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

(a) whether the cases of cruelty to animals are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Animal Welfare Board is powerless to check it;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to vest more powers in the Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no evidence to indicate that cases of cruelty to animals are increasing in the country.

(b) The responsibility for enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 vests with the State Governments. The Animal Welfare Board of India is not a regulatory body. The role of the Board is to advise the Central Government on legal and technical aspects of animal welfare, apart from granting financial assistance for various activities to Animal Welfare Organizations.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

National Bio-Diversity Strategy and Action Plan

*84. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) project;

(b) whether there has been any opposition from various activists to this project on the ground that it is likely to be a disaster environmentally and technologically;

(c) if so, whether there are other loopholes also in the execution of the project other than its environmental after-effects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Technical Policy and Core Group constituted by the Ministry for the purpose of developing the National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP) has prepared the draft National Plan. This draft has been widely circulated to various government and non-government organizations, academic and research institutions besides individual experts for comments. Pursuant to this, various comments have been received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airport

*86. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop and modernise Airports at Delhi and Mumbai through direct investment instead of leasing these Airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent a proposal to Planning Commission for fast track development of the Airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In January, 2000 Government of India approved restructuring of airports through long term lease as and when found suitable. The Airports Authority of India Act (Amendment) Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 30.11.2000 to insert an enabling provision in the AAI Act for leasing.

*No Supplimentaries were asked.

The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. The Committee tabled its report in the House on 21st November 2002, wherein it recommended several amendments for inclusion in the above Bill. A comprehensive Bill has been prepared keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee, and is being processed for obtaining necessary approvals for introduction in the Parliament.

No final decision regarding modalities for restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports has been taken.

Survey on Deficiency of Calcium in Cattle

*87. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cattle Research Centre in Haryana Agriculture University has conducted a survey regarding deficiency of calcium in cattle in the State as reported in the 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated January 2, 2003;

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

(c) whether the milk without calcium content is harmful for children;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to examine cattle in other States also as has been done in Haryana;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to make available high quality milk to the people; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A project entitled "Mineral studies in plant animal system with special reference to trace elements" involving surveillance of mineral status of feeds, fodders and animals in ten out of the nineteen districts of Haryana State is being conducted at Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. The report of surveillance study revealed that 25-50% animals are deficient in calcium.

A Network Programme of Indian Council of Agricultural Research on Micronutrients in Animal Nutrition,

and Production is in existence at six centres in different States of the country. The centres of the Project are located at National Institute of Animal Nutrition & Physiology, Bangalore; Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati, Assam; Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala; Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Science University, Chennai; Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, M.P.; West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, Belgachia, Kolkata.

(c) No, Sir. The deficiency of calcium in animals does not mean that the milk could be deficient in calcium.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Privatisation of Airports

*89. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken final decision regarding private participation in airport development;

(b) if so, by when the process is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to develop them through joint ventures;

(d) if so, whether private companies/corporations including Lufthansa have shown interest in this project;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to allow foreign airlines or its subsidiaries to pick up majority stake in the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (f) In January, 2000 Government of India approved restructuring of airports with private sector participation through long term leasing route as and when found suitable. The Airports Authority of India Act (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 30.11.2000 to insert an enabling provision in the AAI Act, 1994 for this purpose. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. The

Committee tabled its report in the House on 21st November, 2002, wherein it recommended several amendments in the above Bill. A comprehensive Bill has been prepared keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee, and is being processed for obtaining necessary approvals for introduction in the Parliament.

A number of private companies/corporations have shown interest in the restructuring of the four metro airports. The details of the transaction structure, including the issue of participation of foreign airlines, would be decided only after finalisation of the modalities for restructuring, and necessary amendment of the AAI Act, 1994.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

*90. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) the target fixed and achieved thereunder during the Ninth Plan Period, State-wise;

(c) the steps where the said scheme has been implemented indicating the number of farmers benefited therefrom in each State as on January 31, 2003;

(d) whether some of the States have failed to implement the said scheme despite certain amendments by the Government;

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

(f) the efforts made by the Government to implement the said scheme throughout the country indicating the facilities provided to the State Governments for effective implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The main features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) NAIS is under implementation from Rabi 1999-2000 season. No State-wise targets are fixed under the

scheme, as the scheme is voluntary in nature. However, coverage of farmers has increased from 105 lakh during 2000-2001 to 106.51 lakh during 2001-02. A Statement-II indicating State-wise coverage of farmers under NAIS is enclosed.

(c) The Scheme is optional for the States/UTs. Presently, the following States/UTs are implemented the scheme:- (i) Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Assam, (iii) Bihar, (iv) Chhattisgarh, (v) Goa, (vi) Gujarat, (vii) Himachal Pradesh, (viii) Jammu & Kashmir, (ix) Jharkhand, (x) Karnataka, (xi) Kerala, (xii) Maharashtra, (xiii) Madhya Pradesh, (xiv) Meghalaya, (xv) Orissa, (xvi) Sikkim, (xvii) Tamil Nadu, (xviii) Tripura, (xix) Uttar Pradesh, (xx) Uttaranchal, (xxi) West Bengal, (xxii) Pondicherry and (xxiii) Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A statement-III indicating the State/crop season-wise number of farmers benefited is enclosed.

(d) to (f) Some States/UTs, such as Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, are not implementing the scheme because of certain reservations regarding sharing of risk between Centre and States; Contribution to Corpus Fund; difficulties in making available the required yield data etc.

Both the Government and the Implementing Agency (IA) have been persuading the States which are not implementing the scheme to adopt the scheme for the benefit of the farmers of the State. Meetings are also arranged, and provisions of the scheme are explained to the representatives of the State Governments.

The scheme is being uniformly implemented in all the implementing States/UTs. However, 50% premium subsidy is paid to small and marginal farmers which is equally shared by the Central Govt. and the State Govt. concerned. Similarly, Corpus Fund is also contributed by the Central and State Government in the ratio of 1:1. In addition to this, Claims liability beyond 100% of the premium in case of food and oilseeds crops is shared equally by the Central and State Government.

Promotional activities like State/District level workshops, interactive live programmes on TV, stalls in National/Regional exhibitions/meals etc. are undertaken by the Implementing Agency to make the scheme popular.

Statement-I**Salient features of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)**

- (a) States and Areas covered: The Scheme is available to all States/U.Ts.
- (b) Crops covered: (i) food crops & oilseeds & (ii) annual commercial/horticultural crops (at present eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, onion, chilies, turmeric, ginger, jute, tapioca, annual banana and pine apple are covered). Other eligible crops under the group may be covered in due course subject to availability of requisite past yield data.
- (c) Farmers covered: Covers all farmers, including sharecroppers, tenant farmers. Loanee farmers are covered on compulsory basis, while non-loanee farmers are covered on voluntary basis.
- (d) Risks covered: Basically all natural non-preventable risks leading to yield losses are covered.
- (e) Sum Insured: Sum insured can extend upto value of 150% of average yield. In case of loanee farmers the sum insured is equivalent to at least 100% of loan amount availed for the crop.
- (f) Premium rates: Premium rates may range from 1.5% to 3.5% food crops & oilseeds and on commercial

lines (actuarial basis) for annual commercial/horticultural crops.

- (g) Premium subsidy: Small/Marginal farmers are eligible for premium subsidy @ 50% which is to be phased out on sun-set basis in a period of five years subject to review of financial results.
- (h) Nature of scheme: It is a yield guarantee scheme operating on "Area approach" basis. If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area (on the basis of requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments) in the insured season, falls short of specified Threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the defined area are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and the same seeks to provide coverage against such contingency.
- (i) Risk sharing: Implementing Agency (GIC) shall bear, until transition to actuarial regime is made, all claims upto 100% of premium for food crops & oilseeds and balance claims are shared between Govt. of India and States on 1:1 basis. In respect of annual commercial/horticultural crops, Implementing Agency shall bear all claims upto 150% of premium in the first 3 years and 200% of premium thereafter.
- (j) Corpus Fund: To meet catastrophic losses, a Corpus Fund is created with contribution from Central Government and participating States on 1:1 basis.

Statement-II**State-wise Coverage of Farmers Under NAIS**

S. No.	State	Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000	Rabi 2000-2001	Kharif 2001	Rabi 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not implemented	1771458	214908	1566032	209700
2.	Assam	1401	990	1189	2312	2478
3.	Bihar	Not implemented	166356	41845	51623	28839
4.	Chhattisgarh	(part of M.P.)	472383	5984	385202	6663
5.	Goa	79	993	213	669	27
6.	Gujarat	14832	1118449	32241	1253560	26131
7.	Himachal Pradesh	217	266	1159	1203	3541
8.	Jharkhand	(Part of Bihar)	(Part of Bihar)	1741	11509	1060
9.	Karnataka	Not implemented	326735	40739	611039	66433
10.	Kerala	22786	15573	21450	12341	18988

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Madhya Pradesh	186910	868654	381598	863588	482114
12.	Maharashtra	120543	2529322	420977	2540098	212780
13.	Meghalaya	Not implemented	736	1738	461	1443
14.	Orissa	232836	682412	124202	627615	212162
15.	Sikkim	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	0	399
16.	Tamil Nadu	Not implemented	16071	94137	18557	145165
17.	Tripura	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	131
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Not implemented	438410	510032	249422	341891
19.	Uttaranchal	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented
20.	West Bengal	Not implemented	Not implemented	196362	372811	321733
21.	Pondicherry	336	373	1218	246	998
22.	A & N Islands	Not implemented	193	N.A.	99	N.A.
Total		579940	8409374	2091733	8568387	2082676

Statement-III*Details of Number of Farmers Benefited under NAIS*

S. No.	State	Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000	Rabi 2000-2001	Kharif 2001	Rabi 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not implemented	125516	27462	288034	14833
2.	Assam	34	52	46	97	361
3.	Bihar	Not implemented	15093	3408	5670	6766
4.	Chhattisgarh	(part of M.P.)	401705	0	0	702
5.	Goa	33	58	0	605	0
6.	Gujarat	7907	976569	7934	1670079	10512
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	864	0	0
8.	Jharkhand	(Part of Bihar)	(Part of Bihar)	0	0	0
9.	Karnataka	Not implemented	21734	1407	324588	63399
10.	Kerala	2726	9370	722	2117	421
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4891	570093	176430	259047	135889
12.	Maharashtra	39500	1056682	174371	463912	19973
13.	Meghalaya	Not implemented	43	150	48	257

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Orissa	15	349161	25759	11113	18541
15.	Sikkim	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	0	0
16.	Tamil Nadu	Not implemented	22	3370	5589	63564
17.	Tripura	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Not implemented	108906	82911	28656	61794
19.	Uttaranchal	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented
20.	West Bengal	Not implemented	Not implemented	20716	423	52034
21.	Pondicherry	172	0	900	0	104
22.	A & N Islands	Not implemented	23	N.A.	33	N.A.
Total		55288	3635027	526683	3060012	449150

[Translation]

Cleaning of Rivers

'91. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rivers which have become polluted as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan for making each of the polluted rivers pollution free;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far on cleaning of each river;

(d) whether the Government are aware that Ganga Action Plan and Yamuna Action Plan have failed particularly to achieve their targets;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the extent of success achieved so far; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make each of the polluted river of the country pollution free indicating the time fixed in each case?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation to undertake pollution abatement works in 155 towns along the polluted stretches of 29 rivers spread over 17 States.

The State-wise list along with funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far on cleaning of rivers together with the completion date is enclosed as statement. The National River Conservation Plan which also includes Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans was launched in 1995 with the objective to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works;

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other miscellaneous works like public awareness and public participation etc.

Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I which covered pollution abatement works in 6 towns of Uttar Pradesh, 4 of Bihar and 15 of West Bengal has been completed on 31.3.2000 at a cost of Rs. 452 crore. Out of the approved capacity of 873 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment, a capacity to treat 865 mld has been

created. The remaining two schemes of sewage treatment plants are in Bihar which have been delayed due to litigation. About 35% of the present pollution load was tackled under GAP Phase-I. The river water quality has shown improvement over the pre-GAP period water quality. In 1986, the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is an indicator of pollution of river water quality, was ranging from 5.5 to 15.5 mg/l in the critical stretch of Ganga from Kannauj to Varanasi. As against this, the value of BOD in 2002 in the stretch of Kannauj to Kanpur and Allahabad to Varanasi is 1.20-4.90 mg/l and 2.50-3.80 mg/l respectively. Similarly dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which indicate the health of the river, were in the range of 5.9 to 6.6 mg/l in 1986 in the Allahabad-Varanasi stretch and in 2002 the range improved to 7.5 to 8.20 mg/l. In the second phase of the GAP, similar works have been taken up and are under implementation in 12 towns of Uttar Pradesh, 10 of Uttaranchal, 14 of Bihar and 23 of West Bengal.

Under Yamuna Action Plan, (YAP) Phase-I pollution abatement works have been taken up in 12 towns of

Haryana and 8 towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. Out of the approved capacity of 743 millions litres per day of sewage treatment in these towns, a capacity of 728 mld has been created and works for the remaining capacity of 15 mld are under implementation. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has also taken up works of construction of sewage treatment plants at 17 locations. As a result, the total treatment capacity in Delhi is targeted to become 2325 mld by 31.3.2003 against the present generation of sewage of 3300 mld. Thus, at present there is a gap of 975 mld of sewage treatment capacity in Delhi. In addition, availability of minimum fresh water flow in the river for purposes of dilution is also a constraint in restoring its water quality to the desired standard. The water quality of Yamuna can be expected to improve only when the balance works proposed under Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II and those proposed by the Government of NCT of Delhi are completed and the desired minimum flow in the river is maintained.

Statement

Statewise/Riverwise Funds Released

As on 31/01/2003

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Action Plan/ State	S. No.	River	Estimated Cost	Funds Sanctioned	Expdt. Incurred by GOI (31-01-2003)	Target Completion Date
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. National River Conservation Plan							
1.	A.P.	1.	Godavari	5103.33	3106.15	1372.20	Dec. 2005
2.	Jharkhand	2.	Ganga	4086.15	417.06	445.41	Dec. 2005
		3.	Subarnrekha				
		4.	Damodar				
3.	Gujarat	5.	Sabarmati	9383.39	10195.87*	5337.86	Dec. 2005
4.	Karnataka	6.	Tunga	7199.70	6190.75	1839.37	Dec. 2005
		7.	Tungabhadra				
		8.	Bhadra				
		9.	Cauvery				
		10.	Penniar				
5.	Maharashtra	11.	Godavari	12317.31	9273.55	5547.88	Dec. 2005
		12.	Krishna				
6.	M.P.	13.	Betwa				
		14.	Chambal				
		15.	Khan				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		16.	Kshipra	10119.26	7145.75	3510.10	Dec. 2005
		17.	Narmada				
		18.	Tapti				
		19.	Wainganga				
7.	Orissa	20.	Brahmini				
		21.	Mahanadi	7227.30	5513.40	519.93	Dec. 2005
8.	Punjab	22.	Satluj	23458.36	19545.81	7654.64	Dec. 2005
9.	Rajasthan	23.	Chambal	1321.00	116.78	68.17	Dec. 2005
10.	Tamil Nadu	24.	Cauvery				
		25.	Adyar				
		26.	Cooum	110309.75	71293.19	14274.72	Dec. 2005
		27.	Vennar				
		28.	Vaigai				
		29.	Tambrabarani				
11.	Goa	30.	Mandovi	1409.52	1409.52	246.00	Dec. 2005
12.	Delhi	31.	Yamuna	18656.42	17135.08	17569.63	Dec. 2005
13.	U.P.	32.	Ganga				
		33.	Yamuna	53704.35	45199.52	34459.19	Dec. 2005
		34.	Gomati				
14.	Haryana	35.	Yamuna	24855.89	24496.46	17434.38	Dec. 2005
15.	Uttaranchal	36.	Ganga				
		37.	Yamuna	3848.60	1563.23	447.00	Dec. 2005
		38.	Gomati				
16.	Bihar	39.	Ganga				
		40.	Subarnerekha	3289.71	464.30	274.22	Dec. 2005
		41.	Damodar				
17.	West Bengal	42.	Ganga	39465.24	1639.12	5081.87	Dec. 2005
		43.	Damodar				
Total				335755.28	224705.54	116082.57	
Estt. & R&D				8052.52			
Grand Total				343807.80			

*As per detailed Project Report.

[English]

Private Airlines to SAARC Countries

*92. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow private airlines to fly to SAARC countries as reported in the news-item captioned "Pvt. airlines may soon fly to foreign destinations" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 02, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the likely loss to the Indian Airlines as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Salinity in Ground Water

*93. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale sand mining in the river beds has resulted in the sea water entering into the rivers and has caused serious structural instability of several bridges;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in the intrusion of salinity into the ground water;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with affected areas identified, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) No instance of sea water entering the river due to large-scale mining of sand in the river bed and resultant intrusion of salinity into the ground water has been reported so far. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has reported that they have not received any report, so far where entering of seawater into the river has caused serious structural instability of the bridges.

A study undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) pursuant to a special leave petition in the Apex Court to assess the extent and likelihood of damage to ground water in the area around village Mayanur, Kithalai taluka, district Karur, Tamil Nadu in September, 2001 revealed that the sand mining in the Cauvery river has not caused any damage to the ground water reservoir. The area where the study was undertaken is more than 300 km away from the seacoast.

[Translation]

Production of Paddy, Sugarcane and Wheat

*94. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fall in the production of wheat, paddy and sugarcane in the country during the three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of remedial steps taken by the Government;

(c) the details of paddy, sugarcane and wheat produced during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the support price of wheat fixed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The estimated production of wheat, paddy and sugarcane in the country during the years 1999-2000 to 2002-03 is given in the table below:—

(Million tonnes)				
Crop	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Wheat	76.37	69.68	71.81	68.89
Paddy**	134.50	131.61	139.74	116.59
Sugarcane	299.32	295.96	300.10	285.36

* Second Advance Estimates as on 10.2.2003

** Rice production is normally estimated as two-third of paddy production.

It may be seen from this table while the production of wheat, paddy and sugarcane had declined during 2000-01, it increased in 2001-02. During the current year, the production of all the three crops is expected to be lower as compared to the previous year. This reflects the impact of severe drought, which adversely affected agricultural production and productivity in 2002-03.

(b) The agriculture production in the country is greatly influenced by the extent of rainfall and its temporal and spatial spread because about 60% of the net area sown is dependent on rains for water. However, the production of various crops shows a long-term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations.

In order to further improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase

production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support rice and Market Intervention Schemes. Apart from these, the Government have also adopted macro-management mode for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

(c) The State-wise estimates of production of paddy, sugarcane and wheat during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given in the enclosed Statement. However, for 2002-03 no firm State-wise figures are available.

(d) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat fixed by the Government for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 620 per quintal, which is the same as in 2001-02. However, the Government have announced one time Special Drought Relief of Rs. 10 per quintal of wheat of 2002-03 season to be marketed in 2003-04.

Statement

Statewise Production of Paddy, Wheat and Sugarcane during 1999-2000 to 2001-02

('000 Tonnes)

State/UT	Paddy			Wheat			Sugarcane		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	15956.7	18687.0	17085.0	9.0	8.0	10.0	18506.0	17690.1	17607.5
Arunachal Pradesh	202.2	199.1	201.9	5.1	6.2	5.3	—	—	—
Assam	5791.5	5997.8	5781.6	98.0	85.7	85.3	1155.0	988.0	1011.4
Bihar	10877.9	12246.3	7922.4	4687.1	4438.0	4383.6	4088.5	3987.6	5818.3
Chhattisgarh	—	3554.0	7698.9	—	79.5	99.1	—	8.6	10.2
Goa	313.4	213.2	189.8	—	—	—	68.4	72.8	70.6
Gujarat	1477.4	709.1	1543.1	1020.0	649.0	1144.7	14066.2	12694.7	12464.6
Haryana	3874.5	4042.5	4086.0	9650.0	9669.0	9437.0	7640.0	8170.0	9330.0
Himachal Pradesh	180.6	187.4	206.1	583.3	251.3	604.2	67.4	60.5	82.7
Jammu & Kashmir	586.7	622.3	632.7	434.3	148.7	343.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Jharkhand	—	2467.1	2467.1	—	103.6	103.6	—	144.9	144.9
Karnataka	5572.3	5767.2	4755.0	217.6	244.0	196.0	37566.9	42923.5	33754.0
Kerala	1156.2	1127.0	1072.7	—	—	—	578.8	275.6	275.6
Madhya Pradesh	9564.8	1473.2	2495.4	8685.2	4869.4	5632.3	1991.0	1660.4	2090.0
Maharashtra	3838.4	2893.8	3977.0	1436.1	948.0	1077.0	53143.0	49589.0	45140.0
Manipur	547.5	572.6	581.0	—	—	—	21.2	24.2	21.2
Meghalaya	273.2	268.6	270.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	0.2	0.2	0.5
Mizoram	132.6	155.6	158.8	—	—	—	1.5	6.4	9.4
Nagaland	220.7	345.0	356.0	12.5	10.0	15.0	30.0	35.0	50.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orissa	7780.5	6990.0	10831.3	7.7	12.9	10.6	1080.3	963.9	647.7
Punjab	13010.0	13731.0	13224.0	15910.0	15551.0	15499.0	6770.0	7770.0	8818.0
Rajasthan	378.9	233.6	270.1	6731.9	5547.1	6389.0	786.8	561.3	432.1
Sikkim	35.1	32.1	33.5	12.8	10.1	9.8	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	11298.2	11049.5	10309.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	34285.0	33188.0	36335.7
Tripura	758.6	770.1	913.3	2.4	2.2	18.0	51.3	54.1	52.2
Uttar Pradesh	19846.5	17518.9	18687.8	25976.4	25168.3	25018.5	115418.9	106067.5	116218.5
Uttaranchal	—	932.3	921.6	—	714.6	734.8	—	7349.2	7555.3
West Bengal	20638.8	18642.0	22885.1	850.8	1058.6	961.5	1762.8	1465.6	1983.4
A&N Islands	42.6	48.3	41.0	—	—	—	4.7	4.7	2.4
D & N Haveli	32.9	29.9	29.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	—	—	—
Delhi	10.1	7.5	8.9	30.8	97.9	29.4	—	—	—
Daman & Diu	8.4	4.8	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	89.1	95.3	93.5	—	—	—	237.6	200.4	170.2
All India	134496.3	131614.1	139735.0	76368.9	69680.9	71814.3	299323.9	295956.2	300096.4

-Nil/Negligible.

For the Year 1999-2000 the production figures of Chhattisgarh are included in Madhya Pradesh. The figures for Jharkhand are included in Bihar and figures for Uttaranchal included in Uttar Pradesh

Augmentation of Irrigation Capacity

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

(a) the proposals pending under consideration of the Union Government to augment irrigation capacity, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for delay and the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject, action to augment irrigation capacity is taken by the concerned States through completion of ongoing projects and planning and implementation of various new irrigation projects/schemes.

Proposals for 182 projects (90 major and 92 medium irrigation projects) for augmenting irrigation capacity have been submitted by various States to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Out of these,

96 projects (57 major and 39 medium) have been techno-economically accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to compliance of a few observations. Out of the 96 projects techno-economically accepted, 6 projects have been recommended to the Planning Commission for investment clearance. The remaining 86 projects (33 major and 53 medium) are under different stages of appraisal. State wise break-up of the projects are given in the enclosed statement.

In case of many project proposals, project reports are prepared on the basis of inadequate survey and investigation data, hydrological and hydro-meteorological data and inadequate consideration on inter-state aspects and guidelines for project formulation. Long time taken by the State Governments in submitting compliances to observations of CWC/other appraising agency, Advisory Committee and Planning Commission leads to major delay in clearance of project proposals.

The appraisal/clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness on the part of the State authorities to

arrange for compliance to the observations of Central Water Commission/Technical Advisory Committee/Planning Commission and to obtain clearance from forest and

environmental angle, clearance of rehabilitation and resettlement plan for the project affected people, wherever applicable.

Statement

State-wise Abstract of New Projects as on 15.2.2003

S. No.	States	Major					Medium					Total				
		A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	7	—	—	10	6	9	—	1	16	9	16	—	1	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2
6.	Goa, Daman, Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
8.	Haryana	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2
10.	J&K	1	—	—	—	1	7	3	—	—	10	8	3	—	—	11
11.	Jharkhand	3	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7
12.	Karnataka	1	3	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	5
13.	Kerala	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	4	—	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	1	7
15.	Maharashtra	9	5	—	1	15	31	8	—	—	39	40	13	—	1	54
16.	Manipur	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
19.	Orissa	2	7	—	—	9	1	10	—	—	11	3	17	—	—	20
20.	Punjab	4	—	—	1	5	2	1	—	—	3	6	1	—	1	8
21.	Rajasthan	1	4	—	—	5	1	2	—	—	3	2	6	—	—	8
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamilnadu	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2
24.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2	9	—	1	12	1	—	—	—	1	3	9	—	1	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
26. Uttaranchal		—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
27. West Bengal		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Grand Total		32	53	1	4	90	53	37	0	2	92	85	90	1	6	182

Projects cleared:

B. Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR Subject to Certain Observations = 90

D. Recommended to Planning Commission for Investment Clearance = 6

Projects under examination:

A. Project under various Stages of Appraisal = 85

C. Deferred by Advisory Committee of MOWR = 1

[English]

Loss to Crops due to Cold

*96. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prolonged cold and foggy spell in the Northern parts of the country recently has hit the standing crops, jeopardizing the prospects of a bumper rabi harvest and has damaged/destroyed mustard crop in Northern Indian including Punjab;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to farmers whose crops have been damaged as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The prolonged cold spell had some adverse impact on the growth of rabi crops, including mustard. However, the rains in the last week of January, 2003 were timely and had a favourable impact on the rabi crops. The production of rabi crops including mustard this year is likely to be less than that of last year primarily due to decrease in the area sown as a result of the moisture stress experienced during monsoon (June-September) and post-monsoon (October-December). According to the second advance estimates of agricultural production released on February 10, 2003, the production of rabi foodgrains in 2002-03 is likely to be 92.91 million tonnes, which is 7.56 million tonnes or 7.5% less than

last year's rabi production. The production of rapeseed and mustard during 2002-03 is likely to be 4.48 million tonnes which is 0.56 million tonnes or 11% less than last year's production. Harvest of rabi crops including mustard is yet to start in most of the States. No firm State-wise figures of rabi production for the 2002-03 season are available yet.

(c) and (d) In order to provide protection to farmers in the event of damage to crop due to natural calamities, the Government have introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from rabi 1999-2000 season. The NAIS, inter-alia, provides for premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers. Further, in order to compensate the farmers for increase in input costs, the Government announced special drought relief ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per quintal for rabi crops of 2002-03 season.

Fleet Expansion

*97. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in according approval for the purchase of Airbus for AI and Indian Airlines;

(b) the total requirement of Airbuses in Indian Airlines and Air India separately alongwith the types of aircraft;

(c) the total amount required for the expansion alongwith the sources of the fund;

(d) whether the Government have resorted to external borrowing; and

(e) if so, the amount borrowed alongwith the outstanding amount, till date?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Air India has taken up evaluation of new aircraft and is yet to finalise selection of these aircraft. The proposal received from Indian Airlines Ltd. for acquisition of new aircraft is under consideration in consultation with various appraising agencies like Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment etc. The proposal will be taken up for an investment decision after due processes.

(b) Air India has taken up evaluation of aircraft in the category of 250+seater.

Indian Airlines has proposed to acquire 43 aircraft comprising of A-319 A-320 and A-321 aircraft.

(c) to (e) The project cost in respect of Indian Airlines is estimated at Rs. 10,089 crores whereas Air India is yet to estimated the project cost. Modalities of funding by the airlines can be worked out only after a final decision on acquisition is taken.

Setting up of National Forest Commission

*98. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up the National Forest Commission to reform the entire forest administration and provide a framework which can guarantee the country's long-term food security;

(b) if so, the details indicating the terms and reference of the said Commission along with the other works assigned to it;

(c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to submit its report;

(d) the existing national forest area in India;

(e) whether the Government have set a target to bring 33 percent of the country's geographical area under forest cover; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted National Forest Commission for restructuring, reforming and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

(b) The terms of reference of the National Forest Commission are:

- (i) Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, economic, scientific, economic, social and cultural viewpoint.
- (ii) Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both at all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.
- (iii) Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and development, biodiversity conservation and ecological security.
- (iv) Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.
- (v) Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribals.

The Composition of the Commission is as below:

(i) Justice B.N. Kripal Ex. Chief Justice of India	Chairman
(ii) Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India	Member
(iii) Prof. J.S. Singh	Member
(iv) Shri Chandni Prasad Bhatt	Member
(v) Sri M.K. Ranjitsinh	Member
(vi) Shri A.P. Muthuswamy	Member
(vii) Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India	Member Secretary

(c) The tenure of the Commission is two years. National Forest Commission will submit its report within two years i.e. tenure of the Commission.

(d) The existing forest cover of the country is 637, 293 sq. kms as per the last State of Forest Report, 1999 published by Forest Survey of India.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) to bring one-third area of the country under forest/tree cover and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests. The X Five Year Plan envisages to increase forest/tree cover to 25% by 2007 and to 33% by 2012.

Agro Climatic Zones

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting a study for formulating strategies for long-term mechanisation of each Agro Climatic Zones;

(b) if so, whether the study by ICAR has been completed;

(c) if so, the details of the major recommendations of this study;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of this study; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps proposed to encourage mechanisation of agriculture?

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

(b) to (e) No, Sir. The study is being conducted through a project entitled "Formulating long term mechanisation for each Agro Climatic Zone/State" sanctioned to Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi at the behest of the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture. The study is scheduled for completion by June, 2003.

Linking of Rivers

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporates controlled by PIOs in massive projects like linking of rivers and to mobilise resources; and

(b) if so, the details of PIOs and corporates which have evinced interest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force inter alia include consideration of the various modalities for project funding. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action Plan by 31st July, 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.

Environmental Projects

835. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken for improvement of environment in the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed and achieved in this regard so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up similar projects during the Tenth Plan period as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which several projects are undertaken for the improvement of environment in the country. The details of the schemes during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) During the Tenth Plan the Ministry will be implementing 12 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of the State	Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)		
			1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	Andhra Pradesh	87.54	186.07	88.60
		Arunachal Pradesh	50.98	121.12	167.05
		Assam	53.44	317.21	70.55
		Bihar	27.85	21.02	4.52
		Chhattisgarh	2.00	0.00	36.94
		Goa	21.31	10.50	89.98
		Gujarat	22.11	65.27	127.20
		Haryana	21.55	28.35	15.64
		Himachal Pradesh	47.46	165.30	111.24
		Jammu & Kashmir	5.55	0.00	26.00
		Karnataka	100.32	307.18	388.26
		Kerala	59.98	102.62	107.90
		Madhya Pradesh	152.20	182.20	103.38
		Maharashtra	123.43	90.96	153.37
		Manipur	13.28	41.78	26.81
		Meghalaya	0.00	66.36	27.95
		Mizoram	12.30	102.31	133.65
		Nagaland	9.70	31.85	43.13
		Orissa	94.74	3.50	70.27
		Punjab	11.57	26.39	29.60
		Rajasthan	66.54	116.00	73.00
		Sikkim	12.00	97.45	30.45
		Tamil Nadu	61.18	89.83	75.23
		Tripura	19.97	21.90	46.41
		Uttar Pradesh	117.81	144.60	79.82
		Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	38.13
		West Bengal	55.20	90.22	180.95

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.00	50.00	25.59
		Chandigarh	28.00	0.00	18.40
		Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	6.01
2.	Biosphere Reserve	Assam	10.00	56.50	14.35
		Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	35.00	0.00
		Karnataka	20.00	49.30	43.60
		Kerala	40.18	43.05	40.36
		Madhya Pradesh	32.00	35.40	84.10
		Meghalaya	12.00	18.50	7.60
		Orissa	28.00	34.00	19.84
		Sikkim	0.00	24.50	37.90
		Tamil Nadu	38.00	27.00	27.41
		Uttar Pradesh	44.98	40.00	63.00
		West Bengal	35.50	26.00	46.82
		Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14.92	14.88	81.71
3.	Industrial Pollution Prevention Project	Andhra Pradesh	267.97	280.09	455.87
		Gujarat	272.03	443.56	273.18
		Karnataka	379.17	535.20	535.23
		Madhya Pradesh	200.17	229.50	187.07
		(including Chhattisgarh)			
		Rajasthan	260.06	74.74	529.57
4.	Association of STs and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis	Andhra Pradesh	19.66	21.76	74.83
		Arunachal Pradesh	8.18	22.81	32.82
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	40.00	64.71
		Gujarat	15.00	32.76	22.23
		Jammu & Kashmir	16.00	47.08	23.99
		Jharkhand	0.00	19.52	44.95

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Karnataka	38.72	25.00	50.05
		Madhya Pradesh	50.00	30.00	58.03
		Maharashtra	37.94	20.10	17.78
		Manipur	26.33	25.00	10.00
		Mizoram	18.02	19.98	14.28
		Nagaland	0.00	9.80	0.00
		Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	32.06	25.00	39.35
		Sikkim	0.00	0.00	30.00
		Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
		Tripura	8.00	9.25	12.90
		West Bengal	7.06	7.61	4.09
5.	National River Conservation Plan	Andhra Pradesh	677.89	0.00	113.00
		Bihar/Jharkhand	0.00	386.12	0.00
		Gujarat	1713.62	500.00	977.00
		Haryana	1482.00	697.00	2300.00
		Karnataka	435.65	309.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	1150.27	698.43	0.00
		Maharashtra	233.00	1199.38	1492.20
		Orissa	0.00	77.00	300.00
		Punjab	1295.00	651.80	1507.00
		Rajasthan	50.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	649.57	2896.00	7341.80
		Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	6846.51	4065.60	4773.91
		West Bengal	400.00	150.00	1641.00
		Delhi	125.00	67.50	6874.29
6.	National Lake Conservation Plan	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.10
		Jammu & Kashmir	119.97	19.84	14.31
		Karnataka	0.00	0.00	279.00
		Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	400.00
		Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	302.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	Andhra Pradesh	69.92	146.38	142.77
		Arunachal Pradesh	7.00	9.28	11.60
		Assam	89.69	42.83	69.06
		Bihar	190.94	30.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	88.20
		Goa	5.69	2.89	7.60
		Gujarat	212.45	206.27	170.56
		Haryana	265.69	323.20	296.03
		Himachal Pradesh	181.78	132.96	83.18
		Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	119.92
		Karnataka	153.70	80.00	203.45
		Kerala	75.61	65.03	48.57
		Madhya Pradesh	388.13	300.00	233.35
		Maharashtra	120.91	37.34	42.37
		Manipur	127.54	47.98	50.00
		Mizoram	173.22	147.81	48.11
		Nagaland	10.87	9.00	0.00
		Orissa	116.53	96.12	42.33
		Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	160.00	7.18	38.69
		Sikkim	69.52	55.54	46.51
		Tamil Nadu	93.03	100.59	127.75
		Tripura	0.00	60.00	52.58
		Uttar Pradesh	221.78	118.22	108.37
		Uttaranchal	107.24	35.21	41.66
		West Bengal	197.10	196.61	156.38
8.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Projects Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	149.65	246.56	228.20
		Arunachal Pradesh	57.87	61.99	86.36

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Assam	67.15	52.25	26.05
		Jharkhand	60.69	47.56	52.51
		Chhattisgarh	74.82	49.98	37.05
		Gujarat	58.94	221.45	398.17
		Haryana	81.29	77.60	30.01
		Himachal Pradesh	37.92	78.91	64.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	364.09	326.85	447.79
		Jharkhand	60.69	47.56	52.31
		Karnataka	160.36	167.43	151.49
		Kerala	346.14	486.09	390.86
		Madhya Pradesh	278.01	277.68	237.37
		Maharashtra	17.18	225.68	101.07
		Manipur	468.73	328.11	197.22
		Meghalaya	10.21	14.70	0.00
		Mizoram	147.56	149.42	68.39
		Nagaland	38.60	93.64	114.23
		Orissa	239.66	729.00	681.24
		Punjab	28.62	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	376.57	432.67	291.34
		Sikkim	109.82	183.01	110.25
		Tamil Nadu	0.00	84.55	100.00
		Tripura	37.77	91.51	51.33
		Uttar Pradesh	37.68	60.86	29.08
		Uttaranchal	330.03	335.54	369.11
		West Bengal	170.64	121.60	240.91
		Pondicherry	0.00	20.12	0.00
9.	Non Timber Forest Prouce including Medicinal Plants	Andhra Pradesh	119.13	168.00	318.17
		Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	10.00	38.10
		Assam	25.00	84.00	85.53
		Bihar	0.00	60.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	20.52	90.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Goa	12.13	32.06	18.47
		Gujarat	116.65	191.62	139.97
		Haryana	29.44	44.35	59.33
		Himachal Pradesh	32.19	34.99	67.54
		Jammu & Kashmir	187.85	133.00	275.91
		Karnataka	51.34	81.63	72.24
		Kerala	13.10	45.50	44.03
		Madhya Pradesh	77.50	166.98	96.06
		Maharashtra	0.00	127.00	66.00
		Manipur	53.94	118.37	0.00
		Meghalaya	0.00	42.39	25.47
		Mizoram	53.45	97.82	82.84
		Nagaland	0.00	64.00	37.00
		Orissa	86.08	162.20	121.37
		Punjab	0.00	25.00	20.00
		Rajasthan	116.21	139.40	234.40
		Sikkim	102.00	205.24	167.53
		Tamil nadu	0.00	54.75	19.00
		Tripura	17.25	26.96	12.48
		Uttar Pradesh	5.00	78.00	17.87
		West Bengal	71.74	79.00	88.64
10.	Tree and Pasture Seed Development	Andhra Pradesh	21.00	14.50	7.14
		Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	4.27	0.00
		Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Goa	7.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	0.00	25.00	0.00
		Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	13.42	0.00	15.00
		Jharkhand	10.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	15.00	26.00	21.87
		Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Maharashtra	0.00	5.94	0.00
		Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	3.00	3.50	5.50
		Sikkim	0.00	6.00	11.63
		Tamil Nadu	2.80	10.00	12.40
		Tripura	12.00	10.00	10.00
		Uttar Pradesh	0.00	36.50	0.00
		Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	9.94
		West Bengal	14.50	0.00	3.65
11.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	59.87	57.18
		Goa	8.95	12.45	8.63
		Gujarat	0.00	88.11	0.00
		Karnataka	0.00	0.00	10.56
		Maharashtra	9.88	89.00	0.00
		Orissa	44.06	55.75	41.42
		Tamil Nadu	16.20	84.70	103.15
		West Bengal	44.95	0.00	45.00
		Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	11.64	11.10
12.	Conservation of Management of Wetlands	Andhra Pradesh	23.81	0.00	0.00
		Assam	0.00	14.80	0.00
		Gujarat	0.00	7.00	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	0.00	46.50	73.78
		Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	45.50	31.90
		Kerala	0.00	45.45	0.00
		Manipur	97.28	70.00	60.00
		Orissa	36.00	55.00	102.84
		Punjab	20.30	70.55	61.46
		Rajasthan	36.26	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	15.00	15.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Forest Fire Control & Management	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	0.00	89.95
		Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	22.35	7.65
		Assam	0.00	15.50	9.96
		Bihar	10.41	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	44.00	105.00
		Goa	0.00	15.00	39.27
		Gujarat	18.00	26.28	74.50
		Haryana	0.00	11.67	37.91
		Himachal Pradesh	31.38	31.98	101.30
		Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	32.70	59.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	42.15	64.65
		Karnataka	34.04	33.55	27.00
		Kerala	25.52	15.30	38.60
		Madhya Pradesh	20.97	41.75	155.10
		Maharashtra	10.00	191.29	0.00
		Manipur	0.00	34.00	19.90
		Meghalaya	0.00	23.69	39.60
		Mizoram	0.00	24.60	31.30
		Nagaland	0.00	0.00	7.80
		Orissa	20.40	9.10	49.22
		Punjab	0.00	0.00	28.80
		Rajasthan	0.00	22.68	16.00
		Sikkim	0.00	25.00	40.08
		Tamil Nadu	25.80	8.85	40.05
		Tripura	0.00	32.40	43.71
		Uttar Pradesh	20.00	6.40	36.50
		Uttaranchal	0.00	56.40	74.50
		West Bengal	0.00	34.85	72.65
14.	Project Elephant	Andhra Pradesh	11.86	46.30	31.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	19.30	89.81	56.00
		Assam	25.15	45.00	94.50
		Bihar/Jharkhand	26.00	5.00	22.69
		Karnataka	85.00	51.00	81.00
		Kerala	63.55	66.05	82.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Manipur	0.00	1.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	20.68	35.73	30.00
		Mizoram	0.00	1.00	0.00
		Nagaland	40.00	35.17	72.13
		Orissa	25.00	29.75	102.03
		Tamil Nadu	48.21	50.00	40.00
		Tripura	0.00	2.00	1.00
		Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	155.81	100.00	125.14
		West Bengal	76.01	79.04	95.00
15.	Project Tiger	Andhra Pradesh	29.04	45.00	21.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	30.59	32.61	82.76
		Assam	87.29	156.10	46.00
		Bihar	165.95	67.08	50.00
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	35.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	75.65
		Karnataka	167.08	193.36	181.43
		Kerala	43.67	50.00	50.00
		Madhya Pradesh	332.16	434.25	472.18
		Maharashtra	134.77	167.93	209.23
		Meghalaya	0.00	1.50	0.00
		Mizoram	21.43	27.58	20.50
		Orissa	84.45	83.31	126.81
		Rajasthan	222.60	299.71	170.32
		Tamil Nadu	58.78	60.32	16.00
		Uttar Pradesh	234.23	181.66	67.40
		Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	181.83
		West Bengal	137.14	98.18	142.18
16.	Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development (BOTD)	Karnataka	68.50	64.65	100.00
		Madhya Pradesh	201.08	200.00	300.00
		Maharashtra	0.00	46.00	0.00
		Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Eco Development Project	Andhra Pradesh	44.53	33.55	69.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Arunachal Pradesh	13.82	31.83	45.15
		Assam	32.00	45.51	43.81
		Bihar/Jharkhand	238.39	153.99	372.09
		Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	24.70
		Gujarat	698.84	684.95	332.56
		Himachal Pradesh	86.84	66.00	131.35
		Jammu & Kashmir	13.70	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	1028.95	634.87	1289.35
		Kerala	439.02	715.25	842.68
		Madhya Pradesh	481.00	386.53	875.76
		Maharashtra	96.15	27.00	46.40
		Manipur	10.11	21.45	9.15
		Meghalaya	0.00	21.52	17.11
		Mizoram	64.55	118.05	226.83
		Nagaland	8.00	23.25	28.45
		Orissa	12.00	56.16	42.60
		Punjab	0.00	0.00	12.27
		Rajasthan	166.74	531.28	307.70
		Sikkim	32.63	29.60	26.23
		Tamil nadu	31.96	6.30	6.38
		Tripura	0.00	20.00	44.35
		Uttar Pradesh	66.51	113.74	118.99
		Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	82.00
		West Bengal	561.69	548.39	970.58

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme
1	2
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries
2.	Biosphere Reserves
3.	Industrial Pollution Prevention Project (culminated during December 2002)
4.	National River Conservation Plan
5.	National Lake Conservation Plan

1	2
6.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves, Coral Reefs and Wetlands
7.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme
8.	Project Elephant
9.	Project River
10.	National Afforestation Programme
11.	Eco Development Project
12.	Common Effluent Treatment Plants

[Translation]

Lift Irrigation System in Drought Hit Areas

836. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of drought hit areas of Gujarat are being motivated to adopt Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether LIS is not getting momentum due to erratic supply of power; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to make LIS a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Ministry of Agriculture is not implementing any lift irrigation scheme in Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Spread of Diseases due to Pollution

837. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide spread of many diseases in the country on account of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are preparing any action plan to check the pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) Not conclusive data is available to establish cause-effect relationship between pollution and manifestations of various diseases. The measures taken by the Government to control the pollution include the following:—

- (i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.
- (ii) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures;
- (iii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
- (iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.
- (v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.
- (vi) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.
- (vii) A network of about 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
- (viii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- (ix) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- (x) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipment before commissioning of their plants.
- (xi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981.
- (xii) Rules and Guidelines have been notified for management of municipal, bio-medical and hazardous wastes under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

*[English]***Visit of Task Force to China**

838. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up for linking of rivers, propose to visit China to study the Chinese major water diversion project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Government of India has set up a Task Force on Interlinking of rivers through Resolution No. 2/21/2002-BM dated 13.12.2002. The Task Force has held its first meeting on 6th January 2003 and no decision was taken to visit China by the Task Force during the meeting.

(b) Does not arise.

Pasture Land and Fodder for Animals

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

(a) whether there is enough pasture land and fodder for the animals available in the country;

(b) if so, the areas of pasture land and the quantity of fodder available at present, State-wise; and

(c) the per capita availability of fodder for the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Enough pasture land and fodder for the animals is not available in the country.

(b) Area of pasture land and availability of fodder, State wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The per capita availability of dry and green fodder for the animals is 4.18 kg. & 4.09 kg respectively per day.

Statement**Area of Pasture Land and Availability of Fodder State wise**

States	Area of Pasture Land (000 ha.)	Availability of Fodder (000 tons)	
		Dry Fodder	Green Fodder
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	763	32338	32918
Assam	170	8398	8200
Bihar	107	33499	37000
Goa	1	NA	NA
Gujarat	849	11798	31300
Haryana	24	15249	10114
Himachal Pradesh	1204	7375	8314
J & K	128	2490	7316
Karnataka	1017	21694	23118
Kerala	1	2474	3010
Madhya Pradesh	2643	43171	63516
Maharashtra	1357	40334	38630

1	2	3	4
Manipur	—	845	1218
Meghalaya	—	326	5700
Nagaland	—	712	3430
Mizoram	—	NA	NA
Orissa	534	18005	24218
Punjab	6	26659	11000
Rajasthan	1735	25826	52944
Sikkim	69	380	845
Tamil Nadu	125	18555	10993
Tripura	—	810	1274
Uttar Pradesh	296	60818	32925
West Bengal	8	26192	7240

[Translation]

ESI Hospital in Jammu and Kashmir

840. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open ESI hospital in Jammu and Srinagar;

(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 LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The Employees State Insurance Corporation has sanctioned a 25 bedded hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 363.86 lacs in Jammu (Bari Brahmana Industrial Estate) which will be eventually raised to 50 beds. The construction work has been entrusted to M/s J & K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

Price of Limestone and Dolomite

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

(a) the details of price of limestone and dolomite being procured from various parties by Bokrao Steel Plant including rate per tonne/per cubic metre alongwith transportation charges and the names of suppliers in each case;

(b) the rate of limestone and dolomite per tonne/per cubic metre which is produced in Bhavnathpur limestone and transported to Bokrao Steel Plant; and

(c) the details of silica produced in limestone mines by Bhavnathpur limestone and procured by Bokaro Steel Plant, party-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The information asked for is of commercially sensitive nature. It will not be in the interest of the Plant to divulge commercially sensitive information about its day to day operations.

(b) (i) Limestone Transfer price is Rs. 531/- per MT, Freight rate is Rs. 338/- per MT and landed cost to BSL is Rs. 869/- per MT.

(ii) Dolomite- Transfer price is Rs. 677/- per MT, Freight rate is Rs. 338/- per MT and landed cost to BSL is Rs. 1015/- per MT.

(c) The details of silica in limestone are given below:

(Average-2002-2003)

Source	Percentage of Silica in Limestone
1. SAIL/RMD, Bhawanathpur	6.7%
2. SAIL/RMD, Kuteshwar	3.2%
3. M/s. RSMDC, Jaisalmer	1.12%
4. M/s. RSMML, Jaisalmer	1.08%

Damage to Crops due to Drought

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

(a) whether agriculture and horticulture crops have been severely affected due to prevailing drought conditions in the entire Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, whether water sources have dried up and water level has also declined; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) A Central Team has recently visited the State to, inter-alia assess the damage due to drought and its Report is under consideration.

(c) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 129.99 crore, assistance of Rs. 20.00 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has so far been released to the State for current drought. 1.16 lakh MTs. of foodgrains have also been allocated to the State under the special component of Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme for relief employment.

[English]

Loss due to Lack of Co-ordination

843. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Times of India' (Mumbai) dated January 30, 2003 under the caption "AI loses Rs. 2 crore in a day due to London mess-up";

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

(c) the amount of loss suffered by Air India due to these delays and mishandling; and

(d) the steps being taken for proper co-ordination between engineering and commercial departments in London?

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

(b) As informed by Air India, on 8th January, 2003 their flights AI-102, AI-122 and AI-111 were stranded at Heathrow airport, London due to bad weather conditions and resultant severe congestion at Heathrow airport, London and also cabin crew duty time limitations.

(c) Though the exact quantum of loss is difficult to quantify, the estimated additional, expenditure may be in the range of Rs. 1.5 crores to Rs. 1.75 crores.

(d) A Committee has been constituted to enquire into the reasons resulting in multiple delays and suggest remedial action so as to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

[Translation]

Decline In Export of Steel

844. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of steel has declined recently;

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

(c) the steps being taken for increasing the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The export of finished steel in 2002-03 up-to January 2003 is 34.0 lakh tonnes while the export for the similar period last year was 25.26 lakh tonnes showing an increase of 35%.

(c) Several steps have been taken by the industry and the Govt. to improve the export of steel from India. These include:-

- Setting up of Steel Exporters' Forum to remove bottlenecks in the steel exports
- Exploring/consolidating new/non-traditional markets
- Maximizing exports to neighbouring countries
- Attempting to increase range of export products-wider range of products/sizes/grades

Contesting trade cases for re-opening major traditional markets for Indian steel exports.

[English]

Killing of Mongooses

845. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that lakhs of mongooses have been killed by several paint brush companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) There are no reports of mongoose being killed by paint brush companies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Use of Pesticides by Prawn Mafia in Coastal Areas

846. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the use of pesticides by prawn Mafia in coastal areas of Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The report received from the State Government indicates that pesticides are not used in coastal areas of Orissa by prawn Mafia.

(b) The question does not arise.

Tourism Development in West Bengal

847. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any specific plan for development of tourism in West Bengal during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) State level plans for

development of tourism are drawn up by the concerned State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for integrated development of tourism circuits and product/infrastructure and destination development projects identified in consultation with them. The following projects have been identified for development of tourism in West Bengal:—

1. Development of Vishnupur as a destination.

2. Rural tourism project at Shantiniketan.

The State Government has been requested to send detailed project proposals.

Development of Fishermen

848. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes introduced for development of fishermen in the country;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat have submitted its proposals to the Union Government for development of fishermen and other facilities;

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government on the said proposal;

(d) whether there is any proposal to grant facilities to fishermen in Gujarat like other States;

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have revised existing schemes for the welfare of fishermen during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Various schemes such as National Welfare of Fishermen, Fisheries Training and Extension, Development of Marine Fisheries, Development of Freshwater and Coastal Aquaculture and Fishing Harbour Facilities At Major and Minor Ports are implemented in the country for development of fisheries and for the benefit of fishermen.

(b) to (e) Details are indicated in the statement-I enclosed.

(f) and (g) National Scheme on Welfare of Fishermen has been revised in 2000-01. The pattern of assistance is indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Proposals submitted by State Government of Gujarat

- (i) The State Government of Gujarat submitted a proposal under scheme on Welfare of Fishermen (Model Fishermen Village Component). The State Government of Gujarat has been requested to furnish utilization certificate for the earlier releases lying unutilized.
- (ii) The State Government of Gujarat has also submitted proposal for construction of fishing harbours at Okha and Dholai and landside harbour facilities at port Sutrapada in Junagarh district. The State Government has been requested to furnish further clarifications.
- (iii) Proposal also submitted for Motorisation of outboard/inboard motors under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Motorisation of Traditional Craft and for Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised vessels below 20 M length. The State Government of Gujarat has been requested to furnish utilization certificate for the earlier releases lying unutilized. The existing scheme is proposed to be continued in Tenth Plan with some modifications under marco management.

Statement-II

Details of National Scheme on Welfare of Fishermen

This scheme has the following three components:-

- (a) Development of Model Fishermen Villages
- (b) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen
- (c) Saving-sum-relief Scheme
- (a) Development of Model Fishermen Villages

The objective of the component is to provide basic civic amenities such as housing, drinking water and construction of community hall for fishermen villages. A fishermen village may consist of not less than 10 houses. There is no upper limit for the number of houses to be constructed in a village which would depend on the number of eligible fishermen in that village. The village would be provided with the tube wells

at the rate of one tube well for every 20 houses. Where a village consists of only 10 houses or more but less than 20 houses, one tube well may be provided for such a village. As recreation and common working place, a fishermen village with at least 75 houses would be provided with a community hall. Unit costs under the scheme have been revised from 2000-01 as Rs. 40,000/- for houses, Rs. 30,000/- for the tube-well (Rs. 35,000 for North Eastern Region) and Rs. 1,75,000 for community hall. The expenditure is shared equally between Central and State Government. In case of Union Territories the expenditure is fully borne by the Centre.

(b) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen

The Objective of the component is to provide insurance to cover active fishermen engaged in fishing. Such active fishermen are insured for Rs. 50,000/- for one year against death or permanent disability and Rs. 25,000/- for partial disability. The upper limit for insurance premium is Rs. 15/- per head and is shared equally by the Central Government and the State Government. In case of Union Territory 100% premium is borne by the Government of India. A single policy is taken in respect of all those States/Union Territories who are participating through FISHCPPFED.

(c) Saving-cum-Relief Scheme

The objective of this component is to provide financial assistance to fishermen during lean fishing season. The scheme has been revised from 2000-01, by changing the pattern of assistance and also including the inland fishermen in the scheme. The monthly contribution of marine fishermen is Rs. 75 for eight months, while that of inland fishermen is Rs. 50/- for nine months. A matching amount is provided with equal contribution from Central and State Governments. The payment made to marine fishermen would be Rs. 300/- per month for four months while inland fishermen would Rs. 300/- per month for three months.

Development of Sea Beaches

849. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any schemes to develop sea beaches in the country and to maintain the ecological balance of those sea beaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made by the Government in this regard during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) With the aim of restoring ecologically

fragile eco-systems of coastal area, Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing a scheme on Coastal Shelter Belt Plantation. In addition, another scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs has also been taken up. Management Action Plans for the identified mangrove and coral reef areas have been prepared. The details of grant released during the last three years, scheme-wise and State-wise are as under:—

State/Union Territory	Grant Released (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Mangroves Conservation	Coral Reefs Conservation	Shelter Belt Plantation
Andhra Pradesh	117.05	—	184.96
Goa	30.03	—	—
Gujarat	88.11	12.00	415.00
Karnataka	10.56	—	42.65
Kerala	—	—	264.85
Maharashtra	98.88	—	—
Orissa	141.23	—	607.25
Pondicherry	—	—	20.12
Tamil Nadu	204.05	20.52	184.55
West Bengal	89.95	—	23.82
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.74	30.45	—
Lakshadweep Islands	—	39.70	—

[Translation]

Air Traffic Jam at Delhi

850. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi airport is facing air traffic jam resulting in delay of flights;

(b) if so, the details of flight delay due to jam during the last three months; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to rectify this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of flights delayed due to Air Traffic Jam are—November, 2002—Nil, December, 2002—35 and January, 2003—550.

(c) Instrument Landing System at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi has been upgraded to Category-III A so as to permit operations in low visibility conditions upto 200 meters.

[English]

Declining Investment In Irrigation Schemes

851. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in irrigational schemes has declined in 2002, as compared to previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether due to critical deficit of funds 159 big and 242 medium irrigation projects could not be completed during the Ninth Plan and would now be completed in the Tenth Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken by the Union Government to ensure that projects are completed in the scheduled time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject, all types of irrigation, flood control and drainage schemes are planned, executed, and maintained by the State Governments themselves from their plan funds and as per their own priorities. The year-wise share of irrigation and flood control in the total plan outlay of States for 2002-2003 and some previous year is as under:

Year	Percentage of Outlay for Irrigation & Flood Control to total outlay
2002-03	15.91
2001-02	16.09
2000-01	17.44
1999-00	18.90

(c) and (d) The Tenth Plan document has strongly pleaded for progressively stepping up investments in this sector from the Tenth Plan onwards keeping in view that provision of irrigation is the best bet for poverty alleviation. The revised National Water Policy 2002 has stressed that inadequate funding of projects should be obviated by an optimal allocation of resources on the basis of prioritization having regard to an early completion of ongoing project. In order to supplement plan funding for the irrigation sector the ongoing Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) in operation since 1996-97 provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States towards expeditious completion of major/medium irrigation projects. The programme has undergone reformative changes in the funding pattern since 2002-03. The programme has special dispensation of 100% loan assistance for Fast Track Projects and relaxed lending norms for reforming States. During the Ninth Plan an amount of Rs. 8480 crore was released to States under the programme for about 150 major and medium projects.

(e) and (f) Early Completion of about 400 ongoing irrigation projects depends on the State Governments providing adequate outlays to complete the projects in the Tenth Plan Period. 159 major and 242 medium

irrigation projects could not be completed during the Ninth Plan due to varied reasons including constraint of resources with the States and would spill over to the Tenth Plan. The State Governments are likely to start 67 major and 130 medium projects as new schemes during the Tenth Plan. As a result, due to thin spreading of resources, it is unlikely that all the spill over projects would be completed by the States during the Tenth Plan. As per assessment made by the Working Group set up for the major and medium irrigation programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan, Rs. 77100 crore is estimated to be required during the Tenth Plan for completing 103 major and 240 medium projects.

The measures taken by the Union Government for speedy completion of projects include:

- (i) Providing financial loan assistance to States under AIBP including Fast Track Projects;
- (ii) Encouraging the States to revise old water rates to recover O&M costs so that plan outlay for completing projects is not eaten up by O&M expenses;
- (iii) The Tenth Plan adopted by the Union Government has laid thrust on completion of ongoing projects rather than taking up new projects to avoid thin spreading of resources.

[Translation]

Harvesting of Rain Water

852. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government for rain water harvesting in drought hit States including Rajasthan; and

(b) the amount spent by the Government on water harvesting projects in the States including Rajasthan during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures for rain water harvesting in the country including drought hit States which includes Rajasthan:

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (iv) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (v) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.w.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board implemented demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories at a cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. Amount spent during last three years under the scheme is Rs. 22 crore out of which, an amount of Rs. 71.69 lakh has been spent in Rajasthan.

[English]

Erosion due to Ganga River

853. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the continuous erosion due to Ganga river which has assumed a dangerous proposition at Shankopara Station near Farakka between Nabodip and Kala railway line;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that the Bandel Thermal Power Station, Dakshineswar Temple, Balagarh in Hooghly, Katwa, Kalna in Burdwan, Barrackpore in North-24 Parganas in West Bengal are facing serious erosion problem due to Ganga river; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government has contemplated to check the river erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Food Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical catalytical and promotional in nature.

As informed by the Government of West Bengal, they are aware of the erosion problem at village Shankopara in P.S. Farakka in the district of Murshidabad caused by the river Ganga/Padma. A scheme to arrest the erosion has already been prepared.

(b) and (c) Further, Government of West Bengal has also informed that they are taking adequate steps to check/prevent erosion caused by river Ganga in various places viz. Katwa and Kalna in Burdwan and in this connection necessary schemes have been prepared after investigations which are to be taken up as per availability of funds. As regards the problem of erosion in P.S. Balagarh and near Bandel Thermal Power Station, the State Government has also taken necessary steps for protective measures. In the Barrackpore-Dakshineswar area in the district of North 24 Parganas, no alarming erosion of river Hooghly has been observed. However, the stretches of the river have been kept under observation.

[Translation]

Heritage List

854. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list containing names of 13 monuments sent for inclusion in UNESCO world heritage list has been turned down due to lack of complete information;

(b) if so, whether the responsibilities have since been fixed;

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Prima facie there were certain inadequacies in the draft nominations which were sent on 23rd June, 1998 and were returned by UNESCO for resubmission in the revised format. Subsequently an enquiry has been ordered to look into the reasons for the information gap.

*[English]***Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

855. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and norms fixed by the Government to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country; and

(b) the KVKs set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise particularly in the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The criteria and norms fixed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country include its location as far as possible in the central part of a rural district; availability of land and municipal facilities, viability of the organization and technological backstopping for implementing the activities of a KVK.

(b) During the IXth Five Year Plan, ICAR has strengthened the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in 53 districts. This includes Sriganganagar district, besides 31 KVKs established earlier in Rajasthan. In addition, 15 new KVKs were sanctioned during the period. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*State-wise Distribution of ZARSs strengthened and New KVKs Sanctioned during IXth Plan*

Sl. No	States/Union Territories	No. of Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) Strengthened	No. of New KVKs Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1
2.	Assam	6	—
3.	Bihar	2	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	—
5.	Gujarat	3	—
6.	Haryana	—	3

1	2	3	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—
9.	Karnataka	8	—
10.	Kerala	2	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4	3
12.	Maharashtra	4	3
13.	Orissa	2	—
14.	Punjab	1	—
15.	Rajasthan	1	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	3	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	7	3
18.	Uttaranchal	1	—
19.	West Bengal	1	—
Total		53	15

*[Translation]***Development of Worship Places as Tourist Spots in Bihar**

856. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places of worship developed as tourist spots in Bihar;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal to provide financial assistance to the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Department of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for integrated development of tourism circuits and product/infrastructure and destination development projects identified in consultation with them. A project for integrated development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Circuit with Central financial component of Rs. 505.00 lakhs for works in Bihar has been sanctioned during the current financial year.

*[English]***Problems of Mumbai Airport**

857. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has conducted a special meeting at Mumbai Airport recently to discuss the problematic issues in the Airport;

(b) if so, whether the representatives from all the Airlines, Airport Authority and local Member of Parliament participated;

(c) if so, the issues raised, discussed and decided;

(d) whether any assurance was made that proper snack bar and other facilities will be completed within three months;

(e) if so, the present status thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the AAI to implement the decisions of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Issues of clearance of Jari Mari area for extension of 'B' Taxi Track, shifting of 41000 tenements encroached on the lands of Mumbai and the facility of restaurant/snack bar and tea/coffee vending machine at Terminal-1A were raised.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. A snack bar counter has already been commissioned besides the tea and coffee vending machines available in all area of Terminal-1A. Work on setting up of a restaurant has already been awarded to M/s East India Hotels Limited.

(f) As regards clearance of Jari Mari area, the matter has been pursued with BMC to hand over the land to Airports Authority of India [AAI] expeditiously. State Government has been asked to expedite shifting of encroachers on AAI land.

Welfare and Upliftment of Small Fishermen

858. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the problems being faced by small fishermen in the country particularly in the coastal Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for welfare and upliftment of the small fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Traditional fishermen are facing problems due to intrusion of trawler from the neighbouring States into technical waters of Orissa and Fishing in restricted area exclusively meant for Traditional Fishermen. Their Boats and nets are being damaged by the above trawlers. In particular Nollia Community are facing problems on rehabilitation and resettlement in the coastal belt of Orissa.

(c) To overcome the problem due to intrusion of trawler from the neighbouring States Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act is being strictly implemented by the Government for control of illegal fishing activities in the coastal waters to safeguard the interest of small fishermen. Further for upliftment of the small fishermen Government of Orissa is providing the following assistance:

(i) Inboard and Outboard Engines are being supplied to Mechanise the Traditional Crafts in the Subsidies rate.

(ii) For social upliftment of the poor fishermen low cost houses are being provided to the fishermen alongwith the facilities of drinking water and community hall. The Active poor fishermen are covered under Accidental Insurance Scheme for which premium is being paid by the Government and families of the fishermen are being benefited. Further during the lean period of fishing, poor fishermen are being provided financial assistance by Government for four lean months under Saving-cum-Relief Scheme.

*[Translation]***Criteria for Distribution of Water**

859. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down any criteria for distribution of water among various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has been implemented by all the States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In respect of Krishna, Godavari and Namada basins, shares of basin States were decided by the tribunals in the past. The National Water Board in its 9th Meeting held on 19th November 1997 formulated Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States which were not agreed to by the States. A Working Group to examine these draft guidelines and to come out with a consensus draft guidelines has been constituted.

[English]

Request of NABARD for Repayment of Loans

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

(a) whether NABARD has requested the State Registrar for cooperative societies of Maharashtra demanding a one time repayment of loans worth Rs. 750 crore from Land Development Banks;

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

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has liquidated 15 Land Development Banks due to huge losses; and

(d) if so, steps taken by NABARD to realize the amount lent to these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) NABARD, Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (MSCARDB) had entered into a tripartite agreement for repayment of the entire outstanding loans amounting to Rs. 727.63 crore and the interest thereon to NABARD in 15 instalments on respective due dates.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NABARD has entered into tripartite agreement under which the amount is to be realized in 15 instalments.

[Translation]

Illegal Mining in Madhya Pradesh

861. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal mining of Bauxite, Chalk (kharia) and Slate (patia patthar) is taking place in forest ranges of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has adversely affected the forest and environment in the State;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have issued or propose to issue any directions to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for checking such illegal mining; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and follow up action taken by Madhya Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) There is no specific information with the Government regarding organised illegal mining of Bauxite, Chalk and Slate in forest ranges of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Case Relating to Delhi Federation of NAFED

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

(a) whether the Central Registrar, Multi-State Cooperative Societies has taken any action on the pending cases relating to Delhi Federation of NAFED;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when these cases are pending;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking a final view in the matter; and

(d) by when action is likely to be taken by the Central Registrar?

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

(b) The Central Registrar is holding regular hearings in the case filed by NAFED against Delhi State Cooperative Marketing & Supply Federation, Delhi. The case was registered in the Court of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies on 17th September, 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Hearing in the case are at the stage of final arguments.

Minimum Support Price of Wheat and Rice

863. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed by the Government for different grades of wheat where as different MSPs are fixed for different grades of Paddy;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix different MSP for different grades of wheat as done in case of Paddy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) At present the Government fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of wheat and two varieties of paddy, namely, Paddy-Common and Paddy-Grade 'A'. There is no proposal under consideration to fix different MSPs for different grades of wheat. The various varieties of paddy produced in the country are quite large as compared to wheat. Therefore, no need to fix different MSPs for different grades of wheat has been felt.

Audit of NDDB

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

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have finally submitted their accounts to CAG;

(b) if so, whether the audit has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating if any serious lacunae were found in the audit; and

(d) the action taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per Section 28(1) of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987, the accounts of the National Dairy Development Board shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies

under the Companies Act. The matter regarding audit of accounts of NDDB by CAG is subjudice.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses and Oilseeds

865. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Government and Non-Governmental Organisations are engaged in increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds and developing high yielding varieties of pulses and oilseeds;

(b) if so, the names of such organizations and the estimated increase in the production of pulses and oilseeds during the next two years; and

(c) whether this increase would be sufficient to meet the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country. These Programmes are being implemented through State Governments. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the nodal agency for developing high yielding varieties of pulses and oilseeds.

The proposed production of pulses and oilseeds during the next 2 years (projected) is as under:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Oilseeds	Pulses
2002-03	233.0	144.0
2003-04	247.0	148.0

(c) No, Sir.

Release of Water to Tamil Nadu from Karnataka

866. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently directed the Government of Karnataka to release more water to Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether all the Chief Ministers of the four southern States held a meeting recently in New Delhi chaired by Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the total quantity of water released by the Karnataka Government to Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether the interests of farmers have been safeguarded before ordering the release of more water to Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Union Government has framed the Cauvery Water (Implementation of the Order of 1991 and all subsequent related orders of the Tribunal) Scheme consisting of the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) and a Monitoring Committee to give effect to the implementation of Interim Order of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) dated June 25, 1991 and related subsequent orders. The CRA is headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers of the basin States are its members. During the year 2002-03, keeping in view the urgent need of water for standing crops in Tamil Nadu as also the drinking water requirement in Karnataka, the Supreme Court thus, while hearing an application of Tamil Nadu, ordered on 6.2.2003 that the State of Karnataka shall release sufficient water from its reservoirs so as to ensure an average inflow of 4500 cusec of water per day at Mettur till a final decision is taken by CRA. The CRA held its 6th meeting on February 10, 2003 attended by all members of the Authority. The Prime Minister in the capacity of Chairperson of the CRA decided that the same quantity, as ordered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court i.e. 4500 cusec on an average be made available by the Government of Karnataka at Mettur for another three years. Thereafter, the inflows may be ensured by Karnataka as per the Interim Order of CWDT. The total outflows from Kabini and K.R. Sagar reservoirs of Karnataka from 8.2.03 to 14.2.03 is 3.27 TMC resulting in enhanced inflow in Mettur reservoir from 13.2.03 to 19.2.03 amounting to about 2.58 TMC.

Hunting of Siberian Cranes

867. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are hunting migratory Siberian Cranes in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) There are no reports of migratory Siberian Cranes being hunted in the country.

(c) The measures adopted to protect Siberian Cranes include:

1. Siberian Crane has been listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 thereby according to it the highest degree of protection under law.
2. State Forest Departments provided strict protection to it at all its known 'visit sites'.
3. Awareness programmes are conducted to sensitise the local communities for conservation and protection of migratory birds.
4. Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for development of national parks and sanctuaries where migratory bird species visit.

Bonded Labour

868. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether 130 bonded labourers have been recently freed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of bonded labourers freed from the kilns and other place from January 1, 2002 onwards in the country including Gujarat, Delhi, Mumbai and Bihar separately?

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

*[English]***New International Flights**

869. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new international flights are being envisaged by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the parameters for selection of routes for these flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Government of India has so far entered in to bilateral Air Services Agreement with 97 countries under which traffic rights are available for operations between India and the concerned country. Actual operations are, however, matters of commercial judgement of Air India, Indian Airlines or the respective foreign airlines.

National Dairy Development Board

870. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is a registered cooperative society;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government while forming the NDDB under the Cooperative Society Act have mandated it to have joint venture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether NDDB propose to enter into any joint venture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) set up under the NDDB Act 1987 is mandated to have joint ventures.

(d) and (e) Mother Dairy Foods Ltd., a company of the wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board has entered into joint venture agreements with Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing,

Federation Ltd., Trivandrum and Matha Milk Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Federation Ltd., Hyderabad.

Processing of Foodgrains

871. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to process foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Under Plan Scheme of the Government, financial assistance is provided for establishment/expansion/modernization of the units engaged *inter alia* in processing of foodgrains like rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds etc. Financial assistance is limited to 25% of the cost of the Plant & Machinery and technical civil works of a project subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the cost subject to maximum of a Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas. However, the Government is not involved directly in processing of foodgrains.

Airport Privatisation in North East

872. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the management of airports to private parties in the North East;

(b) if so, the names of the airports in the North-East which are proposed to be handed over/privatized;

(c) whether the Government have examined the security aspect and threat perception especially in insurgency affected States like Manipur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and remedies therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India has no proposal, at present, to hand over the management of airports in the North East Region to private parties.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Coconut Fibre Research Institute

873. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish a coconut Fibre Research Institute in Kerala by ICMR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The coconut fibre research is being addressed by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod, Kerala.

Restoration of Ruined Monument

874. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: 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 "A historic landmark lies in ruins" in the *Hindu* dated January 15, 2003;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restore the above as well as the other monuments all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to the Badli Sarai in Delhi. The Archaeological Survey has already started repairs to the gate as well as work for exposing and strengthening the ruins inside the complex.

Separately, each of the 20 circles of the Archaeological Survey of India have prepared a Five Year Perspective Plan for integrated development of the major monuments within their jurisdiction.

Assistance to Fishermen

875. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had announced financial assistance to the fishermen in Kerala during the period when there is a ban on trawling in the sea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) A National Scheme for Welfare of fishermen is already under implementation, which was a component of Saving-cum-Relief scheme aiming at elimination of poverty conditions during the lean fishing season including ban period by providing a minimum subsistence allowance to the fishers through contribution made by fishers and the State Government and the Central Government equally.

Fishing Harbours in Kerala

876. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up of new fishing harbours in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has posed 4 (four) project proposals for setting up of fishing harbours at Thalai, Koyilandi, Thottapally and Beypore Stage-II along the Kerala coast. In addition, the State Government has also intimated their intention to have fishing harbours constructed at 13 (thirteen) other sites.

(b) The details of the proposed fishing harbours are given in the enclosed statement. The State Government is yet to confirm the techno economic viability, availability of necessary land, adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget and completion of environmental clearance in respect of the four projects submitted by them. Detailed project proposals have not been submitted by the State Government in respect of the remaining sites.

Statement

Sl. No.	Location of the proposed fishing harbour	District
1.	Thottappally	Alappuzha
2.	Koyilandi	Kozhikkode
3.	Thalai	Kannur
4.	Kasaragode	Kasaragode
5.	Arthungal	Alappuzha
6.	Chettuvai	Thrissur
7.	Cheruvathoor-Neeleswaram	Kasaragode
8.	Varkala-Chilakkur	Thriuvananthapuram
9.	Chethi	Alappuzha
10.	Andakaranazhy	Alappuzha
11.	Chellanam	Ernakulam
12.	Parappanangadi	Malappuram
13.	Vadakara	Kozhikode
14.	Korappuzha	Kozhikode
15.	Thanoor	Malappuram
16.	Manjeswaram	Kasaragode
17.	Beypore Stage-II	Kozhikode

Tipaimukh Dam

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

(a) the present status of Tipaimukh Dam;

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed among various State Governments; and

(c) if so, by when the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Techno-Economic Appraisal for Tipaimukh Hydro-electric (Multipurpose) Project in Manipur being implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) was considered by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 9.1.2003 and found in order at a cost of Rs. 5163.86 crore including interest during construction of Rs. 757.26 Crore at December 2002 price

level. No Objection Certificate from Government of Mizoram and Government of Assam has been obtained in August, 2001 and July, 2002 respectively. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Govt. of Manipur on 9.1.2003. The project is planned to be commissioned within seven years and three months from the date of investment clearance by the Government of India.

Problem of Coir Industry

878. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unrest prevailing in the coir sector due to the abolishing of MEP and PPEs;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan to reinstate MEP and PPEs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have any other proposal to deal with the problems faced by workers in the coir industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) There was a strike in the coir industry in Kerala from the 7th December, 2002 for the implementation of an earlier agreement dated 26th December, 2001 between exporters and small scale manufacturers regarding payment of enhanced price for products. The issue has since been settled between the concerned parties and the strike ended on 30th December, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Textiles, after a careful consideration abolished Minimum Export Price (MEP) as a policy measure, for all the coir products from 1.4.2002 and as a consequence the Purchase Price Enforcement Scheme was withdrawn by the Coir Board on 26.4.2002.

(d) and (e) The Coir Industrial Relations Council constituted by the Government of Kerala deals with various labour disputes in the coir sector. Besides, the Coir Board is already implementing the following schemes for mitigating the problems and to improve the working conditions of workers in the Coir sector:

(i) Popularisation of Motorised traditional Ratts to avoid drudgery and to enhance production;

- (ii) Training to coir workers under Mahila Coir Yojana and distribution of Motorised ratts at subsidised rates to women coir workers;
- (iii) Coir workers personal Accident Insurance Scheme;
- (iv) Research and Development in modernization of coir processing machinery to increase productivity; and
- (v) Assistance for setting up of Common Facility Centres.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

879. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural insurance will be rationalised as the existing actuarial rates are quite high;

(b) whether unit area of insurance should be brought down to the village level and all crops including perennial crops should be covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(c) if so, whether the farmers are being satisfied with the NAIS;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to amend the existing system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) flat premium rates for food, oilseeds crops and actuarial rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops are charged. A proposal for further rationalization of the premium rates is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir, as per the provision of the scheme States/UTs are required to reach the level of Gram Panchayat as the unit of insurance.

To provide insurance coverage to perennial horticultural crops under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) Government has decided to cover selected perennial horticultural crops in selected district/States, on experimental basis.

(c) Yes, Sir. Farmers are satisfied as coverage of the scheme is increasing.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the suggestions received from the States/UTs and as provided in the Scheme a review proposal regarding rationalization of premia rates, limiting the sum insured, continuation of subsidy to small and marginal farmers, assessment of yield rates through Small Area Crop Estimation Method (SACEM), State-wise maintenance of Corpus Fund, coverage of perennial crops etc. is under the consideration of the Government.

Impact of Drought

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

(a) the financial impact of drought on national exchequer during 2002-2003;

(b) whether the Government have made any study on how the expenses on drought could be reduced in the coming years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) A committed expenditure of more than Rs. 5500 crores has already been incurred.

(b) and (c) When a severe natural calamity occurs, incurring of relief expenditure becomes inevitable. Efforts are, however, being made to moderate the impact of drought and thereby reduce the extent of relief expenditure through long-term measures like the Drought Prone Area Programme, the Desert Development Programme, the Integrated Wasteland Development Project and the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Schemes, etc.

Closure of KVIC Outlets

881. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many Khadi Sales outlets of KVIC have been closed down during the last two years;

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

(c) the steps being taken to improve and modernize Khadi textiles for better acceptability and popularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) Due to continuous losses and lack of viability, three Khadi Sales outlets of KVIC at Vishakapatnam, Hyderabad and Lucknow have been closed down since the year 1999-2000.

(c) To improve and modernize khadi textiles for better acceptability and popularity, a number of steps have been taken such as: setting up of sliver plants for supplying quality sliver, availing expertise from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like Dastkar Andhra and Rural Development Agency (RUDA), Rajasthan, for improvement of the quality as well as imparting training to khadi artisans; tied up arrangements with the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for developing better designs, fashions etc. in khadi textiles; launching of "Stiff and Soft" finishing process of khadi cloth with the help of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Textile Committee to make available laboratories for quality testing/certification of khadi products.

Setting up of Ferrochrome Plant

882. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some Ferrochrome plants in the country particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details and location thereof, State-wise including Orissa?

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

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

[Translation]

Pending Canal Projects

883. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on canal projects in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has not been completed;

(b) if so, by when the work on North Koel Canal Project in Bihar is likely to be completed; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the implementation of the said project and the benefits likely to accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Various Canal Projects in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are ongoing. As per "Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) and Annual Plan (2002-03), Major and Medium Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Programme, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar" the North Koel Project has been scheduled to be completed by 2004-05. The expenditure on this Project up to March 2002 is Rs. 555.69 crore and the project will create an ultimate irrigation potential of 105.90 th.ha. Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the concerned State Governments as per their own priorities.

[English]

Soil and Water Management

884. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken on soil and water management for food production without harming environment as emphasized by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the 88th Indian Science Congress in New Delhi in January, 2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing various resources conservation programmes and schemes to promote efficient utilization of water, land, nutrients and pesticides etc. for sustainable food production in the country. Some major programmes and schemes are: National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, Reclamation of Alkali Soils, Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas, Various Crop Production Schemes, National Project on Development and Use of Biofertilizers.

Promotion of integrated Pest Management, National Project on Organic Farming Promotion of zero tillage, Promotion of drip and sprinkler irrigation under the scheme Development of Horticulture through Plasti-culture Intervention.

[Translation]

Construction of High Dams on Canals

885. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divert water beyond Bindhya mountain ranges by constructing high dams in the Himalayan region through canals or by siphoning system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. Under the Peninsular component, interlining of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery and Vaigai and under Himalayan Component inter alia linking of tributaries of Brahmaputra with Ganga and Mahanadi is envisaged. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. The NWDA has identified 30 linkages for preparing feasibility report of which six feasibility reports have been prepared. These interlinks include high dams on rivers and the water transfer will take place through canals. Recently, the Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13, 2002 with a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers.

Development of Tourism in Rural Areas

886. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to develop rural areas as tourist-destinations in the country;

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

(c) the time bound programme formulated in this regard; and

(d) the number of rural places developed as tourist-spots so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has introduced a scheme to develop rural tourism in the country in the 10th Five Year Plan.

(b) Under the scheme, a maximum amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh is proposed for rural tourism projects. The financial assistance will be provided for undertaking the following works:

- Improvement of the surroundings of the village. This would include activities like landscaping, development of parks, fencing, compound wall etc.
- Improvements to roads within the Panchayat limits. This shall not include activities like landscaping, development of parks, fencing, compound wall etc.
- Improvements to roads within the Panchayat limits. This shall not include any major road which connects the village.
- Illumination in the village.
- Providing for improvement in solid waste management and sewerage management. (only capital costs)
- Construction of Wayside Amenities.
- Procurement of equipments directly related to tourism, like Water Sports, Adventure Sports, Eco-friendly modes of transport for moving within the tourism zone.
- Refurbishment of Monuments.
- Signages.
- Reception Centres.
- Tourist Accommodation.

(c) and (d) The rural tourism scheme has been introduced in the current financial year. The Department

of Tourism has sanctioned funds for the following projects during the year 2002-03 so far:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Rural Tourism Project at Kokkare Bellur, Kamataka	50.00
2.	Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur, Orissa	40.00
3.	Rural Tourism Project at Jageshwar, Uttaranchal	50.00

Poaching of Migratory birds

887. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents noticed by the Government regarding serving of rare birds in the local dhabas, restaurants and clubs in the country especially Delhi and other parts including Orissa during the recent past;

(b) whether the Government are aware that clubs and restaurants near Chilka Lake have served the flesh of migratory birds for human consumption in January 2003 as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 21, 2003;

(c) if so, whether, the Government have conducted any raids on these hotels, restaurants, club and dhabas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guiltyies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop serving of flesh of migratory birds as well as rare birds for human consumption in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excavation of Siri Fort

888. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to excavate Siri Fort in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Siri Fort was excavated in the recent past as well; and

(d) if so, the details of the artefacts discovered therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has taken up the excavation of a part of the Siri Fort wall with a view to exposing its architectural features in detail as it is one of the historical structures of Delhi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Question does not arise.

[English]

Recommendations of ICAR's Review Committee

889. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) review committee has submitted its report to Government on administrative restructuring;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made therein;

(c) the action taken thereon by the Government;

(d) whether the ICAR's review committee on administrative restructuring has strongly discouraged the opening of new State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), creation of new facilities and bifurcation of existing SAUs; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The report has been submitted to the President, ICAR Society and Union Agriculture Minister.

(b) to (e) Administrative arrangements have been made to process the recommendations for decisions is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

1. The composition of the Governing Body should be revised to include representatives of two State Governments, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Chairman, APEDA. The representation of Vice Chancellors of SAUs and Directors of ICAR Institutes should be reduced to four from six. The tenure of members from these categories be fixed for a period of three years and the positions should be filled up by rotation. (Para 2.4)
2. An annual conference of the Agriculture Ministers of all the States should be convened under the chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister with the specific agenda of reviewing the research priorities of the ICAR. (Para 2.9)
3. Five of the DDGs currently at headquarters should be moved to 5 geographical regions of the country with substantial delegation of powers to handle both research and administrative issues concerning ICAR Institutes located within the region. They should be responsible for integrating the research work within the region. (Para 2.10)
4. The number of DDGs at headquarters should be frozen to 4. Thematic areas be merged into Plant Sciences, Life Sciences and Human Resources to be handled by three DDGs. The fourth DDG will be responsible for strategic planning, policy formulation and monitoring etc. The DDGs at headquarters should act as advisers to DG and deal with larger national issues concerning policy thrusts, strategic planning, interaction with external agencies, international cooperation etc. in their respective sectors. They will be assisted by the ADGs for specific thematic areas. Detailed job descriptions for these positions should got prepared by ICAR and if necessary, a small task force should be created for this purpose. (Para 2.11)
5. The Regional DDGs should be assisted by thematic ADGs whose specialization should depend upon the regional needs. (Para 2.12)
6. The Regional DDGs should head the Regional Committees already created by ICAR. (Para 2.13)
7. Non RMP scientists should not be posted to headquarters and existing set of such officials should be reverted to laboratories and Institutes. (Para 2.14)
8. An Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICAR with Secretary, DoA & C or his nominee, DDGs at headquarters, a representative of DARE, Secretary, ICAR, Directors of NCAP and IASRI, one eminent scientist, a representative of IIMs as members and DDG (Policy & Planning) as Member-Secretary should be constituted for strategic planning, implementation and monitoring. This committee should meet once a quarter. (Paras 2.16 & 3.11)
9. Marketing and IPR being important areas, should be supervised by DDG (Policy & Planning) with earmarked ADGs to handle each of the subjects and to ensure that commercialization is accorded its due priority in the organization. (Para 2.17)
10. Institutes located within the same city having same or similar mandates with independently built infrastructure should be merged. A small committee headed by an eminent scientist should be set up to examine the rationale of continuing NRCs in the present form. (Para 2.18)
11. IASRI and NCAP should be integrated/merged and assigned the role of policy adviser. (Para 2.19)
12. ICAR should take an early decision on the proposals received about delegation of administrative and financial powers to IMCs, National Institutes and other Institutes. While operationalisation of the delegations, it should be ensured that delegation is precisely delineated. (Para 2.22)
13. ICAR should consider adopting CSIR model regarding performance linked budgeting with suitable modifications wherever necessary. (Para 2.23)
14. National Institutes which have a much better scope for generating resources should be mandated to generate a predecided percentage of resources and they should be allowed to retain it over and above the budgetary allocations. (Para 2.24)

15. The National Professor Scheme should be reviewed and the necessity of continuing it should be examined. (Para 2.25)
16. The Regional DDGs may be delegated powers to approve foreign deputations in such cases where government funds are not involved, directly or indirectly, except those cases where inter-ministry coordination is necessary. (Para 2.26)
17. A review should be carried out at every Institute's level to ensure that the human resources available are rationally and optimally deployed. This work could be entrusted to regional DDGs. (Para 2.29)
18. The scientific monitoring of the work of ICAR Institutes should continue to be done by ICAR. ICAR should also continue to exercise administrative control over them. (Para 3.9)
19. Small teams should be constituted by the Executive Committee to make field visit to ICAR Institutes to assess the progress of scientific work and interact with farmers to assess the impact of the work being done by the Institutes at the field level. This team should provide inputs to the Executive Committee. (Para 3.14)
20. The QRT Reports should be placed before the Executive Committee. Action Taken Report on the QRT recommendations be placed before the Governing Body. (Para 3.16)
21. The financial support from ICAR to SAUs should be raised gradually over a period of 5 years to 20% of the funds available with ICAR. (Para 4.17)
22. The State Government should be urged to levy a 1% cess on agricultural produce marketed. The additional resources so generated should be passed on to SAUs. (Para 4.18)
23. 20% of the financial assistance given by ICAR to SAUs should be linked to reforms within the SAU system. Objective criteria, which may include rationalization of structure, elimination of wastes and duplication, right sizing of staff etc. should be evolved for this purpose. (Para 4.19)
24. Opening of new SAUs and creation of new facilities, bifurcation of an existing SAU etc. should be strongly discouraged. There should be a moratorium on construction of new buildings in SAUs. Any new facility should be created only if State Government provides funds to meet expenses for first five years. (Para 4.21)
25. PG course in any discipline should normally run only at one place. If any SAU has it at more than one place, situation should be reviewed. If any faculty does not conform to norms, then financial support for it should be discontinued. (Para 4.22)
26. The necessity of increasing internal resource generation should be impressed upon SAUs. Possibility of increasing resource generation through selling of improved seeds, consultancy services, reserving seats for NRIs and foreign students etc. should be explored. (Para 4.24)
27. SAUs should be permitted to exploit commercially technologies developed by them which are not to be directly passed on to the farmers. (Para 4.25)
28. SAUs should be asked to increase their resources by reduction in expenditure and additional resource generation by at least 5%. This can be raised to 10% after 5 years. (Para 4.27)
29. KVKs should be asked to conduct entrepreneurial development training programmes in the villages for which small registration fee could be charged from the participants. (Para 4.28)
30. It has been observed that for certain crops, AICRP, Directorate and Institutes are working with an element of duplication. In such cases AICRP should be merged with Directorate/Institute. (Para 4.32)
31. The SAU extension agency and the state extension agency should have adequate linkage. The scientists of KVK should be fully involved in this. (Para 4.36)
32. ICAR should undertake systematic human research planning exercise both at the national level and at the level of Institute. (Para 5.11)
33. The mismatch between priority research areas and the number of scientists working therein should be removed. The Institutes and the regional DDGs should be involved in such an exercise which should lead to an action plan. (Para 5.12)
34. Each Institute should prepare in advance, a one year, 5 years and 5 to 15 years plan of activities in core areas. The human resource planning should correspond to these plans. (Para 5.13)
35. It is important to ensure that narrow specialization does not lead to inter-disciplinary segregation and proliferation of Institutes.

- Attempts should be made to build inter-disciplinary research and collaboration and integrate related areas to encourage holistic approach to problems and solutions. (Para 5.14)
36. Recruitment should be based on specific needs of the Institutes. Scientists working in areas which have ceased to be focus of work in any Institute should be relocated to such Institute where such work is of interest. (Para 5.15)
37. The centralized recruitment of scientists by ASRB should be based on the need/vacancies assessed by DDG (HR)/Institute in the context of proper human resource planning. Appropriate changes should be made from time to time in the technology/methodology and syllabi of examination conducted by ASRB to reflect the changing development in agricultural sciences and priorities of ICAR and its Institutes. (Para 5.17)
38. The post of Director, NAARM, Hyderabad which is of the rank of DDG should be downgraded to the level of ADG and transferred to headquarters and renamed as DDG (Human Resources). The Director, NAARM should report to DDG (Human Resources). DDG (Human Resources) should be responsible for all human resource management functions. (Para 5.20)
39. ASRB should be restructured to serve better the goals and missions of ICAR. DDG (HR) should review and evolve human resource management policies of ICAR and monitor the implementation of such policies. (Paras 5.18 and 5.21)
40. Promotions in ICAR should be based on proper assessment of performance. Flexible complementing system should be adopted once again. The serving scientists may be given option to carry on with the present system or being covered under the flexible complementing system. (Para 5.23)
41. There should be incentive for a scientist to continue to work in research area. A cool off system for scientists occupying RMP be introduced. A scientist working on RMP should be considered for another RMP after completion of tenure only if he has worked in research area for three years. (Para 5.25)
42. The draft Performance Appraisal Report developed by ICAR should be reviewed as it requires changes. (Para 5.28)
43. The IVLP has performed well in some Institutes. Scientists who volunteer to work in IVLP should be suitably rewarded. (Para 5.29)
44. NAARM does not seem to meet the future requirement of training. Additional infrastructure should be created at headquarters to meet the future needs. (Para 5.30)
45. Every Institute should prepare an annual calendar of training programme for its officials to ensure that scientists and others are given training in the latest developments at sufficient intervals. The training should be linked to the goals and objectives of the Institute. (Para 5.33)
46. Scientists who are chosen to take on administrative/managerial positions should be given adequate training in management skills, accounting etc. Similarly all officers in the area of finance and administration should be trained to sensitize them to the specific nature of scientific administration. (Para 5.34)
47. Training in Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques should be imparted to scientists. NAARM should be equipped to handle this training. Other organizations like Centre for Rural Studies attached to LBSNAA, Mussoorie, NIRD, Hyderabad and National Centre for Values and Ethics could also be involved in imparting this training, considering the large numbers to be trained. (Para 5.35)
48. Integration of administrative and finance cadres at headquarters and field should be done. Also the two cadres should be merged. In the short run posts on administration and finance sides could be kept separate but in due course even the posts should be combined. (Para 5.39)
49. Each regional DDG should be assisted by a Director (Finance & Administration), one Deputy Secretary for Finance and one for Administration and two Under Secretary level officers. In the short run, officials from the organized service cadres within the region may be taken to fill up the post of Director. In the long run ICAR officials should be groomed for this post. (Para 5.40)
50. An experienced officer in personnel function from civil services or from within the ICAR of the rank of Director may be posted to help DDG (HR). (Para 5.41)
51. There should be accent on developing younger scientists in the ICAR. A scheme may be framed

for training young scientists below 40 years of age in frontier areas of agricultural science. A minimum number of 200 such scientists should be trained over a period of 5 years. (Para 5.42)

52. The country should take steps to achieve a leadership role in frontier areas of agriculture science and technology. A world class institution in agricultural science technology should be set up. A small Task Force should be set up to give a concrete shape to this concept, working out the financial implications, method of financing, the areas of activity etc. (Para 5.43)
53. For taking decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a reasonable time frame, the report and views of DG, ICAR on the recommendations should be placed before ICAR Society within about a month. Matters requiring Cabinet approval should be put upto it within one month of the decision of the Society. (Para 6.2)
54. An institutionalized arrangement should be made for monitoring the implementation of decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. A cell under senior Director level officer be created within ICAR for this purpose. (Para 6.3)

Tribunal for Sharing of Krishna River Water

890. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a petition to the Union Government seeking constitution of a tribunal to regulate the sharing of Krishna river water; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a complaint under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 to the Central Government on January 20, 2003 stating that water disputes with regard to use, distribution and control of the waters of the Inter-State river Krishna have arisen between the riparian States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. As per the complaint, the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh and its inhabitants have been, and/or are likely to be, prejudicially affected by various acts of commission and omission of the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka such as

unauthorized construction of the Almatti Dam, wrongful utilisation of waters of Tungabhadra river and from the Tungabhadra dam and violations of the award in the Bheema sub-basin. In the complaint, the State of Andhra Pradesh has requested for constitution a water disputes tribunal under Section 4 (1) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 for adjudication and decision of the dispute emerging from the letter of complaint. As per Section 3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 the Central Government is required to form an opinion that water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, and thereafter within a period of not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of the request, is required to constitute a water dispute tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute.

[Translation]

Conversion of one third land into Forest Land

891. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to convert one-third land of the country into forest land in orders to maintain the ecological balance;

(b) if so, the areas identified in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh for the purpose and acres of land available in the country for afforestation, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to invite voluntary and Non-Governmental Organisations for afforestation programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) to bring one-third area of the country under forest/tree cover and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests.

(b) The total land earmarked for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) in all States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To encourage participation of voluntary and Non-Government Organisation, a Grant-in-Aid Scheme for afforestation activity is implemented by this Ministry of Environment & Forests and Rs. 114 lakhs have been released to the NGOs during the year 2002-2003.

Statement

S. N.	Name of State	Programme/Sub-Programme	Physical Target (million ha)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Rehabilitation & regeneration	1.60
		b. Re-afforestation	0.75
		c. Improve existing plantations	0.30
		Total	2.65
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Planting public lands	0.40
		b. Planting private lands-rural	1.48
		c. Planting private lands-urban	0.40
		Total	2.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Artificial plantation	0.054
		b. AFR/EFR plantation	0.004
		c. Added regeneration	0.044
		Total	0.102
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Programme implementation	0.05
3.	Assam	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Afforestation of degraded forests	
		b. Inducing natural regeneration	0.80
		c. Orchids, medicinal and other NWFP	0.02
		Total	0.92
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Fringe village development	0.08
		b. Afforestation of private lands	0.10
		Total	0.18
4.	Bihar	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Forests, density more than 40%	1.04
		b. Forests, density less than 40%	0.42
		c. NWFP Improvement	0.04
		Total	1.50

1	2	3	4
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Private forestry-South Bihar	0.65
		b. Private forestry-North Bihar	0.98
		c. Non-forest areas	1.08
		Total	2.71
5.	Goa	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Afforestation of degraded forests	0.012
		b. Rehabilitation of degraded mined area	0.001
		c. Development of cane & bamboo area	0.004
		d. Development of teak area	0.001
		e. Afforestation of forests area	0.008
		f. Development of mangroves	0.002
		Total	0.028
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Development of fuel wood & fodder	0.0002
		b. Urban forestry	0.0004
		c. Plantation of community land	0.002
		d. Land acquisition	0.001
		Total	0.0036
6.	Gujarat	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Restoration of degraded forests	0.20
		b. Reboisement of denuded forest	0.24
		c. Savannaland development	0.24
		d. Grassland development	0.02
		e. Desert border immobilization	0.02
		f. Mangrove restoration	0.01
		g. Coastal border restoration	0.01
		Total	0.74
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Strip plantation	0.02
		b. Village woodlots	0.03
		c. Saline land development	0.01

1	2	3	4
		d. Seedling for distribution	1.82
		Total	1.88
7.	Haryana	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Rehabilitation degraded forests	0.17
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Strip plantation	0.06
		b. Planting institutional lands	0.05
		c. Nursery for farm forestry	0.33
		d. Afforesting salt-affected lands	0.18
		e. Afforesting Aravalli areas	0.07
		f. Afforesting sand dune areas	0.01
		Total	0.70
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. NWFF propagation	0.09
		b. Managing natural forests	0.10
		c. Managing pasture lands	0.30
		Total	0.49
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Managing open forest	0.39
		b. Managing scrublands	0.02
		Total	0.41
9.	J&K	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Pasture development	0.25
		b. Natural regeneration of forests	0.50
		c. Rehabilitation of degraded forests	0.25
		d. Shivalik ecodevelopment Project	0.75
		e. Integrated watershed development Project	0.30
		Total	2.05
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Extension of forest area	3.32
		b. Area oriented fuel & fodder plantation.	0.20

1	2	3	4
		c. Survey & planting private Lands.	0.61
		d. Nursery in private Lands	0.09
		Total	4.22
10.	Karnataka	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Restoration of degraded forest	0.75
		b. Afforestation of degraded forest	0.64
		c. Afforestation grassy blanks	0.01
		d. Bamboo areas improvement	0.40
		e. Sandal forest improvements	0.14
		f. Rosewood forest improvement	0.11
		g. Teak forest improvement	0.23
		h. Existing plantation improvement	0.72
		i. Cane forest improvement	0.09
		Total	3.09
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Canal banks	0.02
		b. Tank foreshores	0.09
		c. Agroforestry & wasteland development	0.01
		Total	0.12
11.	Kerala	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Augmentation for multiple use	0.10
		b. Bamboo bearing forest	0.01
		c. Reed forest	0.003
		d. Dense forest, ecological values	0.025
		e. Dense forest, NWFP	0.005
		Total	0.14
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Total plantation	0.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Promote natural regeneration	4.00
		b. Rehabilitation of flowered bamboo	0.40

1	2	3	4
		c. Rehabilitation of depleted bamboo	0.11
		d. Rehabilitation of degraded forests	1.50
		Total	6.01
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Planting revenue/community lands	0.77
		b. Planting farm follows	0.08
		c. Planting community strips	0.02
		d. Planting farm bunds	0.51
		Total	1.38
13.	Maharashtra	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Enrichment bamboo under planting	1.20
		b. Grassland Development	0.08
		c. Rehabilitation of degraded forests	0.90
		d. Commercial plantation	0.20
		e. JFM in degraded forests	0.30
		Total	2.68
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Community wasteland	0.65
		b. Coastal plantation	0.004
		c. Mangrove plantation	0.004
		d. Village roadside plantation	0.024
		Total	0.682
14.	Manipur	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Afforestation of forest wasteland	0.15
		b. Abandoned shifting cultivation	0.12
		c. Barak river catchment	0.30
		d. Non timber forest products	0.06
		e. Grazing control	0.04
		f. Restocking reserved forest	0.10
		Total	0.77
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Planting non-traditional area	0.31

1	2	3	4
15.	Meghalaya	— —	
16.	Mizoram	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Tending old plantation/natural forest	0.20
		b. ANR for timber	0.16
		c. ANR for fuelwood	0.20
		d. NWFP development	0.04
		Total	0.60
		Expand Forest Area	
		Seedlings for distribution	0.02
17.	Nagaland	Details of investment estimates not available	
18.	Orissa	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Rehabilitation degraded forest	0.16
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Industrial plantation	0.10
		b. Development Private lands (nursery)	0.18
		Total	0.28
19.	Punjab	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Enrichment planting-forests in plains	0.04
		b. Creation of high-production forest in plains	0.02
		c. Silviculture operation-palin forests	0.04
		d. Replanting after harvest in forests	0.04
		e. Enrichment planting-kandi forests	0.08
		f. Silviculture Operations-kandi forests	0.09
		Total	0.31
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Undulating kandi lands	0.015
		b. Planting public lands	0.20
		c. Plants for public	0.135
		Total	0.35
20.	Rajasthan	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Desert development Programme	0.80

1	2	3	4
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Integrated watershed development	4.04
		b. IGNP command development	0.1
		c. IGNP non-command development	0.2
		Total	4.34
21.	Sikkim	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Grazing control & pasture development	0.03
		b. Regeneration of conifer forest	0.02
		c. Regeneration of sal forest	0.01
		d. Natural forest management	0.03
		e. Watershed management & soil cons.	0.07
		f. Bamboo, cane cultivation	0.03
		g. Non-wood forest produce	0.01
		Total	0.20
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Fuel, fodder development	0.046
		b. Community/private. Forest management	0.002
		c. Social forestry	0.030
		d. Sericulture development	0.002
		Total	0.08
22.	Tamilnadu	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. JFM scheme	0.005
		b. Afforestation for timber	0.005
		c. Bamboo afforestation	0.041
		d. Sandal afforestation	0.116
		e. Site improvement afforestation	0.163
		Total	0.33
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. General afforestation scheme	0.048
		b. Teak afforestation scheme	0.002
		c. Bamboo plantation scheme	0.036
		d. Sandal development scheme	0.030

1	2	3	4
		e. Agave plantation scheme	0.016
		f. Timber spp. Plantation scheme	0.020
		g. Fuelwood plantation scheme	0.085
		h. Eucalyptus plantation scheme	0.027
		i. Teak plantation scheme	0.006
		j. Tamarind plantation scheme	0.015
		k. MFP plantation scheme	0.070
		l. Vengal plantation scheme	0.001
		m. Casuarina plantation scheme	0.002
		n. Rosewood plantation scheme	0.001
		p. Redsanders plantation scheme	0.019
		Total	0.38
23.	Tripura	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Afforesting forest wasteland	0.04
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Afforesting non-forest wastelands	0.03
		b. fodder on community/private Lands	0.01
		Total	0.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Afforestation of panchayat hill forests	0.33
		b. Afforestation of blank hill forests	0.60
		c. Afforestation of degraded forest plains	0.33
		d. Afforestation of degraded forest Vindhya region	0.12
		e. Ravine treatment	0.11
		f. User land reclamation	0.04
		g. Bamboo plantation improvement	0.02
		h. Bamboo forest improvement	0.13
		i. Sal regeneration, terai area	0.03
		j. Chir pine regeneration, hills	0.12

1	2	3	4
		k. Tendu forests, Vindhyan region	0.45
		Total	2.28
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Community woodlots, plains	0.04
		b. Strip plantation	0.40
		c. Afforestation of civil-soam hill forests	0.35
		d. Mechanised khair/shishum plantation, terai	0.08
		e. Sal, plantation terai	0.03
		f. Urban strip plant, brick guard	0.002
		g. Urban strip plant, barbed wire fence	0.003
		h. Urban block plantation	0.06
		Total	0.96
25.	West Bengal	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Economic plantation	0.002
		b. Quick-growing plantation	0.002
		c. Medicinal plants & NWFP	0.025
		d. Fuel fodder project	0.68
		e. Integrated Afforestation & Eco. Development	0.065
		f. WB forestry project	0.140
		g. Agro-silviculture	0.002
		Total	0.30
		Expand Forest Area	
		a. Sundarban biosphere reserve	0.002
		b. Farm forestry	0.19
		c. Wasteland plantation	0.075
		d. WB Forest Project homestead	0.018
		e. WB Forests Project strip plantation	0.024
		Total	0.309
26.	A and N Islands	Improve Forest Productivity	
		a. Regeneration of forests	0.06
		b. Enrichment plantations	0.01
		Total	0.07

Fruits and Vegetables Spoiled Due to Pesticides

892. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that crops particularly fruits and vegetables are getting spoiled due to the use of the pesticide called 'Bio Techno Cotton Chemicals' though being used in limited quantity;

(b) if so, whether the consumers are also affected by consuming these fruits and vegetables;

(c) if so, whether the pesticide had not been tested properly in laboratory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidence and action taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir. No pesticide called 'Bio Techno Cotton Chemicals' is registered for use under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Policy for Upliftment of Small and Marginal Farmers

893. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have formulated any national policy for the upliftment of the small and marginal farmers of the country, particularly of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the condition of the farmers especially those living in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has deteriorated; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has already announced the National Agriculture Policy in July, 2000, which seeks to secure a fair standard of living for all farmers communities, including small and marginal farmers.

(d) The Government has not come across any specific report about the deteriorating conditions of farmers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(e) Does not arise.

Ban on Use of Endo Sulfan

894. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to ban the use of 'Endo Sulfan' pesticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) On the directives of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Institute of Occupational Health of the Indian Council of Medical Research had submitted its report on investigation of unusual illnesses allegedly caused by exposure to Endosulfan in Padre Village of Kasargod District in N. Kerala. NIOH has observed significantly higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defects and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasargod district of North Kerala due to aerial spraying of endosulfan over the cashew plantation.

The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticide Act has constituted an Expert Group to examine the report of the National Institute of Occupational Health, and the report of Dr. A. Achuthan

committee appointed by the Government of Kerala on the aerial spraying of Endosulfan in Kasargod district of Kerala as well as other related reports and to study safety assessment of Endosulfan and to recommend on its continued use/restricted use or otherwise. Report of the Expert Group and the recommendations of the Registration Committee thereon are awaited.

[Translation]

Time Limit for Plantation

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

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the time limit for plantation for afforestation purpose from the current five years to ten years so that forest area is developed completely; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

[English]

Amendment In EPF Act

896. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Employees Provident Fund Act so as to enable the employees to avail housing loan from finance agencies and pay the monthly instalments from accruals of PF account;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when the scheme will come in to force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Security Academy

897. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Civil Aviation Security Academy as reported in the news-item appearing in the daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 18, 2003 under the caption, "Nagur Vimanam Suraksha Akademy Banegi";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of the said Academy;

(d) the time by which the Academy is likely to start functioning; and

(e) the time by which CISF is likely to be deployed at remaining Airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken to set up a Centre for Civil Aviation Security for functioning as the apex aviation security institution within the country, being a think-tank for innovation in the field of aviation security, developing suitable training modules after Training Needs Analysis, and also for international cooperation.

(d) Training Programmes are already being conducted from the Headquarters of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security as well as from other suitable sites in different parts of the country.

(e) CISF is being deployed at airports in a phased manner. So far CISF has been deployed at 45 operational airports and 22 operational airports still remain to be covered.

[English]

Utilisation of Godavari River Water

898. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any comprehensive plan for utilization of Godavari river water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have accorded its approval; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in his letter of 28th June, 1999 addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister has submitted a plan for utilization of 41.91 Thousand Million Cubic metre (TM Cum) (1480 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of water available in the Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh. State Government has already created infrastructure to utilize 19.45 TM Cum (686.95 TMC) of water through the existing major, medium and minor irrigation schemes and 3.20 TM Cum (112.99 TMC) through various major, medium and minor irrigation schemes which are under execution. Further, the State Government has proposed to utilize 14.71 TM Cum (519.65 TMC) through new major irrigation projects; 1.73 TM Cum (61.0 TMC) through new medium irrigation projects and 1.33 TM Cum (46.95 TMC) through new minor irrigation schemes in addition to 1.59 TM Cum (56 TMC) of water earmarked for industrial and drinking water purposes. Thus the total utilization of Godavari waters proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is 42.01 TM Cum (1483.54 TMC) against the estimated availability of 41.91 TM Cum (1480 TMC) of water in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. The status of the major and medium irrigation projects included in the plan for utilization of the Godavari waters submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. Name of Project		Status of Projects
1	2	3
I. Major Irrigation Projects		
1. Inchampally	Revised Detailed Project Report is to be submitted by the State after resolving inter-State issues.	

1	2	3
2. Polavaram		Resolution of inter-State issues and preparation of remaining chapters of the Detailed Project Report by the State for techno-economic appraisal by the Central Water Commission (CWC)
3. Yellampally Barrage		These are four new projects and detailed surveys and investigations are to be undertaken by the State for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for submission to the CWC for techno-economic appraisal.
4. Dummugudem		
5. Penganga		
6. Pranahita		
II. Medium Irrigation Projects		
1. Lendi		Resolution of inter-State aspects and reply to the comments of appraising agencies.
2. Yerravagu		
3. Bhupatipalem		
4. Palemvagu		Accepted by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain conditions
5. Suddavagu		
6. Peddavagu		
7. Surampalem Phase-I		
8. Surampalem Phase-II		
9. Kovvadakaiva		Modified Project Report is to be submitted to CWC for techno-economic appraisal
10. Modikunatavagu		
11. Gollavagu		Under techno-economic appraisal in CWC
12. Rallivagu		Modified Project Report is under techno-economic appraisal in CWC.

1	2	3
13. Musurumilli	Project report not received in CWC for techno-economic appraisal.	
14. Murreduvagu		

State Government is to submit Detailed Project Reports after completing necessary surveys and investigations in respect of 18 medium irrigation projects.

[Translation]

Land Erosion

899. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has submitted its report after studying the problem of land erosion due to Ganga river;

(b) if so, the date on which the said report was submitted and the main features of the report;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government on the basis of report; and

(d) the success achieved so far by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expert Committee set up Planning Commission, Government of India to study the erosion problems in Ganga-Padma in the Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal and suggest remedial measures submitted its report in December 1996 (Keskar Committee Report). The expert committee studied the erosion problems and suggested both short and long terms measures. Central team set up by Government of India for assessment of erosion problems in Ganga basin and suggesting remedial measures submitted its report in January 2000 (Murty Committee Report). The team in its report identified various critical anti erosion schemes pertaining to the States of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for controlling the erosion problems in Ganga basin.

High Level Expert Committee set up by Government of India for studying the erosion problem between Buxar and Mokama on river Ganga submitted its report in June 2001 (Ghosh Committee Report). The Committee in its report has suggested both immediate and long term measures for checking the erosion. The immediate measures includes completion of ongoing anti erosion schemes between Buxar and Moakama, while the long term measures covers detailed morphological studies of the river to know the behavior of the river, peoples' participation, maintenance of embankment and river training works, hydrological model studies, research for development of new techniques of bank protection etc.

(c) and (d) Since the Flood management is a State subject, these reports have been forward to the concerned States for formulating schemes for implementation after detailed investigations. Based on the recommendations of the Keskar Committee Report, Government of West Bengal started execution of several schemes and has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 78.57 crore. Government of India released Rs. 30 crore to State of West Bengal as additional Central assistance during 1998. Farakka Barrage Project Authority has also undertaken anti-erosion measures in the vicinity of Farakka Barrage.

Further, in order to assist the Ganga basin State to take up critical anti erosion schemes, the Government of India formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in January 2001 with a Central share of Rs. 110 crore against which an amount of Rs. 70.8 crore has already been released to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. Out of 19 schemes taken up by the States under the above CSS, 6 schemes have already been completed and the remaining schemes are under various stages of completion.

Keeping in view the possible changes in the river morphology over the years, the Government of India have recently constituted an Export Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission with members from concerned Ganga basin States to review the recommendations of the earlier Committees and identify schemes for taking up critical anti erosion works.

Genetically Modified Potato

900. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists of Jawahar Lal Nehru University have developed Genetically Modified Potato as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 17, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru University and National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi have developed genetically modified dihaploid potato. The dihaploids are not commercially viable. AmAl gene has been transferred in commercial tetraploid varieties of potato at Shimla. These trenagenic lines are under field evaluation.

[English]

Fishing Vessels

901. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are purchasing a number of fishing vessels from abroad for various fishery organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to be useful;

(c) the amount spent thereon;

(d) the reasons for purchasing such costly fishing vessels;

(e) whether the Government propose to review its decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Government is in the process of acquiring two fishery vessels from abroad for harvesting of the tuna resources alongwith the bycatch by Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai.

(c) As on date no expenditure has been incurred for purchase of vessels.

(d) The vessels required for such survey work should have capability to operate in oceanic waters and also be equipped with latest state of the art equipment for scientific data collection and monitoring of the oceanic resources. Monofilament long lining is an eco-friendly and efficient method for exploiting the pelagic resources. The vessels would be also utilized for imparting onboard

training to the fishermen and entrepreneurs to enable them to harvest the oceanic tunas and tuna like fishes which would help to earn foreign exchange for the country and improve the socio-economic condition of the fishermen.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Emigration Fee

902. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of emigration fee collected from persons travelling abroad during the last three years; and

(b) the details of its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Emigration Fee collected from the persons travelling abroad during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (Crore Rupees)
2000-2001	2.68
2001-2002	3.05
2002-2003 (upto 31.1.2003)	5.35

(b) The amount received as Emigration Fee is Government Revenue and forms part of the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).

Import of Genetically Modified Soya Corn

903. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have rejected a large consignment of soya corn from US;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has reported that it lacked proper certification;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of such shipment of crude soya oil and refined soya oil were cleared by the Government in the past;

(f) if so, the details of the harmful effect reports by use of this product in India; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that such shipment are not cleared before properly checking from the health point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) The proposal of CARE & CRS to import from Soya Blend (CSB) containing genetically modified (GM) material under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was considered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 7th November 2002. The GEAC noted that there are several GM corn varieties being cultivated in USA both for human consumption and animal feed. In view of the apprehension expressed by ICMR and in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the CSB shipment does not contain the banned for obsolete variety of transgenic corn, the GEAC decided not permit the import of CSB.

(e) The GEAC approved the import of Refined Vegetable Soya oil and Crude de-gummed Soybean oil by CARE and CRS under the ICDS programme since oil does not contain any protein or DNA.

(f) Not reports on the harmful effects by use of these oil products in India have been received in this Ministry.

(g) All food items imported into the country are checked as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act and Rules. For food having GM content, the GEAC evaluates the food and health safety aspects prior to its import.

Macro Management Mode of Agriculture

904. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned fund for "Macro Management Mode of Agriculture" scheme aimed to boost agriculture;

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

(c) the details of other steps taken for diversification of crops for more remunerative prices to farmers;

(d) whether the loss of 20 million tonnes in Kharif (rice) output this year on account of drought is not likely to be made up during Rabi (wheat);

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 519.53 crore has been released to various States/UTs so far under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture Scheme. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The States are being advised to diversify towards pulses, oilseeds, horticulture and vegetable crops. In particular, the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are being advised to encourage their farmers to diversify towards oilseeds and pulses in place of rice and wheat so as to conserve natural resources, etc.

(d) and (e) The shortfall in Kharif rice production, which is estimated at 12.35 million tonnes as per the second advance estimates, is not likely to be made good by Rabi wheat, which itself is estimated to be lower by 2.92 million tonnes compared to the wheat production last year due to widespread drought this year.

(f) to (h) The shortfall both in Kharif and Rabi can be attributed to the severe drought that prevailed in many States during the year. As such, it was not possible to make good the loss of Kharif rice and wheat although the States were advised to implement contingency plans for alternative crops. Government also took several measures to mitigate the situation by providing additional financial assistance to the States affected by drought. One-time increase in procurement price for various Kharif crops was also announced.

Statement

Details of release of funds under Macro Management of Agriculture to the various States/UTs during 2002-03

S.No.	States/UTs	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.00	19.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.40	3.96
3.	Assam	7.00	3.50
4.	Bihar	25.00	12.50
5.	Jharkhand	12.00	6.00
6.	Goa	2.00	1.50
7.	Gujarat	32.00	16.00
8.	Haryana	16.00	16.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16.00	12.80
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.00	16.00
11.	Karnataka	58.00	46.40
12.	Kerala	30.00	24.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	45.00	43.50
14.	Chhattisgarh	14.00	9.98
15.	Maharashtra	82.00	65.60
16.	Manipur	6.00	3.00
17.	Mizoram	8.00	7.20
18.	Meghalaya	8.00	5.81
19.	Nagaland	10.00	5.00
20.	Orissa	25.00	12.50
21.	Punjab	17.00	85.00
22.	Rajasthan	67.00	53.60
23.	Sikkim	5.00	2.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	42.00	33.60
25.	Tripura	8.00	8.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	68.85	55.08
27.	Uttaranchal	14.00	11.20
28.	West Bengal	24.00	12.00

1	2	3	4
29.	Chandigarh	1.00	—
30.	D & N Haveli	2.00	1.00
31.	Delhi	1.60	0.80
32.	Lakshadweep	2.00	1.00
33.	Pondicherry	1.00	1.00
34.	Daman & Diu	2.00	—
35.	A&N Islands	2.00	1.00
Total		709.85	519.53

Setting up of SPCAs in Uttar Pradesh

905. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have committed to the Uttar Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department that Rs. 25 lakh would be provided for setting up of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the commitment has been fulfilled;

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

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir. No such commitment has been made to Animal Husbandry Department of the U.P. Government.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Implementation of NCLP

906. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been conducted on the implementation of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations with regard to the benefits on children withdrawn from child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on these two schemes, separately during the last three years; and

(d) the total number of child labours according to the 2001 census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) An evaluation of 50 National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) spread over 13 States was undertaken by the independent evaluation agencies during 2001. The evaluation exercise was coordinated by the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute.

As regards the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations, evaluation of the projects undertaken by NGOs/VOs in UP & Bihar was carried out by Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi in the year 2001.

(c) Under the schemes of NCLP and Grants-in-aid (G.I.A.) to Voluntary Organisations, the grants released during the last three years are as follows:

(in lakhs)		
Year	NCLP	GIA
1999-2000	3678.00	112.36
2000-2001	3698.69	90.00
2001-2002	6099.00	87.89

(d) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. The census figures of 2001 are yet to be published.

Fixation of MSP for Fruits

907. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the middlemen have created havoc for the fruit growers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to regulate price by fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) in line with the Coir Board or Coconut Board for specific fruits produced in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) The Government is aware about the involvement of middlemen in the marketing of fruits in the country. Ordinarily, only those commodities are covered under Minimum Support Price (MSP) which are (i) non-perishable in nature (ii) items of mass consumption (iii) do not have widely varying cost of production and (iv) widely grown with large area of cultivation. Since fruits do not fulfil the above criteria they are not covered under MSP. However, to protect the interests of fruits growers from distress sale in the event of glut, fruits are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) based on specific request from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Tax Free Hotel Industry

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make hotel industry tax free in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The issue of rationalization/reduction of taxes in the hotel industry has been taken up with the concerned Ministries/State Governments. The recommendations have also been forwarded to the concerned Ministries for consideration.

Import of Cotton

909. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cotton is being imported every year in a large quantity due to low yields and inferior quality of the cotton grown in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the details of the cotton imported during the last two years, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have made efforts for cutting the costs of cotton by increasing its yield and for

enhancing the quality to bring to the international standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take steps to increase the import duty on cotton to the permissible level in accordance with the WTO conditions;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Cotton is imported as well as exported as per the market situation.

(b) The details of Raw and waste cotton imported during last two years country-wise is as below:

(Tonnes)			
S.No.	Country	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Egypt	29382	141647
2.	Australia	28775	42801
3.	USA	24286	25745
4.	Sudan	14080	11607
5.	Germany	8827	25745
6.	U.K.	5872.62	14404
7.	South Africa	11477	16507
8.	Israel	10976	13121
9.	Seychelles	8752	9113
10.	Japan	7733	9719

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India is implementing Technology Mission on cotton in 13 Cotton growing States. Technology Mission comprises of Four mini missions, of which Mini Mission I is implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture which is responsible for research and Technology generation to enhance yield & quality of cotton. Mini Mission II is being implemented by Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments to increase the production of Cotton in the country. Under MM-II, subsidy is given on Distribution of certified seed, field demonstration, water saving devices (sprinkler & drip irrigation), distribution of pheromone traps, sprayers, bio

agents and establishment/augmentation of bio agents laboratories to minimise the pesticides consumption.

(e) to (g) Import duty is fixed by the Ministry of Finance on different commodities as per the situation within the permissible limit under WTO agreement.

[English]

Water Sharing Disputes

910. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water sharing disputes among the States in the country especially Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has directed State Governments to resolve river disputes in farmers interest;

(c) whether the Union Government have set up any panel to resolve the disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the specific steps being taken by the Government to resolve the water sharing disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The disputes relating to sharing of Narmada waters among the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra, relating to sharing of Godavari waters among the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Orissa and relating to sharing of Krishna waters among the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were referred to the Tribunals in 1969. These Tribunals have already submitted their reports and decisions by 1980. The Ravi and Beas Water Dispute among the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Cauvery Water Dispute among the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry were referred to Tribunals under the provisions of Inter State Water Dispute (ISWD) Act, 1956 in April, 1986 and June 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its first report in January, 1987 and the party States and the Central Government have sought explanations/guidance from the Tribunal. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order in June, 1991 which has been published by Central Government in the official gazette.

The National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister in its 5th Meeting held on April 1, 2002 has adopted the National Water Policy which inter alia stipulates "The water sharing/distribution amongst the States should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the rivers basin."

The Central Government in 2002-2003 has received requests under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956 from the State of Goa in respect of the dispute relating to sharing of water of Mahadayi/ Mandovi river and from States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in respect of dispute relating to sharing of surplus water of Krishna river and other related matters for referring to the Tribunals for adjudication and decision. As per provisions of the Act, the Central Government is required to resolve the dispute by negotiations, failing which the dispute is required to be referred to Tribunals for adjudication and decision within one year from the date of receipt of the complaint.

Population of Lions

911. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of Lions is decreasing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any latest census have been made in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and maintain the population of Lions in the country especially in Guajrat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Asiatic lion is found in wild only in Guajrat State. As per the census conducted in May 2001, the population of Asiatic lions is estimated between 322-332 individuals.

(e) The following steps have been taken for conservation of Asiatic lion in the country:

1. The Gir Protected Area in Gujarat where Asiatic lion is found has been notified as national park and sanctuary. This area is being managed under approved management plan with a focus on long term conservation of Asiatic lion.
2. Strict protection is being provided to Asiatic lion in Gir area by Forest Department of Gujarat with the involvement of local communities.
3. An alternate home for Asiatic lion has been located at Kuno-Palpur in Madhya Pradesh for its re-introduction.
4. To augment the in-situ conservation efforts, Asiatic lion has been identified for ex-situ breeding.

International Airport at Tiruchirapalli

912. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Tiruchirapalli airport to international airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Tiruchirapalli Airport is a customs airport with immigration facilities where international flights are already operating. There is no proposal, at present, to declare it as International airport.

Use of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Platform for Tourism Development

913. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government used the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas platform to urge the diaspora to focus on a positive image of the country;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has come up with a special advertising campaign—Discover India, Discover Yourself;

(c) whether a number of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Peoples of Indian Origin (PIOs) have shown their willingness to become partners in hotel/motel companies to set up highway hotels; and

(d) if so, the details and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Promotion of India's tourism products overseas is an on-going process and the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was promoted amongst the NRIs and PIOs by the India tourism Offices overseas through various marketing tools.

(c) and (d) No specific proposal have been received by the Department of Tourism in this regard.

Receding of Glaciers

914. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether glaciers of Himalayas are receding due to rise in temperature; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save glaciers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The recession of Glaciers, which is a worldwide phenomenon, is a natural process sensitive to climatic fluctuations wherein the rise in global average temperature (called global warming) results in melting of glaciers in extents varying with their locations and orientations with respect to the sunshine and seasons. Studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have revealed that the Glaciers in the Himalayan Region are receding gradually. As per the inventory of Himalayan Glaciers prepared by the GSI, there are over 7500 glaciers (big and small) in the Indian part of the Himalaya. The studies carried out in certain selected glaciers in the Himalayan Region have indicated that these glaciers are passing through a phase of recession. The recession of the glaciers does not necessarily mean rapid melting of the glacier due to rise in temperature. Even the reduction of snowfall in the catchment area may cause recession of the glacier. The rate of recession in different climatic zones of the Himalaya is found to be in different years.

(b) The measures to reduce the effect of human interference on glaciers include conservation activities such as afforestation, removal of garbage and promotion of sustainable eco-tourism.

Increase in Traffic due to Low Fare

915. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to sharp drop in air fares and introduction of low budget travel packages by domestic carriers, there has been a sharp rise in passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the extent of rise in traffic;

(c) whether foreign airlines of the neighbouring Sri Lanka and other far-eastern countries are luring Indian tourists with low-budget holiday packages abroad on fares equivalent to long-haul domestic sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent domestic tourists from being lured away by foreign carriers?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) With the introduction of APEX Fare Schemes and other value added products by various domestic airlines, there has been an increase of 5.07 lakhs in passenger traffic in the year 2002 as compared to the year 2001.

(c) Some foreign airlines have offered low fares with holiday packages.

(d) Indian Airlines maintain their services competitively by upgrading and adding value to their products and by introduction of promotional fares. Indian Airlines has also introduced 'Packaged Tour for Promotion of Domestic Tourism' with effect from 1st March, 2002 and the APEX Fare Scheme has been extended upto 31st March, 2003.

Production of Khadi in Southern States

916. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and production of khadi in the country during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure quality control and marketing development of Khadi in the country particularly Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) A Statement-I on the State-wise details of the demand and production of khadi in the country during the last three years is enclosed and State-wise Statement-II on demand and production of Khadi for the current year is enclosed.

(b) To ensure quality control and marketing development of khadi in the country including the southern

States, the Government on 14.05.2001 has announced a special khadi package which inter-alia provides for option between rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), creation of packaging and design facilities, cluster development, technology upgradation, quality control, aggressive marketing through brand building etc. Besides, setting up of silver plants for supplying quality sliver, availing expertise from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like Dastkar Andhra and Rural Development Agency (RUDA), Rajasthan, for improvement of the quality as well as imparting training to khadi artisans; collaborating

arrangements with the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for developing better designs, fashions etc. in khadi textiles; launching of "Stiff and Soft" finishing process of khadi cloth with the help of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi; and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Textile Committee to make available laboratories for quality testing/certification of khadi products. During 2002-03 (upto February, 2003) state, district level and mobile exhibitions were organized in various places in the southern states for promoting sales.

Statement-I

State-wise Khadi Demand and Production under KVI sector

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Demand (Sales)	Production	Demand (Sales)	Production	Demand (Sales)	Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1316.41	2319.79	1165.29	2204.22	982.81	1856.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.86	5.01	8.24	5.00	6.19	4.18
3.	Assam	350.01	442.33	362.01	421.62	294.05	403.39
4.	Bihar	3573.20	2868.67	2236.36	1543.81	2231.36	1543.89
5.	Goa	18.00	0.00	13.30	0.00	22.97	0.00
6.	Gujarat	4762.278	2931.04	4076.98	2416.05	3232.37	1857.24
7.	Haryana	2453.74	2576.29	2556.78	1634.92	1990.56	2007.16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	828.41	510.30	725.64	296.92	725.64	296.92
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	579.41	874.92	519.19	702.35	519.00	702.36
10.	Karnataka	3071.55	4564.32	3757.92	3300.24	3596.06	3273.55
11.	Kerala	2152.48	1020.36	2082.85	969.28	2090.72	992.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1672.00	1180.17	922.99	392.54	724.06	339.30
13.	Maharashtra	4032.38	2328.02	4803.29	2703.09	4930.39	3489.91
14.	Manipur	37.65	34.71	37.00	35.00	18.50	35.00
15.	Meghalaya	4.95	7.25	5.23	3.60	4.25	1.60
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	42.87	40.84	42.00	40.80
17.	Nagaland	38.73	28.12	59.65	69.55	56.94	54.89
18.	Orissa	324.87	420.29	132.48	208.81	172.19	221.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Punjab	2208.29	2404.46	1802.78	1252.57	1342.99	1063.41
20.	Rajasthan	3539.25	3079.33	3219.42	2497.52	3128.86	1278.90
21.	Sikkim	8.32	4.94	18.81	6.93	13.24	8.73
22.	Tamil Nadu	10958.27	8222.32	9010.24	6040.32	8323.74	5408.04
23.	Tripura	8.82	3.44	8.90	3.40	8.90	3.40
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18423.96	15118.63	14802.63	11290.99	13152.49	9920.86
25.	West Bengal	1690.47	5129.39	1829.31	4222.01	1841.46	4612.38
26.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	433.73	436.89	480.61	584.22
27.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	594.39	314.99	429.46	154.24
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1272.18	808.64
29.	A&N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.61	0.00
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	1102.03	112.60	1774.19	113.27	1085.69	106.96
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	15.95	7.43	52.76	30.66	63.16	28.93
Total		63179.28	55194.13	57055.23	43157.39	52786.45	41668.80

Statement-II

State-wise Khadi Demand and Production during current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	States/Union Territories	2002-2003	
		Demand (Sales)	Production
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	992.64	1875.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.25	4.22
3.	Assam	296.99	407.42
4.	Bihar	2253.67	1559.25
5.	Goa	23.20	0.00

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	3264.69	1875.81
7.	Haryana	2010.47	2027.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	732.90	299.89
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	524.19	709.38
10.	Karnataka	3632.02	3306.29
11.	Kerala	2111.63	1002.66
12.	Madhya Pradesh	731.30	342.69
13.	Maharashtra	4979.69	3524.81
14.	Manipur	18.69	35.35
15.	Meghalaya	4.29	1.62
16.	Mizoram	42.42	41.21

1	2	3	4
17. Nagaland	57.51	55.44	
18. Orissa	173.91	224.11	
19. Punjab	1356.42	1074.04	
20. Rajasthan	3160.15	1866.28	
21. Sikkim	13.37	8.82	
22. Tamil Nadu	8406.98	5462.12	
23. Tripura	8.99	3.43	
24. Uttar Pradesh	13284.01	10020.07	
25. West Bengal	1859.87	4658.50	
26. Chhattisgarh	485.42	590.06	
27. Jharkhand	433.75	155.78	
28. Uttaranchal	1284.90	816.73	
29. A&N Islands	0.00	0.00	
30. Chandigarh	3.65	0.00	
31. Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	
32. Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	
33. Delhi	1096.55	108.03	
34. Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	
35. Pondicherry	63.79	29.22	
Total	53314.31	42085.48	

[Translation]

Pay Scales of SRF and RA in ICAR

917. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2878 replied on 9.12.02 and state:

(a) whether the pay scales of S.R.F. and R.A. working in various Research Institutes under ICAR, especially I.A.R.I. have been revised and brought at par with those of D.S.T. w.e.f. April 4, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal for revision of pay scales is under consideration of ICAR.

(c) ICAR broadly follows the fellowship rates prescribed by Department of Science and Technology. DST has since revised the fellowship rates w.e.f. 1.4.2002 vide their OM No. 20020/11/97-11-0 dated 2.8.2002. The same is also under consideration of ICAR.

[English]

Decline in Foreign Tourists

918. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign tourist traffic in India is dwindling year after year affecting the country's economy badly;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any study to find out the reasons for this decrease;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of foreign tourists who visited India in 2000, 2001 and 2002;

(e) the India's share in the world tourism market;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any plan for development of tourism during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Foreign tourist arrival into the country increased from 1.71 million in 1990 to 2.65 in 2000. However, there has been decline in arrival in 2001 and 2002. A revival trend has set in from October 2002 onwards.

(b) and (c) The tourist traffic in 2001 and 2002 declined due to a number of reasons including overall global economic down trend, September 11 incident in the USA, war in Afghanistan, terrorist attack on Indian Parliament, tension on Indo-Pak border and the travel advisories issued by a number of foreign Governments.

(d) The number of foreign tourists who visited India in 2000, 2001 and 2002 are 2.65 million, 2.54 million and 2.36 million respectively. In the last three months of the year, there has been an upward swing of about 14%.

(e) India's share in world tourism market has been around 0.38% during the last few years.

(f) and (g) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, has formulated new schemes for development and promotion of tourism which include integrated development of tourist circuits, product/infrastructure & destination development, large revenue generating products and capacity building.

Policy for Welfare of Sugarcane Growers

919. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed any policy or issued any guidelines for the welfare of sugarcane growers and sugar mills including fixing of minimum support price and waiver of loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these welfare measures would be given effect to; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in these welfare measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation of Agriculture Ministry is concerned with cultivation and production of sugarcane. Matters relating to purchase of sugarcane, by mills, fixation of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP), payment of sugarcane dues by mills and proper running of sugar mills etc. are handled by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. As per information initiated in the interest of the sugarcane growers and sugar industry:—

(i) Buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar

A Buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar has been created involving an outgo of Rs. 412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund; Banks on account of the Buffer Stock would release Rs. 374 crores. Thus, an amount of Rs. 786 crores would become available for the payment of cane dues to the farmers.

(ii) Increased in the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane by Rs. 5.00 per quintal for 2002-03 sugar season

The Central Government had earlier fixed the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane at

Rs. 64.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 0.76 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in the recovery above that level for the 2002-2003 season. In order to extend relief to the sugarcane growers, the SMP of sugarcane was increased by Rs. 5 per quintal, that is to Rs. 69.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent subject to premium of Rs. 0.82 for every 0.1% point above that level for the 2002-2003 season.

(iii) Reimbursement of Internal Transport and Freight Charges

It has been decided to reimburse internal transport and freight charges to sugar factories. Reimbursement of internal transport charges, incurred on export shipments of sugar, has already been allowed. Similarly, neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs. 350 per tonne on account of export shipments of sugar would now be reimbursable.

Steel War

920. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Steel War: India criticises US bid for higher protection" appearing in the *Financial Express*, New Delhi dated December 25, 2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the auspices of OECD Secretariat at Paris countries with interest in international steel trade have been deliberating upon issues relating to effectiveness of existing multilateral disciplines relevant for trade in this sector. A High Level Group (HLG) is guiding these meetings on steel issues. Two technical groups under the HLG have been constituted to examine issues relating to steel capacities and market distorting measures. India has been actively participating in these meetings. During the meeting of the Disciplines Study Group held at the OECD Secretariat on 12-13 September 2002, the United States had submitted a paper, "Addressing Market Distortions in the Global Steel Sector". Subsequently the United States also shared this paper with the Negotiating Group on Rules at the WTO. With a view to obtaining a better understanding of the issues contained in this paper, India has sought certain clarifications from the United States regarding, inter alia, the appropriate forum for pursuing strengthened disciplines on steel subsidies, elaboration of measures with a subsidy-like effect and the need to take into consideration the development dimension.

Delhi Milk Scheme

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

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme;

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

(c) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Valuers have been appointed for valuation of DMS land and assets.

[Translation]

Tax Holiday Facility to Hotel Industry

922. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to recession, the Government propose to provide tax holiday facility to hotel industry for a reasonable period to boost the tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The issue of rationalization/reduction of taxes in the hotel industry has been taken up with the concerned Ministries/State Governments. The recommendations have also been forwarded to the concerned Ministries for consideration.

[English]

Impact of Climate Change on Crops

923. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to study the impact of climate change on agriculture in view of long bout of freak weather in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure optimum yield even on change of temperature pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Work on the impact of climate change is already being pursued at some of the ICAR Institutes like Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad and All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology for the past few years. These studies attempted to identify the trends in climate parameters like rainfall, temperature across various locations of the country. The possible implications of these short-term trends on agriculture crop planning are also being studied by the centre of the Agromet Project and by various ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

(b) Crop Simulation Studies have estimated a 10 to 15 percent loss in crop production due to increase in temperature regime by 2°C. Such crop losses can be minimized through better water and fertilizer management practices and appropriate crop varieties.

National Water Management Committee Report

924. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps for implementing the National Water Management Committee Report in Kerala for Pamba-Achankovil river; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Society under Ministry of Water Resources established to carry out studies of National Perspective for water resources development prepared by the Government, has carried out water balance studies of Pamba Achankovil river and proposed east-ward diversion of surplus water of these rivers to Vaippar basin in Tamil Nadu. No report by the name "National Water Management Committee Report in Kerala for Pamba-Achankovil river" has been received.

Loans and Complaints under PMRY

925. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria fixed by the Government to be a beneficiary under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) the targets set and achieved under the same during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) the number of applicants who applied for the loan under the said scheme during the above period and the number out of them provided with loan, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken to grant loan to the pending applicants;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints from the loan seekers under this scheme during the above period; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to the taken by the Government to simplify the loan procedure to avoid such complaints in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The details of the eligibility criteria laid down by the Government to be a beneficiary under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of State-wise plan targets set and achieved based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years and thereafter i.e. from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (upto November, 2002) is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The State-wise details of number of applicants who applied for loan under the PMRY based on the report received from the State Government and the number out of them provided with loans (disbursed loans) based on the reports from the RBI from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 (upto November, 2002) is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) As per the PMRY norms, the applications to be sponsored to the banks should be equal to 125 per cent of the target for each State/UT. Therefore, at the end of any financial year, there are likely to be some pending applications. As per the instructions of the Government of India and the RBI, the pending applications are to be sponsored and processed in the following year.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Steps have been taken to simplify the loan procedure: instructions to set up task force at block level/

Mandal level; adherence to time schedule for processing, sanctions/disbursement/obtention of non due certificate etc., non-insistence of collateral by banks for projects under industry sector, adequately finance the projects under the scheme etc. These complaints are redressed through the State/UT Governments and the concerned banks. Besides, the Committees at the Central, State and District levels regularly monitor the implementation of the Scheme.

Statement-I

Eligibility Criteria fixed by the Government to be a beneficiary under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

Sl. Parameter
No.

1. Age	(i) 18 to 35 years for all educated unemployed. (ii) 18 to 40 years for all educated unemployed in North-East States, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal. (iii) 18 to 45 years for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, Physically Disabled and Women.
2. Educational Qualification	VIII pass. Preference will be given to those who have been trained for any trade in Government recognised/approved institutions for duration of at least six months.
3. Family Income	Neither the income of the beneficiary along with the spouse nor the income of parents of the beneficiaries shall exceed Rs. 40,000/- per annum.
4. Residence	Permanent resident of the area for atleast 3 years (Relaxed for married women. In case of married women the

	residency criteria applies to her husband or in-laws).
5. Defaulter	Should not be a defaulter to any nationalised bank/financial institution/cooperative bank. Further, a person already assisted under other subsidy, linked Government schemes would not be eligible under this scheme.

Statement-II

State-wise Plan targets and Achievements (No. of Persons Disbursed Loans) from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (upto 30.11.2002) under the PMRY (As reported by RBI)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Plan Target (Nos.)	Cases Disbursed by Banks (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
1.	Haryana	17450	19396
2.	Himachal Pradesh	10400	6921
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	5300	2508
4.	Punjab	16650	25815
5.	Rajasthan	32850	35378
6.	Chandigarh	1500	237
7.	Delhi	19050	2241
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
8.	Assam	26500	11252
9.	Manipur	4400	472
10.	Meghalaya	1250	721
11.	Nagaland	900	170
12.	Tripura	2710	1087
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	525	755
14.	Mizoram	900	194
15.	Sikkim	250	129
EASTERN REGION			
16.	Bihar	79800	25472

1	2	3	4
17.	Jharkhand	5900	3464
18.	Orissa	28100	15842
19.	West Bengal	88400	7814
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	350	369

CENTRAL REGION

21.	Madhya Pradesh	60400	54183
22.	Chhattisgarh	4750	1661
23.	Uttar Pradesh	102650	115583
24.	Uttaranchal	1925	4247

WESTERN REGION

25.	Gujarat	32800	27532
26.	Maharashtra	88750	68992
27.	Daman & Diu	175	44
28.	Goa	2000	927
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	200	62

SOUTHERN REGION

30.	Andhra Pradesh	68200	37382
31.	Karnataka	43300	37122
32.	Kerala	59450	34668
33.	Tamilnadu	70350	34193
34.	Lakshadweep	170	78
35.	Pondicherry	1900	721

Statement-III

State-wise No. of Applicants Applied for Loan and Number of Persons Provided with Loan (Disbursed Loans) under the PMRY from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (upto 30.11.2002)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Applications Received by DIC* (Nos.)	Cases Disbursed by Banks# (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
1.	Haryana	78386	19396
2.	Himachal Pradesh	19867	6921
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	NR	2508

1	2	3	4
4.	Punjab	80689	25815
5.	Rajasthan	183706	35378
6.	Chandigarh	250	237
7.	Delhi	4695	2241
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
8.	Assam	148768	11252
9.	Manipur	NR	472
10.	Meghalaya	9491	721
11.	Nagaland	5940	170
12.	Tripura	17540	1087
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	4404	755
14.	Mizoram	14544	194
15.	Sikkim	204	129
EASTERN REGION			
16.	Bihar	88917	25472
17.	Jharkhand	18950	3464
18.	Orissa	205124	15842
19.	West Bengal	50668	7814
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	1309	369
CENTRAL REGION			
21.	Madhya Pradesh	232042	54183
22.	Chhattisgarh	NR	1661
23.	Uttar Pradesh	440302	115583
24.	Uttaranchal	11808	4247
WESTERN REGION			
25.	Gujarat	104242	27532
26.	Maharashtra	247742	68992
27.	Daman & Diu	191	44
28.	Goa	1629	927
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	313	62
SOUTHERN REGION			
30.	Andhra Pradesh	251317	37382

1	2	3	4
31.	Karnataka	265420	37122
32.	Kerala	199053	34668
33.	Tamilnadu	161345	34193
34.	Lakshadweep	212	78
35.	Pondicherry	5202	721

*Source: State/UTs Reports

#Source: RBI Reports

NR: Not Reported.

[Translation]

Vacant Post of SCs/STs

926. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Crop Strategy for States hit by Delayed Monsoon

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

(a) whether any alternate crop strategy has been mapped out for States affected badly due to delayed monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to augment the farmers' income through other methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) State Governments have been advised to prepare contingency plans, during the year of delayed monsoon, to chalk out suitable alternative crop strategies. Accordingly States have developed their own alternative location specific strategies for cropping under such aberrant situation.

(c) and (d) In the price policy for kharif and rabi crops of 2002-03, special drought relief has been provided keeping in view drought in the country. A statement showing minimum support price and special drought relief announced by the Government, is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

(according to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	Special drought relief price	(#) increase MSP 2002-03 over 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	—
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	—
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	—
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	—
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	—
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	—
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	—
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	500	5	—
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	20(1.7)
9.	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	—
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	10(0.8)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	10(0.8)
12.	Masur (Lentil)		—	—	1200	1300	1320	5	20(1.5)
13.	Sugar Cane		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	7.45(12.0)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34 H4	1440 1650	1575 1775	1625 1825	1675 1875	1675 1875	20 20	— —
15.	Groundnut in Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	15(1.1)
16.	Jute		650	750	785	810	850	—	40(4.9)
17.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	30(2.3)
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	10(.08)
19.	Soyabean	Black Yellow	705 795	755 845	775 865	795 885	795 885	10 10	— —
20.	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	—
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	—	—	—
22.	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. Per Kg.)	Black Soil (F2Gr) Light Soil (L2Gr.)	22.50 25.50	25.00 27.00	26.00 28.00	27.00 29.00	28.00 30.00	— —	1(3.7) 1(3.4)
23.	Copra (Calendar Year) Ball	Milling	2900 3125	3100 3325	3250 3500	3300 3550	3300 3550	— —	— —
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	50(3.6)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	20(1.8)

*Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 percent increase in recovery above that level.

The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

Storage of River Water

928. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to identify special areas of West Bengal for storage of river water during Monsoon in banks and barrages in the State for exploration of hydel power generation programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration to identify special areas of West

Bengal for storage of water during monsoon in banks and barrages in the State for exploration of hydel power generation programme.

Review of Open Sky Policy

929. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held between his Ministry of External Affairs to review the Open Sky Policy in December 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decision taken;

(c) whether India allowed additional flights from USA and Europe from December, 2002 outside the bilateral agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to take maximum benefit from open sky policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) In pursuance to discussions in the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Minister of External Affairs with Ministers of Tourism and Civil Aviation in September, 2002, an open sky policy has been adopted by the Government allowing operation of extra section flights by airlines of USA and West European countries outside the bilateral entitlements from 1st December, 2002 to 31st March, 2003 subject to commercial agreement with Air India. This has enabled foreign carriers to mount extra flights to meet the demand during the peak tourist season.

[Translation]

Services of AI

930. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom Air India has airlinks, country-wise;

(b) the details of income derived by Air India every year from these countries, country-wise; and

(c) the details of annual expenditure of Air India, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Air India operates to USA, UK, France, Germany, Gulf & Middle East—Saudi Arabia/UAE/Oman/Kuwait/Qatar/Bahrain, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and Kenya.

(b) The Scheduled Tribes revenue earned by Air India during the year 2001-02 was Rs. 3688.42 crores. The route-wise, revenue during the year 2001-02 for the period is as under:

Country	Revenue (Rs. in Crores)
1	2
USA & Canada	941.00
UK	20.00
Europe	144.00

1	2
Gulf & Middle East	1731.00
East Africa	38.00
Jakarta	83.00
Hong Kong	85.00
Japan	303.00
Singapore	250.00
Domestic (AI)	85.00
Domestic (Hub & Spoke)	9.00

(c) Details of expenditure incurred by AI for the period 2001-02 category-wise are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Salary & Staff Cost	849.49
Crew Cost	310.64
Insurance	39.04
Fuel & Oil	905.86
Maintenance of Aircraft	428.55
Landing, Handling & Navigation	527.61
Agencies Commission	372.76
Depreciation	477.26
Dry Lease Charges	79.31
Lease Rental Charges	59.01
Rent, Rates, Taxes & Communication Charges	350.77
Interest on Aircraft Loan	82.40
Interest on Working Capital	75.22
Pax Amenities	84.56
Other Expenditure	190.61
Haj charter-hire of aircraft	130.42

[English]

Funds under NRCP

931. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released by the Union Government to each State under the National River

Conservation Programme (NRCP) and such other schemes since 1999, till-date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether a number of proposals/projects from various States have been received by the Union Government for release of funds or otherwise under the NRCP to take up the work of Environment Action Plan in different cities;

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

(d) the action taken by the Union Government on each of the said proposals/projects alongwith their present status indicating the time by which the work is likely to start and complete in each case; and

(e) the details of compliance reports received from States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) A statement-I showing funds released under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) to various States since the year 1999 till date in enclosed.

(b) to (e) Proposal for release of funds are received from time to time from State Governments for approved projects. Funds for such projects are, however, released on the basis of physical and financial progress, receipt of utilization certificates and budget provision for the scheme. In addition, several States have submitted proposals to include new works under NRCP. Action taken by Union Government and current status of such proposals is given in the Statement-II enclosed. No compliance report is expected from States as these proposals are yet to be approved.

Statement-I

1. NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/Plan	Funds Released			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	A.P.	677.89	0.00	113.00	0.00
2.	Bihar/3. Jharkhand	0.00	386.12	0.00	38.00
4.	Gujarat	1713.62	500.00	977.00	800.00
5.	Goa	—	—	—	246.00
6.	Karnataka	435.65	309.00	0.00	800.00
7.	Maharashtra	233.00	1199.88	1492.20	2326.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1150.27	698.43	0.00	700.00
9.	Orissa	0.00	77.00	300.00	128.00
10.	Punjab	1295.00	651.80	1507.00	2620.00
11.	Rajasthan	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Tamilnadu	649.57	2896.00	7341.80	3042.00
13.	Delhi	125.00	67.50	6874.29	9185.00
14.	Haryana	1482.00	697.00	2300.00	237.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh/16. Uttaranchal	6846.51	4065.60	4773.91	4006.00
17.	West Bengal	400.00	150.00	1641.00	2025.50
Grand Total		15058.51	11698.33	27320.20	26153.50

2. NATIONAL LAKE CONSERVATION PLAN

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Action Plan/State	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Hussain Sagar Lake)	0.00	0.00	2.10*	0.00
2.	Jammu & Kashmir (Dal Lake)	120.00*	19.84*	14.31*	0.00
3.	Maharashtra (Powai & Thane)	0.00	0.00	400.00	100.00
4.	Tamil Nadu (Ooty & Kodalkanal Lakes)	0.00	0.00	300.00 +2.50*	0.00
5.	Karnataka (Bangalore Lake)	0.00	0.00	279.00	178.52
6.	Uttaranchal (Nainital Lake)	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.48*
7.	Rajasthan (Mansarovar Lake)	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
8.	West Bengal (Ravindra Sarovar Lake, Kolkata)	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Grand Total		120.00	19.84	997.91	1219.00

*Funds released to Consultants—IIT, Roorkee (erstwhile University of Roorkee) for detailed project report preparation for lake projects of these States.

Statement-II

Action taken by the Union Government and current status of new proposals received from the State Governments for inclusion under NRCP

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Estimated cost (Rs. crore)	Action taken by the Union Government/Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	33 towns along river Ghaggar	Punjab	536.00	Received outline proposal only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date. Also, the present outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works.

1	2	3	4	5
				Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
2.	Amritsar town along river Ravi	Punjab	394.00	-do-
3.	11 towns along Beas river	Himachal Pradesh	78.41	-do-
4.	Khuakhai and Daya rivers at Bhubneshwar	Orissa	392.00	-do-
5.	21 towns along river Ghaggar	Haryana	345.35	-do-
6.	Gomti Action Plan Phase-II at Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	279.92	Approved by EFC
7.	Dhansiri and Dhipu rivers at Dimapur	Nagaland	83.87	-do-
8.	Yamuna Action Plan Phase II	Delhi, Haryana & Uttar Pradesh	2018.00	Approved by EFC. The scheme shall be funded as externally aided project. Due to constraint of funds available with the funding agency, major works in Delhi and Agra, Uttar Pradesh amounting to only Rs. 637 crore have been taken up at present.
9.	Hyderabad town along Musi river	Andhra Pradesh	295.00	Approved by EFC
10.	Bagalkot town along Krishna/Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	29.12	Present outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
11.	Maddur town along Shimsha river	Karnataka	6.63	-do-
12.	Gokak town along Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	14.50	-do-
13.	Baillahongol town along Malaprabha river	Karnataka	10.21	-do-
14.	Shahbad Gulbarga town along Kagina river	Karnataka	14.82	-do-
15.	Hospet town along Tunabhadra river	Karnataka	21.45	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Gangawati town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	21.00	-do-
17.	Kanakpura town along Arhavathi river	Karnataka	10.61	-do-
18.	Yadgir town along Bhima River	Karnataka	17.60	-do-
19.	Dandeli town along Kali river	Karnataka	10.67	The Detailed Project Reports have not been received. So far, only information through a forwarding letter has been received in this Ministry.
20.	Siraguppa town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	8.96	-do-
21.	Rajpur town along Kharun river	Chhattisgarh	36.60	At present, outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
22.	Durg town along Seonath river	Chhattisgarh	26.60	-do-
23.	Bilaspur town along Arpa River	Chhattisgarh	26.90	-do-
24.	Siliguri town along Mahananda river	West Bental	37.87	The State Government has been asked to complete the sanctioned projects under NRCP first.
25.	Kolhapur town along river Panchganga	Maharashtra	83.85	The outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.
26.	Integrated Development PIn of Patna town (Sewerage, Drainage & Solid Waste Management) along river Ganga	Bihar	1397.60	-do-
27.	Sonepur town along river Gandak	Bihar	0.91	-do-
28.	Environmental Upgradation of Panaji City Phase II along river Mandovi	Goa	14.39	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Pamba River Action Plan	Kerala	319.00	The proposal in its present form can not be considered due to non-availability of matching outlay in the X Plan.
30.	Ambur, Walajapet and Ranipet towns along river Palar	Tamilnadu	57.00	The detailed project report received is not as per CPCB norms for disposal of treated tannery effluent.
31.	Chaliyar river	Kerala	271.00	Report received is not as per Ministry's guidelines. State Government asked to submit Detailed Project Report.
32.	19 towns along river Yamuna and its tributaries (Hindon/Kali/Krishna rivers)	Uttar Pradesh	222.52	The outlay provided for the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.

*[English]***Military Dairy Farm, Jabalpur**

932. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly born calves and discarded cows of Military Dairy Farm, Jabalpur (M.P.) are being sent to 'Dayodaya Pashu Samvardhan and Parjavarana Kendra, Gaoshala Tilwaraghat, Jabalpur (M.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the fodder grown for the cattle in the Dairy farm will also be sent to the Gaoshala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Directorate General of Military Farms has informed that unwanted male calves after 14 days of their birth and discarded animals are being given. It has further been informed that culling is very important aspect of cattle management in Dairy farming. Retention of uneconomical animals is a drain on financial position of the farm. Military Farms have a policy of offering male calves/culled animals to cattle breeders, local farmers, Regimental/Private dairies, Government/Semi Government

Institutions, religious institution (Government registered) like Gau Sadan, Gaushala, Gau Ashram etc. for further rearing by them.

(c) No, Madam.

Laxity of Administration of CPFC in Rajasthan

933. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laxity of administration in the offices of the Central Provident Fund Commissioner in Rajasthan is increasing;

(b) if so, whether any team has been sent from Delhi to Rajasthan to investigate the matter;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the functioning of the staff of the local offices of the Central Provident Fund in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No team was sent for investigating the laxity of administration in the offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in Rajasthan. However, a team of officers headed by Regional Provident Fund Commissioner visited Rajasthan for routine administration inspection in January, 2003. The team has not pointed out any laxity of administration.

(d) The instructions/directions issued by Head Office of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are followed by all the local/field Officers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

[English]

Drought Condition in Kerala

934. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal requesting assistance due to drought;

(b) if so, whether the Kerala had 40% downfall in rain in the drought season;

(c) if so, the assistance sought by Kerala in this regard;

(d) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided by the Government to the State;

(e) whether a Memorandum of the State given has shown about 900 crores as loss sustained by Kerala State Electricity Board;

(f) if so, whether this loss conforms to the norms of the schemes;

(g) if so, whether this loss has been ascertained;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the Government propose to give relief to the State for such loss; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (j) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2002 in Kerala was deficient by 35%.

The State Government had submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 1047 crore from the National

Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) which included Rs. 921.00 crore to meet the loss incurred by the State due to shortage of power generation. A Central Team had visited the State and its Report was considered in accordance with the items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/NCCF and assessed at Rs. 13.57 crore. No amount was admissible to the State from the NCCF as the amount assessed was within the available balance in the CRF of the State. Entire Central share of CRF for 2003 amounting to Rs. 55.60 crore and 0.10 lakh MTs. of foodgrains for relief employment have been released to the State.

Promotion of Marketing Infrastructure of Agriculture Produce

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

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Report for the year 1999-2000 has stated that India is World's second largest producer of fruits and vegetables but the overall scenario of food processing is very bleak;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of fruits and vegetables production which is processed as compared to Thailand, Brazil and Malaysia;

(d) whether the NAFED was required to promote marketing Infrastructure of agricultural produce by forming co-operative development;

(e) if so, whether the NAFED has failed in the discharge of its aims and objectives; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop an effective and efficient food processing sector to counter the onslaught of foreign packed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Although India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world the quantity utilized for processing is very low due to a number of factors including preference of the consumers for its consumption in fresh form.

(c) In India, it is estimated that less than two percent of the market arrivals of fruits and vegetables are being processed.

(d) No, Sir. Cooperation being a State subject, the NAFED is not required to promote marketing infrastructure

through cooperatives. However, as an apex organisation of marketing cooperatives in the country, NAFED has endeavoured to promote infrastructure in a limited way to effectively handle agricultural produce for the benefit of the farmers.

(e) No, Sir. NAFED has been instrumental in helping the cooperative in efficient handling and marketing of agricultural produce by undertaking procurement of various commodities like fruits, vegetables, oilseeds and pulses under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Besides, NAFED has also been involved in procuring horticultural produce on its own under the NAFED's commercial programme for domestic market and export. During the year 2001-02, NAFED purchased a total quantity of 31568 tonnes of various horticulture commodities valued at Rs. 22.65 crores.

(f) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) is providing financial assistance in the form of grant for setting up of new food processing units for the expansion/modernization of existing units. Besides, the MFPI is promoting Food Processing Industries through infrastructure development, quality assurance and human resource development.

Development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

936. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released Rs. 30 crores as financial assistance for the first phase of development of International and Domestic Terminal Thiruvananthapuram Airport during 2002-03;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up refueling hub at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no proposal pending with the Government for releasing Rs. 30 crores as financial assistance for the first phase of development of International & Domestic Terminal at Thiruvananthapuram airport during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Policy on Dams

937. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new policy on dams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance given by the Union Government to the Uttaranchal Government for construction of Jamrani Dam which is pending for many years; and

(d) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Union Government provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for major/medium projects which are in an advanced stage of construction. No proposal for CLA under AIBP has been received in respect of Jamrani Dam from Government of Uttaranchal.

Agriculture Sector on Verge of Devastation

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

(a) whether the products of multinational companies are being promoted by dubbing the Indian agro-products as toxic and thereby causing a damaging effect on Indian agro-products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken effective steps to promote Indian agro-products on preferential basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

*[English]***Joint Venture Project in Food Processing Sector**

939. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Venture Projects undertaken by the Ministry of Food Processing Sector is declining alarmingly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to encourage joint venture projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any food processing unit either on its own or as a joint venture project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Erosion Due to Brahmaputra River

940. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified Goalpara and other towns and villages in Assam, under constant threat of erosion from the perennial Brahmaputra flood menace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any effective comprehensive plan has been prepared to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKHAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Water Resources Department, Assam has identified good numbers of reaches, affected due to erosion, covering important township and village areas which are under constant threat of erosion from the perennial Brahmaputra flood menace. As per the recommendations of the Master Plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board, the Water Resources Department, Government of Assam has identified and taken up a number of anti erosion and town protection schemes. Till 9th Five Year Plan, the State Government has completed 639 No. of anti erosion and town protection schemes

and presently 19 Nos. major and medium anti erosion schemes are ongoing to protect Goalpara and various other towns and villages in Assam. One no. of scheme has also been taken up for execution by the Brahmaputra Board.

Per Worker Productivity

941. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the per worker productivity, earning and contribution in GDP in public and private organised sectors, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): On the basis of Annual Survey of Industries (Factory Sector) 1999-2000, the per worker productivity (gross value added) and wages in public and private sectors have been worked out as under:

(Rs.)

Productivity/Wages	Public Sector	Private Sector
(i) Value added per worker	401884	286486
(ii) Wages	83504	39504

As regards contribution in GDP, the Net Domestic Product (NDP)—public sector and total economy for 1999-2000 at current prices are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Public Sector	378629
Total Economy (Organised Sector)	646686

Clearance to Pending Proposals

942. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals relating to Irrigation received from State Governments including Madhya Pradesh for Central and foreign assistance during the last five years alongwith the number of proposals pending out of them; and

(b) by when the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Government is assisting the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 with the objective of accelerating the implementation of the major and medium irrigation projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advanced stage of completion. During the last five years 447 proposals were received from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh for funding under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Central Loan Assistance has been released in all such cases. Further, 36 proposals were received from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh during the same period for foreign assistance. No proposal is pending for clearance in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Protection and Processing of Fishes

943. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to develop infrastructure for protection and processing of fishes in the country particularly in the Coastal area of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme is being implemented to provide grant-in-aid to private entrepreneurs and other agencies for construction of cold storages and for purchasing machines for processing of fishes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the grant-in-aid sanctioned during each of the last three years; and

(f) the names of the companies/private entrepreneurs and agencies in the country especially in Maharashtra to whom grant-in-aid has been sanctioned for purchasing machines to undertake processing of fishes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) Under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment and Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides assistance for creation of additional facilities for preservation and processing of fish. Under this scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to all implementing agencies, including private entrepreneurs at 25% of the cost of capital equipment and technical civil works up to Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the capital equipment and technical civil works into Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas.

(e) The grant-in-aid sanctioned during the last three years under the schemes for Development of Infrastructure for Processing of Fish is as follows:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	60.28
2000-2001	92.69
2001-2002	268.74

(f) A Statement showing the names of companies/private entrepreneurs and agencies who have been sanctioned grant-in-aid during the last three years for setting up infrastructural facilities for fish processing is enclosed herewith.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Org.	State/UT	Amount of grant (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
1.	Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Goa	Goa	1.25
2.	NCDC for Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Programme by MATSYAFED	Kerala	42.10
3.	Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corp.	Tamil Nadu	6.93
4.	All Manipur Rural & Urban Development Services, Imphal	Manipur	10.00

1	2	3	4
2000-2001			
1.	Directorate of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of Manipur	Manipur	18.11
2.	Rural Research & Development Centre	-do-	15.80
3.	Bishnupur District Supply & Marketing Coop. Society Ltd.	-do-	18.35
4.	Utlou Joint Farming cum Pisciculture Coop. Society Ltd.	-do-	25.00
5.	Rural Development & Welfare Organisation	-do-	5.00
6.	Self Employed Multi Industrial Coop. Society Ltd.	-do-	4.76
7.	Manipur Rural Industrial Society	-do-	5.67
2001-2002			
1.	Jayalakshmi See Foods P. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	21.68
2.	Coastal Trawlers Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	9.31
3.	Marine Products Infrastructure Development Corp. Pvt. Ltd.	Kerala	135.00
4.	Youth Progressive Organisation	Manipur	9.05
5.	NCDC for Dimapur Fishing Coop. Society Ltd. etc.	Nagaland	36.60
6.	Manipur Rural Service Association	Manipur	2.90
7.	Rural Development & Welfare Org.	Manipur	5.00
8.	Integrated Village Economic Development Society	Manipur	3.20
9.	M/s SEAPRO, Vishakapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	5.00
10.	Jadavpur University	West Bengal	41.00

Plan for Harvesting of Rain Water

944. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has formulated any master plan for harvesting of rain water in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of the plan; and

(c) the amount allocated to each State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground water. The details of funding pattern for implementation of this Plan, implementing agencies etc., are still under discussion. In view of this, the likely expenditure on implementation of Master Plan cannot be indicated at this stage.

Package for Cooperative Credit Institutions

945. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized a package for cooperative credit institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Token provision of 100 crore has been made in the Union Budget for the year 2002-03 for revitalization of the cooperative credit institutions in the country.

(c) The package will be implemented as soon as it is finalized by the Ministry of Finance.

Foot and Mouth Disease

946. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foot and Mouth disease is commonly prevalent in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to wipe out the disease in the country particularly in the State of West Bengal; and

(c) the estimated number of live-stock affected as a result thereof during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Foot and Mouth Disease occurs in India including the State of West Bengal.

(b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling the disease, the Central Government provides grants-in-aid to the State and Union Territories. During 2002-2003, Rs. 655.40 lakhs has so far been provided to the States and Union Territories for controlling the disease, of which Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been provided to the State of West Bengal.

(c) State-wise estimated number of livestock affected as a result of Foot and Mouth Disease during 1999, 2000 and 2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise incidence of Foot and Mouth Disease in India during 1999, 2000 and 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Species	1999			2000			2001		
			OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	bov	108	4502	6	42	1406	2	180	4834	32
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	23	0
		ovi/cap.	24	257	72	0	0	0	4	188	15
		sui	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	bov	4	273	2	7	686	0	10	1116	1
3.	Assam	bov	4	451	0	2	370	0	0	0	0
		NS	0	0	0	0	0	0	789	11757	28
4.	Bihar	bov	7	15	0	3	36	0	74	393	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	bov	—	—	—	0	0	0	9	806	3
6.	Goa	bov	17	558	17	3	204	0	2	65	0
		buf	4	102	0	2	42	0	0	0	0
		sui	2	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	bov	49	1116	18	29	1283	0	106	2862	4
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	508	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		ovi/cap.	4	15	0	0	0	0	1	887	26
8.	Haryana	bov	3	9629	0	16	572	1	0	0	0
		buf	0	0	0	1	32	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	bov	3	83	0	8	268	0	30	2155	45
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0	6	521	0	14	8907	100
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	bov	3	1319	0	9	2353	12	12	817	2
		ovi/cap.	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	bov	—	—	—	0	0	0	14	155	13
		buf	—	—	—	0	0	0	2	7	2
12.	Karnataka	bov	576	19146	142	1154	23498	161	1591	19808	229
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	5491	65
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	2596	67
		sui	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	5	2
13.	Kerala	bov	193	4520	240	36	200	9	49	502	16
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	3	1
		ovi/cap.	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	bov	8	609	0	1	25	0	9	286	0
15.	Maharashtra	bov	112	3059	34	71	868	19	5	105	0
16.	Manipur	bov	12	262	32	1	89	0	0	0	0
		sui	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	bov	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	1549	4
18.	Mizoram	bov	24	693	9	18	161	5	16	70	5
		sui	2	200	50	4	12	2	27	62	23
19.	Nagaland	bov	81	5597	207	12	1040	22	115	10680	230
20.	Orissa	bov	0	0	0	51	1432	4	66	2012	4
		ovi/cap.	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0
21.	Punjab	bov	0	0	0	5	61	0	18	366	14
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	746	36
22.	Rajasthan	bov	97	2723	159	0	0	0	70	2120	97
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
		ovi/cap.	1	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Sikkim	bov	2	241	0	3	38	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24.	Tamil Nadu	bov	4	82	17	0	0	0	19	451	20
25.	Tripura	bov	51	1930	1	3	35	0	6	178	1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	bov	1	20	0	1	10	0	10	2236	497
		ovi/cap	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranachal	bov	—	—	—	0	0	0	11	295	15
		buf	—	—	—	0	0	0	5	26	0
28.	West Bengal	bov	25	605	0	22	1045	2	118	8150	47
29.	A&N Islands	bov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	bov	0	0	0	5	22	0	0	0	0
31.	D&N Haveli	bov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	bov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	bov	45	141	0	10	67	0	7	100	0
		sui	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	bov	2	845	0	7	56	0	14	71	0
		bov/cap	0	0	0	3	47	4	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	bov	5	183	0	0	0	0	2	340	0
		bov	1436	88602	884	1519	35825	237	2661	62522	1291
	Total	buf	4	102	0	3	74	0	19	6807	105
		ovi/cap	32	429	72	9	568	4	21	12583	208
		sui	7	346	50	6	16	2	28	82	29
		NS	0	0	0	0	0	0	789	11757	28

bov: bovine buf: buffalo ovi/cap: ovine/caprine sui: swine NS: Not specified

OB: Outbreak AT: Attack DT: Death

*Outbreaks included in bovine.

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Schemes

947. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Civil Aviation schemes introduced during the Ninth Five Year Plan in Gujarat;

(b) the progress made in these schemes till date;

(c) whether the work of these schemes is going on as per the schedule;

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to step up the work; and

(e) the amount spent on these schemes alongwith the amount sanctioned for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) During the Ninth Five Year Plan the following works were completed on schedule at airports in Gujarat:-

Extension of apron, strengthening of runway, resurfacing of taxi-track at Ahmedabad airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 33 crore; construction of new Technical Block & Control Tower, new Fire Station, Terminal Building, staff quarters etc. were completed at Baroda Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.69 crore; construction of boundary wall, new fire station were completed at Bhavnagar airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.60 crore. Construction of new apron & Taxi-Track were completed at Porbandar airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.25 crore; and re-surfacing of runway, approach road etc. were completed at Rajkot Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.50 crore.

Further, Rs. 1.50 crore have been spent on construction of new domestic departure terminal building at Ahmedabad Airport out of sanctioned amount of Rs. 46.09 crore; Rs. 10.34 crore have been spent on construction of New Civil Air Terminal, Car Park, Link Taxi-track at Bhuj Airport out of sanctioned amount of Rs. 19.51 crore; and Rs. One crore has been spent on construction of new Terminal Building at Porbandar airport out of sanctioned amount of Rs. 5.77 crore. Suitable steps have already been taken to complete the works at the earliest.

[*English*]

Decline in Tourists to Sea Beaches in Gujarat

948. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the flow of tourists to the sea beaches in Orissa has declined after the super cyclone of October 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to beautify the sea beaches in the State to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) As per information received

from the Government of Orissa, there was a general decline in the number of tourists visiting the State including the sea beaches after the super cyclone of October 1999 registering a negative growth rate of 6.1% in 1999 as compared to 1998. However, the tourist traffic has increased during the subsequent years.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa has informed that a Master Plan for development of sea beaches at Puri has been prepared.

Private Investment in Agriculture

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

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage private investment in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to pump more subsidy in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Agriculture Policy (NAP) has underscored the need for private sector participation through contract farming and land leasing arrangements, which would in turn accelerate the process of technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets for crop production.

(c) and (d) Farmers get the benefit of subsidy under different schemes. However, the extent of subsidy in the case of Indian agriculture is far lower than that in respect of developed countries. In the case of Indian agriculture, in a number of cases, the subsidy seeks to benefit the small and marginal farmers. However, owing to resource constraints, it is not possible to provide domestic support to Indian agriculture at the levels provided by developed countries.

[*Translation*]

Transportation of Water through Railway Tankers

950. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made arrangements for water transportation through the railway tankers with a view to mitigate the potable water crisis in drought affected Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also initiated various measures to mitigate the potable water crisis in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per available information, Railways have so far moved about 43400 wagons carrying more than 8 lakh tonnes of water to the affected areas in Rajasthan.

Further, in addition to release of normal funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply, Rs. 12.00 crore has been released to Rajasthan from 5% of allocation under that scheme to meet the contingencies arising out of drought.

[English]

Agro Service Centres

951. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agro Service Centres have been established by the Government in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the functions of these centres;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the performance of these centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) The Government of Jharkhand have informed that no Agro Service Centre has been established in the State.

(b) to (d) In view of above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Horticulture in Jharkhand

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

(a) the funds allocated for the development of horticulture in Jharkhand during each of the last three years;

(b) the progress achieved during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for development of horticulture sector in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) The details of funds earmarked for development of horticulture in Jharkhand during the last three years as per the Work Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan is as follows:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	223.44
2001-02	220.77
2002-03	621.61

So far an amount of Rs. 1695.00 lakhs have been released to the State Government under the Macro Management Scheme against which an expenditure of Rs. 675.00 lakhs have been reported.

(c) The Macro Management Schemes is being continued during the Tenth Plan under which the State Government can prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and take up activities like supply of good quality planning material of horticultural crops through nurseries and Tissue Culture units, cover of area with improved varieties, disseminate technology through training of farmers demonstration and create infrastructural facilities like disease forecasting units, plant health clinics, leaf/tissue analysis labs, on-farm handling of produce and mechanization.

Expansion/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries

953. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

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

(a) the programmes and schemes launched and implemented in the country for setting up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Industries/units

during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for implementation of these programmes and schemes during the said period indicating the number of beneficiaries thereunder, State-wise;

(c) whether any external agencies were involved in the process; and

(d) if so, the details indicating the name of States where such agencies were involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Under one of the Plan Schemes operated during the 9th Plan period, financial assistance for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries was extended. The schemes implemented are project oriented and not State specific. During the 10th Plan also the scheme for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries has been approved for implementation. Financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 42.55 crores was extended under this scheme during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. State-wise details in this regard are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance extended under the Plan Scheme of the Ministry is limited and does not preclude the project getting finances from external agencies.

Statement

Details of financial assistance extended for the setting up/modernisation/expansion of food processing units

S. No.	State/UT	No. of proposals	Amount sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	182.75
2.	Assam	1	25.00
3.	Bihar	2	70.77
4.	Delhi	1	35.00
5.	Goa	1	6.25
6.	Gujarat	7	242.12

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	3	90.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	76.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	1209.30
10.	Karnataka	4	150.00
11.	Kerala	6	84.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4	130.50
13.	Maharashtra	18	392.24
14.	Manipur	13	231.74
15.	Meghalaya	3	141.69
16.	Mizoram	2	100.00
17.	Nagaland	1	5.72
18.	Orissa	5	58.97
19.	Pondicherry	2	6.00
20.	Punjab	6	326.25
21.	Tamil Nadu	3	125.00
22.	Tripura	1	50.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	18	380.59
24.	West Bengal	7	133.53
Total		121	4254.99

[English]

Setting up of Agricultural Universities

954. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up new agricultural universities in the different parts of the country during the Tenth Plan;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Education being a State subject decision about setting up of new agricultural universities falls under the purview to the State Government.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism

955. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the amount allocated/released to State Governments including Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan to promote tourism in their States;

(b) the details of works undertaken with the said assistance in the States; and

(c) the schemes the Government propose to formulate to promote tourism in the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provided funds to the State Governments/UT Administration including Bihar during the 9th Plan for various projects/schemes for development of infrastructure facilities and promotion of tourism. An amount of Rs. 372.43 crores was sanctioned for 1563 projects and an amount of Rs. 196.31 crores was released to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) Out of 1563 projects the State Governments/UT Administrations have completed 571 projects so far.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following new schemes for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism during the Tenth Plan:—

- (i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development
- (iii) Large Revenue Generating Projects
- (iv) Capacity Building for Service Providers.

[English]

Meeting of Indus Commission

956. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the permanent Indus Commission to discuss 450 MW Baglihar project on the Chenab was held in Islamabad in February, 2003; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the meeting Pakistan Commissioner insisted on discussing the questions framed by Pakistan on the Baglihar Plant under the provision of the Indus Waters Treaty dealing with settlement of differences and disputes while the Indian Commissioner insisted to discuss Pakistan's objections on the design of the plant so as to resolve them amicably. The meeting concluded with both sides maintaining their points of view.

Crisis in Agriculture Sector of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether the agriculture sector in Maharashtra has been facing serious challenges due to slowdown in productivity growth of several crops owing to inadequate infrastructural development and institutional changes;

(b) if so, whether any remedial measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Agricultural productivity in Maharashtra, as discernible from yield per hectare, has not registered any steady decline. For example, in the case of rice, the yield per hectare declined from 1.68 tonnes in 1999-2000 to 1.28 tonnes in 2000-01. However, the yield increased to 1.75 tonnes per hectare in 2001-02. In order to further improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price and Market Intervention Schemes. Apart from these, the Government

have also adopted macro-management mode for providing assistance to the States. The macro-Management Scheme integrated 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

[*Translation*]

Kisan Sahayata Kendras in Bihar

958. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Kisan Sahayata Kendras running in Bihar at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such kendras in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the districts where such kendras are proposed to be set up and by when such kendras are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No such centres are running in the State of Bihar under any programme of this Ministry. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is operating 15 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Bihar at Munger, Banka, Saharsa, Begusarai, Barh, Nalanda, Shaikhpura, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Bhojpur, Nawadah, Kaimur, Jammui, Madhubani and Madhepura. Besides, the ICAR has strengthened the Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARSS) of Rajendra Agricultural University at Bhagalpur and Rohtas for taking up the additional functions of KVK.

(b) No new KVKs are proposed to be set up by the ICAR in Bihar during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Tourism Development near Bay of Bengal

959. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated for development of tourism on the mouths of River Godavari and Krishna near the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any studies on the tourism potential in these areas; and

(d) if so, the major key thrust areas of tourist attractions that can be developed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has not formulated any plan for development of tourism on the mouths of River Godavari and Krishna near the Bay of Bengal. However, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has reported that they have formulated a plan on this subject.

(b) The Plan of the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh includes the development of Coringa Wildlife sanctuary at the estuary of the Godavari River in East Godavari District and Krishna Wildlife sanctuary at the estuary of Krishna River.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the World Tourism Organisation has recommended to develop the above sites as tourist places. They have suggested the development of a wetland Eco-Tourism Resort.

National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal

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

(a) whether as per a pioneering study conducted at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal by Scientists, it had been shown that both cow and buffalo milk contain natural antibacterial ingredients in the form of lactenin which give milk a special place in the human diet;

(b) whether any follow-up of this work was carried out including isolation of the active natural ingredients for possible use elsewhere;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether any such studies will be undertaken now since new equipment and testing and analytical methods are now available; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The work on characterization of natural antimicrobial ingredients has been undertaken to explore their commercial value as food grade bio-preservatives for enhancing shelf-life of milk and milk products.

Study on Condition of Major/Medium Dams

961. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and medium dams in the country which are more than 50 years old, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study on the condition of these dams; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per information available, there are about 571 large dams in the country which are more than 50 years old. The State-wise details of these dams are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Maintenance and safety of dams is responsibility of the owners of the dams that is the concerned State Governments etc. The Central Government is not conducting any dam-wise study on the condition of the dams. However, the Central Government has taken measures for implementing a unified Dam Safety Programme in the country through the Central Water Commission. Further, the Central Government has made extensive efforts in creating awareness in the country about the importance of proper maintenance, up keep and operation of dams and has succeeded to a large extent in convincing the States towards the concept of Dam Safety, which has now been accepted by a large number of States. The Central Government assists the States in carrying out regular periodic inspection of dams in order to identify causes of potential distress and to recommend measures for their redress. However, the assistance for actual remedial works is rendered on specific request from the States. The Central Water Commission has circulated among the States in July, 1986 action points in a report titled "Report on Dam Safety Procedures" which gives unified Dam Safety Procedure to be followed for all dams in India. The National Committee on Dam Safety monitors the follow up action on the Dam Safety Procedures both at the Centre and at the State level.

Statement

Name of State	No. of Large Dams
Andhra Pradesh	42
Bihar	2
Chhattisgarh	19
Gujarat	112
Jharkhand	8
Karnataka	44
Kerala	5
Madhya Pradesh	119
Maharashtra	82
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	5
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	59
Tamil Nadu	21
Uttar Pradesh	50
West Bengal	1
Total	571

Development of Camping Sites

962. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is running any ongoing scheme for development of camping sites specially for low budget domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funding pattern of the scheme; and

(c) the amount allocated/released to Gujarat Government under the said scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However the 8th Five Year Plan of the Department of Tourism, Government of India provided funds to the State Governments for Tented Accommodation and other accessories at Camp Sites for promotion of trekking tours. This scheme was discontinued in the 9th Plan. During the Tenth Plan, under new

schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for taking up various activities including development of camping sites provided it falls in the identified Circuit or Designation.

(c) Does not arise.

Package by Air India to Boost Tourism

963. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have proposed a package for boosting inbound tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India have shortlisted any properties in Karnataka as tourist destinations;

(d) if so, whether the said package is likely to generate employment opportunities in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Bidar has been chosen as a destination for inbound tourism; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Air India has proposed off season Holiday Packages to boost inbound tourism to India as well as to improve seat factors on the Gulf/India and UK/Europe/India routes during the lean season.

(b) To begin with, it is proposed to introduce these holiday packages in the Gulf Region and Middle East. In the 1st Phase the Holiday Packages will cover two destinations in India namely Goa and Kerala. The Holiday Packages are of 3 nights/4 days, 5 nights/6 days, 6 nights/7 days duration. The Packages are valid for the period 15th March, 2003 to 30th September 2003.

(c) No, Sir. Air India has not shortlisted any properties in Karnataka.

(d) and (e) There off season holiday packages have been developed with the objective of promoting tourism to India. Tourism has the potential to enhance employment opportunities in rural areas.

(f) There is no policy of choosing destinations for inbound tourism.

(g) Does not arise.

NCVT Affiliation of ITCS

964. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to accord National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) affiliation to the remaining Industrial Training Centres of Scheduled Castes Development Department of Kerala Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; 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 LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) There is no proposal before the Sub-Committee of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) for grant of affiliation from the Scheduled Castes Development Department of Kerala Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Criteria for Identification of Unemployed Persons

965. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of 'unemployed' as defined by the Government;

(b) whether the unemployed persons enrolled in the present register of the employment exchange seeking employment are not considered unemployed by the Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the criteria to identify actually unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) The definition of 'unemployed' as adopted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) is as follows:

"Persons, who owing to lack of work, had not worked but either sought work through employment exchanges, intermediaries, friends or relatives or making applications to prospective employers or expressed their willingness or availability for work under the prevailing conditions of work and remuneration."

(b) and (c) All the job seekers registered with employment exchanges are not necessarily unemployed and all the unemployed do not necessarily register themselves with the employment exchanges. As such, the number of job seekers registered with the employment exchanges does not reflect the actual number of unemployed persons.

Drought Relief Works in Rajasthan

966. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the labourers employed in the drought relief works in Rajasthan during the last four months, month-wise;

(b) the rate and amount of payment made to the labourers;

(c) whether the Government propose to employ at least one member from each family living below the poverty line; and

(d) the quantum of funds utilised so far in drought relief works and the contributions made by Central and State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan have informed that the State Government have proposed to provide wage employment of 10 days in rotation (effectively 9 days as 1 day would be a holiday) to about 70 lakh persons per month out of 78 lakhs in the vulnerable category (landless Agricultural labourers, small & marginal farmers, population Below Poverty Line, Rural artisans, cultivators with single cropped area) @ 8 kg per day. On this basis, a family would earn 72 kgs. of wheat and Rs. 110 per month.

The requirement of foodgrains for Rajasthan has been re-calculated and the Task Force on Drought Management, in its recent meeting, has approved a quantity of 21 lakh MTs. of foodgrains to the State for 6 months (February to July, 2003), out of which 2 lakh MTs. have already been allocated.

(d) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 171.16

crore, 25% of Central share of CRF for 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 44.93 crore has been released in advance. Also, release of Rs. 167.34 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and allocation of 10.10 lakh MTs. of foodgrains for relief employment, have so far been provided to the State for current drought. Distribution of relief at the ground is the responsibility of the State Government.

[English]

Relief in Property Tax to Rain Harvestors

967. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to give relief to rain harvestors in their property tax liability on the basis of recommendations made by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA);

(b) if so, the details and the efforts being made by the Government to promote rain water harvesting;

(c) whether any financial incentives are proposed to be given to rain harvestors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Government has requested all the States/Union Territories for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in Property Tax to persons, who adopt roof top rain water harvesting in their premises.

(b) to (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources including rain water harvesting. The Central Government has initiated following measures for rain water harvesting in the country:-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

- (iv) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (v) Launching of a website of Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

Neem Coated Urea

968. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has given a finding that 'Neem Coated Urea' can have enhanced shelf-life and significantly contribute to better crop yields;

(b) if so, whether field demos have been done on any crops in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) have recently started production and marketing of Neem Coated Urea on a limited scale and conducted 45 demonstrations on the farmer's field on paddy crop during Kharif 2002 in a few districts of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and claimed better efficiency and increase in the yield of crop over normal urea.

[*Translation*]

Network of Electronic Library

969. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to spread the network of electronic library throughout the country in order to disseminate Indian culture and history to the villages as reported in the news item published in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 4, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Culture would give a push to the modernization of central and public libraries in the country in accordance with the objectives of the Tenth Plan. As part of this programme, the major libraries such as National Library, Kolkata and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi have already initiated the work for creating the electronic resource base of the existing holdings. These electronic databases would be made available to the public libraries throughout the country for easy access and dissemination of available resources in the country. The public libraries at the state, district and village levels would be the main beneficiaries as they would then be in a position to access the resources available in the central libraries for the use of the general public. The said project of retro-conversion of existing catalogues in the National Library and Central Secretariat Library is anticipated to cost around Rs. 10 crores and would be completed during the Tenth Plan.

[*English*]

Restructuring of Wild-Life Institute

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

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Wild-life Institute of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the institute more result oriented and towards listing and protecting the country's biological resources from international poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Wildlife Institute of India has been established as an autonomous institute under the Central Government with objectives of developing strong cadre of wildlife managers, conducting research in wildlife conservation and management, and, providing consultancy and advisory services. The institute provides extensive support to the State Governments in conservation of biological diversity and prevention of poaching and illegal trade. Necessary steps are taken from time to time to make the institute efficient, effective and result oriented.

Maintenance of Char Minar

971. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of large cracks sighted in 'the Char Minar' an historical landmark of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by ASI to repair and maintain the historical Char Minar and other monuments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Charminar, a historical landmark of Hyderabad, has developed some minor cracks in the lime plaster and stucco work on the interior and exterior surfaces of the walls due to ageing and vibrations caused by heavy vehicular traffic. The Archaeological Survey of India has taken conservation measures such as grouting, sealing and fixing the affected portions.

There is no major threat to the fabric of the monument at present.

[Translation]

Achievements of FPI

972. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major achievements of the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of grant, loan, aid and other funds provided under this and other schemes for the setting up and promotion of FPIs during the above period, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of the welfare schemes for farmers which have been implemented by the department and the number of farmers benefited during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Details of major achievements are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) Details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(c) Under the Scheme for Backward Linkages which provides for purchase of primary produce from farmers at pre-determined prices by processing units, a total of 24,271 farmers benefited.

Statement-I

Major achievements of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the last three years are as under:

- (1) Financial assistance of about Rs. 140 crores extended for various food processing projects triggering an investment of about Rs. 1,500 crores.
- (2) 28 food parks and 195 food processing units were assisted during the period.
- (3) Eight projects assisted with Rs. 3.47 crores for integrated development of horticulture in the North East.
- (4) 1429 Industrial Entrepreneurial Memoranda for setting up food processing industries were filed envisaging an investment of Rs. 300 crores and employment of about 2.90 lakh persons.
- (5) 132 approvals were granted by the Government for the setting up of food processing industries envisaging foreign investment of around Rs. 975 crores.
- (6) 24,271 farmers benefited under the scheme for Backward Linkages which provides for purchase of primary produce from farmers at pre-determined prices by processing units.
- (7) Eleven institutions/organisations assisted for establishing/upgrading food analysis centres, quality control laboratories.
- (8) Central excise duty on processed fruits and vegetables brought down from 16% to zero.
- (9) Mandate of Paddy Processing Research Centre expanded to cover pulses, millets and oilseeds also. A project estimated to cost Rs. 25 crores approved to make it a Centre of Excellence.

Statement-II*State-wise details of Financial Assistance for Major Schemes during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

S. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	241.39	320.55	35.99
2.	Assam	247.56	278.79	87.54
3.	Bihar	9.78	23.77	1.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	200.00
5.	Daman & Diu	—	3.24	—
6.	Delhi	1.07	1.00	—
7.	Goa	1.25	—	5.13
8.	Gujarat	218.58	92.50	32.40
9.	Haryana	57.50	65.00	265.40
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15.75	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	82.57	200.00	190.15
12.	Karnataka	204.10	68.49	578.30
13.	Kerala	334.10	233.10	209.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44.57	243.00	615.00
15.	Maharashtra	264.65	328.23	178.16
16.	Manipur	59.68	334.39	232.42
17.	Meghalaya	44.30	—	—
18.	Mizoram	—	—	217.10
19.	Nagaland	104.72	97.25	36.60
20.	Orissa	94.61	42.50	245.06
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	3.00
22.	Punjab	25.00	352.32	132.25
23.	Tamil Nadu	137.45	31.60	495.05
24.	Tripura	—	231.05	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	204.73	560.13	221.62
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	17.35
27.	West Bengal	177.96	181.00	102.35

[English]

Development of Tourism in Orissa

973. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sent a master plan to the Union Government for Development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to expedite the clearance of the plan; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central financial assistance of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Department of Tourism during the current financial year for Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur in Puri District. The Department of Culture has also sanctioned Rs. 125.00 lakhs for mounting a Light and Sound Show at Udaigiri.

Sharing of River Water with Pakistan

974. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss being suffered by India on account of Ravi water flowing into Pakistan as reported in *Dainik Jagaran* of 20th Jan., 2003;

(b) whether Pakistan is getting also the benefit of Canal Irrigation System;

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

(d) the corrective measures proposed by the Government to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) After the construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam on river Ravi, India is in a position to utilize most of the Ravi Water.

(b) to (d) Under the Indus Waters Treaty, India is under an obligation to let flow all the waters of the Western Rivers (The Indus, The Jhelum & The Chenab) except for the specified uses. Pakistan has developed their own canal system for utilization of these waters. Pakistan is also entitled to use the waters, if any, of the Sutlej Main and the Ravi Main after these rivers finally cross into Pakistan. In addition, Pakistan has been permitted to use the waters of any Tributary joining the Sutlej Main or the Ravi Main before they finally cross into Pakistan, for Domestic, Non-Consumptive and specified Agricultural uses.

India has already built storage dams on the rivers Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. On completion of remaining portion of Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana-Stage-II. Sidhmukh Nahar Project (Rajasthan), Shahpur Kandi Barrage on river Ravi and Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal, India shall be in a position to utilize most of the waters of these rivers.

[Translation]

Improvement in Services of Air India

975. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted four task force Groups to make suggestions for improvement of the services provided by Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which they are likely to submit their report;

(d) the policy of the Government regarding implementation of the recommendations of the task force;

(e) whether the Air India has leased aircraft to augment its operations; and

(f) if so, the total number of aircraft leased alongwith the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) In August, 2002, Air India constituted four Task Forces on (i) Passenger Amenities (ii) Security (iii) Ground Handling Activities; and (iv) Wage Cuts.

(c) and (d) The reports were submitted by these Task Forces to the Ministry. The Ministry advised Air India to place these reports before the Air India Board for consideration and for further follow up action.

(e) and (f) Air India has dry-leased nine A310-300 aircraft and one B747-400 aircraft since December, 2000 for rationalizing its fleet and for growth for a period of three years.

[English]

Encroachment Near Monuments

976. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to stop funds to those States which failed to remove encroachments from monuments and places of tourist interest;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have directed the State Governments to submit implementation reports of removing such encroachments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when all such encroachments are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) During the State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 5.9.2002 the State Governments were requested to ensure that encroachments should not come up in the vicinity of heritage sites as it creates adverse image in the mind of visitors. In the New Tourism Policy, thrust has been given to the civilisational issues as well as issues pertaining to civic and good governance. In major tourism projects the State Governments are being requested for relocation of the encroachments.

(d) Removal of encroachments from centrally protected monuments is a continuous process therefore no specific time frame can be indicated.

Steel Authority of India Limited

977. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been fairly successful in bringing down debt from Rs. 21,000 crores five years ago to Rs. 14,000 crores now;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the SAIL has achieved a cash profit of Rs. 215 crores for the third quarter of the current fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 as against a cash loss of Rs. 297 crores in the same period previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) On 31.03.99, the total borrowing of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was Rs. 21017 crores. The borrowing was brought down to Rs. 15082 crores in 1999-2000. The trend of reduction continued and the total borrowing as on 31.12.2002 is Rs. 13640 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Saleable Steel Production in SAIL

978. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has set any target for saleable steel production for the four main integrated plants for the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corresponding figure for the previous year;

(d) the achievements made in regard to saleable steel production upto January 2003; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target set therefor during the remaining period of current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Plant-wise target of saleable steel for four integrated steel plants of SAIL for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and actual achieved during current fiscal year upto January, 2003 are as follows:

(Unit'000 ton)

	2001-02	2002-03	
	Target	Target	April-January, 2003 (Act.)
Bhilai Steel Plant	3450	3740	2959
Durgapur Steel Plant	1510	1590	1286
Rourkela Steel Plant	1450	1580	1237
Bokrao Steel Plant	3310	3290	2792
SAIL 4 ISP's	9720	10200	8273

(e) Some of steps taken by SAIL to achieve the target set during the remaining period of the current fiscal year are:

- (i) Ensuring adequate quantity and quality of inputs.
- (ii) Improving equipment utilisation.
- (iii) Aggressive marketing strategy to increase sales.

Poultry Industry

979. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average cost of production of various poultry products in the country in comparison with the average corresponding imports prices;

(b) the countries which offer stiff competition to Indian poultry products;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra/Andhra Pradesh/Madhya Pradesh or the Poultry Industry has made any suggestions to protect the interests of the Indian Poultry Industry in the context of lifting of quantitative restrictions and free market access to foreign companies under WTO regime;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) The average cost of production in India for most of the poultry products is comparable to the average corresponding import prices.

(b) Mainly the USA and the European Union countries.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The suggestions to protect the interest of Indian Poultry Industry were mostly oriented towards increasing the import duty.

To protect the interest of the Indian Poultry Industry the import duty was enhanced from 35% to 100% for poultry cuts and some other poultry products. The import of livestock products including poultry meat has also been brought under the purview of sanitary import permit.

[Translation]

Indo-Nepal Treaty

980. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Nepal to control flood menace in Bihar and adjoining States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct high dams at Narainghat, Noaughar, Sheeshapani and Barah on Gandak, Bagmati, Kamlavalan and Kosi rivers;

(d) if so, whether an all party delegation led by Chief Minister of Bihar has submitted any memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) An inception report for taking up joint investigation/studies and preparation of detailed project report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme has been agreed between India and Nepal. The project will interalia have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

Further as a non-structural measure to forewarn and manage flood disasters, a plan scheme namely, "Flood Forecasting and Warning System on rivers common to India and Nepal" has been in operation since 1989. This scheme was reviewed in May 2002 wherein it has been agreed to increase the number of meteorological/hydrometric sites in Nepalese territory from 42 to 47. In addition Nepal has also agreed to transmit real time data

in respect of 5 key hydrometric stations located on Gandak, Kosi, Rapti, Bagmati and Mahananda rivers which in turn has helped in making flood forecasts with increased warning times.

(c) Yes Sir, the proposal for construction of multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla near Chisapani and on river Bagmati near Noonthar in Nepal is also under discussion with Nepal. Efforts to workout an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepal feels that these projects may not be feasible because of social and environmental implications. However, at present there is no proposal under discussion with Nepal regarding high dam at Narainghat on river Gandak.

(d) Yes, Sir, an all party delegation led by Chief Minister of Bihar submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20.08.2002 inter-alia regarding Indo-Nepal agreement on flood control.

(e) As a follow up of the above meeting, the proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 29.34 crore has been approved to set up the Joint Project Office (JPO) in Nepal to take up the joint investigations/studies and preparation of detailed project report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme.

Inter-connection of Central Libraries

981. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to inter-connect/link all the Central Libraries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds provided for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Culture would focus on modernization of central and public libraries in accordance with the objectives of the Tenth Plan. A national bibliographic database in electronic format is under preparation in a number of central libraries including the libraries under the administrative control of the Department of Culture. The two largest libraries namely, National Library, Kolkata and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi have already initiated the work for creating the electronic resource base of the existing holdings. These electronic databases would be made available to all other central and state libraries throughout the country for easy access and dissemination of available resources in the country. The said project of retro-conversion of existing catalogues in the National Library and Central Secretariat Library is anticipated to cost around Rs. 10 crores and would be completed during the Tenth Plan.

Tourism Development Programme

982. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the details of works executed under Tourism Development Programmes in the States during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): The Department of Tourism, Government of India provided funds to the State Governments/UT Administrations during the 9th Plan for various projects/schemes for development of infrastructure facilities and promotion of tourism. An amount of Rs. 372.43 crores was sanctioned for 1563 projects and an amount of Rs. 196.31 crores was released to the State Governments/UT Administrations. A Statement showing details of number of projects sanctioned, amount released and projects completed during the 9th Plan is annexed.

Statement

State-wise Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned/Released during 9th Plan (As on 31.12.2002)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of Projects Completed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53	1170.35	729.96	26
2.	Assam	62	1840.03	683.07	9

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	1084.60	561.18	7
4.	Bihar	44	912.68	356.29	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	155.28	56.75	0
6.	Goa	52	936.45	482.80	24
7.	Gujarat	64	1653.75	659.25	14
8.	Haryana	39	933.85	569.38	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63	1680.22	1063.96	26
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	47	1338.06	923.76	20
11.	Jharkhand	8	286.49	110.56	0
12.	Karnataka	88	2163.02	1203.00	35
13.	Kerala	66	3124.66	1610.06	33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	68	1580.41	741.42	18
15.	Maharashtra	80	3098.52	1612.32	41
16.	Manipur	40	1338.36	402.77	2
17.	Meghalaya	26	492.36	173.61	2
18.	Mizoram	47	1027.46	901.68	31
19.	Nagaland	42	824.01	665.79	32
20.	Orissa	62	1236.07	559.76	13
21.	Punjab	30	690.16	378.68	19
22.	Rajasthan	72	1164.79	551.55	23
23.	Sikkim	76	825.61	564.62	38
24.	Tamil Nadu	75	1579.39	641.62	13
25.	Tripura	41	1084.28	645.19	14
26.	Uttaranchal	10	135.70	70.57	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	104	2231.91	1188.92	27
28.	West Bengal	64	1193.74	670.14	23
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7	256.65	139.07	3
30.	Chandigarh	14	150.86	97.86	13
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	6	66.90	21.85	1
32.	Delhi	31	550.95	389.71	23
33.	Daman & Diu	5	65.17	18.75	0
34.	Lakshadweep	3	51.00	21.40	3
35.	Pondicherry	22	319.33	163.63	7
Total		1563	37243.07	19631.13	571

*[English]***Increase in Frequency of Lufthansa Flights**

983. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lufthansa has evinced interest in increasing its frequencies particularly to Bangalore and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Indian Government on the proposal of German flagship carrier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Lufthansa is presently operating three services each to both Chennai and Bangalore from Frankfurt. They have also conveyed their intention to mount three additional frequencies from Chennai with effect from Summer 2003. This is in accordance with the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries.

Development of New Variety of Rice

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

(a) whether the Scientists from International Rice Research Institute have developed a new variety of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced for consumption by public at large?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The International Rice Research Institute, Philippines develops and identifies elite lines/breeding materials and provides them to the National Agricultural Research system for evaluation and testing. Recently, elite rice lines have been identified in the areas of New Plant Type and Drought & Submergence tolerance etc. These lines are being tested in our national programme on rice.

(c) Since these lines are at various stages of testing, the time by which they are likely to be released will largely depend on their performance in the multi-location trials under Indian conditions.

Route Rationalisation

985. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have notified the route rationalisation for the two national carriers i.e. Air India and Indian Airlines recently;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof;

(c) the details of routes from which Air India has withdrawn its flights during the last three years on uneconomical grounds, year-wise;

(d) the details of routes from where Indian Airlines has withdrawn its flights during the last three years on the same analogy;

(e) the details of routes on which Indian Airlines wanted to stop its flight but the Government rejected its plea;

(f) the reasons for rejecting the request of Indian Airlines; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to make both the national carriers more competitive against the foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) With a view to effecting greater synergy in the operations of Air India and Indian Airlines, avoiding needless competition between the two airlines to the detriment of both, utilising the resources of the two airlines optimally and serving the needs of passenger in a coordinated and cooperative manner, Government issued directive on 3rd January, 2003 to Air India and Indian Airlines allocating them routes in South-East Asia and Gulf. However, operation of this directive has been kept in abeyance pending a fresh review.

(c) In the year 1999, Air India withdrew its flights to Frankfurt, Rome and Manchester. However, operations to Frankfurt have been restarted in December, 2002.

(d) In the year 2001, Indian Airlines withdrew flights between Kolkata-Singapore, Bangalore-Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai-Karachi, Trivandrum-Colombo and Hyderabad-Doha.

(e) and (f) There is no international routes on which Government has stopped Indian Airlines to withdraw their flights.

(g) Both Air India and Indian Airlines constantly endeavour to increase their profitability through measures like acquisition/leasing of new aircraft, redeployment of services to more profitable routes/withdrawal from uneconomic routes, introduction of special fares to increase passenger load factors, reduction in cost through downsizing at foreign stations etc.

Cultivation of Herbal Medicines

986. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) for cultivation of herbal medicines and setting up of related industries in different parts of the country particularly in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Government have not received any proposal from Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) for cultivation of herbal medicines and setting up of related industries in different parts of the country including Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Strategy to Achieve Growth in Production in SAIL

987. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has finalised strategy to achieve growth in production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rehabilitation proposals (hike in saleable steel in Burnpur Works and investment of money in IISCO mines) for Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) have been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is constantly exploring opportunities to achieve growth in all its areas of operation including production. Some of the steps taken by SAIL to achieve growth in production are:

- (i) Ensuring adequate quantity and quality of inputs.
- (ii) Improving equipment utilisation.
- (iii) Aggressive marketing strategy to increase sales.

(c) and (d) The rehabilitation proposal for Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO) has been submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). It inter alia includes a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Kulti Works, Burnpur Works, mines & collieries, as well as for capital expenditure in these units. Kulti Works is however to be closed.

[Translation]

Linking of Rivers

988. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force appointed by the Government to study the feasibility of linking the rivers has started functioning;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court's observation are being taken into account;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any interim report by the task force has been submitted to the Union Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Planning Commission has made some negative recommendations on the implementation of the project; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha was constituted on 13.12.2002. Shri C.C. Patel and Dr. C.D. Thattai, both Retd. Secretaries of the Ministry of Water Resources are Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary of

the Task Force respectively. Besides, the Task Force shall comprise of other Members (i) from water deficit States, (ii) from water surplus States, (iii) an economist, (iv) a sociologist and (v) a legal/world wildlife expert.

The terms of reference of the Task Force are as under:

- (i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;
- (ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- (iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;
- (iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- (v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- (vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Task Force has held its first meeting on 6.1.2003.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court in its Order dated 31st October, 2002 in the Writ Petition No. 512 of 2002 has observed that "we do expect that the programme when drawn up would try and ensure that the link projects are completed within a reasonable time of not more than ten years." As per the Milestones prepared by Government on inter-linking of rivers, feasibility studies on the Links and Detailed Project Reports are scheduled for completion by 31.12.2005 and 31.12.2006 respectively. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year 2016.

(e) and (g) No, Sir.

(f) and (h) Do not arise.

[English]

Soil Erosion Due to Mahanadi River In Orissa

989. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to check soil erosion caused by Mahanadi river in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether adequate funds have been allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of Orissa has prepared a scheme namely, "Protection to scoured bank on CE No. 78(A) on Mahanadi" by providing launching apron with armory stones from R.D. 80.060 km. to 80.470 km. near village Singtali at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.56 crore". The above scheme has been included in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme being formulated to take up critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga Basin States.

[Translation]

Report of Hemendra Kumar Committee

990. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the Hemendra Kumar Committee report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to implement the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The report has been submitted to the President, ICAR Society and Union Agriculture Minister.

(b) As given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Administrative arrangements have been made to process the recommendations for decisions.

Statement

1. The composition of the Governing Body should be revised to include representatives of two State Governments, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Secretary, Department of Scientific

and Industrial Research and Chairman, APEDA. The representation of Vice Chancellors of SAUs and Directors of ICAR Institutes should be reduced to four from six. The tenure of members from these categories be fixed for a period of three years and the positions should be filled up by rotation. (Para 2.4)

2. An annual conference of the Agriculture Ministers of all the States should be convened under the Chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister with the specific agenda of reviewing the research priorities of the ICAR. (Para 2.9)
3. Five of the DDGs currently at headquarters should be moved to 5 geographical regions of the country with substantial delegation of powers to handle both research and administrative issues concerning ICAR Institutes located within the region. They should be responsible for integrating the research work within the region. (Para 2.10)
4. The number of DDGs at headquarters should be frozen to 4. Thematic areas be merged into Plant Sciences, Life Sciences and Human Resources to be handled by three DDGs. The fourth DDG will be responsible for strategic planning, policy formulation and monitoring etc. The DDGs at headquarters should act as advisers to DG and deal with larger national issues concerning policy thrust, strategic planning, interaction with external agencies, international cooperation etc. in their respective sectors. They will be assisted by the ADGs for specific thematic areas. Detailed job descriptions for these positions should got prepared by ICAR and if necessary, a small task force should be created for this purpose. (Para 2.11)
5. The Regional DDGs should be assisted by thematic ADGs whose specialization should depend upon the regional needs. (Para 2.12)
6. The Regional DDGs should head the Regional Committees already created by ICAR. (Para 2.13)
7. Non RMP scientists should not be posted to headquarters and existing set of such officials should be reverted to laboratories and Institutes. (Para 2.14)
8. An Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICAR with Secretary, DoA & C or his nominee, DDGs at headquarters, a representative of DARE, Secretary, ICAR, ;

Directors of NCAP and IASRI, one eminent scientist, a representative of IIMs as members and DDG (Policy & Planning) as Member-Secretary should be constituted for strategic planning implementation and monitoring. This committee should meet once a quarter. (Paras 2.16 & 3.11)

9. Marketing and IPR being important areas, should be supervised by DDG (Policy & Planning) with earmarked ADGs to handle each of the subjects and to ensure that commercialization is accorded its due priority in the organization. (Para 2.17)
10. Institutes located within the same city having same or similar mandates with independently built infrastructure should be merged. A small committee headed by an eminent scientist should be set up to examine the rationale of continuing NRCs in the present form. (Para 2.18)
11. IASRI and NCAP should be integrated/merged and assigned the role of policy adviser. (Para 2.19)
12. ICAR should take an early decision on the proposals received about delegation of administrative and financial powers to IMCs, National Institutes and other Institutes. While operationalisation of the delegations, it should be ensured that delegation is precisely delineated. (Para 2.22)
13. ICAR should consider adopting CSIR model regarding performance linked budgeting with suitable modifications wherever necessary. (Para 2.23)
14. National Institutes which have a much better scope for generating resources should be mandated to generate a predecided percentage of resources and they should be allowed to retain it over and above the budgetary allocations. (Para 2.24)
15. The National Professor Scheme should be reviewed and the necessity of continuing it should be examined. (Para 2.25)
16. The Regional DDGs may be delegated powers to approve foreign depositions in such cases where government funds are not involved, directly or indirectly, except those cases where inter-ministry coordination is necessary. (Para 2.26)
17. A review should be carried out at every Institute's level to ensure that the human

resources available are rationally and optimally deployed. This work could be entrusted to regional DDGs. (Para 2.29)

18. The scientific monitoring of the work of ICAR Institutes should continue to be done by ICAR. ICAR should also continue to exercise administrative control over them. (Para 3.9)
19. Small teams should be constituted by the Executive Committee to make field visit to ICAR Institutes to assess the progress of scientific work and interact with farmers to assess the impact of the work being done by the Institutes at the field level. This team should provide inputs to the Executive Committee. (Para 3.14)
20. The QRT Reports should be placed before the Executive Committee. Action Taken Report on the QRT recommendations be placed before the Government Body. (Para 3.16)
21. The financial support from ICAR to SAUs should be raised gradually over a period of 5 years to 20% of the funds available with ICAR. (Para 4.17)
22. The State Government should be urged to levy a 1% cess on agricultural produce marketed. The additional resources so generated should be passed on to SAUs. (Para 4.18)
23. 20% of the financial assistance given by ICAR to SAUs should be linked to reforms within the SAU system. Objective criteria, which may include rationalization of structure, elimination of wastes and duplication, right sizing of staff etc. should be evolved for this purpose. (Para 4.19)
24. Opening of new SAUs and creation of new facilities, bifurcation of an existing SAU etc. should be strongly discouraged. There should be a moratorium on construction of new buildings in SAUs. Any new facility should be created only if State Government provides funds to meet expenses for first five years. (Para 4.21)
25. PG course in any discipline should normally run only at one place. If any SAU has it at more than one place, situation should be reviewed. If any faculty does not conform to norms, then financial support for it should be discontinued. (Para 4.22)
26. The necessity of increasing internal resource generation should be impressed upon SAUs. Possibility of increasing resource generation through selling of improved seeds, consultancy

services, reserving seats for NRIs and foreign students etc. should be explored. (Para 4.24)

27. SAUs should be permitted to exploit commercially technologies developed by them which are not to be directly passed on the farmers. (Para 4.25)
28. SAUs should be asked to increase their resources by reduction in expenditure and additional resource generation by at least 5%. This can be raised to 10% after 5 years. (Para 4.27)
29. KVKs should be asked to conduct entrepreneurial development training programmes in the villages for which small registration fee could be charged from the participants. (Para 4.28)
30. It has been observed that for certain crops, AICRP, Directorate and Institutes are working with an element of duplication. In such cases AICRP should be merged with Directorate/Institute. (Para 4.32)
31. The SAU extension agency and the state extension agency should have adequate linkage. The scientists of KVK should be fully involved in this. (Para 4.36)
32. ICAR should undertake systematic human research planning exercise both the at the national level and at the level of Institute. (Para 5.11)
33. The mismatch between priority research areas and the number of scientists working therein should be removed. The Institutes and the regional DDGs should be involved in such an exercise which should lead to an action plan. (Para 5.12)
34. Each Institute should prepare in advance, a one year, 5 years and 5 to 15 years plan of activities in core areas. The human resource planning should correspond to these plans. (Para 5.13)
35. It is important to ensure that narrow specialization does not lead to inter-disciplinary segregation and proliferation of Institutes. Attempts should be made to build inter-disciplinary research and collaboration and integrate related areas to encourage holistic approach to problems and solutions. (Para 5.14)
36. Recruitment should be based on specific needs of the Institutes. Scientists working in areas which have ceased to be focus of work in any

Institute should be relocated to such Institute where such work is of interest. (Para 5.15)

37. The centralized recruitment of scientists by ASRB should be based on the need/vacancies assessed by DDG (HR)/Institute in the context of proper human resource planning. Appropriate changes should be made from time to time in the technology/methodology any syllabi of examination conducted by ASRB to reflect the changing development in agricultural sciences and priorities of ICAR and its Institutes. (Para 5.17)
38. The post of Director, NAARM, Hyderabad which is of the rank of DDG should be downgraded to the level of ADG and transferred to headquarters and renamed as DDG (Human Resources) should be responsible for all human resource management functions. (Para 5.20)
39. ASRB should be restructured to serve better the goals and missions of ICAR. DDG (HR) should review and evolve human resource management policies of ICAR and monitor the implementation of such policies. (Paras 5.18 and 5.21)
40. Promotions in ICAR should be based on proper assessment of performance. Flexible complementing system should be adopted once again. The serving scientists may be given option to carry on with the present system or being covered under the flexible complementing system. (Para 5.23)
41. There should be incentive for a scientist to continue to work in research area. A cool off system for scientists occupying RMP be introduced. A scientist working on RMP should be considered for another RMP after completion of tenure only if he has worked in research area for three years. (Para 5.25)
42. The draft Performance Appraisal Report developed by ICAR should be reviewed as it requires changes. (Para 5.28)
43. The IVLP has performed well in some Institutes. Scientists who volunteer to work in IVLP should be suitably rewarded. (Para 5.29)
44. NAARM does not seem to meet the future requirement of training. Additional infrastructure should be created at headquarters to meet the future needs. (Para 5.30)
45. Every Institute should prepare an annual calendar of training programme for its officials to ensure that scientists and others are given training in the latest developments at sufficient intervals. The training should be linked to the goals and objectives of the Institute. (Para 5.33)
46. Scientists who are chosen to take on administrative/managerial positions should be given adequate training in management skills, accounting etc. Similarly all officers in the area of finance and administration should be trained to sensitize them to the specific nature of scientific administration. (Para 5.34)
47. Training in Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques should be imparted to scientists. NAARM should be equipped to handle this training. Other organizations like Centre for Rural Studies attached to LBSNAA, Mussoorie, NIRD, Hyderabad and National Centre for Values and Ethics could also be involved in imparting this training, considering the large numbers to be trained. (Para 5.35)
48. Integration of administrative and finance cadres at headquarters and field should be done. Also the two cadres should be merged. In the short run posts on administration and finance sides could be kept separate but in due course even the posts should be combined. (Para 5.39)
49. Each regional DDG should be assisted by a Director (Finance & Administration), one Deputy Secretary for Finance and one for Administration and two Under Secretary level officers. In the short run, officials from the organized service cadres within the region may be taken to fill up the post of Director. In the long run ICAR officials should be groomed for this post. (Para 5.40)
50. An experienced officer in personnel function from civil services or from within the ICAR of the rank of Director may be posted to help DDG (HR). (Para 5.41)
51. There should be accent on developing younger scientists in the ICAR. A scheme may be framed for training young scientists below 40 years of age in frontier areas of agricultural science. A minimum number of 200 such scientists should be trained over a period of 5 years. (Para 5.42)
52. The country should take steps to achieve a leadership role in frontier areas of agriculture science and technology. A world class institution in agricultural science technology should be set up. A small Task Force should be set up to

give a concrete shape to this concept, working out the financial implications, method of financing, the areas of activity etc. (Para 5.43)

53. For taking decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a reasonable timeframe, the report and views of DG, ICAR on the recommendations should be placed before ICAR Society within about a month. Matters requiring Cabinet approval should be put upto it within one month of the decision of the Society. (Para 6.2)
54. An institutionalized arrangement should be made for monitoring the implementation of decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. A cell under senior Director level officer be created within ICAR for this purpose. (Para 6.3)

[*English*]

Pawan Hans Operation to Port Blair

991. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start Pawan Hans helicopter service between Port Blair and other islands with 90 per cent subsidy;

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

(c) by when it is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited would be providing a twin engine Dauphin helicopter to the Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on long-term lease basis to operate the inter island services as per the requirements of the latter. The helicopter services are likely to commence from first week of March, 2003.

Expansion of Airports

992. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand and develop Gannavaram Airport in Andhra Pradesh, Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu and Kumbigram Airport at Silchar;

(b) whether there is a plan to extend the runway and equip them with night landing facility; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At Gannavaram (Vijayawada) Airport, strengthening of existing runway, construction of new apron and link taxiway and allied works, renovation and modification of existing terminal building to cater to 50 arriving and 50 departing passengers at a time have already been completed in 1999-2000. There is, however, no proposal for extension of runway and provision of ground lighting facility owing to no requirements from scheduled airlines.

At Madurai Airport, there is a proposal for extension of runway from 5900 feet to 7500 feet. Out of requirement of 60 acres of land for the same, 12 acres of land has already been transferred by the State Government and the balance land is likely to be transferred by April-May, 2003. The work would be started during 2003-04 subject to transfer of entire land. At Kumbhigram Airport in Silchar, there is proposal for strengthening and extension of runway to 7500 feet, construction of isolation bay, expansion of civil apron, new link taxiway, provision of ground lighting facility, Instrument Landing system etc. Required 34 acres of land has already been taken over and work is likely to be started after obtaining some necessary approvals. The execution period for this work is two years from the date of commencement.

[*Translation*]

India's Participation in World Tourism Market

993. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase India's share in world tourism market from 0.38-0.58 per cent during the ensuing two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in the existing participation likely to be effected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) India's share in the World Tourism Market is targetted to increase from 0.38% to

0.50% by 2007. The required tourist arrivals to India will be 4.62 million by 2007 as against 2.36 million in 2002. A series of measures to develop infrastructure with emphasis on integrated circuits, creating cultural and tourism hubs and converging elements of tourism, culture and civic governance have been initiated to enhance India's share in the global market.

[English]

Fruit Bats in Protected List of Wildlife Act

994. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the studies that show fruit bats are essential for the growth and spread of fruit trees in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping them still in the vermin list of the wildlife schedule; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put them into the Protected Schedule of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government is aware of the ecological role of bats particularly the role played by fruit bats in pollination and seed dispersal. Nevertheless, considering the fact that fruit bats cause damage to agricultural/horticulture crops, they have been included in the Schedule V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) As and when abundance status of an animal requires so, protection is provided under the provisions of the Act. Recently, two bat species including one fruit bat, namely, Salim Ali's fruit bat has been included in the Schedule I of the Act thus providing it the highest degree of protection under law.

Taking over of Monuments

995. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval of the concerned State Government is obtained before any monument is taken over by the ASI; and

(b) if not, the statutory provision that empowers the Government to take over these structures on its own initiative?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the Central Government has the powers to declare any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years, to be of national importance.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Research and Development of Agriculture

996. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the gross agricultural production being spent by the Government per annum on Research and Development activities for the development and extension of agriculture in the country;

(b) the details of the amount spent during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether some Committees were constituted in this regard who have recommended to spend atleast one percent of the gross agricultural production for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the names of the Committees alongwith action taken by the Government to implement their recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The percentage of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product being spent by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education per annum on Agricultural Research, Education and Extension activities is approximately 0.3%.

(b) The details of amount spent during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. in lakh)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
Plan	455.00	516.04	668.95
Non-Plan	790.64	703.64	618.85
Total	1245.64	1219.68	1287.80

The State-wise allocations are not made, however, the funds are allocated to ICAR Institutes/Research Centres situated in various parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ninth-Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended to spend atleast one per cent of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product on Agricultural Research, Education and Extension. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture have reiterated the same. The Department is persistently pursuing the matter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

[English]

Labour Reforms

997. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented the recommendation of 2nd National Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the implemented recommendation;

(c) whether the Government have been actively considering to introduce a Labour Bill that allow companies employing upto 300 workers to shut without seeking Government's permission and that all the existing labour laws will undergo change following the new legislation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government are proposing to enact new labour laws to promote employment and investment particularly foreign direct investment;

(f) if so, whether any legislation in this regard is being considered; and

(g) if so, the time by when this legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):
(a) and (b) The Second National Commission on Labour has made wide range of its recommendations on various facets of labour viz. review of laws, social security, women

& child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representative, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendation of the Commission were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganized Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002 as also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18-19 February, 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. However, rationalization of existing labour laws in the light of recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour would help promote employment and investment including foreign direct investment.

[Translation]

Development and Expansion of FPI

998. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have estimated the quantum of capital required for the development and expansion of Food Processing Industries during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sources from which the amount is likely to be mobilised; and

(d) the food processing capacity to be achieved by the end of the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) According to the projections made in the report of the study conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) regarding the performance and prospects of food processing, an investment of Rs. 92,208 crores in different food processing industries is likely to be generated at a GDP growth rate of 8% during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The Ministry's policy is to create an enabling environment to leverage such investments from both domestic and foreign investors. An outlay of Rs. 650 crores has been earmarked for the Plan Schemes of the Ministry for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The NCAER study has estimated a growth of 10.1% for the food processing sector for a GDP growth of 8% during the 10th Plan period.

[English]

Transport of Repatriates Free of Cost

999. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Qatar airways to transport repatriates, availing the amnesty facility recently declared by the Government of UAE to India free of cost;

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard;

(c) whether AI has taken steps to grant concessional rates to repatriates;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines has introduced amnesty fares out of UAE with effect from 18th January, 2003, which are approximately 20% lower than fares for other passengers. Similarly Air India has also offered a fare 15% lower than the cheapest market fare for amnesty seekers out of UAE.

Tourism Development in Uttaranchal

1000. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of growing menace of Naxalites at important tourist centres thereby scaring the tourists away;

(b) if so, whether the Government have envisaged any plan to make the area free from outlawed groups

to promote tourism and create employment opportunities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) No such incident has either been reported by the tourist or by the India tourism Offices in India about the menace of Naxalites at important tourist centres. Hence the question of scaring the tourists away at the important tourist centres does not arise. The Governments of Kerala, J&K, Rajasthan, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have set up Tourist Police Force for the safety of tourists at tourist destinations. Government of Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh are in the process of setting up of Tourism Police Force. Some of the States/UTs e.g. Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Assam, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep have not felt the necessity of a separate Tourist Police Force and have instructed the regular police force to look into safety and security of the tourists. Tourism as an industry has a high multiplier impact on employment creation in the hospitality sector.

Legislation for Unorganised Sector

1001. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed and ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention pertaining to protective legislation for unorganised sector including home based workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated for the implementation of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Reforms In Agriculture-Marketing Sector

1002. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Standing Committee of State Ministers to evolve an action plan for the Implementation of reform steps in the agriculture-marketing sector;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Standing Committee in its meeting held on 29.1.2003 made the following recommendations:

- (i) The States may appropriately amend, wherever needed, the respective APMC Acts to pave way for promotion of direct marketing and contract farming arrangements and for establishment of competitive agricultural markets/marketing infrastructure in private and cooperative sectors, subject to safeguarding farmers' interests.
- (ii) To request Reserve Bank of India/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to evolve a simplified procedure in consultation with banks for sanction of pledge loan on the agriculture commodities stored in rural godowns and to ensure that warehousing receipts/godowns receipts issued by the operators of rural godowns are acceptable to bankers for providing marketing credit.
- (iii) The Central Warehousing Corporation, Ministry of Food, to prepare a blue print/action plan for the introduction of negotiable warehousing receipt system in the country for agricultural commodities.
- (iv) The Central Government may formulate a model legislation on agricultural marketing for guiding the States in implementation of the reforms programme.

(c) The State Governments and the Central Government agencies are being addressed to take necessary steps to implement the aforesaid recommendations. A committee has also been setup under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture on 5th February 2003 to formulate a model legislation.

Shorter Operations

1003. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to encourage short-haul air operations with 20-30 seater planes;

(b) if so, the sectors chosen for such short-haul operations;

(c) whether the Government has decided to offer such facilities on short-haul sectors to non-scheduled operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Air Transport Operators are free to operate to any station/sector in India in accordance with the conditions of their permits.

EPF Defaulter Establishments

1004. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge list of establishments which have defaulted in EPF deposits;

(b) if so, the number of known establishments which defaulted more than Rs. 10 lakhs as on March 31, 2002 till date and State-wise; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against these defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Some of the establishments have defaulted in the payment of statutory Provident Fund dues throughout the country. The number of establishments who have defaulted for an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs or more is 863 as on March 31, 2002. The State-wise list is enclosed as statement.

(c) Whenever any default is detected, actions, under the Sections 7A, 8B, 8F to 8G, 14(1)(A), 14(B) & 7Q of Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, under Section 406/409 of IPC and under Section 110 of CrPC are taken against defaulters.

Statement

List of Establishments, Defaulting Rs. 10 Lakh and Above, as on March 31, 2002

Sl.No.	Region	Number of establishment in default
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81
2.	Bihar	18
3.	Chhattisgarh	10
4.	Delhi	15
5.	Goa	3
6.	Gujarat	85
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Jharkhand	6
10.	Karnataka	50
11.	Kerala	67
12.	Maharashtra	111
13.	Madhya Pradesh	37
14.	North Eastern Region	27
15.	Orissa	23
16.	Punjab	34
17.	Rajasthan	22
18.	Tamil Nadu	124
19.	Uttaranchal	15
20.	Uttar Pradesh	48
21.	West Bengal	62
Total		863

Pruning of Trees

1005. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hon'ble Supreme Court have recently issued any directions in regard to pruning of trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any long-term policy in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No Sir. Pruning of trees is considered on case to case basis on merit and as per the silvicultural requirement.

Permission to Corporates for Digging of Borewells

1006. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission has been granted to corporates to dig borewells for pumping up ground water for industrial use;

(b) if so, the details of companies given permission, State-wise;

(c) whether it would result in drawing up of enormous quantities of ground water by these companies;

(d) if so, whether it would assist in further depletion of water level and cause serious water crisis in the surrounding areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The proposals of ground water withdrawal in the industries referred to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) are examined on case-to-case basis and permissions accorded on technical considerations. State-wise details of industries to which permission for withdrawal of ground water has been accorded by the CGWA as on 14.01.2003 is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Permission is accorded after ascertaining that ground water withdrawals will not affect adversely the existing ground water regimes and hence there is no possibility of depletion of water table due to those permissions.

Statement

State-wise details of Industries to which Permission for withdrawal of Ground Water has been accorded by the CGWA (As on 14.01.2003)

State/Union Territory	Name and address of Industry
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1. M/s Orient Cement, Devapur Cement Works, PO Devapur District Adilabad
	2. M/s Madras Cement Ltd., Kumaraswamy Raja Nagar, Jaggayyapet taluk, Krishna District-521457
	3. M/s Nagarjuna Agrichem Ltd., Plot No. 61, 2nd floor, Nagarjuna Hills, Panjaguta, Hyderabad-500082
	4. M/s Bhagiradha Chemicals & Industries Ltd., 8-2-248/ A/B Road No. 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034
	5. M/s Konark Power Plant Ltd., Plot No. 37 A, BHEL Enclave, Akbar Road, Tarbund, Secunderabad-500009
Chhattisgarh	1. M/s South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd., Seepat Road, P.B. No. 60, Bilaspur-495006
	2. Ms/ Lafarge India Ltd., Arasmata Cement Plant, PO Gopal Nagar, District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh-495663
	3. M/s Raipur Steels and Alloys Ltd., Rajnandgoan, Chhattisgarh
Delhi	1. M/s Sabacchus Distillery Pvt. Ltd., A-548, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-44
	2. M/s Indo Gulf Industries Ltd., 11, Aradhana Colony,

1	2
	Sector-13, R.K. Puram, New Delhi (No conditions mentioned)
3.	M/s Ambuja Cement Rajasthan Limited, 248 Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi
UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1. M/s Dadra Nagar Haveli Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., New Marketing Centre, Room No. 16 & 17, Silvassa-396230 (UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli)
	1. M/s Guajrat State Electricity Corporation Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Race Course, Vadodara-390007 (Gujarat)
Gujarat	
Haryana	1. M/s Tata Consultancy Services, Plot No. 447, Sector 19 (Phase V), Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon-122016
	2. Omax Autos Limited, 69th K.M. Stone, Delhi Jaipur Highway, Dharuhera, Distt. Rewari
	3. YKK India Pvt. Ltd., Bawal Rewari District
	4. M/s Mark Auto Industries Ltd., Plot No. Q Maruti Joint Venture Complex, Gurgaon-122015
	5. M/s Indo Nippon Food Ltd., 7, H.S.I.D.C., Palam Gurgaon Road-122015
	6. Imperial Malts Ltd., Alwar Road, Village Ghosala, Badshahpur, Gurgaon-222101
	7. M/s Speedomax Ltd., Delhi Jaipur Highway, Village Sidrawali, Gurgaon

1	2
	8. M/s Munjal Auto Components, 11, Maruti Industrial Area, Gurgaon-122015
	9. M/s Cosco India Ltd., Near Railway Station, Gurgaon-122001
	10. M/s Martui Udyog Ltd., Palam Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon-122015
Kerala	1. M/s Kadashma Sidha Beach Resort, Chowara PO, Vizhinjam, Trivandrum
	2. M/s Kasargod Power Co-operation Ltd., 24/1624, Bristow Road, Willingdon Island, Cochin-682003
Karnataka	1. Ms/ Mallavali Power Plant (P) Ltd., 3rd Floor, Jayalaxmi Chambers, 57 Residency Road, Bangalore-583101
	2. Ms/ Bellary Steels & Alloys Ltd., S. 10/11, PB No. 19, Anantpur Road, Bellary-583101
	3. M/s Visvesvaraya Vidyut Nigama Limited, Eley. V.V.N.L., Sanganayakanahalli Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064
	4. M/s Hassan Power Supply Company, 17 Sankey Road, Bangalore-560020
	5. M/s R.K. Powergen Pvt. Ltd., 3423, 10th Main, 3rd Cross, (Near Water Tank), Indiranagar IInd stage, Bangalore-560038
	6. M/s Travel Inn., Pune Bangalore Road, Sattur, Dharwad-580002

1	2
Maharashtra	1. M/s BLA Industries Ltd., 84, Maker Chamber III, Nariman Point, Mumbai
	2. M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., 17 Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai-400020
Madhya Pradesh	1. M/s Som Power Ltd., Corproate Office: 23, Zone II, Maharana Pratap Nagar, Bhopal-462011
	2. M/s Prism Cement Ltd., district Satna
Orissa	1. M/s Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd., IMFA Building, Bomikhal, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751010
	2. M/s Indian Charge Chrome Ltd., Bomikhal, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar
Punjab	1. M/s Pioneer Agro Extracts Ltd., Chottinahar Malakpur, Pathankot district, Gurdaspur-145025
	2. M/s Diamond agro industries Ltd., village Nalunga, O Mirthal, tehsil Pathankot, District Gurdaspur
	3. M/s Nakoder Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Nakoder, Jalandhar
	4. M/s Duke Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., GT Road, Near Jalandhar bypass, Ludhiana-141005
	5. M/s Parvati Board and Paper Mills, 22 Focal Point, Mehta Road, Amritsar
	6. M/s Universal Dyeing Company, 161 Industrial Area, Ludhiana-141003
	7. M/s S.B. Dyeing, C/o Shruti Silk Mills, 114 Industrial Area, Ludhiana-141003

1	2
	8. M/s Abhishek Industries Ltd., (Paper & Chemical Division), Mansa Road, Dhaula, Barnala, District Sangrur-148101
	9. M/s Punjab Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Ltd., PO Bankarpur, Dera Bassi, district Patiala
	10. M/s Chandigarh Distillers and Bottlers Ltd., village Banur, tehsil Rajpura, district Patiala
	11. M/s Zira Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Zira District, Ferozpur
	12. Ms/ Hero Cycles Ltd., Hero Nagar, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141003
	13. M/s Khasa Distillery Company Ltd., PO Distillery Khasa, district Amritsar
	14. M/s Adhunik Alloys Pvt. Ltd., village Tarkhana, Michiwar, district Ludhiana
Rajasthan	1. M/s Roofit Industries Limited, Park House, Opp. AIR, MI Road, Jaipur
Tamil Nadu	1. M/s ST-CMS Electric Company Pvt. Ltd., 2nd Floor, Alsa Mall, 149 Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008
	2. Ms/ Tamilandu Electricity Board, 6th Floor, NPKRR Maaligai, 144 Anna Salai, Chennai-600002
	3. M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., G-14, JN Salai, Block-16, Neyveli-607803, Cuddalore district
Uttar Pradesh	1. M/s Noida Power Company Ltd., A-46, Sector 26, Noida

1	2
	2. M/s Ghaziabad Power Company Ltd., A-46, Sector 26, Noida
West Bengal	1. M/s Mohindra Tube Pvt. Ltd., PO Sakoa Jhora, Jalpaiguri District
	2. M/s Polba Agro Genetics Pvt. Ltd., Amdanga, district North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Steel Authority of India Limited

1007. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have bifurcated Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) into two divisions namely long product and flat product and propose to privatise SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Alloy Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plants are on the verge of revival; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has not been bifurcated into two divisions and there is no proposal to privatise SAIL at present. However, Central Marketing Organisation (CMO) of SAIL has been reorganised into Long Products and Flat Products structure with the basic objective of giving thrust to product based marketing and to integrate production with marketing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scientific Assessment of Bt. Cotton

1008. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Panel report on Bt. cotton fudged" appearing in the *Statesman*, New Delhi dated January 14, 2003;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct a comprehensive and objective scientific assessment of the benefits of the Bt. cotton as demanded by the greenpeace activists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) accorded conditional clearance for introduction of three Bt. cotton hybrids namely BT MECH 162, BT MECH 184, BT MECH 12 into the environment for a period of three years from April 2002 to March 2005. The conditions inter-alia include plantation of a non Bt. refuge around the periphery of the Bt. fields, monitoring the susceptibility of bollworms to BT gene vis-a-vis baseline susceptibility data, assessing the possible impacts on non-target insects and crops and undertaking an awareness and education programme for farmers. The three approved hybrid varieties are presently under cultivation in six States namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Some of the areas where these hybrid varieties are being cultivated have recently been monitored by the Committees constituted by this Ministry for each State. The Committees have made comprehensive and objective assessment of the agronomical benefits as well as environmental impact of the Bt. Cotton in the field and have found them to be performing satisfactorily.

Relief to Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Workers Affected by Drought

1009. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized its policy and programme to help the marginal farmers and agricultural workers affected by the severe drought in 2002-2003;

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

(c) the assistance provided for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), assistance for Agriculture Input Subsidy (AIS) is admissible to small and marginal farmers where crop loss is 50% and above

(c) A statement indicating State-wise details of assistance approved towards AIS for small & marginal farmers for current drought is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of Assistance Approved Towards Agriculture inputs subsidy for Small and Marginal Farmers for current Drought

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	For Small and Marginal Farmers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140.63
2.	Chhattisgarh	84.41
3.	Haryana	62.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	29.42
5.	Jharkhand	36.70
6.	Karnataka	169.30
7.	Madhya Pradesh	75.50
8.	Orissa	83.90
9.	Punjab	62.53
10.	Rajasthan	107.10
11.	Tamil Nadu	148.30
12.	Uttaranchal	10.02
13.	Uttar Pradesh	481.10
Total		1490.91

Wildlife Tourism in Madhya Pradesh

1010. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope to promote wildlife tourism in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop the national Parks and sanctuaries in the State;

(c) whether any assistance was granted to the State Government during the last three years for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Eco-tourism which includes Wildlife tourism is a thrust area of the Central Government. Funding support is given to the State Governments including the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for management of tourist facilities in National Parks and Sanctuaries to facilitate Wildlife viewing as well as for promoting awareness amongst tourists.

(c) and (d) The Central Government sanctioned for Wildlife tourism purposes an amount of Rs. 71.36 lakhs to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for interpretation centres, publicity and for awareness campaign.

The details of the amount sanctioned year-wise are given below:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)	
Year	Amount sanctioned
1999-2000	12.84
2000-2001	42.11
2001-2002	16.41

Decline in Ground Water Table

1011. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of fast depleting ground water table in the country causing water scarcity in drought prone States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any comprehensive plan for rain water harvesting in the States by creating necessary infrastructure;

(c) the details of funds allocated/released to various State Governments during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to make it mandatory for all schools, colleges and universities

having huge track of land and recharge potential to create infrastructure for rain water harvesting;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to consider involving UGC, Corporate sector and State Governments to help Schools, Colleges and Universities to create infrastructure for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and executive schemes for augmenting water resources including rain water harvesting. The Central Government has initiated following measures to recharge the underground water source:-

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(iv) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(v) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(c) The Central Ground Water Board implemented demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories at a cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. State-wise details of the funds allocated/released under the scheme during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Central Ground Water Authority has organised 103 mass awareness programmes and conducted 39 training courses on rain water harvesting associating representatives from Central/State Government Organisations, Group Housing Societies, Educational Institutions, Industries, NGOs/VOs and individuals to create trained manpower to take up the work of rain water harvesting. The CGWA has also issued directions to institutions/schools located in notified areas of South and South West districts of NCT Delhi. Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and Ballabgarh of Haryana, Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, Gurgaon Town and adjoining Industrial Areas of Gurgaon district of Haryana to adopt roof top rain water harvesting systems.

Statement

Details of Funds Allocated under the Central Ground Water Board's Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water' During last three years upto 20.02.2003

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Funds allocated during the last three years (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52.25
2.	Assam	63.50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00
4.	Bihar	9.84
5.	Gujarat	20.05
6.	Haryana	87.29
7.	Himachal Pradesh	63.25
8.	Jharkhand	25.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	59.96
10.	Karnataka	28.75
11.	Kerala	68.82
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33.64
13.	Maharashtra	57.30
14.	Meghalaya	18.65
15.	Mizoram	28.00

1	2	3
16.	Nagaland	122.17
17.	Orissa	856.05
18.	Punjab	264.14
19.	Rajasthan	71.69
20.	Tamil Nadu	137.94
21.	Uttar Pradesh	70.97
22.	Uttaranchal	0
23.	West Bengal	85.37
24.	NCT of Delhi	65.65
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8.39
26.	Lakshadweep	8.00
27.	Chandigarh	62.49
Total		2389.89

[Translation]

Decline in Water Table

1012. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of drinking water has been adversely affected due to declining water table in some parts of the country in past few years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Governments; and

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the years 1982-2001 indicate decline in ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some districts of various States of the country affecting the availability of drinking water. The names of the States/districts having pockets with fall in water level in the last twenty years (1982-2001) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Provision of drinking water is a State subject and various schemes for drinking water supply facilities are implemented by State Government from their own resources. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments can spend upto 5% of the fund released under the ARWSP exclusively on sustainability measures like rain water harvesting, water recharge etc. This is expected to improve ground water table. The Central Government has also sanctioned Sector Reforms Pilot Projects on Rural Water Supply in 67 districts of the country aiming at sustainability of sources and system in rural drinking water sector.

In addition, the CGWB has also initiated following measures to check the declining water table in the country:-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rain water and store it for future use.

Statement

Name of the Districts (in parts) showing fall of Water Level of More than 4 m. in Last Twenty Years (1982-2001) (Pre-monsoon Period)

Sl. No.	States	Fall in Water Level \geq more than 20 cm per year
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Anantpur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgodna, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Warangal, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam
2.	Assam	Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi-Anglong, Morigaon
3.	Bihar	Gaya
4.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Bilaspur, Champa, Dantewada, Durg, Janjgir, Kanker, Raigarh
5.	Delhi	South West, South, New Delhi, North West, West, Central
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar, Valsad
7.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Yamunanagar
8.	Jharkhand	Girdih, Lohardaga, Palamu

1	2	3
9. Karnataka	Bangalore, Bellary, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajanagar, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Koppala, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttar Kannada	
10. Kerala	Ernakulam, Idukki, Kannur, Kasaragod, Kollam, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram	
11. Madhya Pradesh	Barwani, Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Katni, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Nimach, Panna, Raisen, Ratlam, Rajgarh, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Vidisha	
12. Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nasik, Parbhani, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Thane, Wardha, Yavatmal	
13. Orissa	Angul, Balasore, Balongir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbanj, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nowrangpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Suvampur	
14. Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur	

1	2	3
15. Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Rajasmand, Sirohi, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Udaipur	
16. Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharampuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Kanya Kumari, Madras, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Tanjavur, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur Theni, Tiruvannamalai, Tuticorin	
17. Tripura	South Tripura, West Tripura	
18. Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Badaun, Banda, Ballia, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Fetehpur, Ghaziabad, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lakhimur, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzzaffarnagar, Pratapgarh, Raebareilly, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao	
19. West Bengal	Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Kochbihar, Purulia	

[English]

Charter of Demands by AINPEF

1013. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India News Paper Employees Federation have submitted a Charter of Demands to the Union Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on each of the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The All India News Paper Employees Federation (AINPEF) have recently submitted a copy of the Charter of Demands which they served on the employers' organisations viz. Indian Newspapers Society and the Indian Languages Newspapers Association. The Charter of Demand includes revision of wages w.e.f. 1st January, 2003, fitment, new groupings, DA, HRA, CCA, night shift allowance, transport allowance, LTC, medical allowance, pension, etc. for working journalists and non-journalists in the newspaper industry.

(c) The Manisana Wage Boards set up by the Government on 2.9.94 under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 submitted their recommendations on 25.7.2000. The Government accepted these recommendations with slight modifications and notified them vide Orders dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000. Since the recommendations of the Manisana Wage Boards have been accepted recently these would remain in force until the Award of the next Wage Board. The constitution of the next Wage Board is, therefore, not a point for action for the present.

As regards the Charter of Demands, the AINPEF may approach the appropriate Government (i.e. State Government under the said Act) for mediation if the parties fail to settle the matter.

Teesta Canal Project in West Bengal

1014. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Teesta Canal Project of West Bengal conceived and when it became operational;

(b) the initial estimated cost of the project, its length and the beneficiary districts; and

(c) the amount spent on its completion and how much has been shared between the Centre and the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Teesta Canal Project was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1975 for Rs. 69.72 crore (at 1970-71 price level) and the Project was taken up in May, 1976. The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 1177.00 crore (at 1996 price level) and the expenditure incurred till March, 2002 is Rs. 972.39 crore. The Project is to benefit the districts of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda in West Bengal.

The main features of the Project (sub-stage I of Stage I) are given below:

Barrage (3 Nos.)

- i. A barrage across river Teesta
- ii. A barrage across river Mahananda
- iii. A barrage across river Dauk

Canals

- I. Teesta-Mahananda link Canal (25.75 Km.)
- II. Mahananda Main Canal (32.22 Km.)
- III. Dauk-Nagar Main Canal (79.80)
- IV. Nagar-Tangon Main Canal (45 Km.)
- V. Teesta-Jaldhaka Main Canal (30.38 Km.)
- VI. Distribution system for providing irrigation of 342 th. ha (CCA) upto 5 to 8 ha. blocks. Annual irrigation envisaged is 527 th. ha.

The Planning Commission had released Central assistance of Rs. 150 crore to Government of West Bengal for this project during VIII Plan.

In 1996-97 Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India launched an "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Plan Assistance (CLA) to States with the objective of early completion of ongoing irrigation projects, which are in an advanced stage of construction. Central Loan Assistance provided by Central Government to the Government of West Bengal for Teesta Barrage Project under AIBP is given below:—

Year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Central Loan Assistance (Rs. in crore)	5.00	15.00	10.00	19.00	20.00	23.283	16.538*

*CLA recommended for release of first instalment.

Irrigation being a State Subject, the Water Resources Projects are being planned, executed and funded by the State Government out of its own resources and as per its own priorities. The Project is targeted to be completed by 2007.

Smaller Aircraft for North East

1015. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Alliance Air has launched regional air services in North Eastern Region using small aircraft;

(b) if so, the details of the services and the aircraft being put into service;

(c) the plans for expansion of these services;

(d) whether there is a demand for increasing the frequency of IA/Alliance Air flights between Kolkata-Tezpur-Guwahati-Lakimpur, Guwahati-Tezpur and introducing Silchar-Kolkata and Silchar-Guwahati flights; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and capacity utilisation of and average waiting list in respect of these flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Alliance Air has inducted four ATR 42-320 aircraft (48 seater) on dry lease for a period of five years for exclusive operations in the North East. Two ARTs have already been deployed providing the following airlinks:

Kolkata-Dimapur, Guwahati-Dimapur, Guwahati-Lilabari, Guwahati-Agartala, Kolkata-Aizwal.

The remaining two aircraft will be deployed in phases, providing the following airlinks:

Kolkata-Shillong, Silchar-Agartala, Guwahati-Aizwal.

(d) and (e) Requests have been received for increase in the frequency of operations between Kolkata-Tezpur, airlinking of Guwahati with Tezpur and Lilabari (North Lakhimpur). Lilabari (North Lakhimpur) has been airlinked with Guwahati on a thrice weekly basis with the ATR effective 2nd January, 2003 as against twice a week Boeing 737 operations. Seat factors achieved in the operation of services between Kolkata-Tezpur, Guwahati-Lilabari (North Lakhimpur), Silchar-Kolkata and Silchar-Guwahati are given below:

Flight No./ Aircraft type	Routing	Nov. 2002	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003
7215 (B737)	Kolkata/Tezpur/Dimapur/Kolkata	79.2	89.6	—
7215 (B737)	Kolkata/Tezpur/Jorhat/Kolkata	—	—	74.1
7253/7254 (B737)	Kolkata/Silchar/Kolkata	76.1	85.8	78.0
7255/7256 (B737)	Kolkata/Silchar/Imphal and return	82.2	77.7	83.9
7209/7210 (B737)	Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati	11.1	8.4	—
7753/7754 (ATR)	Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati	—	—	12.4
7251/6252 (ATR)	Silchar/Guwahati/Silchar	31.8	27.7	27.8

Shortage of Boeing 737 aircraft capacity at present does not permit any increase in the frequency of operation between Kolkata and Tezpur. There are no plans to provide an airlink between Guwahati and Tezpur.

Allocation of Funds to ICAR

1016. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds to ICAR for the Tenth Five Year Plan for R&D;

(b) whether any committees have been constituted recently to carry out research in the field of biotechnology;

(c) if so, the composition of the committees and their functions;

(d) whether the Committees have submitted their reports;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the steps taken to implement their recommendations; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the reports are likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Planning Commission have allocated Rs. 5368 crore for Tenth Five Year Plan which includes Rs. 500 crore for Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Question does not arise.

Irrigation Projects of Orissa

1017. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the agreement with the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) for financial assistance to implement some irrigation projects in the country particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No agreement has recently been signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for financial assistance to implement irrigation projects in the country. However, three irrigation projects are presently under implementation in the country with JBIC assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(In Million of Japanese Yen)

S. No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project Duration	Assistance Committed	Amount of assistance received upto 31.1.2003	Remarks
1.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	<u>12.12.1997</u> 05.02.2003	7,780.00	4563.64	Project extension till 31.12.04 recommended to the Deptt. of Economic Affairs
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Kumool Cuddapah Canal	<u>25.01.1996</u> 25.03.2003	16,049.00	8268.50	Project extension till 26.02.2005 recommended to the Deptt. of Economic Affairs
		Modernisation Project			.	
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Project	<u>25.02.1997</u> 31.03.2004	13,222.00	6173.11	—

[Translation]

Auranga and Kanha Reservoir Scheme

1018. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any revised estimate has been sent by the Jharkhand Government to the Union Government with regard to Auranga and Kanha Reservoir Schemes;

(b) if so, the amount spent during each of the last two years by the Jharkhand Government under the said schemes; and

(c) the time by which the additional financial assistance is proposed to be given to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Revised estimate of Auranga Reservoir Project has been received from Jharkhand in January, 2001, and is under appraisal in Central Water Commission. Jharkhand State Government has not submitted any project named Kanha Reservoir Scheme. However, a project named Kanhar Reservoir Project has been earlier received in 1998 from Bihar State Government. No revised estimate has been received for Kanhar Reservoir Project so far. The details of expenditure under these schemes is as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of Project	(Rs. in crore)	
		Expenditure	
		During 2000-01	During 2001-02
1.	Auranga	0.00	0.6814
2.	Kanhar	0.00	0.0425

The Centre is providing Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to the State Governments on their request to expedite completion of approved on-going projects which are in advance stage of completion. The State Government has not obtained the investment clearance from the Planning Commission so far for these projects and has also not requested for Central Loan Assistance for these projects.

New Agriculture Policy

1019. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new agriculture policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any separate agriculture policy for the newly formed States;

(d) if so, the details of assistance proposed to be given to the State of Uttaranchal in agriculture sector;

(e) whether the Government propose to impose income tax on agriculture sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) A sum of Rs. 1493.21 lakhs has been allocated during the current financial year 2002-03 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of agriculture in the State of Uttaranchal.

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

Setting up of Agricultural Export Zones

1020. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of three Agricultural Export Zones (AEZs) in Madhya Pradesh and also in other States including Kerala;

(b) if so, by when these AEZs are likely to be set up alongwith their locations; and

(c) the agricultural produces which are likely to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has by now approved 45 AEZs in country. These include three in Madhya Pradesh and one in Kerala.

AEZ is a concept of convergence of assistance programmes of Central Government and State Government. As soon as the Government approves them, the activities start with proposals emanating from the State

Government and entrepreneurs. The zones are at various stages of completion.

A list of all the AEZs along with agriculture produce which are likely to be exported, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of approved 45 Agri Export Zones

S. No.	Product	State	Districts/Area
1	2	3	4
1.	Pineapple	West Bengal	Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri
2.	Gherkins	Karnataka	Tumkur, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, Kolar, Chitradurga, Dharward and Bagalkot
3.	Lychee	Uttaranchal	Udhamsingh Nagar, Nainital and Dehradun
4.	Vegetables	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur, Ropar & Ludhiana
5.	Potatoes	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Hathras, Farrukhabad, Kannoj, Meerut, Aligarh and Bagpat
6.	Mangoes	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur & Barabanki
7.	Potatoes	Punjab	Singhpura, Zirakpur (Patiala), Rampura Phul, Muktsar, Ludhiana, Jallandhar
8.	Mango	Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur, Muzzafarnagar, Bijnaur, Meerut, Bhagpat and Bulandshahar
9.	Grapes and Grape wine	Maharashtra	Nasik, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Ahmednagar and Sholapur
10.	Mango Pulp & Fresh Vegetables	Andhra Pradesh	Chittor District
11.	Pineapple	Tripura	Kumarghat, Manu, Melaghar, Matabari and Kakraban Blocks
12.	Potatoes, Onion and Garlic	Madhya Pradesh	Malwa, Ujjain, Indore, Dewas, Dhar, Shajapur, Ratlam, Neemuch and Mandsaur
13.	Mango	Maharashtra	Districts of Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigarh and Thane
14.	Apples	Jammu & Kashmir	Districts of Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Kupwara, Badgaum and Pulwama
15.	Flowers	Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri
16.	Lychee	West Bengal	Districts of Murshidabad, Malda, 24 Pargana (N) and 24 Pargana (S)

1	2	3	4
17.	Lychee	Bihar	Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Hajipur, Vaishali, East and West Champaran, Bhagalpur, Begulserai, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Saran and Gopalganj
18.	Kesar Mango	Maharashtra	Districts of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Ahmednagar and Nasik
19.	Walnut	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir Region-Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Kupwara and Srinagar Jammu Region-Doda, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri and Kathua
20.	Flowers	Uttaranchal	Districts of Dehradun, Pantnagar
21.	Mango & Vegetables	Gujarat	Districts of Ahmedabad, Khajda, Anand, Vadodra, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bhavnagar and Narmada
22.	Flowers	Maharashtra	Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur and Sangli
23.	Potatoes	West Bengal	Districts of Hooghly, Burdwan, Midnapore (W), Uday Narayanpur and Howrah
24.	Rose Onion	Karnataka	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar
25.	Flowers	Karnataka	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar, Tumkur, Kodagu and Belgaum
26.	Mango & Grapes	Andhra Pradesh	Districts of Ranga Reddy, Medak & Parts of Mahabubnagar Districts
27.	Flowers (Orchids) & Cherry Pepper	Sikkim	East Sikkim
28.	Ginger	Sikkim	North, East, South & West Sikkim
29.	Apples	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Sirmour, Kullu, Mandi, Chamba and Kinnaur
30.	Basmati Rice	Punjab	Districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur and Nawanshahr
31.	Mangoes	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna District
32.	Flowers	Tamilnadu	Nilgiri District
33.	Onion	Maharashtra	Districts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara and Solapur
34.	Ginger and Turmeric	Orissa	Kandhamal District
35.	Vegetables	Jharkhand	Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Lohardaga
36.	Seed Spices	Madhya Pradesh	Guna, Mandla, Ujjain, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur and Neemuch
37.	Basmati Rice	Uttaranchal	Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Dehradun and Haridwar
38.	Mango	West Bengal	Malda and Murshidabad

1	2	3	4
39.	Vegetables	West Bengal	Nadia, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas
40.	Mangoes	Tamil Nadu	Districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli
41.	Wheat	Madhya Pradesh	Three district and contiguous zones—Ujjain Zone comprising of Neemach, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Ujjain Indore Zone comprising of Indore, Dhar, Shajapur and Dewas Bhopal Division, comprising of Sehore, Vidisha, Raisen, Hoshangabad, Harda, Narsinghpur and Bhopal
42.	Horticulture Products	Kerala	Districts of Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayaam, Alappuzha, Pathanumthitta, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki and Palakkod
43.	Fresh & Processed Ginger	Assam	Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar districts
44.	Basamti Rice	Uttar Pradesh	Districts of Bareilly, Shahajahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Badaun, Bijnor, Moradabad, J B Phulenagar, Saharanpur, Mujjafarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahar, Ghaziabad
45.	Meidcinal & aromatic Plants	Uttaranchal	Districts of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Dehradun and Nainital

Airports in Rajasthan

1021. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in Rajasthan where landing facility for small and large army aircraft is available;

(b) whether there is any proposal for construction of new airports in Rajasthan during the period 2003 and 2007;

(c) if so, the location-wise details thereof;

(d) the details of expenditure incurred for the development of airports since 2000, till date;

(e) the expenditure proposed to be incurred during the year 2002-2003;

(f) the number of passengers who travelled from these airports in Rajasthan since 2000, till date; and

(g) the amount of revenue earned during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The airports at Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur are suitable for operations of AB-320 type of aircraft, and Jaisalmer airport is suitable for B-737 type of aircraft. Jodhpur and Jaisalmer airports belongs to Indian Air Force. Ministry of Defence can operate similar type of aircraft at these airports.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal for construction of an airport at Ajmer in Rajasthan.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the development of airports in Rajasthan since 2000 till date is Rs. 19.82 crore.

(e) The estimated expenditure to be incurred on the development of airports in Rajasthan during 2002-2003 is Rs. 10.16 crore.

(f) 17,38,265 Passengers travelled through airports in Rajasthan from 1999-2000 till December 2002.

(g) The revenue earned from airports in Rajasthan during 2000-2001 was Rs. 9.68 crore and during 2001-2002 Rs. 12.82 crore.

*[English]***M.S.P. for Copra**

1022. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the MSP fixed for milling copra and ball copra for the 2002 season;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has requested higher rate of MSP in view of low production and productivity of coconut in the State because of mite infestation and root wilt disease;

(c) if so, the details of the higher rate asked by the Kerala Government;

(d) whether the Union Government have initiated any steps in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government has ascertained cost of production of coconut; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Government fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling and Ball copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Rs. 3300/- and Rs. 3550 per quintal respectively for 2002 season.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala had requested the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to recommend the MSP of Rs. 4600/- per quintal for Milling copra and Rs. 4800/- per quintal for Ball copra in view of low production and productivity of coconut in the State because of mite infestation and root wilt disease. While fixing the MSP for copra for 2002 season, the Government had taken the above factors into consideration.

(f) and (g) The work on collection of data on cost of production of coconut under the ongoing scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India was initiated only in 1997, and no firm data base could be generated so far under this scheme.

Indus Water Treaty

1023. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual Indo-Pak dialogue on the Indus Water Treaty could not be taken up as scheduled and was postponed; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the likely date fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No such dialogue is envisaged under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960. However, as the Permanent Indus Commission is required to submit to the Government of India and to the Government of Pakistan, before the first of June of every year, a report on its work for the year ended on the preceding 31st of March a meeting was held from 28th May to 1st June, 2002. During this meeting the Indian Commissioner agreed to consider the proposal of the Pakistan Commissioner to have the next meeting of the Commission within next three months. This meeting has now been held at Islamabad from 4th to 6th February, 2003.

*[Translation]***Assistance to States for Flood Control**

1024. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of States which have been affected due to flood during the last two years;

(b) the quantum of financial assistance sought by the State Governments; and

(c) the details of assistance given to the State Governments by the Union Government during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) List of the States which have reported damage due to floods, heavy rains and cyclonic storms during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) As per the present system, the State Governments are primarily responsible for execution of relief operations in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements efforts of the State

Governments by providing financial and logistic support. Every State has been allocated certain amount in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) based on the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission. The fund is contributed by Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. Additional assistance is also provided to the States on receipt of specific request from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of calamity of severe nature, after following the established procedure. Statement showing the additional assistance sought by the States affected by floods/heavy rains/cyclonic storms during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03; and assistance provided from the NCCF is given in enclosed Statement-II. Crops of CRF allocated to these States are also given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of the States reported damage due to floods, heavy rains and cyclonic storms during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03

Sl.No.	Name of the State
1	2
Year 2001-2002	
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh
6.	Himachal Pradesh

1	2
7.	Kerala
8.	Mizoram
9.	Orissa
10.	Punjab
11.	Tripura
12.	Uttaranchal
13.	Uttar Pradesh
Year 2002-2003	
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Gujarat
6.	Himachal Pradesh
7.	Kerala
8.	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Manipur
10.	Maharashtra
11.	Uttaranchal
12.	Uttar Pradesh
13.	West Bengal

Statement-II

Assistance sought by the States in wake of floods, heavy rains etc. and funds released from NCCF during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Calamity	Assistance sought by State Government	Assistance released from NCCF	Allocation in CRF
1	2	3	4	5	6
2001-2002					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rains/floods	278.26	20.44	207.96
2.	Bihar	Floods	735.45	66	70.31

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chhattisgarh	Floods	158.25	23.94	28.84
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Flash/Floods	—	25.00	45.66
		Rains/floods	83.33	17.50	—
5.	Kerala	Floods	551.76	@ @	70.61
6.	Orissa	Floods	1530.88	100.00	114.94

2002-2003

1.	Assam	Floods	484.19	@ @	111.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Floods	134.63	12.78#	13.25
3.	Bihar	Floods	874.71	@ @	73.82
4.	Kerala	Floods	146.32	@ @#	74.14
5.	Maharashtra	Floods	153.56	@ @	173.32
6.	Manipur	Floods	337.45	7.07#	3.16
7.	Orissa	Floods-2001		16.41\$	120.69

@ @: As adequate funds under CRF were available, no assistance approved from NCCF.

In addition to the funds from NCCF, assistance of Rs. 7.50 crore to Arunachal Pradesh and Rs. 0.34 crore to Manipur would be provided from Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under their scheme; and Rs. 0.65 crore to Kerala would be provided from Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme.

\$ For payment of bill of Air lifting during the floods of 2001.

[English]

Commercial Activities in Temples

1025. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the misuse of rooms constructed in Monastries, Temples and Matths for commercial purposes affecting the local hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith effect on local hotel industry; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the rooms are not utilised for commercial activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Private Air Taxi for Smaller Cities

1026. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to encourage private air taxi services linking smaller cities is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether such small cities have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof particularly with reference to Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and North Eastern States?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Bio-Farming Development Centre

1027. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for setting up a 'National Bio-Farming Development Centre' in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether there has been delay in according approval to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During Tenth Plan it is envisaged to implement a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming', which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF) and its regional centres to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The request of Government of Madhya Pradesh received in 29.5.2002 shall be considered at appropriate time.

Diversion of Flow of Ganga River

1028. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Canals, bandhs constructed to divert the flow of Ganga river water, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have sought permission from the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) There is no Dam constructed across river Ganga. However there are five Barrages namely (i) Bhimgoda Barrage/Upper Ganga Canal system in Uttaranchal, (ii) Bijnor Barrage/Madhya Ganga Canal

system, (iii) Narora Barrage/Lower Ganga Canal system, (iv) Ganga Barrage Project, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and (v) Farakka Barrage Project in West Bengal existing/ongoing across river Ganga. Irrigation being a State subject, steps regarding planning and execution of irrigation projects are required to be taken up by the respective State Governments.

National Project on Organic Farming

1029. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a National Project on Organic Farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to formulate national standards to boost organic farm production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Government has envisaged to implement a 'National Project on Organic Farming' during Tenth Plan, which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming, to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The components include the following:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming.
- Capacity building for organic farming.
- Support to commercial production units of organic inputs like Fruits and vegetables waste compost units, Bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture etc. and
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(c) In order to promote organic farming for export market, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has formulated a National Programme for Organic Production, which includes National Standards of organic products, Accreditation and Certification programme etc.

Flights to Bhubaneswar

1030. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide additional flight to Bhubaneswar from Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore is proposed to be introduced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has no plans to provide additional flights to Bhubaneswar from Delhi. Subject to availability of aircraft capacity Indian Airlines has plans to increase the frequency of operation between Mumbai and Bhubaneswar in its summer schedule.

(c) and (d) As per Indian Airlines estimate there would not be adequate traffic for commercially viable operations between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore. As such, Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore.

[Translation]

Assistance for Cultural Activities

1031. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes and schemes sponsored by his Ministry under "Research Assistance for the Cultural Activities" alongwith the details thereof; and

(b) the funds released for such programmes and schemes in Rajasthan during the last five years since 1.4.1998 till date, year-wise and programme/scheme-wise alongwith beneficiaries thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Culture operates the scheme entitled "Financial Assistance for Research Support to voluntary Organizations engaged in Cultural Activities", under which grants are provided to voluntary organizations which are engaged in cultural activities and are doing research in different aspects of Indian Culture as related to its traditions and philosophy. Financial assistance is also given for disseminating the results of such research through Conferences, Seminars and Symposia on important cultural matters and to meet expenditure assistance is restricted to 75% of the expenditure subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh per project as recommended by the Expert Committee.

(b) The position of funds released under the scheme in Rajasthan during the last five years is as under:—

1998-99

(i) Mitra Mandali Tarun Samaj, Bharatpur	Rs. 1,00,000/-
(ii) M.R. Morarka GDC Rural Research Foundation, Jaipur	Rs. 1,00,000/-
(iii) Vrindavan Sansthan, Jaipur	Rs. 50,000/-
(iv) Prachin Kathputli Kala Sansthan, Jaipur	Rs. 45,000/-

1999-2000

(i) Kinkini, Organisation of Performing Arts, Bhilwara	Rs. 40,000/-
(ii) Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal, Rajasthan	Rs. 1,00,000/-
(iii) Marubhoomi Shodh Sansthan, Rajasthan	Rs. 40,000/-
(iv) Pragati and Prema Sansthan, Jaipur	Rs. 30,000/-

2000-2001

(i) Pragati and Prema Sansthan, Jaipur	Rs. 40,000/-
(ii) Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sansthan, Jaipur	Rs. 70,000/-
(iii) Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Rajasthan	Rs. 40,000/-
(iv) Gandhi Vikas Samiti, Jaipur	Rs. 40,000/-
(v) Mitra Mandali Tarun Samaj, Bharatpur	Rs. 35,000/-

2001-2002

(i) Avnee Sansthan, Jodhpur	Rs. 50,000/-
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2002-2003

(i) Moon Light Society, Hanumangarh	Rs. 50,000/-
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[English]

Improvement in Passenger Traffic

1032. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been significant improvement in the aviation passenger traffic during the last few months;

(b) if so, the growth of traffic on the domestic and international sectors; and

(c) the extent to which this has helped in improving the financial health of the Indian Airlines/Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Though there has been growth during 2002 as

compared to 2001 both in case of domestic as well as international passenger traffic, there was decline in the year 2001 as compared to year 2000 in both sectors. Domestic passengers carried in the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 133.21, 128.10 and 133.17 lakhs respectively. Similarly, international passengers carried by Air India and Indian Airlines in the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 37.48, 37.33 and 40.21 lakhs respectively. Due to competition, increase in ATF prices and adverse market situation, yields have gone down and therefore financial health of Indian Airlines and Air India has not improved significantly. Air India has generated a net profit of Rs. 54.10 crores (Prov.) during April-November, 2002 compared to a net loss of Rs. 24.84 crores during the previous year. The passenger revenue of Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) has increased from Rs. 861 crores during October-December, 2001 to Rs. 1009 crores during October-December, 2002.

Tourist Police Force

1033. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State Governments have been asked to deploy "Tourists Police Force" at important tourist centres;

(b) if so, the number of States which have implemented this suggestion;

(c) whether any financial assistance is being given by the Union Government to the State Governments for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Governments of Kerala, J&K, Rajasthan, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have set-up Tourist Police Force for the facility of the tourists at important tourist destinations. Government of Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh are in the process of setting up of Tourist Police Force. Some of the States/UTs e.g. Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Assam, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep have not felt the necessity of a separate Tourist Police Force and have instructed the regular police force to look into safety and security of the tourists.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Organic Farming

1034. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR have recently brought out a Directory on bio-fertilizers, organic farming and organic products which can be exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to create a testing and certifying agency for testing of such products to safeguard the consumer interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During Tenth Plan, a National Project on Organic Farming has been formulated which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming to promote organic farming in the country with due emphasis on creation of a system of certification for organic produce.

Service charges by Pawan Hans

1035. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organisations, parties, persons and officers of Central/State Governments/PSUs who have been provided Helicopters by the Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited during the last three years;

(b) the total money realised by the Central Government from each of the above for use of Pawan Hans Helicopters during the above period;

(c) the details of defaulters of Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to realise the dues of Pawan Hans from these defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During the last three years, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has provided helicopters on charter basis to the State Governments/Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, West

Bengal, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. PHHL has also provided helicopters to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Hardy Oil Exploration, Oil India Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, National Thermal Power Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, National Fertilizers Limited, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Naptha Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Border Security Force, Collectorate of Customs (Jamnagar), Parliamentary Committee (Official Language), Department of Ocean Development, as well as Ministry of Home Affair. Besides, PHHL provides helicopters to persons or parties on charter basis.

(b) A total of Rs. 115.71 crores, 129.28 crores and 129.22 crores (provisional) were realised by PHHL during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively.

(c) An amount of Rs. 0.11 crore, 1.30 crores and 0.57 crore is due from Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government of Jharkhand and Collectorate of Customs (Jamnagar) respectively.

(d) PHHL has been taking necessary action for realising the due payments.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Milk and Milk Products

1036. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose stiff anti-dumping duty on milk and milk products exported by European Economic Community and the U.S. to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have worked out any specific plan to protect domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) A request was made by National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited/National Dairy Development Board to Directorate General of Anti Dumping & Allied Duties, Ministry of Commerce & Industry in November, 1998 for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil imported from European Union. The same was subsequently withdrawn by the petitioner.

A petition has now been filed by the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro Based Industries for initiation of anti-dumping investigations on import of Butter Oil from New Zealand. Director General, Anti Dumping vide notification dated 26.11.2002 has initiated the investigations in the matter.

(c) to (e) According to the Anti-Dumping Rules, the initiation of anti-Dumping investigations is normally undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with a prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry.

Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal Project

1037. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite directions from the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Supreme Court the work on Satluj-Yamuna Canal Project has not been resumed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the further action proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated the 15th January, 2002, the State of Punjab was directed to continue the digging of the canal and make it functional within one year. Subsequently, the Central Government has also been pursuing with the State Government for details in regard to compliance of the judgement by the State Government. The State, however could not resume work on the Suttlej Link Canal portion for their own reasons.

(c) The Supreme Court judgement has also directed the Union of India to complete the canal as expeditiously as possible through its own agencies, if the canal is not completed by the State of Punjab within a period of one year. Keeping in view the intricacies involved as the canal work was executed by, and is concerned with, the State, details such as pending works, revised costs and

construction schedule have been sought from the Government of Punjab for working out a contingency plan and these are awaited.

[*Translation*]

Effects on Unemployment due to MNCs

1038. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the effects on unemployment after arrival of Multi-National Companies in the country;

(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 LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) No study at All India level has been conducted by Ministry of Labour to assess impact of arrival of multi national companies on unemployment. Due to Globalization and Economic liberalization some employment opportunities in the older type of enterprises might have been reduced due to declining efficiency, but at the same time new employment opportunities are created in a number of new areas such as Information Technology, Tourism, Financial Services, etc. On the whole, employment which was of the order of 374 million in 1993-94 has gone up to 397 million during 1999-2000.

[*English*]

Upgradation of Tourist Facilities at Taj Mahal

1039. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects have been planned/launched to make Taj Mahal more tourist friendly by beautifying the heritage complexes and upgrading facilities;

(b) if so, whether efforts are being made to acquire agricultural land for Taj National Park Project;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to seek permission from Supreme Court for opening the Taj Mahal for viewing at night;

(d) if so, whether there is also any proposal to beautify the Yamuna river front; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the same is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The work is being undertaken by the Horticulture Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Taj Trapezium Zone Project Heritage Corridor is to be developed by connecting the following monuments such as Ram Bagh, Itmad-ud-daulah, Agra Fort and Taj Mahal situated on the banks of the river Yamuna. The disilting work of the river Yamuna has already been started by the National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., a Government of India undertaking. The Heritage Corridor is to be executed by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board. As this project has several agencies and sub-components, the time frame cannot be indicated.

[*Translation*]

Production of Bt Cotton

1040. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BT Cotton has been produced in various parts of the country during the last year and also in the current year;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which aforesaid variety of cotton has been produced and the area of land where the above variety of cotton has been cultivated and the total production thereof recorded;

(c) whether growing of BT cotton has resulted in decline in the total production of cotton; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise area and production of BT Cotton is estimated as:

	(Area in acres)	(Lint production in quintals)
Gujarat	22918	27409
Madhya Pradesh	3676	2770
Maharashtra	30227	25454
Andhra Pradesh	9192	13236
Karnataka	5463	5850
Tamil Nadu (provisional)	1485	2199

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Improvement of Environment in and
around Ganga and Yamuna**

1041. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the environment around Ganga and Yamuna rivers;

(b) if so, whether assistance of semi-government departments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation to cover pollution abatement works in 155 towns along polluted stretches of 29 rivers spread over 17 States. Ganga and Yamuna rivers are also covered under NRCP. Details in this regard are given in the Statement enclosed. The objective is to improve the water quality of the major rivers, which are the major fresh water sources in the country through the implementation of the following pollution abatement schemes:

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.

- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other miscellaneous works like public awareness, public participation etc.

Assistance of semi-government departments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is also being taken to create public awareness for improving the environment around Ganga and Yamuna rivers. During the last three years, the services of the following NGOs have been taken to create public awareness under the Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans.

1. Utthan Centre for Sustainable Development & Poverty Alleviation
2. Rashtriya Grameen Krishi Vidyapeeth
3. Anusuchit Jati Avam Jan Kalyan Sanstha
4. Gram Udyog Bal Vidya Niketan
5. Jai Gayatri Ma Bal Vidya Mandir
6. Lok Sewa Sansthan
7. Vividh Kala Evam Jan Jagriti Sansthan
8. Vikas Udyog Samiti
9. Mumbairpur Gramudyog Sansthan
10. Evergreen Education Society
11. Triveni Gramudyog Sansthan
12. All India Ubers Rays For Global Emergence
13. Bhawani Siksha Prasar Parishad
14. Paryavaran Sachetak Dal
15. Yuva Manch Samajik Sansthan
16. Shiv Shakti Gramudyog Sansthan
17. Sulabh International
18. Mehka Angan (Sub NGO)
19. Nari Chetana Sanghathan

20. Cultural Department
21. Aadrash Gram Udyog Samiti
22. Jan Jagriti Sansthan
23. Haryana Environmental Society
24. Prayas
25. Asian Centre for Organisation Research and Development
26. Joint Assistance Centre
27. Tata Energy Research Institute
28. Sulabh International Social Services Organisation
29. Centre for Social Research
30. Srishthi
31. Action for Green Earth
32. Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre
33. Indian Environment Society
34. Samaj Sewa Sansthan
35. Shahid Virendra Smarak Samiti
36. All India Centre for Urban & Rural Development
37. Mayur Mahila Jagriti Sansthan

A number of evaluation studies for the works completed under Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans have been carried out the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. The recommendations of these evaluation studies are being used for making necessary corrections in the subsequent programmes.

Statement

The following evaluations have been carried out under National River Conservation Plan for Ganga and Yamuna River Action Plans:

1. Evaluation of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I

A comprehensive evaluation of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I by independent agencies (Universities and R&D Institutions) was undertaken in April 1995. The evaluation report has concluded that reduction of discharge of organic matter, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality, has been achieved to a fair level under GAP. Concern has been expressed about contamination of the river with bacterial pollution. However, it is mentioned that GAP as conceived and implemented is an appropriate programme

for application to other river basins. The shortcomings of the programme have also been brought out in the report and have been taken note of for application in the subsequent programmes.

2. Cost Benefit Analysis of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I

On the direction of the Planning Commission of India, a Cost Benefit Analysis of GAP Phase-I was carried out by Harvard Institute of International Development in 1995-96, in collaboration with reputed national institutes. Funds for the study was provided by the Government of U.K.

- The broad conclusion of the study is that in spite of its many shortcomings, the GAP has delivered significant benefits to India. The water quality model of the river Ganga was used to estimate the Ganga river quality during 1995 and beyond, both with and without the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. The model showed that in 1995, a total stretch of river of about 437 km. between Rishikesh (UP) and Rajmahal (Bihar) still has biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels above the permissible limit of 3.0 mg/l. The problem stretch mainly lies between Kannauj and Varanasi. However, without GAP this stretch would have been about 740 km and more than 100 km would have exceeded 10 mg/l. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels would have been below 5.0 mg/l for a short stretch near Kanpur. Hence, it can be seen that GAP has made a significant difference to water quality.
- Both users and non-users have benefited & the result is that the real rate of return on Phase-I is well above the 10% required to public sector projects.
- It would be unreasonable for a developing country like India to expect to achieve in 10 years what it has taken countries with many more resources over 20 years to achieve particularly for much smaller rivers than Ganga. Second, the costs involved in other river cleaning-up programmes have been enormous, and given the similar type of objectives with relatively larger scale operations, the cost earmarked for the GAP is much smaller. Thus, in terms of both the cost and time taken, GAP compares favourably with those of the other major rivers of the world like Thames, Rhine and Danube.

3. Performance Evaluation of Sewage Treatment Plants set up under GAP-I

The Central Pollution Control Board, on the directions of Supreme Court carried out a detailed inspection of the STPs set up under GAP Phase I in July, 2001. According to the conclusion and recommendations of the Inspection Report submitted by CPCB, out of 35 STPs sanctioned under GAP Phase I (3 STPs in Uttaranchal, 10 STPs in U.P., 7 STPs in Bihar and 15 STPs in West Bengal), 32 were commissioned and of these 29 were found functioning. The report also indicates that adequate fund allocation for O&M of STPs is not provided particularly in Bihar and U.P.

4. Performance Review of Yamuna Action Plan Project Works

A performance review of Yamuna Action Plan project works (original and extended phase) was carried out by Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee during the year 2002. On the basis of the assessment of the works in the YAP towns, it is concluded that the YAP is a well conceived and implemented Plan which has served the purpose of improving the water bodies receiving the water and the general environment of the towns. However, some short-comings have also been brought out which will be addressed in the subsequent phases of the Action Plan.

Protection of Interests of Fishermen from WTO Provisions

1042. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the impact of WTO provision on fish industry in the country in order to protect the interest of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an International Conference on Fisheries was held at Mumbai recently in which WTO provisions vis-a-vis fish industry was discussed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Union Government propose to safeguard the interests of fishermen from the WTO provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Government has instituted a study by an independent organization for analyzing the implications on the domestic fisheries sector of the impact of strengthened disciplines on fisheries subsidies and to make a balanced assessment of the extent to which this could ensure sustainable and responsible fishing.

(c) and (d) During the Sixth Indian Fisheries Forum and International Seminar on Fisheries Policies held at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai during 17-20 December 2002 the issues relating to impact of WTO, Intellectual Property Rights, new economic policies, the challenges and opportunities in fisheries sector etc. were discussed.

(e) Although the quantitative restrictions on several items of fish and fishery products have been removed the quantity of fish imported is reported to be insignificant and some amount of fish imported its being processed for re-export with value addition. Also the basic customs duty for fish and fishery products is fairly high and offer a significant level of protection to the domestic producers of fish. The Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures that are in force help in protecting the health of indigenous fish population as well as consumers through risk analysis. A clear position on the issue of negotiations on fisheries subsidies shall emerge after wide range of consultations with stake holders perusal of the study report referred to in parts '(a)' and '(b)' of the question.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts

1043. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacant posts in his Ministry during the period 1997-1998 to December 2002, Grade-wise;

(b) the details of the vacant posts out of them under reserved categories, Grade-wise;

(c) the details of posts filled up during the said period;

(d) whether the Government have lifted the ban on recruitment of candidates belonging to SC/ST and accelerated the recruitment process; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to

(c) The details of vacant posts in Group 'A' category are assessed and filled up by the Department of Personnel & Training. Information in respect of other categories of posts is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) There was no ban on recruitment of candidates belonging to SC/ST.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of vacant posts for the years 1997 to 2002 alongwith communal break-up

Section Officer				Assistant				UDC			LDC			
UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	UR	SC	ST	OBC
2	—	2	1	13	1	3	6	11	—	6	38	3	—	19

Pvt Secretary			Personal Assistant				Stenographer				Group D			
UR	SC	ST	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC
3	2	—	9	1	—	1	10	1	2	10	8	11	2	1

Details of posts filled up against vacancies for the years 1997 to 2002

Section Officer				Assistant				UDC			LDC			
UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	UR	SC	ST	OBC
2	—	2	—	9	1	2	4	7	—	4	20	1	1	9

Pvt Secretary			Personal Assistant				Stenographer				Group D			
UR	SC	ST	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC	UR	SC	ST	OBC
—	1	—	5	—	1	1	6	—	—	1	8	11	2	1

Details of vacant posts under reserved categories

Section Officer	1 (OBC)
Assistant	3 (1 ST and 2 OBC)
UDC	2 (ST)
LDC	12 (2 SC and 10 OBC)
Pvt. Secretary	1 (SC)
Personal Assistant	1 (SC)
Stenographer	12 (1 SC, 2 ST and 9 OBC)
Group 'D'	Nil

[English]

Fish Industry

1044. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the problems being faced by the fish industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the fish industry from collapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) The Government are aware of the problems faced by fish industry such as increase in operational cost, inadequate infrastructure, trained manpower and financing, poaching by foreign fishing vessels etc.

(c) Government have taken, inter-alia, following steps for development of fish industry:—

1. Setting up of fishing harbours at major and minor ports.

2. The Indian Coast Guard have been entrusted to check poaching by foreign fishing vessels.
3. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) provides technical guidance to the seafood industry besides operating a number of developmental schemes and providing financial assistance to the seafood industry for acquisition/setting up of infrastructural requirements, laboratory etc. and also for renovation of existing facilities.
4. New Guidelines for fishing operations in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have been issued in November, 2002.
5. Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) provides training in various aspects of fishing vessel operations.

Recommendations by GoM

1045. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Group of Ministers (GoM) was set up to find ways and means to fight the drought and to create conditions for meeting any future exigencies;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the GoM; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) A Task Force on Drought Management headed by the Deputy Prime Minister has been constituted for policy decisions to deal with current drought in many States.

(b) and (c) The decisions taken by the Task Force include allocation of foodgrains free of cost for relief employment, relaxations in the guidelines for allocations under normal component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme, financial support for running cattle

camps and free transportation of water and fodder by the Railways. Major decisions of the Task Force have already been implemented.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Bihar

1046. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of medium/major irrigation projects of Bihar pending with the Union Government till date;

(b) the present status of Kadwan and Kanhar projects;

(c) whether both the projects are likely to have irrigation and hydel power generation capacity; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government for the completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The reorganized Bihar State has submitted four major irrigation projects namely Punpun Barrage Project, Tilayia Dhadhar Project, Kadwan Reservoir Project and Upper Mahananda to the Central Government for their Techno-Economic appraisal. Out of these, Punpun Barrage and Tilayia Dhadhar Projects, have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject of certain conditions which are yet to be complied by the State Government. The Kadwan Reservoir and Upper Mahananda Projects are under correspondence with the State Government. Similarly the Kanhar Project in the State of Jharkhand is also under correspondence with the concerned State. The clearance of these projects is linked to the prompt and satisfactory compliance of the conditions/observations of the Advisory Committee and Central Appraising Agencies by the concerned State Governments. The Kadwan reservoir project in Bihar and Kanhar Project in Jharkhand, on completion, will provide irrigation and hydel power generation benefits as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Name of State	Latest estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Irrigation benefits in Th. Ha./power Gen. in MW
1.	Kadwan Reservoir Project	Bihar	1111.14	221.27/450
2.	Kanhar Project	Jharkhand	1015.76	57.67/300

Being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State

Government out of their own resources as per their own priorities.

*[English]***National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1047. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make provision to take panchayat as a unit for assessment of the crop loss, instead of block as a unit under National Agricultural Insurance Schemes;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the provision of the scheme each participating State/UT is required to reach the level of Gram Panchayat as a unit of insurance so as to reflect more realistically the crop losses suffered on account of natural calamities. But reduction in the unit area of insurance will definitely, lead to conduct greater number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs). Implementing States are not in a position to undertake additional CCEs because of limited manpower and the other infrastructural facilities available with them.

In order to overcome this difficulty a new method namely Small Area Crop Estimation Method (SACEM) has been devised by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) to make assessment of yield rates at Gram Panchayat level. This new method is under process of experimentation.

(c) Question does not arise.

Decline in Employment

1048. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the International Labour Organisations' global employment trends report wherein Indian labour force was projected to grow at 1.89% annually where as employment opportunities is expected to remain minimal; and

(b) if so, the long-term strategies proposed to be made to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, as per the estimates available from labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, annual average growth rate of labour force during 1994-2000 was 1.03% as against 0.98% growth rate of employment.

(b) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth on those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment.

Exploitation of Poor Workers

1049. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 56th Report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has revealed that the actual gross value added per month per worker in unorganized sector is Rs. 1,623.33 which translate into a gross value added of Rs. 1,352.75 per month;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any specific action against exploitation of poor workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) On the basis of survey on "Unorganised Manufacturing Sector in India" conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in its 56th Round during July 2000-June 2001, the annual gross value added per worker comes to Rs. 16233 which may translate into an estimated gross value added of Rs. 1352.75 per month on an average.

(b) and (c) The economic exploitation of labour in the country is checked through enactment and enforcement of a number of labour laws aimed at protecting and promoting the health, safety, welfare and social security of workers. The Central Government has enacted a number of labour legislations to protect the workers from economic exploitation. These enactments are the Payment of the Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The provisions of these enactments ensure that the

workmen are paid their wages at regular intervals and without unauthorised deductions. These laws also ensure that the workers employed in the scheduled employments and in the unorganised sector are paid the wages, which are not less than the minimum rates of wages fixed by the appropriate Governments. Further, the Equal Remuneration Act has been enacted to provide for payment of equal wages to female workers as paid to the male workers when employed to do same work or work of similar nature.

These enactments also provide that the aggrieved workmen can file claim applications/complaints before the prescribed authority in order to get their dues paid/settled. These Acts also provide for penalties such as fines and imprisonments for violation/non-compliance of the provisions of the Acts.

Setting up of Fishing Harbours in Gujarat

1050. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fishing harbours set up in Gujarat at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some more fishing harbours in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Details of fishing harbours set up in Gujarat location-wise are as below:

S.No.	Name of Fishing Harbour	District
1.	Veraval	Junagadh
2.	Mangrol Stage-I and Stage-II	Junagadh
3.	Porbandar	Porbandar
4.	Jakhau Phase-I	Kutch

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has posed two proposals for setting up of new fishing harbours one at Okha in Jamnagar district and other at Dholai in Valsad district and sought for 50% Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on fishing harbour facilities at major & minor Ports.

(c) The proposals received from the Government of Gujarat for construction of two new fishing harbours at Okha and Dholai have been examined and State

Government has been requested to furnish further clarifications such as (i) availability of land with the concerned department of the State Government for development of proposed fishing harbours, (ii) completion of environmental clearance from the competent authority for implementation of the fishing harbour projects and (iii) adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget to share 50% capital cost of the projects. The State Government has not submitted clarifications on these issues.

Misuse of Ceremonial Lounge at IGI Airport

1051. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Airport protocol is thrown to the winds as Goel throws a fit" appearing the 'Indian Express' dated January 7, 2003;

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

(c) the laid down procedure of using the Ceremonial Lounge at the IGI airport;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request was received by Airport Director for use of Ceremonial lounge at terminal II, IGI Airport by Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office. Airport Director explained that as per the laid down procedure regarding the use of the Ceremonial Lounge, Ministers of State are not entitled for this. However, later as per directions of the Ministry the lounge was opened for use of Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office. Ministry of Civil Aviation can authorise use of the lounge in individual cases.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decline in Investment in Animal Husbandry Sector

1052. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in livestock has declined from 1.1% of the total budget in the Ninth Five Year Plan to 0.6% in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for curtailing the amount;

(c) the breakup of investment in the Tenth Five Year Plan between various sectors of Animal Husbandry and Fishery;

(d) whether its decline is due to the inability of the department to properly pose projects and proposals before the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was provided an allocation of Rs. 2345.64 crores for the Ninth Five Year Plan was 1.1% of the projected Total Budgetary Resources of the Government. The Plan allocation for the Tenth Plan has been enhanced to Rs. 2500.00 crores which is 0.62% of the Total Central Plan Budgetary Resources of Rs. 4,05,735.00 crores of the Government.

(c) to (e) The Department forwarded proposal of Rs. 6083.00 crores for the Tenth Plan against which the Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs. 2500.00 for the Tenth Plan. The sector wise allocation of Department for the Tenth Plan is as under:

Animal Husbandry	—	Rs. 1395.00 crores
Dairy Development	—	Rs. 355.00 crores
Fisheries	—	Rs. 750.00 crores.

[English]

Review of the Working of ESIS

1053. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up Committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma to review the working of the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee was set up in August, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma to review to working of the ESIC.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Committee has made recommendations to optimize the working of ESIC. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended to enhance the coverage of ESIC, extension of ESI Scheme to unorganized sector workers, increase in the wage ceiling for coverage of the scheme, raising of the ceiling on expenditure, and that the concept of Model Hospitals should be vigorously pursued, that there should be computerization and simplification of procedures.

(e) The Committee has made a comprehensive study of the ESI Scheme and suggested methods for its improvement; which have to be examined by the ESI Corporation for their implementation.

[Translation]

Delay in Flights due to Fog

1054. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and international flights of various airlines whose arrival or departure was delayed, cancelled or disturbed at both the airports in Delhi during December 2002 and January 2003 because of fog, airways-wise;

(b) the loss suffered by Air India, Indian Airlines and Alliance Airways each due to delay/cancellation of flights;

(c) whether advance landing systems are installed at the Delhi Airport to enable flights to operate even in foggy conditions;

(d) if so, since when and the amount incurred on their installation;

(e) whether these equipments could not be put to use;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the steps taken to remove the lapses and deficiencies;

(h) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India aircrafts equipped with ILS CAT IIIA failed to land although similar aircraft belonging to foreign airlines landed at IGI;

(i) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the strategy being developed to deal with foggy conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) A total 102 domestic and 66 international flights have been diverted at Delhi Airport during December 2002 to January 2003. Airlines-wise number of diverted flights are as under:-

Indian Airlines-47, Air India-24, Jet Airways-25, Air Sahara-14, Indian Air Force-4, Alliance Air-5, Lufthansa-6, Blue Dart-4, Aeroflot-5, Air France-5, Kuwait Airways-3, British Airways-6, Malaysian Airlines-3. Besides, one flight each of MP Government, Vidyut Travels, Royal Nepal, Sri Lankan Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Gulf Air, Austrian Airlines and Swiss Air were also diverted.

(b) The loss suffered due to delay/cancellation of flights by Air India and Indian Airlines are Rs. 4.89 crores and Rs. 3.30 crores respectively.

(c) to (g) The Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-III A installed at Delhi airport permits authorised aircraft to land in poor visibility conditions in Runway Visual Range of not less than 200 meters. This system was installed at a cost of Rs. 43 crores. It was commissioned in December 2001 and since then it has been working satisfactorily.

(h) to (j) Indian Airlines and Air India could not utilize the Cat-III A ILS due to inadequate training to their pilots for this system. 6 pilots of Air India and 8 pilots of Indian

Airlines have so far been trained and approved for Cat-III A operations on A-320 and A-310 aircrafts respectively. Further training could not be initiated due to inability of the American Boeing Instructors to visit India to provide training to the pilots due to December 13, 2001 attack on Parliament. They are now coming in March, 2003 to train our pilots. Thereafter, the system would be utilised by the Indian pilots. Utilisation of ILS Cat-III A depends upon the training of pilots and their authorisation by the Government.

[English]

Animals Performing in Circus

1055. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Wildlife (Protection) Act to give circus a Zoo status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefit/loss to the circus community after this amendment; and

(d) the time by which this amendment is likely to be carried out and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Circuses have been brought under the definition of a 'Zoo' by an amendment to Section 2(39) of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) The circuses will be required to conform to the prescribed norms and standards of health care and upkeep of animals as per the Rules made under the Act.

(d) The amendments will come into effect from the date appointed by the Central Government by notification in the official gazette.

[Translation]

Mining Works Around Tourist Places

1056. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tourist centres in the country are on the verge of destruction due to mining works being carried out in their surroundings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being considered by the Government to save such Centres?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism has not received any such report from the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Smuggling of Forest Resources

1057. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing smuggling of Teak, Sandalwood and Bamboo from Orissa forests by forest Mafia;

(b) if so, the details indicating the quantity of the aforesaid forest resources smuggled during the last three years and thereafter; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the smuggling of these forest resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Government are aware of smuggling of Teak, Sandalwood & Bamboo from the forests of Orissa.

(b) The details of Teak, Sandalwood and Bamboo smuggled during last three years are as given hereunder:

Year	Teak (cu.m.)	Sandalwood (kg)	Bamboo (No.)
1999-2000	280	1070	11716
2000-2001	270	1270	14116
2001-2002	1150	1050	15757

(c) Steps taken by the Orissa Forest Department to stop smuggling of these forest resources are:

- i. Regular patrolling of forest areas by the forest department staff.
- ii. Development of an efficient wireless communication system.
- iii. Deployment of one Company of CRPF in the Berbera and Dhunanali Reserved Forests in the Puri District for protection of Teak forests.

iv. 19 number of A.P.R. Units have been deployed to check smuggling of forest resources.

v. 265 check gates have been functioning to prevent smuggling.

vi. The forest personnel are provided with guns and revolvers for self-defence and handling the forest Mafia.

vii. Involvement of local people in forest protection.

Rabi and Kharif Crops

1058. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rabi crops will surpass Kharif output this year;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated production of the Kharif;

(c) whether the target of the production of Kharif has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the second advance estimates released on 10.2.2003 the rabi foodgrain production during 2002-03 is likely to be 92.91 million tonnes as compared to the likely production of 90.26 million tonnes during Kharif season. As far as oilseeds are concerned, the rabi production is likely to be 6.99 million tonnes while the likely Kharif production is 8.45 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) During 2002-03 the target fixed for Kharif foodgrains production was 110.48 million tonnes against which the likely achievement is 90.26 million tonnes. For kharif oilseeds, while the target was fixed at 15.90 million tonnes, the likely achievement is 8.45 million tonnes.

(e) The target could not be achieved due to severe drought conditions in several States. Taking into account the increase in input cost caused by drought, the Government announced one time Special Drought Relief Price, over the above the Minimum Support Price, varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal for kharif crops of 2002-03 season. Other measures include promotion of watershed development, development and promotion of new technology etc.

Maintenance of fort in Jaisalmer

1059. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jaisalmer Fort has been declared a protected national monument;

(b) whether the Fort is in a dilapidated condition due to improper maintenance and conservation by the ASI; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for proper conservation and maintenance by ASI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Jaisalmer Fort is a protected monument. In the past, due to variety of reasons, it has not received the attention/resources that it deserves. Now the Government have drawn up a comprehensive project for repair/restoration/conservation/improvement of the Fort and its environment.

Jaisalmer Fort/Town/region has also been designated as one of the Hubs of Tourism, Culture and clean civic life.

[Translation]

Scheme for Farming on Small Land Holdings

1060. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes to make farming on small-land holdings a remunerative proposition are under implementation/consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the measures being adopted in this regard; and

(c) the results achieved so far as a result of implementation of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no exclusive scheme for making farming on small land holding a remunerative proposition. However, various schemes are implemented by the Government to increase the production and productivity

and farmers having small holdings also draw benefit from these schemes.

[English]

Environmental Effects on Linking of Rivers

1061. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the impact on environment as a result of linking of rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. The NWDA has identified 30 linkages for preparing feasibility report of which feasibility reports for six links have been completed. The study of environmental and ecological aspects of interbasin water transfer link projects forms part of the feasibility studies undertaken by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in respect of every link under National Perspective for water resources development. As per these studies, beneficial impacts of the link projects include providing water supply for domestic, irrigation and industrial uses, mitigation of floods in the rivers down stream of reservoirs, recreation, pisciculture, power generation, employment avenues, socio-economic upliftment of people, improvement in ground water recharge etc.

The major undesirable impacts will be due to submergence under reservoirs and land acquisition for the link canal. To the extent possible, existing and ongoing projects are proposed for integration in the link proposals without creation of any additional storage. Thus, every effort is made to minimize the rehabilitation and the resettlement (R&R) problems due to the link projects. In respect of projects proposed by States/NWDA forming part of the link proposals, adequate provision has been

made to take care of R&R aspects, compensatory afforestation etc. Mostly, the link proposals are so aligned to avoid forests, habitations, National Monuments/ Parks.

Revival Project of IISCO

1062. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Russia have refused to invest in the ailing Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) as a part of the revival project lying with the IDBI which is the operating agency of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The revival package being considered by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) does not envisage any investment from the Government of Russia. The implementation of the package is awaiting the approval of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

Tourism Development in Rajasthan

1063. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set under different schemes for development of tourism in Rajasthan during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the extent to which these targets have been achieved during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No targets were fixed by the Department of Tourism for any State. However, 72 tourism projects with Central financial component of Rs. 1164.79 lakhs were sanctioned in Rajasthan during the 9th Plan. Out of these, 23 projects have been completed to date.

Heritage Tourism

1064. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heritage Hotels are gaining popularity among tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to promote Heritage Hotels and Heritage Tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Heritage Hotels are gaining popularity among tourists in view of the unique holiday experience that they offer. The number of approved Heritage Hotels has increased from 9 in 1996 to 69 in 2002.

(c) Heritage hotels are given publicity in India and abroad through the India tourism Offices, brochures and marketing campaigns. Heritage hotel projects approved prior to 1.4.2002 are eligible to avail interest subsidy @ 5% on loans taken from designated Financial Institutions.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7022/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 790 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 124 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See N. LT. 7023/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Coconut Development Board Recruitment (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 38 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2003 under section 21 of the Coconut Development Act, 1979.

[Placed in Library See no. LT-7024/2003]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section (3) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) The Fertilizer (Control) Amendment Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 49 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003.
- (ii) S.O. 50 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2003 containing order notifying the specification in respect of the provisional fertilizers to be manufactured by M/s. IFFCO for a period of two years w.e.f. the 16th January, 2003.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-7025/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 7026/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAYNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of working of Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-7027/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-7028/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): I beg to lay on the Table—A copy of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 23 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2003 under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-7029/2003]

12.03 hrs.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Forty-First and Forty-Second Report

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:—

- (1) Forty-first Report on Procurement of WLL equipment relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications); and
- (2) Forty-Second Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Friday, the Government had assured that with the leaders and activists of SP in UP ...*(Interruptions)* The Government would reply after collecting all information ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Today, we are starting a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We can start the discussion just now provided the House agrees. I leave it to the House to decide. Dr. Malhotra, I have raised a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of saints of the country are sitting at the Janter-Manter.

MR. SPEAKER: I am talking to Malhotraji. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Today, there is going to be a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I want to know the sense of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am on another subject. Please sit down. You do not allow the Speaker to speak! What

does it mean? When I am standing, you are expected to sit down. Please sit down. I am just standing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): You are not listening to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am properly listening to you. But I want to put before the House as to whether the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address can be started now or not. That is my question. If the Members agree, we can start the discussion now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party has to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The reply of the question raised is being given, listen please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, on Friday, the Government was willing to make a statement on what happened in U.P. We thought that the Government would make the statement today, immediately after the Question Hour is over and after the statement is made, we can take up the discussion on the President's Address if it is agreed to by all the Members ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, what have you to say?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I am going to permit you. Please sit down. Since you want to raise an important issue, I will permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I am telling you, please ask your Members to sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am going to tell you, but ask your Members to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I wanted to take the sense of the House whether we can start the debate just now. When I put it before the House, Shri Shivraj Patil said that he had no objection. But he has also desired that the statement which is to be made on U.P. may be made immediately and thereafter we can start the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted it. Please sit down. Who told you that I have accepted what he has said. He has only suggested that. Now, I am taking the sense of the House.

Before that, hon. Members from this side want to raise some important issues. I will permit them. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, I do not think that the House wants to start the debate right now. I can take up other issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, please ask your Members to listen to me. Otherwise, what can I do?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, my request was that if there is a condition that statement be given.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no condition, he has made a request.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Since he wants to raise the important issue of Ayodhya and other hon. Member want to raise any other subject, you have to decide about it. But whenever a debate on the President's Address would begin, we will present motion of thanks. If you want to take up some other issue, you may take up this issue also and if there is no other issue, the

debate on the President's Address may begin.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary affairs is sitting. An assurance was given on Friday, but the House could not be run for want of quorum. We want your protection, whatever has happened with the leaders and activists of SP in UP is indeed very shameful. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it clear that we are starting the debate on the President's Address at Two of the Clock. Therefore, I am going to the 'Zero Hour.' We go according to the serial numbers. You are going to get an opportunity. According to me, your serial number is 3. The first issue is about Shri Ramji Lal Suman about which I have already given the decision. He has raised the issue during Question Hour. I have said that I would request the Government to make a statement today on the issue if they have got the material ready. So, they will make a statement.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What is the time at which they will make the statement?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Material should come from State government.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: By when it would come?
...(Interruptions) Three days have passed since this incident ...(Interruptions). We must have fixed time about it ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have also got the notice of Yogi Aditya Nathji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted you to speak and you have put our words. Now what else do you want?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Whether the Government would tell anything about time limit?

MR. SPEAKER: Statement would be made as early as possible. It may take place today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given notice of an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have told them to make a statement. Then what more do you want?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Aditya Nathji, you may please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, you had assured us in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I have, therefore, ask the Government and the government will give statement as early as possible in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down for a minute. I am taking notices.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, it will be made at Four of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be made at Four of the Clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: My Adjournment Motion was about the provocative statement made by the *Vishwa Hindu Parishad* leaders yesterday. It is vitiating the atmosphere in the country and inciting communal tension in our country. The way they have made the statement is very provocative. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have not permitted you to speak. Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why have you not permitted me to speak? Please allow me to speak. It is a very important subject. It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot shout like that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you cannot talk like that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down for a minute. I am taking notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Acharyaji, what is this? I have already given you the permission to speak. When there would be statement at 4 o'clock, you can ask questions at that time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down please. I can also shout. You sit down while I am speaking.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. I have received the notices. Two notices were received by me today. One notice was regarding the attack, detention of *Samajwadi Party* workers in Uttar Pradesh on 21st February, 2003. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Kunwar Akhilesh Singh gave the notices. I have disposed of those notices. I have permitted the hon. Minister to make a statement at Four of the Clock.

The second notice is regarding the statement made by the leaders of VHP regarding the atmosphere in the country. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you can make your observations.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I have also given a notice on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not here. I have checked it up.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We have given notices for raising the issues during 'Zero Hour.'

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that today a discussion has to take place on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and it has been the tradition of the House that when Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is taken up, Zero Hour and any other issue is not taken up on

that day. As you said about UP. Because it was the commitment of the government, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs is present here and he told that a statement would be given at 4 o'clock. My submission is that by evading the Zero Hour, discussion should start on Motion of Thanks, Mover is sitting here, he should start discussion. After that the seconder should speak. Thereafter, if the leader of the opposition would reply it, the tradition is to be complied with ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister put fourth her view point and I had not say any thing but why are you standing?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the Dharmacharya's are vitiating the atmosphere of the country ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you stand up repeatedly. I fail to understand your method. What is this going on in the House. I fail to understand what are you speaking. Why do you behave like this.

[English]

Parliamentary Affairs Minister has made a submission. She wants to know that the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address should be started now. I want to explain to her that I have taken the sense of the House before she came here and almost the entire House has agreed that it should be taken up at 2 o'clock. The Members from both sides of the House have said that they have other important issues to be raised during 'Zero Hour' and, therefore, we will be starting the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address at 2 o'clock. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra will initiate the discussion. That was the sense of the House.

Now, I am permitting Shri Basu Deb Acharia to make his submission.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, in *Dharma Sansad* held in Delhi, the leaders of VHP. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, we have already given notice on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got your notice, I shall give you a chance ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: They are abusing since 1947. They have abused Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, have compromised with our freedom. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you go through the rules you will understand why I have given him permission to speak first. He has given notice for Adjournment Motion. Why did you not give notice Adjournment Motion. What should I listen to. Had you given a notice for an Adjournment Motion, I might have certainly given you permission to speak first. Shri Basu Deb Achariaji you can speak now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, yesterday, in Dharma Sansad, the leaders of VHP have made provocative statements. This will ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: These people always behave like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will also allow you.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, only those members should be allowed to speak whose names are included in the list by you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Sir, whatever they speak would express their negative approach as they are anti-saints, they are against Ram Janambhuni what would they say? All saints are on dharna today. Please listen to us first. ...*(Interruptions)* Today all the saints have arrived in Delhi from every corner of country and we have given a notice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: All the saints from every corner of the country have come to Delhi today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to listen to the answer? Please sit down if you want to listen to the answer for the question you have asked. I would give

answer to your question. I had already included his name in the list of members who are to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. But I was reminded at that very moment that he has also given a notice for Adjournment Motion. And as per rules 'Zero Hour' comes after Adjournment Motion. Therefore, I told Yogi Adityanathji that he will be called just after him as he has given notice for Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is as per rule, so please do not discuss about it.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Had you gone through the rules, you would have known that whosoever gives notice of Adjournment Motion gets opportunity to speak first ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you are doing is unbecoming of a member. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you accepted his notice for Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: No; I have not accepted it. He is giving the argument as to why this matter should be taken up as an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the leaders of VHP have made provocative statements in *Dharma Sansad* in Delhi. Such statements will vitiate the atmosphere and will incite communal tension in the country. They have stated that they are for *Hindu Rashtra* and those who are the sons of Babar will be driven out of this country. This kind of provocative statements have been made by VHP leaders. So, I demand that the Home Minister should clarify whether the Government subscribes to such a view expressed by VHP.

Sir, by making such statements in *Dharma Sansad*, they are attempting to obliterate the judgement of the court. The matter is still pending in the court. The Government has been trying to get the stay order vacated that was imposed last year. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed his Adjournment Motion. Now, Yogi Aditya Nath will speak.

...(Interruptions)

12.21 hrs.

[English]

RE: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF MEETING BY DHARAM SANSAD

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the 'Zero Hour' has started.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Prime Minister has said that he would abide by the judgement of the Court.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Decision has been taken on your notice and thus given a reply to it.

[English]

The Adjournment Motion has been disallowed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has also stated that he is for Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The Prime Minister has made such a statement without waiting for the Court's judgement. It is unbecoming of the Prime Minister of our country.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member is talking about Dharma Sansad. All the revered Dharmacharya' are demonstrating outside the Parliament. Whenever these 'Dharmacharya's of our country participated in such demonstration, they participated not for their own petty interests, but for a notable cause, for the welfare of the society. Efforts are being made to prove that the statements made in the Dharma Sansad, are provocative. It indicates their perverted and slave mentality. This issue of Ramjanam Bhumi is very important and it has been agitating the minds of common people of the whole country for the last twenty years. If we study the past history it becomes clear that the temple of Bhagwan Shriram had been demolished in 1528 by Meerbaki, one of the Commander of foreign invader Babar. Since then the Hinds are struggling to acquire Ram Janambhumi. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Sir, those who are shouting like this are saints or satan it has to be seen. ...(Interruptions) Sir, this should be given a thought.

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: the satans have trespassed over them and those who are real saints are being insulted in the country. *...(Interruptions)* Hon'ble, Sir, we must have discussion on this issue.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Don't you want the Muslims to live in this country. *...(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, in 1857, the Queen of the then Nawab of Awadh, Begam Hazrat Mahal intended to give this site of Ram Janam Bhumi to Hindus, but it did not work out because of the diplomacy of the Britishers. It has been clearly mentioned in the Faizabad Gazetteer published in 1905 that the birth place was at Ram Kota which is known as the birth place of Shri Ram. At the same place gates were opened for darshan of Lord Rama on 22 and 23 December but due to some dispute, the then Government put a lock on this place. As per order of the District Magistrate of Faizabad, dated 1st Feb., 1986 the temple was unlocked and in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court dated 27th October 1989, the foundation stone of the temple was laid down at Shriram Janambhumi on 17th November, 1989 in the presence of the then Chief Minister of U.P. and Union Home Minister. These were the after efforts of outburst of the hurted sentiments of the Hindus that the Hindus destroyed the structure symbolising slavery on 6th December, 1992. Later on 67 acres of land alongwith disputed site was acquired by the Central Government on 7th January, 1995. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: There are two types of land near the site, disputed and undisputed and a raised platform of 40'x60" is built on the disputed land and the total area of disputed land is 67 acres. The saints are demanding that the disputed land. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Khaire.

[Translation]

Shri Kaireji, don't you want to speak on this issue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Adityaji, Shri Khaire ji also wants to speak on the same issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be investigated by CBI only.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: They are demanding that this 67 acres of disputed land should be handed over to revered Dharmacharya Ram Janambhumi trust and the dispute should immediately be resolved by the Central Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of saints from all over the country have come here to participate in the Dharam Sansad. The Dharam Sansad that have been going on for three days is concluding today with the gherao of Parliament. Thousands of saints have come to the Jantar-Mantar near Parliament. They are demanding to free the Ram Janambhumi. Through you, I request the hon'ble Prime Minister to respect the feelings of the saints, give them time and talk with them to free Ramjanambhumi at the earliest.

Ayodhya is the birth place of lord Ram Chandra. I was listening what you were speaking about saints, I condemn whatever one of the Congress MP said about them with disrespect.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, today's demonstration is the Government sponsored demonstration. It is officially Union Government sponsored demonstration dictated by the Home Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: He has insulted 10 thousand saints who have come from all over India I, therefore, condemn this. We should respect them, this is the demand of Shiv Sena. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: This should be investigated by the CBI that who are the saints among them. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This is insult of our saints, they are hurting our sentiments. They should tender an apology. They are insulting our saints. Ten thousand saints have come here from all over the India and they are abusing and insulting them. The saints are being insulted here. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and in side the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Ravana also came in the guise of a saint. Kaalmevi was also in the guise of saint.

MR. SPEAKER: I am surprised that how could you remain silent for so long.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: This is very serious issue for the whole country. The Government also want to solve this issue. Hon'ble Prime Minister said that this issue can be solved through court or dialogue. The Government have approached to the Supreme Court that the 67 acres of land was undisputed and last year. ...*(Interruptions)* I am endorsing your views only, just listen. Withdraw the objection raised by the Supreme Court over the undisputed land so that 67 acres of land could be given to the Trust.

Through you, I would like to say to the Government that the Court has extended that date due to which there is a resentment amount the saints, Mahatmas, Jagatguru Shankracharya, and among all of us. The objection raised by the Members of the Communist Party is understandable but I would like to know from the members of Congress Party whose predecessor had opened the lock of the Ramjanambhumi ...*(Interruptions)* You sit down please.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Kanshiram had said a toilet should be constructed there and he is among your allies there and you talk of religion? Shri Kanshiram uttered these words in Parliament in Rajya Sabha and you have entered into an alliance with him, what are you talking about religion.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: They have passed a resolution in Dharam Sansad where they have urged up on Government to hand-over 67 acres of land to the trust which belongs to the Ramjanambhumi Trust and for pressing their demand more than 10 thousand saints of the country including Jagatguru Shankaracharya are staging a dharna at Jantar-Mantar. If the Court can not settle this matter then the Parliament is competent enough to take a decision on it. I know that whatever the Members of the Congress may say they would also support them leaving the communists.

With these words, I would like the Government to give assurance on this issue and solve the problem.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, is he speaking on behalf of Congress?

[Translation]

Is it already decided. How does he know about the thought process of Congress people, then the internal position of BJP will be quite critical. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the notice given by me and Mr. Jaiswal is the same,. ...*(Interruptions)* You please give us a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you have given the notice, you will also be given a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Please let us speak. The communists will surely speak against us. ...*(Interruptions)* They opposed freedom movement. ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have faith in 'RAM'. ...*(Interruptions)* They work at the instances of communist countries. ...*(Interruptions)* They are the people who are dividing the country. ...*(Interruptions)* You give us a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I feel very happy that the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, all these things must be expunged from the records. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: We should also be given an opportunity. I gave the notice first. They will certainly speak against us ...*(Interruptions)*. You call them after my speech. ...*(Interruptions)* They will certainly oppose this. ...*(Interruptions)* You have not given me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is dictating to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am happy that he has found that I shall never support their attempt to divide this nation. I am very happy about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: You give me chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* They are going to divide the country. ...*(Interruptions)* They are going to move at the instances of communists. ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have any concern with the Dharam-Karam and the 'RAM'? ...*(Interruptions)* They do not have faith in 'GOD'. They are atheist. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know how do they call themselves firm. ...*(Interruptions)* They are the enemies of Subhash Chandra Bose. Their Chief Minister does not stand when National Anthem is sung, he remains sitting. ...*(Interruptions)* What will they speak in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I treat all these things with contempt that they deserve. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Nagina Mishra, you please sit down. You have spoken whatever you like.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: My signatures are also there. ...*(Interruptions)* Am I not M.P.? Have I come from outside? I have also signed on that. ...*(Interruptions)* Why we will not get an opportunity to speak? Is it not my right? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also to speak. At this time you sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: You give me my right. ...*(Interruptions)* Give me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* If you like you may expel us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of expulsion. You please sit down. Right now I am giving you an opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I thought that the religious-minded people ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please listen to him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, they should have some sense of discipline.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I can understand, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Please go ahead.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I do not want to match them in trying to create provocation. Even our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have been attacked by them, if it is not a make-believe thing. They have not agreed and very seriously criticised both Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Advani. Compared to them, I am a humble mortal. Sir, according to them, I am a traitor to this country. I am very happy that they think that I am a traitor. Therefore, I fight them and we shall fight them to the last.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I wanted to say in the heart of. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: We are ready for this. We will finish the Communist. ...*(Interruptions)* The enemies of 'God' will not be able to stay in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Shri Somnath Chatterjee is a very humble speaker that he never gets provoked. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you are allowing a Member to speak and the ruling party Members are not allowing the Members to speak here in spite of your desire. How do we proceed in this House? There are senior and respected Members like Shri Advani, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra-different roles he takes. But today, nobody is trying even to stop them.

Sir, we are talking of the great primacy of this institution, the highest forum in this country.

Even before I could utter one word, I am being characterised as a traitor to the country. What I have

been saying is that I do not want to match in creating provocation in this House. But, as a citizen of this country, as a Member of Parliament, am I not concerned with what is being said and the way it is being said in the heart of the Capital of India? "The Dharam Sansad threatened to create a "hundred Gujarats" in different parts of the country as part of its nation-wide Ram temple agitation". They say that if Congress Members—for, happily they have spared us—have to prove their so-called patriotism, they must join Ram temple agitation to be led by them to prove that Hindu blood flowed in their veins.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: How pathetic!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They say either they are with Rama or the descendent of Babar. And the Government does not feel disturbed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is the language of Ravan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The senior Members do not feel disturbed. Sir, our greatest glory in this country is that it is a country of diverse religion, diverse language and diverse culture. The unity in diversity is the very *mantra* of this country. *Vasudhev Kutumbakam* is not only with us but also inside our country. Therefore, I am suggesting that these types of activities must be ended. There are so many problems in this country. Everyday we are reminded by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister about the problem created by the terrorists. We are supporting the Government on this. What else this is than terrorism? Do not nod your head only. Shri Yerrannaidu, your hands do not support what you say by your mouth. You always raise your hands first.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): I have already said it. Our policy is clear. From the beginning, we are very firm on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is very good.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Every time I am telling that this is not the only issue. We have to raise so many issues.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we want to express our greatest concern about the future of the unity and integrity of this country. The Government is committed to it. Whatever may be the recent statement of the Prime Minister, we have objected to that. At least, he has said he has to abide by the Court's decision. Nobody can deny this organisation's nearness, proximity to the BJP. You do not deny it. Even

then, it can be permitted. Will you allow any others to say all these things? Therefore, in the name of the unity of this country, we must fight against these divisive forces and it is the incumbent duty of the Government to stop this type of provocative agitation.

We are against POTA. But if POTA was lawful, this was a perfect case for application of POTA as far as Shri Pravin Togadia is concerned. We never agree to that. But you are saying that POTA is brought for the country. Whatever is being done, what type of insurgency that is being created, is terrorism in this country. Sir, we strongly oppose it. I am sure the right thinking Members, citizens of this country will not fall into this trap and they will fight it and fight it to the last so that these people are contained.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak on the same subject.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to take one minute. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Deputy Prime Minister is present in the House and he has stated in this very House that they would abide by court's decision. The workers of their party are giving different statements. Whether it is not the responsibility of the ruling party to restrain their members from speaking on these points because they are giving different statements. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister give a different statement and the members of their party say something else, is it not creating confusion? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: When the government has already decided its policy and now the workers of the same party express different views and hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister remains silent spectator to it, it will not be in the interest of the country. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also present here. This dual policy is not good. Mr. Speaker, please give directions.

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji, kindly resume your seat.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: What message he is conveying to the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda please speak.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: I would like that something should be decided in this regard. Government has decided its policy. Prime Minister and Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister say something and their party members say something else. He is listening and smiling ...*(Interruptions)*. Since Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister is present here, he should pay attention to it. Whatever is being said by the Members of his party, it is contrary the statement given by him. Does it mean that all this is happening at the instance of hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister. Is the ruling party itself is involved in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji please sit.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

It is a matter of deep concern that one organisation, in the name of *dharm sansad* is not only challenging the national integrity, communal harmony and secular fabric of our country but is also challenging the sublime essence of different theologies and different religions. I do not know what sort of a *dharm sansad* they are performing. Which religion tells us to attack other people? Which religion asks us to pose a threat to others? We are told about the Hindu religion. The Hindu religion teaches us tolerance; the Hindu religion tells, '*vasudaiva kutumbakam*'; the Hindu religion tells, '*srinwantu biswe amritasya putra*'; the Hindu religion teaches us brotherhood. In the name of *dharm sansad*, they are challenging the very essence of all theology and every religion. This is a matter of grave concern. I appeal to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister through you to react on this. He should come out with a concrete statement. He should condemn it. This is not a question of the Government alone. ...*(Interruptions)* This is very much the concern of our whole country, about the integrity of our country and about the secular fabric of our country. What they are doing is very condemnable. I appeal to the Government to restore our secular fabric. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker Sir, freedom fighters struggled for freedom. We are living in globalised world today. Our main aim should be to make our country economically strong. So our struggle against China and other countries should be in economic field. But it is a matter of concern that we are disputing on temple and mosque. We should work jointly

for the future of our country and youth. More than 70% of the population is below the age of 35 years. Today we are discussing Hindu Religion. A single party only does not have monopoly over Hindus. There should not be any Dharma Sansad. There should be only Sarvadharam Sansad.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to identify who is 'Sadhu' and who is not 'Sadhu' in the country. Shri Ramchandra Pramhansa and Gopaladasji attended the previous Dharam Sansad but this time they were not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

Dharam Sansad has decided that irrespective of verdict of court which is due on 6th March, they would start building Rama temple. They also propose that India should be declared a Hindu nation. This is a very serious matter. The most objectionable statement, they have made is that Mahabharat type war should be declared against socialists, leftists and Muslims. Mr. Speaker Sir, this is just a conspiracy for dividing the country. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and other BJP members express views which are contrary to what the government says. Mr. Speaker Sir, they are communal. They want to divide the country. Shri Advani ji is sitting here. He was very keen for the enactment of POTA. If there is any case suitable for POTA, it is their case. So POTA should be used against them. This is a serious case. There is a conspiracy to divide our country. So strict action should be taken against such persons.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, these so called saints are giving violent and provocative speeches. It has become evident that they are not working for fraternity, secularism and humanity. Now this Sansad is being used for creating fear in this August House. National integrity, secular fabric of country, democracy and humanity are in danger. So such type of speeches should not be allowed as also such type of provocative speeches should be banned.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit through you to the leaders of the House and to the Government that such provocative speeches should not be given in the House, which could cause unrest on the country. Today our so called secular colleagues, communists and the members of Samajwadi party have given speeches, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You have been affiliated to most of the parties now which party you intend to join.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I would like to ask you if head of the family dies whether all the members of the family go for pind daan or not. You people go to temple or not. Do you touch the feet of saints or not. Communists too worship the Goddess or not.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We do not touch the feet of saints. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mishraji, you were in the Congress Party, in Samajwadi Party and also in BJP. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I would like to ask that which of the leader of the Samajwadi party does not believe in God. Only the communist. This is the only party which do not believe the communist party which has no concern with a country, world and god. I would especially appeal to the Congress party. This is a national party and all others are regional parties. This issue concerns to the nation and Congress has a great contribution in building the nation. Today it is number two national party. We are observing that veteran leaders from Congress party are present in the House. Whether it is not a fact that when the then Chief Minister Shri Veer Bahadur Singh Jee had unlocked the temple of Lord Rama, the Muslim community revolted violently and the temples were demolished throughout the country.

Secondly, I would like to ask whether it is not a fact. ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is too much. How can he say all this? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Hon'ble Member is deviating from the subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas and Shri Suresh Kurup, both of you have given notices to speak on the same issue. So, either of you can speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he has made objectionable remark. It should be expunged. The Congress never did any conspiracy. It only obeyed the court's orders and did nothing more. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to expunge that from the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit, your time is over.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of this House a very important matter. *Adivasis* in Kerala were brutally lathicharged. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, they are on a struggle path to regain their lost land. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Whether it is not true that former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi has laid a foundation stone in Ayodhya. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, *adivasi* in Kerala are on a struggle to regain their lost land from which they were systematically evicted by the powerful encroachers. The Government of Kerala has. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Whether it is not true. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to ask my Congress colleagues whether they want to build temple in Ayodhya or not. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to ask the leaders of opposition. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to expunge whatever he speaks now.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it should not go on record. They are misleading the House. Congress never did anything in Ayodhya. When the doors were opened, it was done only to obey the orders of the court. Moreover, the Congress also preserved the undisputed site until the mosque was demolished. ...(*Interruptions*)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Kurup to speak. Whatever he speaks will go on record and anything spoken by anybody else will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, *adivasis* in Kerala
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): What is happening? The leaders are sitting there, but they do not discipline their own Members. One member of BJP is continuously disturbing the other Member who is speaking.
...(Interruptions) The leaders are sitting there.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They are all hatching a conspiracy to divide the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever objectionable words he has used will all be removed from the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not go on speaking?

...(Interruptions)

12.50 hrs.

RE: REPORTED FIRING ON ADIVASIS (TRIBALS) IN KERALA

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, *adivasis* in Kerala are on a struggle to regain their lost land from which they were systematically evicted by the powerful encroachers. In fact, the Government of Kerala has given them an assurance that they will be given their land back. The Chief Minister, after signing the agreement, assured them that they will be given back their land and danced with the tribals. That photograph appeared in the newspaper. Now, as a token of their protest, to force the Government implement the promise given to them, they have occupied a part of the forest land. Sir, these poor people were brutally beaten up. They were fired on.
...(Interruptions) This is a very serious issue. This sort of a brutality is unheard of in the history of Kerala.

Sir, I request, through you, that a Central team should come to Kerala to enquire about it. ...*(Interruptions)* This sort of a brutality is unheard of in Kerala. Severe lathicharge and firing took place. ...*(Interruptions)* A Central team should come to Kerala and the Home Minister should respond to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas will speak now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, this is the first incident of its kind ever heard in the history of Kerala, this kind of brutal attack against *adivasis*. One *adivasi* has been declared to have been killed by the police, but more *adivasis* may be killed....*(Interruptions)* Hundreds of *adivasis* are in police custody and they are being brutally tortured by the police. This is not only a simple question of law and order; this is something more than that.
...*(Interruptions)* So, I request that the Central Government should immediately intervene in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the Home Minister is here. He should respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I requested the Leader of the Opposition also to ask the Chief Minister.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is a State subject. If State subjects are allowed to be raised in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, a Central team should visit Kerala to ascertain the facts.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: The Leader of Opposition also should ask the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Home Minister is sitting here. He should respond.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, it concerns the *adivasis* of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: This is not on law and order. *Adivasis* are being killed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister is present here. He can collect the information and send it to you, or he can make a statement right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Home Minister, this is an issue of serious nature. You can get the information and send it to the hon. Members.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): About what?

MR. SPEAKER: About Kerala, firing on Adivasis.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. Let the hon. Minister speak.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that in this hubbub I could not understand what was being said. If there has been any incident of firing in Kerala, I will find out from the State Government and inform the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in West Bengal also there have been atrocities committed on women. I demand that the Home Minister should enquire into the incident and inform the House in this regard. Serious atrocities have been committed on a marriage-party of women. They have been raped and killed. Information as to what actually happened should be collected and given to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice before me on this issue. Where did this incident take place?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is a serious matter. Serious atrocities were committed on women. They were raped and killed.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a specific place where this happened?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, in Dharamatala. The Minister can collect the information and give it to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You tell me where it happened, when it happened, and he will get you the information.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I already said that. In the State of West Bengal, in district Nadia, in a place called Dharamtala, women have been raped and killed.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Sir, the National Fishworkers Forum, a confederation of fishermen's societies all over India, has been agitating for acceptance by the Centre of the charter of demands presented during their week-long Dhama in Delhi during December, 2001. The demands include *inter alia*: (1) enactment of Marine Fishing Regulation Act; (2) implementation of Murari Committee recommendations; (3) enhancement in quota of fuel for traditional and small mechanised sector; (4) cancellation of all licences issued to foreign fishing vessels by the Commerce Ministry; (5) reievw of regulations under Coastal Regulation Zone Act to remove impediments to the continuation of the existing habitats and constructions of the new huts by the fishermen community; (6) introduction of pension and other social security measures for fishermen and providing reservation for fisher-women in welfare and developmental schemes sponsored by the Centre; and (7) liquidating of all co-operative societies run by front-men of merchants, money-lenders and exporters of aqua-products. I urge the Centre to act upon the charter of demands and provide much wanted relief to fishermen communities without any delay.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue of national importance. I thank you from the core of my heart for giving me an opportunity to speak. The government have made a strict code of conduct in respect of National Flag. Honourable Home Minister is present here. The Madhya Pradesh has published a book called Jan Shiksha Part-2 wherein the National Flag has been displayed with the "saffron" down. No action has been taken against the publisher of that book or any officer till date. Now the second incidence occurred in Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh. Honourable Balram Jhakhhar and State Party President of Congress hoisted a very big flag on Chimney. Honourable Shailender Pradhan an Ex. MLA also brought this issue to the court. This is disrespect to the National Flag openly. It is regrettable that no action is taken against those Ministers and officers in State Government who did this act. I would like to know from honourable Home Minister that who will take action against them? If the constitutional Head of the State Government himself hoist flag with 'saffron' down and show disrespect then what will happen to our code of conduct which we have evolved for the dignity of National Flag. I would like to request the august House should consider this issue. I request to honourable Home Minister that he must take care of it.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, Matters under Rule 377 may kindly be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to take necessary steps for speedy electrification of Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (Singhbhum): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no electricity 90% of the villages in my Parliamentary Constituency, Singhbhum even after 55 years of independence, due to which villagers and adivasi people are not able to do their economic and social development and it is impossible to irrigate the fields and set-up industries without electricity. Many Members of the Jharkhand had drawn attention towards the unsatisfactory work of rural electrification in Jharkhand last year, as a result the Central Government took initiative but still this problem is not fully solved till date.

So, I request the Central Government that the work of rural electrification in my parliamentary constituency, Singhbhum should be reviewed and thus speeded up.

- (ii) **Need to take into consideration all aspects of environment protection before relaxing Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines particularly in Mumbai**

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Caution to be taken by Environment Ministry in relaxing Central Regulatory Zone guidelines to private developers in

Mumbai, also North East Mumbai. In the name of Slum Re-development Scheme private builders and the local officials are insisting for relaxation. Details of such proposals, developer's demand, State's observation and Ministries logic for relaxation be given. Measures to protect Environment and is necessary.

- (iii) **Need to set up a Bench of High Court at Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, advocates of entire West Uttar Pradesh are agitating over setting up of a Bench of High Court in West Uttar Pradesh for the last many years, in which the cooperation of common man is also appreciable. The people are harassed due to continuous agitation by the advocates and complainants are also not getting justice. Simultaneously it has also affected the law and order situation in that area from time to time, and simultaneously the administrative arrangement of jails has been paralyzed by poor prisoners who are under-consideration due to closing of the court.

The geographical condition of the Aligarh city, like it is situated in the middle of the West area. The broad-gauge and Central narrow gauge railway lines are here. A building is already available according to the dignity and standard of the High Court in Aligarh Diwani premises.

So, a Bench of High Court at Aligarh, in West Uttar Pradesh should be set up.

- (iv) **Need to expedite execution of Kanpur Irrigation Project in Keonjhar district, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The people of Keonjhar are very much agitated due to the inordinate delay in the execution of Kanpur Irrigation Project in that scheduled district. Once this project is implemented it will go a long in providing irrigation in that drought prone district. The people of Champua and Sadar block majority of whom are tribals will be greatly benefited from that project. Hundreds of hectares of dry and parched land will soon be converted into a prosperous belt. The poor farmers most of whom are small and marginal farmers will be able to grow two crops a year. Besides they will be able to grow vegetables and oil seeds.

In the interest of the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, I demand that the Kanpur Irrigation Project

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

in Keonjhar district of Orissa be implemented without further delay.

(v) Need to take necessary steps for revival of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Central Government towards the pitiable condition of the HEC public undertaking, called the Mother Industry of the Asia. This was considered as the biggest industry in Asia in which 23 thousands people were earning their livelihood. But due to mismanagement, at present now only 5000 people are working in this undertaking and its total production is also nominal, whereas this undertaking was manufacturing equipments for railways, defence and other public undertakings. Now this public undertaking is running in loss. It has come to my knowledge that another 2500 workers are going to be retrenched from this undertaking which is not justifiable. The labourers are not getting their payments on time. So, there is a need to provide financial assistance to this public undertaking at the level of the Central Government. Simultaneously, it is very essential to control HEC in systematic manner.

I would like to request through this august House that the work of HEC should be proper and measures should be taken to get purchase-order and the production system of this public undertaking should be speeded up, by which the purchase-order can be completed on time. At the same time should also provide financial assistance to this undertaking.

(vi) Need to take suitable steps to boost export of agricultural products from Hassan, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Chillies, potatoes, copra, onion including rose onion, tomato and most of the vegetables and a large variety of flowers are grown in abundance in Hassan district. But the future of the farmers is gloomy as there are no marketing and packing facilities. The Centre which is setting up cold storage and food processing units in many States has not paid adequate attention towards Hassan district for the last several decades in this regard. Hassan is very near to Mangalore Harbours in Karnataka. Despite all these factors, the farmers of the Hassan district are not in a position to export any of the above mentioned commodities.

Our repeated request and the demand by the Government of Karnataka ultimately convinced the Government of India and the Centre has announced the setting up Special Economic Zone in Hassan. This announcement came two years ago and till today there is no progress in this matter. I request the Central Government to take expeditious action in this regard.

(vii) Need to allocate adequate funds under Tenth Plan for all-round development of North Bengal region

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The Tenth Plan document has been finalized. Time and again, I have drawn the attention of Union and the State Governments for priority allocation of funds for North Bengal region of West Bengal for infrastructural development. Flood Management, River erosion, Resistance and Protection of villages in Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Modern Health Infrastructure, aggressive development initiative of SC and ST areas and self-employed programme. I urged the Union Government and its Law and Planning Ministry for a Constitutional Protection for the mandatory development of this region bringing this region under an amendment, Constitution provided in Article 371 (J) for this purpose. The Tenth Plan document must once again be looked into for this issue and if these are not taken into plan, it should be immediately reviewed.

(viii) Need to establish a goods truck transport hub through railway wagons at Nagpur, Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Looking to the strategic importance of city, there is the need to establish a Goods Truck Transport Hub through Railway Wagon at Nagpur which apart from benefiting the region will also give a boost to the railway in getting more revenue. In view of the increasing cost in the diesel/petrol, the road transportation is becoming costly and the transportation of goods truck through the open railway wagons could help in quick movement of goods. Nagpur is the centrally located and most suitable place for making it a base station for transportation of goods truck through the railways.

Motibag Narrow Gauge Workshop at Nagpur established in 1879 need to be upgraded, renovated and retained at Nagpur for BG coach POH work instead of its being closed rendering large number of workers jobless.

With the increase in population of Nagpur, there is also the absolute need for introducing more new trains

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

particularly direct trains on the sectors Nagpur-Delhi-Nagpur, Nagpur-Hyderabad-Nagpur, Nagpur-Bhopal-Nagpur and a Super Fast Train between Nagpur and Pune, besides the need for providing additional facilities at the existing Nagpur railway station as also the need for developing a suburb station at Ajani.

I would urge upon the Hon. Railway Minister to kindly give a serious consideration to these proposals which are felt to be absolutely necessary in view of the fast changing character of the Nagpur city.

(ix) Need to include Marathi community living in Kasaragod district of Kerala in Scheduled Tribes list

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasaragod): I would like to bring the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs towards the ongoing agitation by the Marathi community living in Kasaragod district of Kerala due to the decision of the Central Government to delete them from the Scheduled Tribes list of Kerala. Kasaragod is a backward district bordering Karnataka where this community of about 40000 people live. Their living conditions in both the border districts of Karnataka and Kerala are alike.

If we really take into account of the progress made by this community one cannot blame them for their agitation. They state that this community has been unjustifiably excluded from the STs list. The Minister of Tribal Affairs has assured the Kerala MPs that their community will not be deleted from the STs list. Kerala Government also recommended to the Central Government to retain them in the list. On the other side of the border in Karnataka the same community is included in the STs list. In Kerala this community fulfills all the criteria for their continuance in the STs list.

I would request the Central Government to include Marathi Community residing in Kasaragod district of Kerala in the STs list as was earlier immediately.

(x) Need to release funds for Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore and its new unit at Guntur

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): The Government of India is presently implementing the World Bank aided Scheme called National Programme for Control of Blindness. Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust Sankara Eye Society is running "Sankara Eye Hospital" at Coimbatore. The society is a Non-Government Organization working towards the removal of blindness under the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

The Sankara Eye Hospital at Coimbatore performed around 40,000 eye surgeries in the hospital with the state-of-the-art technology last year. The society has also started "Guntur Sankara Eye Hospital" at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh with Rs. 20 crores initial expenditure for 100% free service. Even though the society is performing yeomen service towards removal of blindness under the NPCB Scheme, the Sankara Eye Hospital at Coimbatore has not received the funds from the Central Government and also Rs. 2 crore from the DBCS in Tamil Nadu, which are due to it.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare to intervene in the matter and have funds released to Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore. Funds may also be provided to new hospital started at Guntur.

(xi) Need to provide relief to the farmers whose crops have been affected by hailstorm in many States particularly in Farrukhabad district, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a heavy rainfall and hailstorm in Uttar Pradesh and in other States in the last days of January. But the Padeti crop of wheat was in little bit profit but the Ageti crop of wheat like mustard, peas, grams and potatoes were in heavy loss. The Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh produces potatoes at the most in the country. A heavy loss occurred to potato crops.

On the one hand the farmers are not getting even cost price of their production, and on the other they are facing this natural calamity. So, I request to the Government that it should take action to provide relief to the farmers immediately. The recovery of loan should be stopped as a relief measure and atleast the interest of this year should also be exempted.

(xii) Need to formulate a policy to solve water problem in Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the southern region of Uttar Pradesh, called Bundelkhand comprising of Banda and Chitrakut districts are facing acute shortage of water. The underground water is not available even at depth, hence setting up of tube-well has been banned. Sufficient underground water is not available even for hand-pumps. That is why most of the hand-pumps get dry during summer and there is so much crisis for drinking water. One of the solution to this problem could be that rain water is harvested by

constructing dams and check-dams in large number on small and big streams and rivers. Simultaneously rain water can also be stored by deepening the ponds of thousands of ponds Gram Samaj available. Thus stored water can be used in different forms. The State Government alone cannot solve this problem. So, there is a need to take speedy and effective steps by formulating an extensive water policy as per the directions of honourable Prime Minister. I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary action in Bundelkhand region by formulating a permanent water policy to solve the water problem.

- (xiii) **Need to release 100% financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of underground sewage scheme in Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation**

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): On 07.05.2002, I submitted a representation signed by the Leaders of different political parties with a request for 100% financial assistance from the Central Government for implementation of Underground Sewage Scheme in Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation. Simultaneously, I raised this issue in the Lok Sabha but so far adequate action has not been taken by the Government. Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, Tamil Nadu was formed by amalgamating three Municipalities. One Township and 15 Village Panchayats in the year 1994. The total population of this corporation is 4,25,000. The main revenue source is only house tax. Now a scheme is formulated to have underground sewage system in this Corporation to prevent the pollution in Tamiravaruni river which is main drinking water source for Tirunelveli and Tuticorin. The total estimated cost for this scheme is Rs. 66 crores. But with the present financial status of Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, it is not in a position to spend such huge amount for the implementation of this Underground Sewage Scheme. After a lapse of more than a year, there is a confusion with the Government that whether it belongs to Ministry of Urban Development or Ministry of Environment and Forest. I request the Government to take a final decision in this matter and to direct the concerned Ministry to release 100% financial assistance for implementation of Underground Sewage Scheme in Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation.

- (xiv) **Need to set up a trauma care unit on National Highway No. 4 at Karad in Satara District, Maharashtra**

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (Karad): There is need to set up a Trauma Care Unit in sub-district hospital at Karad, District Satara (Maharashtra) on National Highway

No. 4 in order to treat injured passengers meeting fatal accident on N.H. No.-4 which is the only road connecting two metropolitan cities of Chennai and Mumbai, having high traffic density.

I request the Central Government to take action in this regard.

- (xv) **Need to clear the proposal for construction of metalled road between Birpur and Kurani upto Bangladesh border in Bihar**

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): I would like to draw the kind attention to the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs through the House about non-availability of proper Border Road in my Parliamentary constituency, Araria. My constituency is on border consisting areas of Nepal and Bangladesh. There is no any road on the border area and therefore, it is very difficult for our Army Personnel & SSB who are posted there for moving them from one place to other.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister to consider for sanction of construction of Pucca Road from Birpur to Kuri upto Bangladesh Border via Nawabganj, Phoolkaha, Sonapur, Sona Mani Godam immediately. I understand that this proposal has also been submitted to the Ministry which is pending for clearance since long back.

14.01 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we start with the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The first speaker is Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

"That the members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 17, 2003".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Address delivered by the Hon. President to the both Houses of Parliament contained achievements of the Government. Though some of these

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

achievements have been mentioned in brief, yet the speech became a little lengthier and the patience of members started draining of and if I start giving an account of all the achievements of the Government in detail much more time will be needed and it is not possible also. Therefore, I would like to narrate a few of them. This Government, under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is going to complete five years in the month of March this year and the thirteenth Lok Sabha has completed its three and a half years term. I think if achievements of this Government of three and half or five years are compared with those made during the earlier period, the whole picture will become clear to us. We have a stock of about five crore tonnes of food grains with us. The foodgrains production during last year was about 1 crore and 80 lakh tonnes despite drought in 14 states. Let us recall the time when we used to import foodgrains from America under P.L. 480. It was done on derogatory terms. We roamed all over the world with bowl of alms and begged them for foodgrains. Even five years ago we had to import ten thousand tonnes of foodgrains and besides this we imported grains from markets of Australia and Canada. In those days there were long queues in front of ration shops, sometimes it used to be of miles long; the grains were also rotten containing small pieces of stones and people were compelled to consume that inferior quality foodgrains. But there came drastic change in these five years and now not only we have surplus stocks of foodgrains but we are also exporting grains to thirty countries. For the first time India had become a wheat exporting country. Foodgrains are being exported to thirty countries and here not only. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like that I should be heard calmly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep silence in the House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I am making a simple submission only. When I will come to criticism, I don't know what will happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Please remain confined to simple submission only, please do not give it up.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have large stocks of foodgrains. So we are able to supply grains to 36 crore people at half rates. Five crore people are being supplied wheat at the rate of Rs.2/-per

kilogram and rice at Rs. 3 per kilogram. One crore tonnes of grains have been given to the States free of cost to be distributed under 'food for work' scheme. I would like to ask whether any country in the world other than India has made such arrangements. We buy wheat at the rate of Rs. 6.50 which costs us at Rs. 9 per kilogram and supply them to people below poverty line at Rs. 2 per kilogram. Has there been such an example during the Congress regime of 50 years. Through we have stocks of grains yet there have been reports of some starvation deaths. It is a matter of shame for us that despite buffer stocks, poor people die of starvation. The Supreme Court was quite right when it called the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan and asked him to explain why people are dying of starvation when there was enough stock of wheat. First of all the question should be put to Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra as to why starvation deaths are taking place in their respective States. When wheat is being supplied at Rs. 2 per kilogram, rice at Rs. 3 per kilogram and one crore tonnes foodgrain has been supplied by the Government free cost to be distributed under food for work scheme. First it was denied. But in the end when proof was found they tried to fix the responsibility at the Centre. I am surprised that instead of awarding punishment to such Chief Ministers and taking action against them for their negligence, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi wrote letter to Prime Minister that discrimination is being meted out to Rajasthan. One crore tonnes of grains or whatever they demand is being provided to them to distribute it under food for work scheme, but it should not be utilised for paying salaries. This is not the purpose of that. Centre cannot give grains to make use of them for other works. But under food for work scheme they have been allowed to lift grains whatever they need at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilogram for wheat and Rs. 3 per kilogram for rice. We are now exporting wheat to 30 countries in the time of drought and it is really surprising if it is not taken as achievement. In the matter of milk production we are at number one position now. In the past there were long queues for milk. Hon. Members might remember that Parliament had been made Milk Depot. People were taking milk in pouches and there used to be long queues for milk. Today we are number one in milk production in the world. There is no line, no queues. It should be recognised as a great achievement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2 crore 42 lakhs farmers were given credit cards during the last 26 years. Had a single farmer been given credit card in the Congress regime; had any farmer been given a credit card in the communist ruled States? Funds to the tune of Rs. 50 thousand crores have been given as loan against these credit cards. It is a record. An insurance amount of Rs. 496 crore was

received from them under Farmer Insurance scheme and Rs. 1250 crore was paid to them. What was the waiting period for telephone connections? The Members were given a quota of 25 connections and there was long waiting list for them. The waiting period for gas connection was 10 years and Rs. 5000/- were being paid in black. Over and above allegations were made on members whether they have said something wrong. Where is the book for gas connections? Nobody now comes to a Member for getting gas connections now. Telephone companies are making fervent requests to customers to buy their connections, companies make calls for making customers for their mobile or cellular connections. Such is the position today. Housing loans given during these three years is double than that given in last fifty years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when such a situation is created then people say that a pretext is being made. At the time of President's Address our foreign exchange reserve was above 63 billion dollars. He has written in his speech because it was 73 billion dollars at that time which is equal to Rs. 3,48,429 crore rupees. It increased upto 75.3 billion dollar on 14 January. This shows such a great jump in one week.

I had read in the newspaper yesterday.
...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a time when we had to mortgage our gold for foreign exchange. In those days we did not have foreign exchange even for a week. During that time people fought for custom and other places that one do not get more than Rs. 500. Our country was always implored in a crisis of foreign exchange. People used to make a joke of that even if there will be population on Moon then India would seek foreign exchange even from there
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The only record is this. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Congress Government did not keep the gold mortgaged. ... (Interruptions) This is not in records.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It was not during BJP regime, it was during Congress regime.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is being said, allegations are being made, several questions have been raised and permission is given for all this. It is being said that this Government is working under the pressure of America. It has been repeated time and again that some people have been working under the pressure of America. The date was decided and all preparations had been made for Atomic explosions. But when America opposed it, all programmes were cancelled. But inspite of all this, this time atomic explosion was carried out, experiments were done and the India stood in the row of six such countries having atomic power. America, Japan and Australia imposed sanctions and many countries were disturbed, but India was not disturbed by these sanctions and faced it. There are some people working under the pressure of America who are responsible for the safety and security of the country. Had our Prime Minister not asked the President of America clearly not to attack on Iraq without the permission of UNO. Our Prime Minister can dare to take this initiative because we have a stock of foreign exchange for at least 2 years. America tried to pressurise, they did so at the time of Kargil war. America had invited our Prime Minister to have talks. Our Prime Minister refused on the plea that the circumstances are not favourable for the purpose. America again pressurised us to have talks with President Musharaf of Pakistan. He is the first Prime Minister who refused to do so, the present Government is neither influenced, be it Iraq or any other country, nor does it work for anyone else. We are clear with regard to Iraq. America have no right to consider themselves as supreme power. They have no right to start policing, they have no right to do the things in their own way.

Sir, our position is clear, whatever happens in America is considered to be global and that matter belongs to the whole world. When the tower in America was attacked, they started the movement, "World fight against terrorism". Recession in their country is considered the recession all over the world. However, America should target Pakistan which is a horrible terrorist State. It is a country where the members of Al-Qaeda are engaged in border terrorism and have been hiding there. Instead of taking initiative in this regard America is targetting Iraq. Our Prime Minister has clarified the situation in this regard. May I humbly ask why the President of Parliamentary Party of Congress Party has not given any statement so far with regard to the action taken by America. No statement. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I think these days, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra neither watches TV nor

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

reads newspaper, so, we cannot help him. Congress Party was the first one—both through the Working Committee and through Parliamentary Party—to have made its position clear on Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)* We, on the other hand, wanted to bring a Resolution in the House but your Party's Government hesitated and opposed it. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government had refused to bring a Resolution in the House before the departure of the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* You can bring a Resolution even today.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar): Please go through the daily newspapers in English.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I know it. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, some leaders of the Congress have also issued statements. I know these leaders, that what type of statements they issue and where they issue. I am only asking whether it is not the responsibility of the leader of the Opposition to make a public statement. Someone should make a statement ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): We have Shri Sharad Pawar's Congress party in our State and with in the next six months period 3 or 4 new parties might be constituted with in this Congress in Maharashtra. Therefore, you should not say a party, big party. Now it has become a small party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let him complete his speech. Please keep quite.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not good to make such allegations on us with regard to America. Much has been said about our foreign policy that it is not a civilization war. Many members of Parliaments have been sent to different Muslim countries and these included Congress members of Parliament and their leaders too. Just see the report, the aspect of India can be seen. How far we have been succeeded to make Muslim countries understand and the way Pakistan has been sidelined. Instead of highlighting and appreciating the Government's foreign policy it is being criticised and it is being said that India works under the pressure of America. I am unhappy with what has been said.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): You have demolished that goodwill.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be difference of opinion about disinvestment. Dissension may be natural. One may have different views about disinvestment whether it should be done or not. One may express views whether disinvestment should be of profit making companies or it should be of loss running companies. It can be discussed.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): There should not be any disinvestment.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We may say that disinvestment should not be allowed at all. I have submitted that there is a different opinion on it, but I have said that three of four things should be kept in mind. Firstly, whenever any disinvestment is proposed one must take care of the interest of the employees. First, the condition of any employee should not be allowed to deteriorate. There should not be any disinvestment. Secondly, there should not be monopoly of any one party. There should not be one monopoly and the monopoly of Government should not be abolished and there should not be monopoly of private company. We are in favour that monopoly should not be allowed to develop. Thirdly it is very important that no employee should be retrenched and every one must be provided security of job. There should not be any disinvestment of strategic establishment, connected with security of the country. In spite of this, the process of disinvestment is continuing here. Nobody should have objections to the views expressed by you there.

We feel sorry when people say that the country has been mortgaged, it has been sold out. I have strong objections to all such utterances. For the last five years, it is being said that the country has been sold out. I want to ask as to what has gone outside the country? ...*(Interruptions)* We have got 80 billion dollars of foreign exchange. Has any instrument or equipment of the country been sold out or has any part been seceded? If disinvestment tantamount to selling out the country then those who started the disinvestment process, signed the WTO, signed the Dunkel proposal should be blamed for that. It is those people, who have disinvested around 70-80 companies during the last nine years, sold the country. To link disinvestment with selling out the country is such an accusation which I condemn. The people have sold out the country who divided India and Pakistan. They

have sold out the country who allowed one third of Kashmir go into Pakistan's hands. They have sold out the country who after the war with China allowed 40 thousand square miles to go into China's hands. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You show your courage and get that back. ...(*Interruptions*) You display the power of 'Bajrang Bali'. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If you do not put obstacles, we will certainly do that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You people are hatching a conspiracy not only to sell but also mortgage the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi should be asked that to speak atleast 50% truth. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would request Chaubey jee to reduce the hundred percent lie he is telling by two percent. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that Shri Malhotra should be asked to speak 100% truth. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a time came when 91 thousand Pakistanis were in our jails. At that time Pakistan had completely been cowed down. If at that time two or three more days could be available and no cease-fire taken place, the national flag of Pakistan would have been humbled. Pakistan would have begged before India and before Shimla Agreement India would have got back its part that is with Pakistan. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should also say as to who had escorted terrorists to Kandhar. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): When your name is not being called why are you standing up time and again as if you had done this work. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our youth brave, warriors, saved our motherland in exchange of their own lives. They bravely protected the motherland. Those who gave this very land to our enemies by sitting in agreement or on a table, are the real sinners. We cannot be accused of such a charge.

Apart from these, several other charges are also levelled against us that when elections are round the corner, BJP raises the question of cow protection, Ayodhya and other things. It is being tried to level such charges on us. I want to ask as to who raised the question of cow protection or ban cow slaughter? This question was not there before anyone. In Madhya Pradesh the Congress Chief Minister sent a letter to the PM. He wrote in that letter that cow slaughter should be banned throughout the country. He also wrote that export of beef should be banned wherever it is taking place. We have not raised this question. ...(*Interruptions*) Who raised this question before the elections?

Yesterday I heard something on television. The CM of MP says that he did not raise it during the elections. It is in their agenda from the very beginning. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Are you against the CM's letter. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am saying that he has said that they are talking about ban on cow-slaughter since the time of Gandhijee and if he did raise it, it was not because of the elections. This is a question of our integrity. If this is the question of Congress's integrity, why did the people were massacred in 1966 when they came forward in favour of ban on cow-slaughter? ...(*Interruptions*) Why forty people were killed? Out of a crowd of lakhs, forty people were killed in firing. A vow was taken in the presence of Vinoba Bhave to ban cow slaughter, but that promise was not fulfilled. He died in a fast unto death for this. The leader of the Congress Party is sitting here. If he says that this was in the agenda since Gandhi's time then would the Congress party support it if a bill to this effect comes up? Let them hold talks among themselves and one of them get up and answer it would they support the Bill on cow slaughter if it is brought forward here or not?

[*English*]

Will the Congress support it or not? Let the Congress Party stand up and say this.

[*Translation*]

Let Sonia Gandhiji get up and say this. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, anyone of them could get up and say. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Munsijee, you say. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, you bring the bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Why are you not responding to it? ...*(Interruptions)* This is a political suggestion that he is making to you. You should respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I can understand your frustration that you are still not a part of this Government. You will get your chance in the next reshuffle. You may please sit down now.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, please go ahead with your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Except West Bengal and Kerala, all the Congress governments of the States have banned cow-slaughter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotrajee, you continue speaking. Tiwarijee, I would ask you not to disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Five years have gone. What happened to the Bill you are referring to? Since the past five years you have been making excuses. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, the Bill can not come because this House has no Legislative competence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Banatwallaji when the Bill will be introduced I will give you a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, the Solicitor-General had appeared in this House and he had said that this House has no legislative competence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can express this issue when the Bill would be introduced.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress Chairperson Meenakshi Natrajan has issued a circular. Earlier, their leaders there had said that the circular was issued but later it was withdrawn. Then someone said the issued circular was incorrect. Then, it was said that no such circular had been issued. They disclaimed everything. First they make reprehensible allegation and later disclaim it:

"Atal Sarkar ki kya uplabhdi,
Gau-mass niryat mein vridhi."

Beef is not exported from India. Beef is completely banned. There is a provision for several years imprisonment on the charge of export of beef. My charge is that the Congress Party shields those who export beef clandestinely. Such persons have been shielded in Madhya Pradesh. Those people who are demanding ban on cow slaughter there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, beef export has risen. On the website of the Food Processing Ministry the figures show beef export has risen under this Government. ...*(Interruptions)* These figures are given by you.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Every one is discussing a ban on cow slaughter. I want to know whether human sacrifice would be stopped or not. I have evidence regarding human sacrifice on a large scale. I can not disclose it here as it would create an unprecedented chaos. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra is speaking. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is a very strange phenomenon. When the main speaker on behalf of the Government is speaking on this important issue, all the other Members from the Ruling party are interrupting. It is a very strange situation.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: If a discussion is held on human sacrifice you all would be exposed.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Prove it.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: You will not be able to hear it. You ask your party Members what happened in Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, you all sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the slogan, "go mass ko kha gaya Atal Bihari, Atal Bihari."

was raised there. It was also said this slogan should also be written on banners and to display these on all offices of the Congress Party and at the crossroads. This very slogan was also raised during the election in Himachal Pradesh, and pamphlets were also distributed. Meenakshi Natrajan's statement was published in the 'Indian Express' in which she said no such circular was issued, but the slogan was absolutely correct. Is it not a shameful thing? What action has been taken against this? She is still there. She is still the Chairperson there. She is claiming the slogan is not wrong. It is mentioned here, "Letter fake; not its contents-MP Youth Congress Chief."

It is mentioned in the Indian Express-which is published from Bhopal-that the slogan coined by me is correct. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Congress Party has to rectify the situation otherwise things may go out of hand. In the election campaign in Meghalaya and Nagaland they are saying that they would never allow a ban on cow slaughter. On the other hand the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh says that this is on their agenda from the days of Mahatama Gandhi.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): We have not made a statement of this kind either in Meghalaya or in Nagaland and this House should not be wrongly informed about it. If anybody has said anything against a dignitary of this House, we are not for it. That matter should not be brought up in this House and made a party of the record. That is not in keeping with the dignity of the House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is most welcome if you are not against ban on cow slaughter.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have not said that.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Our report from there is here. If you have not said this there then it is all right.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If any statement is made from the papers, he has to authenticate it and he has to stand by the veracity of the statement he is making on the floor of this House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not laid any paper in the House so there is no question of signing it. I am saying this openly. If anyone has any objection then he can say so. You are asking me to authenticate. What am I to authenticate? My throat? What should I authenticate?

MR. SPEAKER: You continue your speech unless I stop you.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is not a place for giving wrong information and the Member should not do it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: And not for flippancy either.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It will come shortly. When I am talking about you at least do not disturb me.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am only saying that he is a senior and responsible Member. Outside the House, he is a different man. I do not know why he should do it inside the House.

Sir, he just now asked whether he will authenticate it or not. This is a flippancy on the floor of the House. Do not do that.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, It is mentioned in the Study books that Aryans ate beef and that calf meat was offered to the guests. ...(*Interruptions*) It was mentioned here that an attempt was being made at saffronisation. As if saffronisation is something evil. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court. At the end of the Supreme Court judgment it is mentioned.

[English]

"We do not find that the National Education Policy, 2002 runs counter to the concept of secularism."

[Translation]

This is not against secularism. But the Congress party had given instructions to their honourable Chief Ministers

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

not to change such books, rather keep increasing the number of such books in which it is written that Arya people used to eat beef, they used to serve calf meat to the guests. ...*(Interruptions)* Teach that Guru Tegbahadur Ji was a Rapine. He plundered the land of the Punjab. Teach all these things. Such things are being taught in the Congress dominated states that Jaats were robbers. It is also being taught that there was non 'Tirthankar' before 'Mahavir' in Jainism. It was a mere imagination. When efforts were made to delete such blunders from the books of history then they took this issue to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that to delete such blunders is not against the principles of secularism. When such things are being taught in the Congress ruled states then how can we believe that they are for cow-protection since the time of Mahatma Gandhi ji. Mahatma Gandhi ji had said that he gives utmost importance to cow protection. I have challenged once again, soon after my speech, honourable Sonia Ji will speak. I would humbly request that when the Bill, Ban on cow-slaughter would be introduced in the House then her party should support that Bill. I will be delighted if Congress Party would support it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, objection has been raised on two points since morning. The very first reaction on the President's Address was given by the spokesman of Congress Party. He said that why it has been mentioned in the President's Address that the Gujarat's elections have strengthen the democracy. Ayodhya issue was also discussed. There were objections on these two things. I would like to ask that when there was not even a single case of booth-capturing in Gujarat's elections, nobody complained even in single case, there was not even a single case of misusing Government's machinery, Congress Party did not make any allegation, elections were held peacefully, whether all these things had not strengthen the democracy. The Congress Party was defeated over there. Did it not strengthen the democracy. B.J.P. was defeated in Jammu & Kashmir but we have accepted our defeat gracefully. The democracy has strengthened in Jammu & Kashmir by peaceful elections. But the Congress is not ready to accept its defeat gracefully. They have objection as to why was it mentioned in the address that democracy has strengthen in Gujarat by peaceful elections.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the elections of local-bodies have been held in Gujarat recently and there is not even a single incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Why were they delayed? When were they due? Why don't you tell it?

Why are you misleading the House? The *zila parishad* elections were due before four years. Why were you not going in for elections? Do not mislead the House. I am sitting over here. It was murder of democracy in Gujarat when BJP won. It was your party which was complaining against the Election Commission. Now that since you have won, you do not have complaints against it. Why were you complaining against the Election Commission? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If the Congress Party had lost the elections then it is murder of democracy. If the Congress Won then. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Gujarat is being ruled by BJP right from 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Whatever honourable Modi Ji said over there, you will have to give its reply. Honourable Modi said.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am expunging his remarks. Please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The results of the Gujarat's elections is like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The name of any other country had not been mentioned then why you are worried. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): When the Congress Party was defeated, all the Pakistani papers lamented that the Congress was defeated. Is it not correct that they have lamented?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let your Member speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Congress is wooing Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The elections of Nagar Palika of Gujarat have also been declared.

[*English*]

The results declared by the State Election Commission of Gujarat certifies that BJP candidates captured 1266 seats in all and the Congress Party was pushed to the third position with 458 seats behind 532 seats won by independents.

[*Translation*]

Even the independents won more seats than Congress. Earlier they had won at all the places but now the situation is that they are placed at the third position. Inspite of all this, they are mentioning about the Gujarat's elections. It has been said that when elections are to be held only then cow issue and Ayodhya's issue is raised. It has been mentioned in the President's Address that the verdict of the court will be final and binding in the case of Ayodhya, but whatever is to be decided, should be done at the earliest. The speeches are being delivered since morning and I wanted to say something at that time, but now I would like to ask why abusive language is being used for great saints of the country. One can express one views without using abusive language. Somebody is calling them Ravana somebody is calling them Kaalnermi. We have high regard for those revered saints. Had such things been said about any other religious preceptors then how would they feel?

Without using abusive language about saints one can express one's views. ...(*Interruptions*) At that time Somnath Chatterjee read few lines. I do not know what he had said. It is not necessary that B.J.P. would agree with all that what have been said there. Some utterances have been made in anger like they are fraud, dividing the country and instigating the people of the country to which we do not subscribe. But three things came before us and what could be the objection, I fail to understand. They want to make their point clear to MPs so that a proposal is passed and the temple could be built over there. When Somnath Temple was built Nehru Ji was the Prime Minister and he got the proposal cleared through Cabinet and the temple was built.

[*English*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (*Mayiladuturai*): This is completely false. Again and again it is being repeated

by the Goebbles of the BJP. When my chance comes, I will explain this. This is complete falsehood. I advisedly used this word. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is my friend but he can not speak without using unparliamentary language. This is his nature. Whether anybody can tell that how the Somnath Temple was built.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, as you have rightly said, when your turn comes you can speak.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Honourable President Dr. Rajendra Prasad inaugurated that temple. Honourable Sardar Patel was its Chairman. It was built in such manner. If they say that this Parliament should pass the proposal then what is wrong in it? We know that we do not have majority in the Parliament. We do not have this option because there is no majority. If one realises the voice of ones conscious and make them understand and change bring in their hearts, and also if all of them consider collectively the dispute between Hindu and Muslim will get over for ever and the temple could be built over there then what is the objection in it. They just want to putforth their views before them and them understand peacefully. What is the objection in it?

It has also been said that we had raised the issue. The issue of Ayodhya was discussed with leaders of all Parliamentary Parties last year and everybody wanted that decision should be taken at the earliest. The matter was referred to the Supreme Court for decision. The Supreme Court admitted the case. It had accepted to this extent that if there is not hearing on 6th March even then we will hear the case relating to vacation of stay order. They also do not rely on the Supreme Court. The biggest objection they have is that why had we gone to Court. I think whoever is objecting certainly bears malice against us, malice against the Government, against the Hindus, against India and bears malice against country also. Since morning it is being said that Honourable Advani Ji should tell the House whether he will accept the court's verdict or not? I have already told that he will surely abide by the verdict of court but there is also an objection that why he went to court. ...(*Interruptions*) It was essential because we want peace in the country, and those who want to instigate the people of the country should not succeed in their evil mission, those who want to create riots in the country, should not be able to do so.

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

We went to court for early judgment. If this decision would have been taken in 1992 then the incident of 6th December would not have occurred. They tried to postpone the judgment and to delay the matter to create fear among Muslims. I would like to ask that if Congress Party did not want to delay this matter and if it does not want to interfere in this matter, then why did its senior-most spokesman and leader went there to plead their case. Then why did they go there to ask them not to give any decision and keep it pending. An M.P. of Congress Party went there to plead this case.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to raise a point of order. Please sit down. What is your point of order?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I cannot possibly raise a point of order about the intellectual level of the presentation being made by Professor Malhotra.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is only got title to intellectualism. He is the only person who is an intellectual in the country. Everybody else is not an intellectual. ...*(Interruptions)* He is the only intellectual in the country.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: He cannot question the wisdom and intellectual level of Dr. Malhotra. ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot do that. Therefore, he must withdraw it. ...*(Interruptions)* He must withdraw the words used for hon'ble Malhotraji. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, if there is any unparliamentary expression in my little sentence, you may kindly delete that. I have no problem with that.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not there.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The point of order that I am raising is that he cannot attribute motives to any person who takes up a brief as an advocate. After all, briefs are taken by individuals. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is your point of order? Please tell me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Briefs are not taken up by Members belonging to political parties. Shri Kapil Sibal is

an individual advocate. He is not an advocate of the Congress Party. He is an individual. He is a lawyer. He has the freedom to take up any brief. Shri Malhotra, to attribute that to the Congress Party would be utterly nonsensical. It would be levelling an allegation against the Congress Party. Therefore, it is out of order.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when such emotional issues emerge before the country, and when crores of people are anxiously waiting for the judgment even the advocates of political parties while appearing before the court keep in mind the emotions of the people of the country. Therefore, if it is stated that he went there as a lawyer, I would like to know whether you will allow him, if VHP tells him to plead their case.

[English]

Will you allow them to take a brief of V.H.P.?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You are welcome. Anybody is welcome.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the sooner the decision is taken on the Ayodhya issue the better it will be. We all should try to make an effort in this regard. Particularly the objection is in regard to the land about which the Supreme Court in its 1994 judgment had ruled that neither any Muslims nor anybody else has made claim on that land, the land that has been acquired is undisputed and if any adverse judgment is given the required land could be returned. Government had sought this clarification and such a hue and cry was raised on this issue in the House as if something terrible is going to happen in India. Temple is still there on the disputed land the people are performing Pooja also and it is being done under the orders of Supreme Court. Nobody can demolish the platform built over there. They are of the opinion that let the Pooja be performed in the temple on the disputed land but undisputed land which was acquired from Hindus should not be returned to them what is the logic behind this and they are blaming BJP for raising this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days another things is in the air. Leaders of Congress Party and other people are raising the matter of corruption everywhere. They are talking about corruption everywhere. The people living in glass houses are throwing stones on those living in steel houses, strong houses. I challenge if any leader of Congress Party can name a single Minister from B.J.P.

against whom charge sheet has been filed by 'Lokayukt' or 'Lokpal' for his alleged involvement in any corruption case. I would like to say that the party whose two Prime Minister are facing trials in court, whose more than a dozen Ministers have been charge-sheeted and against whose Chief Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That charge-sheeted Minister is sitting in the Treasury Benches to deal with the Home Ministry. Which Government in this country has produced a Cabinet Minister charge-sheeted by CBI and still sitting on the Treasury Benches? Can you tell me? ...*(Interruptions)*. Which Minister is charge sheeted by CBI and the Court and is sitting on the Treasury Benches? Can you give me an example?....*(Interruptions)*. Which Minister of the Government against whom there is an inquiry on the defence scam relating to Tehelka, is still sitting on the Treasury Benches? Can you give me an example?

[Translation]

He is asking Congress Party to give an example, therefore, I am mentioning it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Malhotraji please do not reveal the things. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can I speak when they are interrupting.

MR. SPEAKER: You please do not ask questions, you have raised three-four questions, that is why they are replying. Please give your statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How much time do you require, Dr. Malhotra?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will take five more minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to conclude his speech in five minutes. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Tell them to come outside, we will face them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker Sir, we will also accompany them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can compete you.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a contempt of court when they say that how court could take a decision in this regard when the Government is there. It is totally inappropriate to say that the judiciary work on the wishes of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know two things. Congress Party has made a strategy to level allegations on others. Their strategy is not that they level allegations on others. Their strategy is spit and run. Congress Party must have remembered that Ajit Jogi ji had mentioned in media that a bribe of hundred crore rupees has been taken in BALCO case. In this regard we challenged him through P.M.O. to prove it. Since then his whereabouts are not known. Spit and run, that regarding that case. Spit and run, regarding that case since it is not known where he is. ...*(Interruptions)*

Amrinder Singh of Punjab stated that Badal Sahib has a property of 3500 crore rupees and I can prove it within one week. Years have been passed but he did not take any action to prove it. They forget everything in five years to power. No charge has been levelled against Prem Kumar Dhoomal since five years. Now at the time of election, they recalled everything. I do not want to talk about the vulgar and cheap posters they have used.

SHRI TARACHAND SHIVAJI PATEL (Khargone): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should hold talks on the President's Address, we should talk of unemployment. Malhotraji is only making provocative speeches nothing else. We should do some constructive work which would ensure development of the country and provide employment to the unemployed. Let him talk about what we are doing and what the Government are going to do.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am expressing my views on the President's Address in which subjects as corruption and Ayodhya have been discussed. Whatever I am saying has been included in the Address. I would like to ask only one question and I expect that they will give reply to that. There is a case about embezzlement of rupees 1 lakh 40 thousand filed against Shah Sahib in Gujarat. Who is he? On what basis did he buy the tickets for their Ministers and why did he pay the hotel-bills. Embezzlement charges of 1 crore and 40 lakh rupees has been made against a cheat

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intermediary and their Ministers are getting themselves photographed with him. Now forget making a statement that he should file a case for Rs. 10 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What are you talking? Is he a intermediary? What proof do you have with you? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): The information being cited here is an anticipated one. After 3 months, elections are to be held in Himachal Pradesh and keeping this point in view, this case has been made to exploit and blackmail. I totally contradict it. No Minister is at all responsible for this. What he is saying after thought. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not levelled any allegations. I have not said this thing.

15.00 hrs.

I have only asked as to why did Neeraj Shah buy tickets and why did he pay the hotel bills. ...*(Interruptions)* If a Chief Minister of a State pays a visit to some other State, then should he not inform in advance that he is coming. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is an amazing level we have reduced ourselves to. ...*(Interruptions)*

A lady had also come to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is on a point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Those who are not present in this House are not in a position to defend themselves. ...*(Interruptions)* If any allegation is levelled against them, it will not be correct. The Members who are making such allegations should see to it that these are not made. If they are made, they should not form a part of the record because those people, against whom the allegations are made, are not in a position to defend themselves.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not naming any person. I have not mention a single name. Please read out the whole thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Do you know who that lady is. ...*(Interruptions)* You are giving a certificate in respect of her. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not mentioned any lady's name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Then how do you know who that woman is? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Niraj Shah is a man and not a woman. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I have not made any allegation. I have only asked why did he buy the tickets? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech Shri Malhotra is making is not expected of him. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please do not force me to open my mouth. ...*(Interruptions)* I have not levelled any charges. Right from morning you are speaking against Mayawatiji. ...*(Interruptions)* The way you are talking is not expected of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, please sit down. Are you on a point of order.

[English]

If you are not on a point of order, I will not allow you to speak.

[Translation]

I am not giving you permission to speak because you have no point of order.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have neither levelled charges on anyone nor have I mentioned the name of any woman. I am just asking as to why should a person pay the bills against whom charges of cheating have been levelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, will you try to finish?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has not spoken anything about helplessness and poverty in the country during his entire speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning parties like the Congress Party, the CPM, the Samajwadi Party were clapping their hand when the BJP was being criticised. Then Mrs. Sonia Gandhi called a meeting and appealed all to unite. People should unite for the debacle in Gujarat, defeat in UP or for any other kind of disappointment. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What you people have done. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You are running a Government with the coalition of 24-25 parties. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This morning two things were said, our brethren from Kerala decided to know as to why the Congress Party ordered firing on Adivasis there. The Home Minister should make an enquiry in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*) They fired at the Adivasis. Shri Dasmunsi ji said that rapes were committed in West Bengal. Rapes were committed during the tenure of CPI Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Vijayji, please conclude.

[*English*]

Please keep silence in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is concluding just now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got "The Statesment" before me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (*Jhunjhunu*): This speech is not on the President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule you are speaking? What is the number of the rule.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: It is on the topic he is speaking ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Today it has come in "The statesment" which I am reading out to you.

[*English*]

In today's *Statesman*, it is said:

"West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee today questioned the knowledge of the Congress Chief, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, about the true character of her party's Tripura poll ally INPT.

I want to ask Mrs. Sonia Gandhi whether she knows that NLFT is an ISI-backed insurgent outfit, which is the underground organisation of INPT," he said at a press meet here"

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What are you talking about. Malhotraji you can please express your views. We do not want to listen to him. Please tell what you want to say. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Just speaking, Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people interrupted when I was speaking. Do they expect this type of behaviour. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharyaji said:

"At least 550 people, including CPI-M activists and 150-security personnel were killed by NLFT ultras in Tripura in the past 10 years." ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (*Hugli*): He has nothing to say about the factories which are being closed down and due to which poverty is increasing ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please let him read out. If you do not like, you can say what you want to say in your speech.

[*English*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Is this the way to interrupt me?

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he said that the Congress Party should not join hands with these Forces who are directly supported by Pakistan.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has every right to speak here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him say what he wants to say.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya says that he is receiving many weapons and training everything from the ISI. He has opened 50 such centres in Bangladesh. He has said that Congress President Sonia Gandhi might have to pay heavy price for joining hands with anti-social forces. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to make a submission. Sir, the Congress did not have any Pact with NLFT. NLFT is an anti-national organisation. The Congress has alliance with INPT who embraced democracy ten years back, and came to the Assembly. This part of the statement is correct that NLFT is an anti-national organisation. But Congress did not join hands with NLFT. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I was quoting what Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya has said.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You cannot mislead the House. You do not have any facts at all.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is talking of the State problems. He is in power, please talk to him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Should I read out what he said about the BJP. Please read out what he said about the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has also given reply to the points made by Shri Dasmunsi. Shri Budhdev

Bhattacharya is saying that the National Liberation Front constituted the I.N.P.T. party over night. It is an agent of the I.S.I. of Pakistan. They have reached an agreement with them. That Statesmant. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is putting such a big blame on the party whose 25 thousands workers sacrificed their lives and fought a battle against the I.S.I. They have even sacrificed their Prime Minister and they are levelling allegations on such party. This is too much.

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, now you please conclude.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It is only the Congress Party which has fought a battle against the I.S.I. during last 25-30 years. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am trying to make you understand that the Congress Party and the Communist Party which are walking along here, are against each other in their views.

[English]

Soniaji lashes out at the Left Front.

[Translation]

She said that the C.P.M. had let the ladies and children killed. She said that there is no peace there. She said that the law and order situation is such that there is no Government beyond 7-8 miles. She had also said that they are not conducting Panchayats elections. There they are posing as if they are enemies of each other and that they are suffering from B.J.P. phobia that is why they are doing like this. ...(Interruptions)

As I said in the beginning that only a brief description of the achievements of the Government have been given in "Presidential Address" i.e. it is only 1% of what has been achieved. If we elaborate them, it may take several days to cover it and thousands of pages will be filled for that. There was no need to keep their statistics. But whatever this Government is doing for the security of the country, I want that the Congress Party, the Communist Party or members of any other party should give the reply to this that those people who have. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will give the reply. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Had I asked anything for which you want to give reply? Rather I am questioning you. Let me put the question and only then

you will give reply to it. How can you give reply before I put the question? ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to ask whether these widows of martyrs who have received "Ashok Chakra" and "Paramvir Chakra" from the hon'ble President on 26th January in recognition of their husbands' valiant deeds for fighting with the terrorists and sacrificing their lives, how they feel when those terrorists, are released. Does it not have adverse impact on the minds of the people of our country? If the Congress Party is not responsible for that? Why the dreaded terrorists were freed? This question must also be replied as to whether this issue is not linked with the security of the country? We had a discussion on security and proxy voting and the Lok Sabha has passed it. Whether the Rajya Sabha would support it or oppose it? By proxy voting. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, a procedure should be followed. He is asking for the replies to the questions, which can be given on the floor of the House in the Rajya Sabha itself. They have not answered the questions. They cannot ask such questions, and that too they are asking us as to what are we going to do in Rajya Sabha.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In the end, while speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the Hon'ble President's Address, I would like to say that the problems like foreign policy, security of the country and Pakistan's policy regarding cross border terrorism are linked with the future of the country and the entire nation should try to resolve these problems collectively and not to oppose it for the sake of opposing only.

With these words, I support the motion of thanks on the hon'ble President's Address.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, I am here to second the Motion moved by senior Member of the House, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to thank the hon. President for delivering a speech on last Monday in which he had dealt upon several issues that our country is facing and where the Government is trying to address these issues in various manner.

Shri Malhotra mentioned about the length of the speech. It is undoubtedly true that the speech is long enough to cover the various achievements and initiatives that the Government has taken. But also, it has really covered the wide ranging issues, so it is really width in nature. It is also trying to address some of the deep-

rooted problems of the country that it also has the real breadth in addition to the length and width. So, it is a really very memorable landmark speech that the President has delivered. So, I am here to second the Motion to thank the President for delivering that speech.

Sir, if we can really characterise his speech which has been delivered. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Are you supporting his speech? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I am supporting the Motion thanking the President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not his speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the Address can be characterised with a vision which the President has talked about. It has also matched by a mission that the Government has launched to accomplish the visions. So, it is the Government which can claim truly having provided stability to the country by providing a stable Government as well as its ability to deliver solutions to some of the problems that we face.

Sir, it is an Address which talks about connectivity, which will ultimately lead us to prosperity. It is an Address in which the Government's ability of providing of what our Constitutional framers had talked about. Our Constitution is federal in nature and unitary in spirit. So, this is the Government which can really claim having provided unitary and federal character to various policies that the Government has followed.

It is an Address which really addresses the problems, sufficiently inward looking to address the domestic problems of the country and it has also a real outward looking approach towards some of the international problems that the Government of India has been able to address in the last few years.

Sir, I just would like to quote what the President has said:

"No nation attains greatness without an energizing vision guiding it."

Sir, I must really admit that for the first time we have a vision now to make India a developed nation by 2020, which has been announced on the last

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

Independence Day by the Prime Minister. The Government of India is now trying to attempt taking the country to a new height of making sure that we will become one of the developed nations by 2020.

Sir, let us compare ourselves with China. This comparison becomes very inevitable because in India, so far people have a feeling that India cannot attain growth because India has a large population. The countries which can grow are the countries which are small in size and the countries which have a large educational background. Therefore, education was already there. That is why, now people can really develop. But China has belied that. What has China done? Today, China's GDP is almost 1.2 trillion and by 2020 the Prime Minister is talking about and the President has mentioned about making India a developed nation—China's GDP would be four times higher than what it is today. China had launched in 1978 a programme of reforms. The number of people who were benefited from that were the poorest of the people living anywhere in the world and those people have now been brought above the poverty line. Therefore, the same vision is required which guided China. China is going to be a five trillion-dollar country within the next 20 years. India also should be a country of that size. That is why, the vision, which the President is talking about, is a vision that is really required for us.

In fact, the Tenth Five Year Plan is really a landmark Plan. I remember, the First Plan, which was announced, had a very important Chapter on People's participation. Somewhere down the line, we really got disconnected from the people. The Plan started working but the people were disconnected from the Plan. The then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in fact, decided to preside over the Bharat Sewak Samaj. He had realised that unless people participated in the development, it would not be possible to develop the nation.

Sir, for the first time, this Plan is people centric, trying to take people with us. Therefore, this vision of making India a superpower is going to benefit 260 million people who are now living below the poverty line. Therefore, what is really required is a reform in the system which is making sure that these 260 million people can also have a reasonable chance of living a decent life. Therefore, this is an extremely important Address.

The President has been talking to youth. He has been talking to young children. There are, in fact, 721 million people in India who are below 35 years of age. This is the target group that the President is trying to connect with. This is the type of a target that the President has really trying to attack. Therefore, this vision is required. But, Sir, vision is one thing. We need the

vision but we also need a mission to accomplish it. This Government has been able to do that in the course of the last five years.

The first most important thing is to know what we really lack. I was talking about it to an Indian expert living in China. He gave me the answer as to why India is not growing as much as China is growing. His answer was: "You are not even thinking about growing. So, you first start thinking about it, you will start growing."

Therefore, the issue is really the mind set. We always believed that in India we can never implement large-scale projects. To begin with, the road project is a testimony to the fact that India can really accomplish it. It can not only just accomplish it but also it can accomplish it with a lesser time framework than it was decided to accomplish the task. In the course of the last five years, look at what we have been able to accomplish. We have just launched it in 1999. But what are we going to accomplish in roads? Our target in the National Highway Programme in the last 50 years had been 11.12 kilometres per year that we were able to accomplish. In the next 1999-2007 period, we would be able to construct 14,843 kilometres of road, which averages to 1,650 kilometres of road per year, which really means that everyday the country is constructing 17 kilometres of road. Just imagine our attainment in the past and just see the accomplishment of what has been done in the last five years. So this is what is going to really make it possible that our vision becomes a reality.

To add to this, there are 1.8 lakh villages which are today unconnected. So, these are the villages which do not have connectivity to the road; these are the villages in which the Prime Minister's *Gram Sadak Yojana* is going to cover 20,000 kilometres of road with an investment of Rs. 60,000 crore. This is going to make sure that all the villages are covered. When we all talk about villages, we are absolutely right. When we are saying that we have to address the real issues, these are the real issues. With this connectivity that is going to take place, the people living in the villages, languishing in poverty, are the people who will really be able to come above the poverty line. I will come to it why I am mentioning these three or four infrastructure sectors. We have always seen this. Why do Indians, when they leave India, become successful? Why are the same Indians in India are unsuccessful? This is because of lack of infrastructure. If you provide to the people this kind of infrastructure, automatically the real intelligence that people possess, their initiative, their enterprise will come to the fore and they will be able to develop.

So, the other sector of infrastructure is the telecommunication. What was the attainment? Till 1998, we had 21.6 million fixed line telephones. By 2002 end, that is, just four years from then, we have got 40.4 million telephones which have been added during that period. There is a growth rate of 25 per cent per annum. Let me come to cellular phones. Obviously till 1998, there were not many cellular phones. There were only 1.2 million. Now, there are 11 million cellular phones. There is a growth rate of almost 170 per cent. The tele-density has improved from 2.33 to 4.89 per cent. The real backbone for the entire telecommunication network is the optic fiber cable, which was a just .65 lakh kilometres till 1998 when this Government took office. It has been now 3.63 lakh kilometres.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What about rural telephony?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, this is a real great growth in telecommunication. This is resulting into benefits to the consumers because tariffs, at the same time, are falling. Now, we can claim that tariffs in India are one of the lowest in the world.

Take the other sector, power sector, in which we had several problems. This Government has been able to change the gear to make sure that the real problem in the power sector is commercial viability of the sector. The State Electricity Boards, in the course of the last 10 years, have lost more than Rs. 92,000 crore. Unless you correct this, you lose in every kilowatt-hour of power that is supplied to the consumer. The cost of supply of per kilowatt-hour of power is Rs. 3, but the average cost of tariff is Rs. 2. So, the more you supply, the more you lose. As a result of that, the State Electricity Boards are losing and that is pre-empting our ability to invest in future. Therefore, the generating capacity is not getting added. So, this Government actually addresses the structural problem of making sure that the distribution end of the power sector reform, which is so crucial, is properly addressed. This is something which is receiving now the world attention.

I must share with you a report, which one of the most reputed banks in the world, has just come out. The report dated 18th December, 2002 of the Deutsche Bank, which is, as you know, a German Bank but an international bank, one of the largest banks in the world, titled "Will India challenge China?" Sir, the team consisting of experts from several fields of Deutsche Bank visited India. They have addressed seven issues that Indians themselves say why India cannot grow. When they came to India, we ourselves have said that we cannot. The worst critics of India were the Indians. They have said

that it is not possible; India cannot grow. So, they picked up all those arguments. I am not going to read all this. Finally, they came to the conclusion that if at all there is one nation in the world who can effectively challenge China, that is India. If you really look at, it is definitely doable. If you really look at it, in the first decade of reforms from 1991 to 2002, we have been able to do much better than what China was able to do in the first decade of reforms.

Now, it is obvious that China is getting \$ 50 billion of FDI every year but what we have got is definitely far in excess of what China could receive in the first decade. Therefore, the Government's vision backed by mission is also receiving world attention. I am very happy that the President's Address, to which we propose a vote of thanks, is the one which is doing to make sure that India really becomes a developed nation in the course of the next fifteen to twenty years.

I would like to mention about political stability. I had spoken about stability and ability. This is the Government which has been in office though there has been an election interrupting the tenure for the last five years. This stability was really required for India. Earlier, people were laughing and saying, 'We cannot make investments in India. There is no stability for policy because there is no political stability.' This is the Government which has been able to provide political stability. I do not want to say how many Prime Ministers were there in the earlier period but now for the last five years there has been a single Prime Minister who has been guiding the destiny of this Government. Therefore, it is a very big contribution which has resulted in dealing with some of the very crucial problems that the country has been facing and that demonstrates the ability.

The North-East has been one of the areas of prime concern. We have always said that there were seven sisters but now there are eight. The State of Sikkim has been added to the other seven States in the North-East. Maybe, Sikkim is the brother and the other seven are sisters. The North-East is a very crucial part of India. This Government created the Ministry for Development of North-Eastern Region to address the problems of the North-East. Nagaland has been facing severe problems of insurgency for several years, about which we have been talking indefinitely. The efforts of the Government have now resulted in a concrete solution to the problem in which almost all the underground leaders have come to the fore. They have participated in the process and that has resulted in real long-standing solution to the problems of one of the critical parts of the country, that is, the North-East of India.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

The ISI has been very active and the House has been unanimous in condemning its activities demanding the strictest action possible against the ISI, which is trying to cause disruption to our normal life. Innocent citizens are dying and they are carrying out subversive activities. I was happy to read the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister yesterday that a number of camps of the ISI that have been uprooted are the highest ever in the course of the last five years, particularly in the last two years. This has ensured stability for the society, not just for the Government. This is the kind of stability for the society that we want where people can live peacefully in harmony with each other but the ISI has been all the time causing disruption in our normal life.

The next point on which I really wish to congratulate the Government is for initiating a process of identification of citizens by providing them with identity cards or identity numbers. This is really required. This would really ensure in the long term that each and every citizen of India has an Indian identity so that we would be able to distinguish between citizens living in India and those who claim citizenship without having the right to do so. Therefore, this is an extremely important step.

We have always seen that some innocent people have died because of bomb blasts and many other disruptive activities. We have always been wondering why we cannot get the people responsible for these activities brought in from other parts of the world. I am very happy that for the first time, in the course of the last few days itself, we have been able to extradite some of the most wanted criminals. Now, they would be facing charges in India. They will be facing the legal system of India. This is an important achievement.

The modernisation of the police force is also really required. We often find that some Members of Parliament are at the receiving end because police forces really do not know how to deal with common citizens and Members of Parliament. What is really required is a modernisation of the police force. To make sure that this issue is not merely talked about but acted upon, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken steps on this and modernisation of the police force has been one of the important initiatives that would go a long way in ensuring that there would be a proper interface between the police and the people

because most of people's interface in addition to the revenue services is with the police forces.

We should all be proud that Kashmir is now more a better place than what it was a few months ago. After the elections, when people were saying that elections would never take place and when the international community was all the time saying that elections could not be fair, many international commentators and international representatives really watched-I am not saying it was under their supervision-the elections and came to the conclusion that it was the most peaceful election after which a new Government has assumed office. This is another achievement and therefore I said it is not just stability but also an ability to do things.

The other most important aspect is the defence of the country. It is because when we talk of our internal security, it is related to our external ability to defend our borders. There again we have been able to do something, which is very structural and important in nature. We have created an Integrated Defence Staff, the Defence Intelligence Agency and there have been various Boards which have been formed to address some of the problems, to make sure that as much as transparency is possible and, therefore, even ex-servicemen are also being looked at as the target to make sure that their problems are solved including providing the biggest housing schemes ever, involving an investment of about Rs. 18,000 crore launched in the last few years.

Sir, Long Range Surface to Surface Agni-II missile test has also been done. Probably, the hon. President has not talked about it. So, it is the right time that we make sure that we have our internal security as well as external border security in mind. We must also start a service of compulsory military service for every individual in India to make sure that people can participate in it and they should be able to contribute in it. This is something we really need to look at.

The hon. President has talked about connectivity. He has talked about physical connectivity, electronic connectivity, knowledge connectivity and marked connectivity. I would like to add here that there are, probably, two more connectivities. Hon. President, probably, wanted to talk about them and he talked about them a little later. But two more connectivities have been

mentioned. One is the emotional connectivity. There are more than 20 million NRIs who are living all over the world. They are emotionally connected to the mainland. The Government had organised the first ever *Pravasi Bhartiya Divas*. This has been a great attainment.

Now, I come to China. China has been able to get most of the investments from overseas Chinese who are living in Hong Kong, Taiwan or in Southeast Asia. Similarly, if we do not connect with our people, who are of our origin, who have got relationship with us and, which is just beyond commercial relationship, it will not serve a useful purpose. They are connected with us. This is something, which has been done.

But most importantly I really congratulate the Government, the hon. Minister for Water Resources, who is sitting just in front of me and I am standing behind him, for starting a very important project to connect the major rivers of India. This has been a dream of every Indian. In fact, I remember that in this very House when we were celebrating the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, many speakers had spoken about it. The Leader of the Opposition also supported it by saying that this idea of connecting rivers will ensure solving the problems of floods and droughts. It will also create employment opportunities. This one project can create huge employment in the country. It can increase the food production of our country. It is about 450 million tonnes. It can ensure huge area, which can be brought under irrigation. It can create additional 30,000 mega watts of hydro electric generation. So, this is a project, which will ensure connectivity in real sense of the term, which will be able to connect one part of the country to the other part of the country. It will also bring an emotional connectivity within the country, as we have been able to attain the emotional connectivity with the people living overseas to the mainland. So, this is something, which has been of extreme importance.

But what are the results of this connectivity? In the last few years, the Information Technology has been able to generate an export of Rs. 36,500 crore. Is it a real expectation? It is a very realistic estimation. It is \$ 57 billion by 2008. How many jobs will be created and what about the equity it has been able to create?

In the same way, we have been successful in our automobile industry. Sir, you had been the Minister of

Industry when you formulated the Automobile Policy. It has been one of the important sectors which India can claim a truly global in stature. Automobile components are now being exported world-wide. Many companies of the world are out-sourcing their automobile spare parts and components from India. It is creating an employment again to our people. It is our ability to be world leader in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. This is another area in which our connectivity is now resulting into prosperity to many people and this is something extremely important. As a result of that, what does the outside world say? There is an article, which has been published in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* only about two months ago. It is written by Mr. Tom Holland. It says and I quote:—

"Reversal of Fortunes-after 23 years of running a current-account deficit with the rest of the world, India now boasts of a surplus and GDP growth estimate to reach 6 percent, putting it in an enviable economic position."

This is a commentary on India's performance in the course of last few years by a magazine, which is really repeated, concentrating on these areas. So, this is something which, I think, everybody would like to know.

The other part, which I may mention, is about unity in federal system.

Sir, this Government has successfully performed an extremely important experience of ensuring that divergent political views come together to govern the country for common good of the people. As you are all aware, the last parliamentary elections produced the result which ensured that NDA Government came to power with such a large number of parties which have been able to work together. Though they have differences on many issues, but the most important thing is that unity in diversity is the real nature of this Government which ensures that despite our small differences, which were always kept aside in the larger interest of the country, we have been successfully able to work on it. This belies the prophesy made by a very leading commentator on India, Shri Mark Tully. He had said that India would never be able to work together because of so much of divergent views and divergent interests. But this Government has been able to show that this is the first coalition Government at the Centre which has been able to run together for five years successfully with so many attainments to its credit.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

I really wish to congratulate the Government. This is another important thing.

It is not just working within the coalition partners, but most importantly, working with the States which are ruled by different political ideologies, and political parties. I have personal experience of working with the States. Irrespective of whether the Government was run by the Left Front in West Bengal or the Congress in 14 States, they all supported the power sector reforms for the simple reason that they had realised that unless we worked together, we would not be able to deliver for the benefit of the common man. This is the Government which has been able to work successfully with the States and there has not been a single instance—maybe, there have been some altercations of confrontation with the States. So, this is a very important thing. We talk about our Constitution being unitary in nature and federal in character, but it has been practised to reality by this Government in the course of the last five years. Therefore, I really wish to congratulate for this.

Sir, the hon. President has talked about several issues for which I really thank him for his Address. I want to ask one thing. Can we not build up consensus on some of the critical issues that our country is facing? Can we not work together on the issues that the President has highlighted? I think, I should really thank the President for the service he has rendered by coming to the Parliament House and addressing us. I think, the best way to thank him would be to build up consensus on some of the issues that confront us on which the people of India would be very happy to see us working together.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 17, 2003."

Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement about the amendments to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Hon. Members, whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move

their amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while thanking the hon. Rashtrapati for the maiden address, it is dismaying to see that this solemn and esteemed tradition is being reduced to camouflage the failures of the BJP-led coalition Government and to reflect its deep divisive approach to governance.

First, the BJP-led coalition Government has failed on security. It has been unable to combat terrorism effectively. Worse, it is using terrorism as a pretext to polarise our society. Second, the BJP-led coalition Government has seriously damaged the secular fabric of our society. It has more than disturbed social peace and harmony. Third, the BJP-led coalition Government has not converted the strength of the economy into opportunities for the people of India to enhance food security, employment, growth and investment.

Fourth, the BJP-led coalition Government's track record on probity, accountability and transparency has been abysmal. I would now like to expand on all these points.

Sir, no regime in the history of independent India has been more responsible for the weakening of our democratic, egalitarian and plural social and political order than the BJP-led coalition Government. We are exposing ourselves to our external and internal enemies by targeting large sections of our own innocent citizens. To be one of the world's few nuclear powers can be of no solace when the hands that wield that power are busy in trying to destroy our internal harmony and cohesion.

The President's Address says and I quote:

"The chief threat to our internal security is external."

The external threat is obvious. It is there. It is glaring and must be, therefore, combated with determination. The whole country is one in this resolve. We have on our

part extended broad support again and again to the Government to deal with cross-border terrorism. But, it serves the purpose of the Government to talk only about the external threat and gloss over the equally grave internal threat that is rearing its head due to the BJP's own divisive agenda. The broader definition of security today must include social consolidation, internal unity, distributive social justice and countering all forms of religious and other extremism.

My emphatic submission, therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that during the tenure of the BJP-led coalition regime, the internal and national security situation has deteriorated alarmingly.

Sir, the President's Address deals extensively with terrorism and rightly so. Pakistan's continued efforts to foment cross-border terrorism and violence in different parts of our country must be combated vigorously. We must not let our vigil down against terrorist forces, against those forces who seek to disturb our social peace and harmony. But jingoism and war hysteria is not a substitute for sound policy.

While we deal with Pakistan's continued anti-Indian postures, confrontation with Pakistan must not be used, as is being done by the BJP, to polarise our own society and to heighten communal tensions. Over three years ago, if I remember correctly, the Home Minister had promised us a White Paper on the ISI. Now, the nation is still waiting for it. The Subrahmanyam Committee, set up following Kargil war, made, I think, 25 major recommendations for improving the country's security management system. Over 40 months have passed ever since that Report had been tabled and yet the Government has not deemed it fit or important enough to brief the Parliament even once about the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Subrahmanyam Committee. Perhaps the Government is deeply embarrassed by what the Committee found, as to what exactly led to the Kargil war by way of intelligence failures. Unprecedented troop mobilisation on our Western borders continued for almost a year. The Deputy Prime Minister himself, speaking in this House on November 25th last year, virtually admitted that the massive military mobilisation involving, we are told, five lakh troops failed to meet our objectives. And I quote what the Home Minister himself said. He said:

[Translation]

"There was some plan with certain objections when issue of deployment was being considered but later on objectives could not be implemented or implementation did not take place"

[English]

I am quoting from what the Home Minister said here in the House.

Now, the President's Address, referring to the deployment, possibly for lack of anything more than substantial, only says,

"This decision achieved its purpose by showing both firmness and our self-restraint in dealing with our hostile neighbour."

Now, this is, at best, a pathetic *post facto* justification, and I would like to say that in spite of the Prime Minister's promises of "zero tolerance" against terrorism "fight to the finish" and this Government's assertion that there has been a paradigm shift in Indo-US relations, the reality is that:

1. Pakistan has failed to fulfill General Musharraf's promises made on January 12, 2002;
2. Pakistan's policy on Jammu and Kashmir has not changed at all;
3. Our communications with Pakistan are taking place mostly through other countries;
4. Cross-border terrorism continues;
5. The United States continues to treat Pakistan as a stalwart ally;

And, Sir, there is another very important point, which, I wonder, if the Government realises that this continued state of tension between two nuclear powers is beginning to have an impact on the risk perceptions of India as a safe investment destination as well.

Sir, a divided India a sharply polarised India is, I believe, as many of us here believe, many people in India believe, is the greatest threat to our national security. The cries of warning from civil society, from constitutional bodies, from us here, from some NDA allies as well, and from the public themselves, have consistently been ignored.

Sir, I must say that we are thankful to the President for one little sentence which he pronounced in para 14, page 5 of his Speech, where he says:

"The Government remains committed to secularism."

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

This is about it; that is all he said about secularism in a 24-page, 79-para and roughly 75-minute Speech. That is all there is about secularism. It is almost as if it has been inserted at the last minute as an after-thought. But what is the precise nature of this commitment, when we have seen BJP-ruled State Governments engaged in the most pernicious form of communal propaganda and practice? What exactly does this commitment entail, when the VHP, when certain elements within the BJP, some allies of the NDA, are allowed to engage in the most dangerous kind of rabble-rousing and are allowed to get away with the most outrageous and incendiary public pronouncements? We have had a taste of this at yesterday's VHP's *Dharam Sansad* where several threats were hurled at many people and where it was stated that there are going to be a hundred 'Gujarats'.

Secularism is the battle against religious fundamentalism of all kinds. Secularism means that the State will fulfill its Constitutional obligations in letter and spirit to remain above all communal prejudice and bias, to protect religious amity and to promote religious tolerance. I want to ask, "Is this the record of this Government?"

Sir, we will soon be having a debate on Ayodhya in the House. The President's Address makes a reference to it. This is an issue that regularly surfaces whenever elections are on the horizon. Ayodhya, I believe, means a place where war is absent, where battles do not take place. However, are not the sectarian organisations like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad destroying the very meaning of this sacred place of ours by their belligerent posturing and saber rattling? It is incumbent on all of us to wait for and respect the verdict of the judiciary. Highly venerated religious leaders are also of this opinion. Just a few days back, retired Chief Justice of India Justice J.S. Verma spoke out saying how the 1994 Supreme Court Judgement on the acquisition of land at Ayodhya was being misinterpreted by certain vested interests. We know, of course, who these vested interests are. They are the BJP and its sister organisations.

It reflects on the social ideology of this Government that the National Integration Council has not been convened even once throughout this "Government's tenure. In view of what we witnessed in Gujarat, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I call for the codification of measures to be taken to prevent communal tensions and riots as well as measures for relief and rehabilitation of riot victims.

On the North-East, the President's Address talks about the peace process. I must say we were looking for a formal commitment to a political dialogue aimed at a

comprehensive and durable settlement across the entire spectrum of dissident opinion in Nagaland. This has not happened. We want all the Naga underground organisations to join the political process with honour and dignity, but not at the cost of the territorial integrity of other States in the region, or without their consent. All groups should be involved in the peace process. We have serious misgivings about the Government's unilateral approach on this matter. I would like to mention here the initiative taken by Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam, with the Bodo Tripartite Accord. It was at his initiative that the Bodo Tripartite Accord was arrived at successfully a few weeks ago. This, I think, should serve as an example of how locally elected State Governments need to be fully involved in peace efforts.

The President's Address rightly pays tributes to our brothers and sisters in Jammu and Kashmir for choosing the ballot over the bullet. Jammu and Kashmir has now a broad-based Government with a popular mandate and we now have before us an opportunity for bringing Jammu and Kashmir back on the path of peace and development.

But for this to happen, the Centre, of course, will have to extend its full support to the Coalition Government. I would like to hold this Government to the assurance given in the President's Address, and I quote:

"The Centre is fully committed to working closely with the newly elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir in its efforts to bring peace and development."

Now, as of today, the dialogue-which was promised by the Prime Minister long ago-with the elected representatives, has not taken place. But now that a fifth Interlocutor or Negotiator, what way they want to call him, has just been appointed, we do hope that the things will begin to move.

Now, I want to draw the Government's attention to another extremely serious threat to our internal security. That is the resurgence of Naxalite violence in different States. Some of the States have been pleading for special assistance from the Centre but that is not forthcoming. Intelligence and police action is only one part of the solution, of course. The only enduring solution can be found in effective implementation of development and welfare programmes that address the real concerns of the weaker sections of the society in those States. And in both the instances, again the role of the Central Government is crucial.

Sir, despite the pious pronouncements contained in the President's Address about Agriculture, the fact remains that our *kisans* are the ones who have suffered the most

under the BJP-led Coalition Government. There is not a single section of farming community throughout the country which is not facing acute suffering and distress. Agricultural growth fell to 2.1 per cent in the Ninth Plan as against 4.7 per cent in the Eighth Plan. The worsening position of crores of *kisans* and *khet mazdoors* leading in many cases to suicide, does not seem to have moved this Government. Very often, know, the Centre shrugs its responsibility off to the States. But what is happening, even in the States where there is a BJP administration? If we were, for instance, to take the example of Uttar Pradesh, we see that lakhs of sugarcane growers and potato cultivators have been facing acute distress for many months now. Timing, of course, is of the essence in agriculture. What is the point really of raising import duties after imports have taken place? When international prices crash, there must be an automatic mechanism to provide protection to our farmers. How are they going to survive otherwise?

Sir, this Government announced a National Agriculture Policy three years ago. That policy laid down a time frame of two decades-20 years-to achieve its objectives. If this Government felt some urgency about implementing such a policy, it would have, at least, laid down the interim targets and goals and identified specific milestones to be attained at regular intervals over the next 20 years.

We all know what need to be done to improve the welfare of our farmers. It has been discussed so many times here in the House.

Public investments in the rural infrastructure have to increase. Remunerative prices and marketing have to be assured. Inputs like fertilisers, water and power have to be provided on an assured basis at affordable rates.

16.00 hrs.

Agro-processing and value-addition have to be encouraged. Farmers must have greater and cheaper access to institutional credit. Those controls that hamper movement of agricultural products and commodities, both within the country and as exports, must be abolished.

But, Sir, the tragedy is that while we all know what needs to be done, there does not seem to be much urgency about getting on with it.

The President's Address also makes a passing reference to the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. But the reality, according to reports, is really that agricultural insurance has not always been found to be viable. Our farmers have all the willingness to take risk, but not the capacity to take risk. It is time that the

Government seriously considered the establishment of an Agricultural Stabilisation Fund involving a system of direct payments or income support. I believe this is done in many countries.

I also want to draw the Government's attention to the alarming increase in the imports of edible oils. In the late eighties, Mr. Speaker Sir, we had a Technology Mission on Oilseeds which made the country self-sufficient in edible oils and benefited lakhs and lakhs of farmers, particularly, in the rain-fed regions of our country. Over the past few years, I am afraid, all that we hear of is imports of edible oils that is threatening the very existence of lakhs of small and marginal farmers and our nascent edible oils industry.

Sir, as someone has mentioned earlier, we continue to sit on the largest stocks of foodgrains ever held by any country in recorded history. I would like to say here, if we are in this position today, it is thanks to Shrimati Indira Gandhi and thanks to her vision and leadership. Yet, it is a matter of shame for all of us that mal-nutrition and under-nourishment are endemic and millions continue to live, if it can be called living on the edge of hunger. We have been seeking a massive round-the-year Food-for-Work Programme all over the country, but particularly in the vulnerable regions. We have been seeking a serious rethink on the PDS. We have been asking for the establishment of grain banks. We have been calling for the strengthening of schemes like the Mid-day Meal Programme but with the provision of cooked meals. I have long ago requested the Prime Minister for an expansion of coverage and entitlements under the *Antyodaya* Scheme. I have also suggested improvements in the scheme for de-centralised procurement. We also have been pleading with him to streamline the system of allocation of foodgrains by the Centre to drought-affected States. On none of these suggestions, have we had a satisfactory follow-up.

Now I have a special suggestion to make on this issue. Since we are blessed with a huge foodgrain stock, which is almost four times the optimal level, I, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, urge the Prime Minister to consider direct food transfers to especially vulnerable groups like single-woman-headed households below the poverty line families with disabled persons and the aged. There must be a recognition of the difference between people actually using the PDS and the most vulnerable people who need direct transfer of foodgrains.

According to reports, Mr. Speaker, the most vulnerable people of our society who constitute close to 10 per cent of our population are simply not in a position

[Smt Sonia Gandhi]

to access the PDS. In the long run, the eradication of mal-nutrition and hunger will require employment security.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the NDA Agenda says that one crore jobs are to be created or were to be created every year. Now, I would like to ask, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is not present here—the Government to enlighten us as to how many jobs have been created annually since his Government assumed office. ...*(Interruptions)*

Whatever the President's Address might say, the fact remains—the data speak for themselves—that economic growth rates have fallen since 1998 and the rate of investment growth is stagnant. Under the circumstances, it is therefore no surprise that employment has been the main casualty. During the 80s and up to the early part of the 90s, the average growth rate of employment generation was two per cent per year which kept pace with the growth of the labour force, and during this Government's tenure, this dropped sharply to just 1.1 per cent per year; and the predictions for the future are worse.

The Planning Commission itself estimates that at current trends, unemployment rates for youth will increase to 16 per cent by the end of the Tenth Plan. This is an extremely serious matter. Committees have been set up, but what is the action plan for one crore jobs a year? What is the action plan particularly for those parts of the country where economic growth has slipped very badly over the past decade—and incidentally, ever since the Congress left office in those States? How on earth will rural non-farm employment be generated and how will self-employment be generated? The key economic challenge before the nation today with its age-profile is productive employment.

Yet, the President's Address leaves us no wiser on what the Government's strategy has been and will be on this most important issue. I do hope that some time during the Session, the Government agrees to have a special debate on employment.

I expected that the President's Address would show some sensitivity to natural calamities. In 2001, almost eight crore of our people were affected by natural calamities and about Rs. 12,000 crore worth of losses were incurred. Many States continue to reel under the effects of drought and the worst hit State happens to be Rajasthan which is facing the fourth consecutive year of drought. But I must say that I simply cannot understand the attitude of the Centre-vis-a-vis this particular State.

First, the food component of wages has gone up and down. Initially it was pegged at 10 Kg. per day; then it was arbitrarily reduced to 5 kg., per day; then it was increased suddenly to 6 kg. per day; and second, Rajasthan had asked for 42.25 lakh tonnes of wheat up to July 2003 to provide employment to all its identified poor. As against this, the Centre has allocated only 21 lakh tonnes and that too just a few days ago. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): They have not been able to lift the grains. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: I have all the documentation with me. I can show you that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let her complete her speech.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: There is also uncertainty about future allocation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Why is she reading? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given you permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is none of your problem. You have the choice not to listen to it. You can leave the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this going on in the House since morning? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji, this is not a question.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: There is uncertainty about future allocation which prevents the State from planning its relief work. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted her to read.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: When there is a mountain of foodgrains lying unutilised, why is the Central

Government imposing all sorts of restrictions on all affected States? I am not talking only about Rajasthan. I am talking about all the States which are affected by drought and there are many. Worst, allocations are now centralised at the level of the Deputy Prime Minister ignoring the field level responsibility of the Relief Commission.

Now I would like to say a few words about education. The growing communalisation of education is a matter of the greatest concern. Education has become an instrument of partisan politics rather than an instrument of empowerment. Education, Mr. Speaker, Sir, must be based on a modern vision of the future. Instead, it is now sought to be rooted in a re-invented past. The recent Supreme Court order vacating the stay on the new NCERT curriculum is being used as a smoke screen. In the Supreme Court order, two of the three judges have directed the Union of India to consult the Central Advisory Board on Education after filling up the vacancies in that body. So far, Sir, the Government has taken no step in this direction. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has not convened any meeting of State Education Ministers since 1998. This, we all know, used to be an annual affair. The meeting of the NCERT Board, convened a few months ago, in which the State Education Ministers were also present, refused to approve the new curriculum.

This House passed the 93rd Constitution (Amendment) Bill, in November 2001 which recognises the inalienable right of all children to education but we need a supplementary law to place primary responsibility for providing education on the States through Panchayats and Nagrapalikas rather than on the parents and to extend coverage to the 0-6 age group as well. I believe that when this was being discussed, and later passed also, Shri Shivraj Patil intervened and some sort of an assurance was given on these issues but nothing has happened till now.

The NDA Government has claimed that its *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* scheme is the answer to all our problems as far as education is concerned but I am told that the performance of this scheme is not at all satisfactory. The utilisation in the first six months of 2003 has been only 15.6 per cent. At the same time, we read that the Finance Minister has cut Rs. 800 crore from the *Abhiyan*. Surely, This is not how the Government plans to achieve the goal of providing universal primary education, as a Fundamental Right.

I will now come to women. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are still awaiting the Women's Reservation Bill. The Congress

is fully in support of it. Almost a year ago a Task Force on Women set up by the Government itself made several important recommendations to amend a large number of gender discriminatory laws. I have requested the Prime Minister for speedy implementation of these recommendations. All Government transfers of agricultural land and houses should be made in the name of women. Women's property and inheritance rights have to be fully secured not just in theory but in practice. Equal pay-this is the most important thing-for equal work for women must be ensured. Micro-credit programmes delivered through self-help groups for women must be expanded from the present level of Rs. 1,500 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore.

Sir, I must say that it is very gracious of the President to have announced the Nation Nutrition Mission. But I must say that I am rather puzzled by this announcement since such a Mission-National Nutrition Mission—had already been announced with great fanfare by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort on August 15, 2001. Perhaps the Government could enlighten us on which is the real Mission—the one announced by the Prime Minister in 2001 or the one announced by the President on February 17, 2003.

The President's Address makes only a cursory reference to the concerns of *dalits* and *adivasi* communities all over the country. What does the Government propose to do about the unabated atrocities on *dalits* of the type which we have recently seen, for instance, in Jhajhar. Last year the Government of Madhya Pradesh had come out with a comprehensive *dalit* empowerment agenda which is now known as the Bhopal Declaration, which is being followed up in the States which are governed by the Congress. But here again I have to admit that the full support of the Central Government is most essential.

We welcome the Government's decision to set up a separate National Commission on Scheduled Tribes. This is a step which, we, in the Congress Party, had been advocating for five years and it was part of our Lok Sabha election manifesto of 1998. So, this is an area where we will not insist on claiming intellectual property rights being protected!

Now, this year is the 10th anniversary of the passage of the historic 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments—perhaps Shri Rajiv Gandhi's most significant legacy. I would like to suggest to Parliament that we hold a Special Session to decide on a further set of measures to strengthen Panchayats and Nagarpalikas. Political decentralisation is now before us and is a living reality.

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

It surely needs to be accompanied by a meaningful administrative and fiscal decentralisation as well. Recently, the Minister of Rural Development has made us the Members of Parliament-Chairpersons of the District level Vigilance Committees for Rural Development Schemes. I have opposed this even though I know that many of my colleagues will not agree with me. I have opposed it because I firmly believe that an elected *Zila Parishad Adhyaksha* should have this responsibility.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, all the Congress Presidents are demanding for this. You please tell us.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): He is elected by indirect voting. He is not elected by direct voting, while Members of Parliament are voted directly by the people.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Anyway, we can differ on this.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: There is a major difference.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to start a debate on this.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Nothing concerns us more about this Government's economic policy than its policy of privatisation, particularly of consistently profit-making public enterprises that also serve a strategic purpose, like HPCL and BPCL, for instance.

Sir, the President's Address proclaims and I quote:

"The procedures for disinvestment have established benchmark norms for transparency, efficiency, administrative simplicity and non-discretionary decision-making."

Now, can anybody be taken in by this when facts speak loudly otherwise?

Sir, our opposition is not to privatisation *per se*. We have stated our position many times. We have raised many legitimate concerns, concerns that reflect what the people of India are also thinking. Why, for instance, are profit-making companies being sold at all? How are privatisation revenues being used? We would like to know that. We would like to be enlightened on this. How are social objectives, like affirmative action and regional development, being pursued in the absence of a growing

public sector? How is transparency being assured in the modalities of privatisation? When employment is stagnant, when employment is not growing, would this kind of an aggressive privatisation-of the type that is being embarked upon by this Government-not fuel social tensions?

Attempts have been made, and they keep on making it, to paint all those who raise valid doubts on the Government's privatisation strategy as being anti-reforms and anti-growth. These, I must say, are totally mischievous. The fact is that privatisation or disinvestment has comprehensively failed. If the aim of disinvestment was to release resources for the social sectors like health and education, then this has not happened at all. If the aim of disinvestment was to re-deploy manpower from less productive to more productive areas, then this too, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has not happened. If the aim of disinvestment was to reduce Government expenditure on salaries and establishment, then this too, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has not happened. Now, these are the very aims contained in a book published by the Government, titled, '*Disinvestment Policy and Procedure*'. This was published under the auspices of the Disinvestment Minister. So, I think, it is about time that the Government listens to our request of setting up a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Disinvestment.

Sir, now if there is an area where the track record of this Government has been shockingly, but shockingly abysmal, it is in probity, accountability and transparency. The UTI and the stock market scam ruined crores of small investors. The JPC report is a comprehensive indictment of the Government. Hopefully, the JPC report will be discussed and debated soon. Now, petrol pumps and land allocation scams exposed the levels of corruption and cronyism in this Government.

On the Tehelka scam, journalists are still being harassed and those who are responsible for jeopardising the country's defence apparatus are given a clean chit even before the completion of the inquiry. The CVC Report on the probe into major defence deals is being withheld even from the PAC.

The Freedom of Information Act will not advance the cause of transparency and accountability. In fact, the Act, I believe, makes a mockery of freedom of information and an open Government. The Congress-ruled States like for instance Rajasthan and Karnataka have passed such Bill and made Freedom of Information Acts that are far more meaningful and useful to the public than the Center's. It seems to me that it makes no sense at all that the Government can arbitrarily block from disclosure virtually anything that is inconvenient to them under various clauses, including of all things, invasion of privacy.

This Government has never been worried about "invasion of privacy" before and I wonder why suddenly they have become so allergic and so worried about invasion of privacy.

The amendment to the Representation of the People Act passed in the last Session in another pointer to the hypocritical stance of this Government. The Bill was hailed as the Bill that would finally liberate us from criminalisation of politics. The Bill that has been passed, I am afraid, will not achieve that cherished objective. We gave our clear and unequivocal support to the Supreme Court order requiring certain declarations to be made by the candidates both outside and inside the House.

We are repeatedly assured that POTA will not be misused. But, we now know how POTA is being used to harass political rivals. According to reports, most shockingly, POTA is being misused against children as well. Need I say more on this?

In conclusion, what the President's Address reveals is only suggestive; what it conceals is vital; what it glosses over is crucial. This Address seeks to paint a picture of an India at peace with itself, but the fact is that our social fabric has been badly ruptured. The Address suggests that the Indian economy is strong, but the fact is that the economy of Indians is precariously poised with growth-sluggish, investment not forthcoming and employment not expanding. The Address portrays a picture of a Government that is following the path of consensus, but the fact is that this is a partisan Government used to taking decisions unilaterally. The President's Address talks about a vision of the future. That vision cannot rest on an reinvention of the past. It cannot be founded on a rejection of India's syncretic heritage and composite legacy. The oneness of India has to be strengthened; the diversity of India has to be celebrated. Sadly, this Government has shown itself to be totally insensitive to these imperatives.

Text of Amendments

Name of Member and text of Amendment

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of any scheme for creating employment opportunities in agriculture sector." (73)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time schedule for completion of any development scheme with a view to check migration of people from rural areas." (74)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for increasing number of skilled labourers in the country." (75)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for increasing share of animal husbandry in Gross Domestic Product from 6 per cent." (76)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no assurance in the Address about any scheme for promotion of cottage industry sector in Food Processing Industry." (77)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound scheme for literacy of illiterate adults." (78)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for providing free education to people living below poverty line by making comprehensive arrangement of vocational education in the country." (79)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound scheme for construction of a hospital in every area of 5 sq. kms so as to provide free medical facilities to people living below poverty line." (80)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme dredging of rivers to enhance the water capacity." (81)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound scheme for meeting the target of water storage." (82)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the decision regarding completion of irrigation projects as per schedule." (83)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective measures for making the administration effective and accountable." (84)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective measures to counter various factors responsible for internal security crisis." (85)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the proactive concrete measures to destroy the sources of terrorist activities to check the cross border terrorism." (86)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in Address about the measure to avert ill effects on industry consequent upon adoption of new industrial policy in the backdrop of economic reforms." (87)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound scheme to increase self reliance in petroleum sector." (88)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the announcement of the policy to check the rising prices of energy resources." (89)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures for reforms in projects performing below the production capacity under power reforms." (90)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of time-bound scheme to tap hydro-electricity potential available in the country." (91)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the announcement of time-bound scheme for the development of slums in urban areas." (92)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the announcement of separate industrial policy for the development of cottage and small scale industries." (93)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time bound scheme for making waste land of the country arable." (94)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for the treatment of polluted water so as to make the rivers of the country pollution free." (95)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a scheme for the development of traditional industries of the country." (96)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no assurance in the Address about any scheme for making government owned sick industries profitable." (97)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures for reducing differences between the cost of production and consumer prices of the country." (98)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures to be taken to remove the effect of prevailing uncertainty in the budget on the common people due to increasing costs of transport." (99)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound scheme for the implementation of measures to be taken for checking the continuously depleting underground water level." (100)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any measures to be taken for avoiding the ill effects on agriculture in the country due to subsidy given by foreign countries to their agriculture and agriculture allied areas." (101)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a policy to keep the units having the investment of upto Rs. 50,000 in the area of cottage industry free from all taxes." (102)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a policy to waive interest on credit to units having the investment of Rs. 1 lakh in small scale industry for 10 years since it started production." (103)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the adopting policy for fixing consumer prices of petroleum products on the basis of their cost of production in the country." (104)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about imposing ban on obscene depictions by media in the country which are polluting our culture, tradition and civilisation." (105)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: (Ponnani): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that the Government will withdraw its partisan petition to the Supreme Court to vacate the stay order on transfer of and religious activity on, a part of the acquired land in Ayodhya." (117)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that India will not support any move for military action against Iraq." (118)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that the Government will bring Legislative Bill for prevention of genocide and crime against humanity in accordance with the relevant convention of the United Nations." (119)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that the recommendations of the National Human

Rights Commission and the National Commission for Minorities as regards communal carnage in Gujarat will be implemented." (120)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to give more powers to the National Human Rights Commission to be more effective." (121)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court pursuant to the Rome Statute." (122)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the highly unsatisfactory and inadequate work as regards relief and compensation to and rehabilitation of the victims of communal carnage in Gujarat." (123)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that measures will be taken to ensure that there is no harassment of citizens, particularly the minorities, in campaign to identify and deport illegal migrants and in issue of multipurpose national identity card." (124)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that stern action will be taken against those who openly challenge the religious character of places of worship in defiance of the places of worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991." (125)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that stern action will be taken against those indulging into anti-minority propaganda including baseless allegations against madrassas." (126)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need for comprehensive measures for the educational and economic development of the minorities." (127)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the total disregard of the 15-Point Plan for the Welfare of the Minorities." (128)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to strengthen and to improve the functioning of Minorities Financial Development Corporation." (129)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the crash plan for alleviation of poverty." (130)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a National Pension and Welfare Policy for the infirm, destitute and handicapped." (131)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the imbalance in the development of various regions in the country and the need for an action plan for the balanced development of the country." (132)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for statutory schemes for compensation to, and rehabilitation of the victims of violence, particularly the victims of communal riots." (133)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for reservation in Parliament, legislatures, local bodies, services and educational and professional institutions for the minorities, particularly the Muslims." (134)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about including the 'Right to Work' in the constitution as a Fundamental Right." (135)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about incorporating the "Right to Shelter" in the Constitution as Fundamental Right." (136)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound programme for solving the unemployment problem and to give 'unemployment allowance' to the unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges in the country." (137)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective industrial policy to check migration from rural areas to urban area." (138)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction in our electoral system of the method of proportionate representation without any threshold." (139)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about ensuring voting right at elections to the Indian citizens working abroad." (140)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to promote with special care the education and economic interests of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." (141)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the gross misuse and abuse of the Prevention of Terrorism Act." (142)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about action for protection of the places of worship of the minorities." (143)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government bringing Lok Pal Bill at the earliest." (144)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to stop atrocities committed on members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society." (145)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to get the court cases against all those accused of demolition of the Babri Masjid expedited." (146)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a special package for the welfare of the fishermen community, which is the most neglected and weakest section of our society, and for the integrated development of the coastal infrastructure." (147)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need to relax norms and increase substantially the post and telegraph facilities in the Malappuram district of Kerala in view of a large number of people working outside the State and abroad, the hilly, terrain, heavy monsoon and growing need for the said facilities."
(148)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to increase central investment in Kerala and for the overall development of the State."
(149)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to establish a Coconut Research Institute in Kerala."
(150)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for the Government to approach the United Nations Compensation Commission to extend the time limit for the evacuees consequent to Iraq-Kuwait war to file compensation applications."
(151)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the need to set up a separate zone/sub-zone for railways in Kerala."
(152)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the serious problem of unemployment in Kerala and the need for an action-plan to increase adequately the employment opportunities in the State."
(153)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to contain corruption in the bureaucracy."
(177)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop privatisation and commercialisation of education and Govt.'s move to class based education system which is widening the social divide."
(178)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the increasing number of contract appointments being made in universities across the country."
(179)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the changes to exclude Medieval India from the school history text books."
(180)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing unemployment in the country."
(181)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a comprehensive plan to provide 'unemployment allowance' to all unemployed youth registered with Employment Exchanges in the country till they gain employment."
(182)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing poverty in the country and the need to evolve a time bound action plan to eradicate it."
(183)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to appoint a special commission/committee to suggest reforms in judicial process to enable expeditious disposal of both criminal and civil matter." (184)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to evolve a continuous mechanism and procedure to resolve long pending inter-state river water disputes in the country." (185)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the "right to shelter" to be included in the Constitution as a fundamental right." (186)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the "right to work" to be included in the Constitution as a fundamental right." (187)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to ensure strict implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961." (188)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to evolve a new national wage policy." (189)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to evolve a time bound action plan to eradicate the growing poverty in the country." (190)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the uneven growth of industry in the country,

resulting in large-scale migration from villages to cities." (191)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective measures to check the slow industrial growth and decline in industrial output." (192)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continuous import of the crude oil at high cost and need to augment the domestic production so as to attain self-sufficiency." (193)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growth of communal and obscurantist forces in the country and the need to take appropriate measures to curb such activities." (194)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to constitute a high level committee of experts to survey and study India's coastline for the protection of ecology and environment." (195)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate an action plan at national level to tackle the serious problem of rapidly declining under ground water level." (196)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up at least one small scale industry in every village in order to prevent the migration of the people to urban areas in search of jobs." (197)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take steps to make khadi and village industries more result oriented and productive." (198)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a comprehensive programme to completely eliminate illiteracy." (199)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a new labour policy to provide employment opportunities round the year to all sections of labourers." (200)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to implement the reports of the national commission for minorities." (201)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a comprehensive scheme to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas." (202)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to initiate proper measures for the elimination of child labour in the country." (203)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continuing incidents of atrocities on women and children and need to take appropriate steps to stop such incidents." (204)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continuing incidents of atrocities on

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the need to take appropriate steps to stop such incidents." (205)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing incidents of attacks on the minority communities and the need to stop such incidents." (206)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing incidents of attacks on the places of worship of the minority communities and the need to stop such incidents." (207)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continuous rise in the prices of the essential commodities and the need to take necessary steps to bring down the prices." (208)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective measures to check the ever increasing pollution in the country." (209)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulating a national policy for de-silting of inter-state rivers of the country to increase their water carrying capacity." (210)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the serious situation arising out of the continuous devaluation of the Indian currency and the need to take necessary steps to check the same." (211)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to evolve a comprehensive plan to

promote cottage industries particularly agro based industries for the development of rural and backward areas." (212)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for implementing a time bound policy for the overall development of the villages in the country with special emphasis on mid-day meal in all the village panchayats in the country." (213)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the consistent attack on the secular character of our polity." (214)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the appointment of commission for reviewing the Constitution bypassing Parliament." (215)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check surrendering India's interest on all important issues in the international affairs." (216)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effects of lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports endangering the indigenous industries," (217)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a specific plan for providing employment to educated unemployed youth in the country." (218)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret, that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to protect the Constitutional Rights of the Minorities." (219)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for strict implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 so as to abolish dowry system from the country." (220)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in the prices of essential commodities which has hit the common people in the country." (221)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop entry of private sector, indigenous or foreign, in the Insurance Sector." (222)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to control widespread land erosion which is taking place in Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal." (223)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to control widespread soil erosion by sea which is taking place in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country." (224)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about equality of rights and wages etc. for the women." (225)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about land reforms." (226)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's desire to formulate a policy on youth." (227)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about eradicating corruption prevailing in the administrative machinery at various levels." (228)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of a policy to remove regional imbalances and have uniform development of all the regions in the country." (229)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the revival of sick industrial units in the public sector and rehabilitation of the displaced workers." (230)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing remunerative prices to the farmers for the agricultural produce in consonance with the rising cost of the inputs." (231)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for strengthening the Public Distribution System to provide essential commodities to the poorer sections in remote areas." (232)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulating a time-bound programme to provide employment opportunities in the rural areas to prevent exodus of educated youth to the urban areas seeking job opportunities." (233)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to check unabated brain-drain of doctors, scientists, technicians and experts." (234)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the growing unemployment in the country and the need to provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed educated youths to mitigate their hardship." (235)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reducing the custom duties and increasing the excise duties to benefit steel and other industries." (236)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Bill for providing minimum wages to agricultural workers." (237)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to monitor the effective implementation of land reforms in the country." (238)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for all round development of under developed districts in States." (239)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the repair of existing national highways and construction of new national highways in Eastern Zone." (240)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking all necessary steps for implementing the programmes to safeguard the interests of the minorities in the country." (241)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about introducing an integrated Crop Insurance Scheme to save the poor farmer community from natural calamities." (242)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about bringing forward a comprehensive Legislation to arrange pension for the most neglected rural labourers who are not in a position to eke out their livelihood nor their children are in a position to support their parents." (243)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures for providing facilities of cold storage and marketing of farm produce, particularly vegetables, fruits etc. in order to enable the farmers to get suitable remunerative price." (244)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the distribution of barren land to the local farmers to grow trees." (245)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing vocational courses to the rural unemployed youth and women to make them self-reliant." (246)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the cost of electricity for the use of consumers." (247)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure to curb atrocities on Dalits." (248)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about bringing a legislation for protection, welfare and all round development of minorities." (249)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a comprehensive plan to provide basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to the poor people in the country." (250)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check the growing menace of the poverty, unemployment, disparity and price rise in the country." (251)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to closure of public sector undertaking." (252)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about improvement in cattle breeding and also checking spread of diseases in them." (253)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the spurt in the diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B., H.I.V. and kidney and heart ailments and various poverty related diseases in the country and providing timely medical facilities for them." (254)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the schemes for the development of primary education, secondary education and higher education." (255)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about making arrangements for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, oils in proportion to the increasing population of the country." (256)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about meeting the shortage of cold storage for storing vegetables, potatoes, onions and other perishable food items in the country." (257)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the measures for checking price rise of edible oils and pulses and other essential commodities in the country." (258)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the measures to solve the crisis of deficit financing black money and tax-evasion." (259)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need for effective measures to check hoarding, black marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (260)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the scheme to save various States from the fury of floods and the loss incurred by the people and the State Governments." (261)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about linking all the villages by pucca road." (262)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the construction of pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and weaker sections in the country." (263)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the measures to check rampant corruption in the country." (264)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the measures to check child labour and prostitution." (265)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (266)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the increasing number of sick people and general deterioration of the health of the people in the country." (267)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the miserable performance of India in international sports and games in spite of larger population than many other countries." (268)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the meager investments in the field of science and technology in public and private sectors." (269)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need for providing sufficient incentives to the small scale industries in the face of stiff competition from the multinational companies." (270)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need to lack of transport remove facilities in more than 50% rural areas of the country." (271)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need to eliminate serious crisis of drinking water in rural areas in the country and to evolve a national policy on drinking water." (272)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the 'Right of Shelter' to be included in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right". (273)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about evolving a time bound action plan to eradicate the growing poverty in the country." (274)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need to review the Private Power Sector Policy as it has failed to take off in a significant manner." (275)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need for providing the latest equipment in the Central and State Government hospitals for

the treatment of ever growing number of cancer, heart and kidney patients in the country". (276)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need for bringing comprehensive changes in the industrial policy to check the large scale migration from villages to cities which is the result of uneven industrial growth in the country." (277)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about need for better implementation of various schemes to convert barren land into cultivable land through a time bound programme." (278)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the address about the need for to eradicate communalism, casteism, linguistic chauvinism and regionalism from the country." (279)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check rapid depletion of underground water level and improve availability of water in the country" (280)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a comprehensive action plan at national level for water conservation." (281)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up small scale industries in every village in order to stop large scale migration from villages to cities." (282)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for introducing free and compulsory

primary education for very child through the medium of his/her own mother tongue in order to eliminate illiteracy." (283)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a new labour policy with a view to provide round the year employment to the labourers working in organised and unorganised sectors." (284)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for the speedy implementation of the report of the Commission for Linguistic Minorities." (285)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a comprehensive scheme to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas." (286)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to appoint a Committee of Experts to suggest permanent measures to control the loss of lives, crops and property due to natural calamities." (287)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective measures to combat the growing atrocities on women and children in the country." (288)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take concrete steps to bring down the rise in the prices of essential commodities." (289)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulating a time bound programme to abolish bonded labour existing in certain parts of the country." (290)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective measures to check the problem of increasing pollution in the country." (291)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to tackle increasing malnutrition problem in the country." (292)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate an action plan at national level for soil conservation in the country." (293)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulating a time bound comprehensive action plan to eliminate child labour in the country". (294)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to appoint a Committee to suggest reforms in judiciary." (295)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following the *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about mounting tension between America and Iraq." (533)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deviance from India's time tested and traditional principles of non-alignment in the international affairs." (534)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the consequences of the misuse of POTA for political purposes in disregard to the democratic norms." (535)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any project for the welfare on the minorities." (536)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the application of the Government to the apex court to vacate the stay order for transferring the acquired land in Ayodhya." (537)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to protect the minorities of their life, honour and property and the places of worship of Muslims in several parts of the country including Gujarat." (538)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving adequate representation to Muslims in the Government services and its agencies to make good of the present abysmally poor representation." (539)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about special consideration for Kerala in the matter of Highways and Communication taking into account of its record progress in implementation of welfare projects." (540)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the early implementation of Sethusamudram Canal Project." (587)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the retrieval of Katchateevu Island". (588)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about to find a solution to firing incidents against the Tamil Nadu Fishermen and Fishing Boats by Sri Lankan Navy." (589)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the inclusion of Tamil as Official Language and declaration of Tamil as a classical language." (590)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Constitution Amendment to Safeguard 69% reservation for various categories." (591)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the removal of restrictions on the State Governments to mobilise resources." (592)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about one time assistance to State Governments to manage prevailing financial crisis." (593)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the nationalisation of rivers." (594)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the permanent solution for Cauvery River water problem." (595)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any solution to the problems being faced by small tea growers especially in Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu." (596)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the 100% Central assistance to State Governments for implementation of Nutritious Noon Meal Schemes." (597)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Central Government's financial assistance to the State Governments for desilting major rivers and to solve the drinking water scarcity in our country." (598)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the release of 9 lakh tonnes of foodgrains from the Government of India to Tamil Nadu and additional assistance of Rs. 2094.23 crores as sought by the Tamil Nadu Government for the rehabilitation of drought affected areas." (599)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the 100% financial assistance from the Centre to have Underground Drainage Schemes in major cities of our country." (600)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about financial assistance to those State

Governments where the Population Control programmes are implemented." (601)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the relief and rehabilitation measures provided by the Centre for the labourers those who are affected by Disinvestment." (602)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the supply of life saving drugs in every Government hospitals especially in rural areas." (603)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need for the rain water harvest and the financial assistance from the Centre to States." (604)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the relief measures by the Centre for physically handicapped." (605)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the constitution of a States Reorganisation Commission." (606)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the allocation of adequate funds to Bihar, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth plans." (607)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the waiving of outstanding loans to Bihar State." (608)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the completing Gandak Phase-II and Kosi Phase-II projects in Bihar." (609)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the giving special status to Bihar in view of its economic backwardness." (610)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the memorandum given to the Prime Minister by sixty members of Parliament from Bihar to solve the problems of Bihar and the action taken on it." (611)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the reopening of closed sugar mills in Bihar." (612)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take action by the Union Government for the electrification of all the villages in Bihar." (613)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the releasing Bihar, its share in electrification." (614)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing adequate fund, under M.N.P. to Bihar and to Jharkhand for rural electrification." (615)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the providing adequate funds, under Ninth Five Year Plan for centrally sponsored schemes for agricultural department in Bihar." (616)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the 10 lakh hectares of land in Bihar which is under water logging and any programme to make it free from water logging." (617)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the protecting Bihar from floods through an agreement between India and Nepal and the action to be taken by the Union Government to compensate for the loss caused by floods every year." (618)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the giving an economic package of Rs. 1.79,000 crores to Bihar after its division into two State." (619)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about not releasing outstanding money to Bihar under Panchayati Raj held as per the recommendation of Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission even after the Panchayat elections." (620)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up of power transmission line in Bihar with economic package of Rs. 335 crores after division of the State." (621)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the problems being faced by lakhs of labourers due to the closure of factories in New Delhi." (622)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up of 2600 ideal villages near Vaishali the birth place of Bhagwan Mahavir, on the occasion of twenty six hundred years celebrations." (623)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the protecting the farmer from anti-farmers policy and W.T.O. and a concrete action to provide them minimum support price for their produce." (624)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about protecting the farmers from deteriorating economic condition which is forcing them to commit suicide." (625)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the check on the increasing threat of communal forces." (734)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about preventing the persons making announcement to violate the court orders on Ayodhya issue and gathering at the place of dispute guarantee so as to status quo of the land upto final verdict of the Court." (735)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about preventing the sale of Public Undertaking arbitrarily." (736)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the checking irregularities and corruption in

various Government Departments and high places." (737)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to form a strong public opinion throughout the world to end the terrorism." (738)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the programmes for natural calamity in the country and to provide relief to the poor families who lost lives due to unprecedented cold conditions in various parts of the country." (739)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the plans for disaster management." (740)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing assistance and relief to those who had been affected by floods and cold in West Bengal and Bihar." (741)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a uniform policy and programme for relief and rehabilitation to overcome natural disaster in Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and other States." (742)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the National Youth Policy to promote established democratic values in the Constitution and to make the youth able to meet the challenges before nation." (743)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a policy and programme to provide socio-

economic justice to the poor backwards, dalits, adivasis, exploited and deprived people." (744)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing benefits of reservation to the women belonging to the Dalit Adivasi, Minority Communities and Backward Castes, who are actually oppressed and deprived." (745)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completing the Buddhist Tourism circuit by connecting Bodhgaya Rajgarh, Vaishali, Kasaria, Sugail by Rail and Road to promote the tourism in Bihar." (746)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing an international tourist place in Vaishali the birth place of Bhagwan Mahavir on the occasion of twenty-six hundred years of Bhagwan Mahavir in Bihar." (747)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete time bound programme to implement the National Population Policy." (748)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to provide highest priority to the internal and external security of the country." (749)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government plans for ensuring safety of common people in Jammu and Kashmir from terrorists." (750)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to ensure safety of non-Assamese in north-eastern States." (751)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any programme to provide employment to the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir." (752)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing employment to the unemployed persons of the country." (753)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete programme for the benefit of the States which have recently been divided to form new States." (754)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the creation of new States such as, Gorkhaland, Telangana, Harit Pradesh, Poorvanchal, Bodoland, Vidarbha, Vindhya and Saurashtra." (755)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the aspirations of the people of Vidarbha region for creation of the Separate State of Vidarbha." (633)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a Special Bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur." (634)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Nagpur which has large opportunities for setting up of industries and scope for boosting the country's export." (635)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up of a permanent International Exhibition Centre on the lines of Pragati Maidan of Delhi at Nagpur, which is centrally located and an ideal hub site between South-East Asia, Australia, Japan, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Sharjah." (636)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for the development of Multi Modal Hub at Nagpur airport." (637)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about connecting the Saurashtra-Silcher linking road via Nagpur with a view to develop centres like Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Surat, Mumbai, Nasik, Nagpur, Raipur, Sambhalpur and Calcutta on way to Silcher." (638)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the development of Tourism in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State which has 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries and several other places of tourist interests." (639)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the assistance to establish basic health centers at places vulnerable to the Sickie Cell disease affecting the tribal population of Vidarbha region." (640)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken by the Banks to recover the huge loans advanced to the industrial sector." (641)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the revival of sick units in the country." (642)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken by the Government to curb the wasteful expenditure." (643)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for steps to check the growing drug addiction among school and college students and the youth in the country." (644)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to formulate a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of the minorities." (645)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the comprehensive plan to check the growing unemployment in the country." (646)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to curb the increasing slum clusters in the urban areas of the country." (647)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the schemes for welfare of sugarcane growers." (790)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the increasing pollution in various cities of India particularly Kanpur." (791)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about harassment of consumers from Cable Operators." (792)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about clear cut policy for disinvestments of Public Sector Undertakings." (793)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the improvement of living conditions of children and women." (794)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing incidents of atrocities committed on Dalits and other downtrodden people of the country." (795)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to provide employment to the youth of India." (796)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the misuse of POTA." (797)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about strengthening of internal security of India." (798)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about optimal utilization of natural resources of the country." (799)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the optimal exploitation of gas reserves of the country." (800)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to evolve a time bound action plan to eradicate poverty in the country." (801)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to check the infiltration and to deport foreign national from various parts of the country." (802)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to formulate an action plan at national level for water conservation." (803)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the present education system which is not relevant to the needs of the present day society." (804)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing for social and financial security and to provide medical facility to the senior citizens of the country." (805)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to launch a time bound programme to completely eliminate illiteracy throughout the country." (806)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective implementation of the Family Planning Programme." (807)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formulation of a housing development scheme." (808)

of skirmishes and violence took place between workers of the party and police and at many places the police had to use force, water cannons and tear gas shells.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) Many rounds of bullets were fired there. Please take note of the news published in the newspapers about this. You can see the Shells outside the Samajwadi Party's office. An attempts was made to kill me. An attempt was also made to murder Hon'ble Mulayam Singh and Shri Akhilesh Yadav, M.P. from Kannauj constituency.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Home Minister make his statement.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Even prior to this, dignity of the House has been undermined by the statement given by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in regard to Munderwa incident. You can read about this in the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, usually State subjects are not raised here, but it has been informed to me that one Member of Parliament got injured so the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has accepted that we would seek information from there. Whatever information we would receive from there would be given to the House. I am not in a position to say anything in this regard. You alleged that bullets were fired but they had stated that they had to resort to air firing. I have used the word use of force because they used to word tear gas and water cannon. I had stated that in the State 10,000 persons had been arrested whereas they claim that in that encounter that day 15 activists of Samajwadi Party were injured and 37 police and District administration people were injured. Thereafter 1321 activists of Samajwadi Party were arrested. These included 7 Members of Parliament and 49 MLAs. This information has been given by the State Government. Finally, they have stated that the law and order situation is under control and normally have been restored.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a wrong statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Rules are very strict. Rule 372 does not permit questions after the statement is made.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has done it.

16.30 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND INCHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION

Rally Organised at Lucknow by Samajwadi Party and its Associate Organisations

MR. SPEAKER: The Home Minister would now make a statement regarding a rally organised on 21st February, 2003 at Lucknow by Samajwadi party and its associate organisations.

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND INCHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not here last week. During that period hon'ble Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other members have mentioned about the force used on the rally organised at Lucknow. According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the President of the Samajwadi party, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav announced in the conference of some party held on 1st or 2nd February that his party would organise a big rally in Lucknow on 21st February to protest the policies of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 were already enforced before this proposed rally at Lucknow. The party did not take permission for this rally. That is why, the Government had announced that this rally is banned and wide publicity to this order was also given that this rally is banned. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed us that as a precautionary measure approximately ten thousand workers of this party had been arrested across the State. On the day of rally incidents,

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand it. Both of you know the rules, but why both of you are speaking at the same time. Please tell me what do you want?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: My submission is that this statement is not at all justified that Samajwadi Party had not sought permission. The President of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Sharan Das had given an application to District magistrate and SSP that they should be allowed to take out the rally. The rally will be peaceful. In spite of all this section 144 was enforced. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, our leader was travelling by Gomti Express on 20th February, his workers were beaten in front of him. Thousands of activists of the State party were arrested. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, these people. *...(Interruptions)* This case should either be investigated judicially or any parliamentary delegation should be sent over there to let everybody know of the correct situation. This is my humble submission. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a demand on behalf of Samajwadi Party that a parliamentary delegation should be sent over there to know the correct situation. Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister had heard this demand but still you will have to wait.

[English]

You cannot force him to react on every statement. What is your demand now?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government of Uttar Pradesh has done this.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister has just informed you on this subject. You raised this subject, in the morning, even during the Zero Hour, also. Still you want to raise the same matter again. This cannot go on. Please sit.

[English]

I do not agree with you.

[Translation]

What do you want?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr., Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister has given a statement and that statement is on the basis of the report of the Uttar Pradesh Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is going on?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen me first. Kirti, I can speak louder than you. *...(Interruptions)* If you want to have a competition in making noise then you can do so.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: What is there to make noise. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kirti, Please sit.

16.38 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon'ble Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. Please speak from there.

16.39 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you permission. Please speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: These people are coming.

MR. SPEAKER: I will stop them. Please go to your seat and speak. Akhileshji, what is your demand. On your demand Deputy Prime Minister had already given a statement. After that Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shrimati Sushma Swaraj spoke. What do you want? Please tell. I will communicate to them.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir this is the tradition of the House that if such an incident takes place with a Member, the House discusses it. Since I have been the victim in this case therefore I would like to convince Kirti that I am the victim, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, the leader of this House is the victim and Shri Akhilesh Yadav, the Member of this House is also the victim of the incident that took place on 21st. Therefore it is not a State issue. Hon'ble Members have been attacked and this is a matter related to that. I would like to bring it to your notice that when there was firing on the farmers of Munderva, the Government had issued statement on the basis of report of the Uttar Pradesh Government. Even at that time Uttar Pradesh government had submitted a wrong report. The news was given about the killing of one person only while three persons had reportedly been killed. I had personally made

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

you a call and made you aware about the reality and thus the truth had been brought before the whole country. I would like to submit that the report submitted by Uttar Pradesh government is completely false. I was present at that time and I am the eye witness of that incident and I am the victim. When we were addressing the activists of the party in the office premises on 21st, firstly, the police attacked with stones on Shri Mulayam Singhji, Shri Akhilesh Yadav and on me and then opened tear gas, shells, and after that they targeted us and opened firing on us. It is a very serious incident and when I narrated the whole incident on telephone to my wife then she tried to contact you immediately and also sent a written letter that the life of his husband is in danger and you should take action in this regard. *...(Interruptions)**. I would like to tell you that a member has been given life threat. *...(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is telling lies and making allegations. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If these allegations are not as per the rules of the House I will expunge them from the records.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: *...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Now you will have to conclude. I have given you too much time to speak. The House has not only yours but some other Business also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me what do you want, why you speak another things.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to inquire into the incident which occurred on 21st, otherwise it will become a precedent that if such type of incident occurs with any Member then it will not be discussed in the House. I will accept this. If in such manner MPs are obstructed to fulfil their political responsibilities and attempts of their murder are made and are given threat of life then no MP will be able to fulfil his political responsibilities boldly. This is a serious challenge to are democracy. That is why I want that honourable Home Minister by showing his magnanimity should constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee and present Investigation Report on the table of the House by investigating the whole incident. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, you please give the directions.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give an opportunity to speak. Honorable Deputy Prime Minister is present here, if he wants he will request. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You please give him the directions. You are our patron. Honourable Home Minister should announce that a Joint Parliamentary Committee would go there to investigate the matter. I humbly request you as you are our patron that you please convey to honourable Home Minister that he should sent a Joint Parliamentary Committee over there which would collect the information and provide the facts about the incident to the House *...(Interruptions)*. This is a very serious matter. A Joint Parliamentary Committee should go over there and collect all related information. You must get assurance from honourable Home Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I will discuss with honourable Home Minister on this issue once again. You please sit down now.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: If they are unable to understand such petty things then please ask them to have knowledge of rules and regulations before they come to the House. Whether it is right to put allegation and shout on anybody by sitting over there. As I am shouting from the cricket ground since childhood, what you will say about me. It is in are rules that no questions can be raised after the Minister made a statement in the House. It you want to raise questions you have to get the rules changed. Here you are speaking like this. What is your way of talking. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you starting again the issue which has already been discussed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Today we will hear spade a spade from Somnath Dada, then please listen to him. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I hope our cricketers would, tomorrow, show that much of gusto as you are showing the gusto here with regard to this item. Let us all send a message of goodwill to them instead of fighting here. *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Definitely, they will show that. I would show that such of gusto here. ...*(Interruptions)* We have got the same sense. You always tell us that we are shouting and doing this and that. But when all those hon. Members sitting next to you shout, you do not even stop them when they are trying to break the rules of the House. You are such a senior Parliamentarian. You can do that but you are not doing that. ...*(Interruptions)* That is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What can I do, he is young.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has stopped then to shout.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have tried a number of times.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one thing I have to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether you wants to recite any couplet?

SHRI RASHID ALVI: No, Sir, whatever happened due to violation of Section 144 there is so much turmoil over that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue is over. This issue is complete. I am not permitting you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: They want to kill a member of Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to give reply to each and every question.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, I would like to say that my colleague Alvi Ji should do his job comfortably, he need not to worry. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.47 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that neither the Mover nor the Seconder of the Motion is present.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I am present here.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: However, they have to answer also.

Sir, I consider it very unfortunate that our respected *Rashtrapati ji* has to do his Constitutional duty by reading an Address which has only length but no depth. It is nothing but a litany of inanities. Its verbosity is contrived to create a make-belief situation to hoodwink the people of this country.

The Address is a document, unfortunately, full of hoaxes and inexactitudes intended to cover up the comprehensive failure of this Government in almost every sector of our national life. Shri Suresh Prabhu was talking of the united NDA. We have a Government which has openly proclaimed that it has no ideological base. Mr. Deputy Prime Minister is not here. He repeatedly said that in NDA's coalition, there is no question of any ideological similarity. It is a question of only remaining in power. Therefore, we do not expect that. The Government has no ideology, no common principle, no morals and no transparency amongst them and it is composed of opportunistic elements like some of the parties which are there. Sir, we have seen the cohesion very recently on disinvestment. My very good friend, my brother, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav looks like being imprisoned. He is in prison. I do not know why he cannot revolt. Everybody opposed it.

MR. SPEAKER: Instigation is not permitted in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, our hope is perennial that some day my good friend Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav will answer to his conscience. I have found that Shri Yerrannaidu very often stands up and says that we are opposed to the Government's policy as it is not in the NDA agenda; and we are only committed to the agenda. Look here, we are not in the Government; and

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

we are only supporting the Common Minimum Programme. His Chief Minister makes periodical journeys here for getting rice, money and what not. Special allocations are going there. Therefore, I am saying that it is a Government of give and take. You have given me 29 Member, you take so much.

Shri Ajit Singh wants only one Ministry, nothing else. ...*(Interruptions)* He is from Uttar Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh has a special status!

Sir, they protest verbally, but always raise their hands in support. There is no unison among the head and the hand. It is a wonderful combination.

With regard to POTA, they stood up to oppose. Our good friend, Dr. Krishnan is shouting for the release of his leader, Shri Vaiko from the very next day of his arrest under POTA, but nobody listens to him and only one hon. Minister, who is now probably holding the Defence portfolio goes there, meets him and gives him solace—I do not know what sort of solace. But he is now languishing in prison. Shri Suresh Prabhu has lost his job. I do not know why. Sir, it is no reflection on your party. You have no party now.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; I have no party.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is the unity that is keeping them together?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is 'unity in diversity'.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This 'unity in diversity' is only for diversity utilising the power. This is an example of a Government, which is only together to divide the spoils, at the expense of the unity and integrity of this country. This Government is remaining in power now with the object of utilising the 'yes men' who have no respect, who have no sense of duty to the country. They have given them the strength to carry on these depredations on the Indian policy. They have no respect. They are less than toothless tigers. Somebody said: "they are toothless tigers". I said: "don't insult the tiger; they are less than paper mice". I know they are behaving like a bonded labour. I do not even have sympathy for them. This is a weird combination of self-seekers bent upon dividing the nation. The time has come for them to ponder.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): They are dividing the nation, but sharing the power.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: More importantly the spoils.

Sir, we feel that it is the solemn duty of every patriotic Indian to see that the fruits of independence go to the vulnerable sections of the society and the humblest of people get the minimum necessities of life. The basic features of our Constitution are meant primarily for those who are today asking for some job, some food, some protection and some education. They are not clamouring for all the necessities of life like television, telephone, etc. Therefore, I appeal to those who believe in the basic principles of democracy, socialism, secularism, social and political justice—these are not my jargons, these are the basic features of our Constitution—that they must all work sincerely and unitedly to rescue our body polity from these marauders of democracy and destroyers of secularism.

Sir, today, what have we got in this country? In the President's Address, we have been reminded of the great agony of this country that nearly for five years we have had this Government. This has resulted in the decimation of every one of the basic features of the Constitution. They think 'socialism' is a dirty word. Secularism gets one sentence—as the Leader of the Opposition has said—in the hon. President's lengthy Address. Nobody is talking of 'social and political justice'. There is nothing in this speech. What direction is this country taking? Today, we are only fighting over non-issues—whether there will be a Temple, whether there will be some *Mandir* or whether a *Masjid* should be broken.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and I have been together in this House for so many years. He is a very able Member of Parliament. We respect him as a friend. But what did he talk of today? He was very busy in trying to show that the Leftist parties and the Congress have differences. We have, of course, differences. We have never said that we are from the same party. We are opposing each other in many States. We are opposing them almost all over India. But I wish to make it clear—whatever may be the attempts of Shri Malhotra and this Government—that we shall work together inside the House to expose and oppose your anti-national and anti-people policies. Nothing more than that; nothing less than that. We shall see what happens afterwards. The people will decide. The people have not voted for this hotchpotch. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak, please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What we are concerned with is that the vital needs of the people are being ignored. The people of this country are today fed with all sorts of contrived solutions by giving primacy to religious fundamentalism. That is where we oppose.

This Government has many achievements to claim. We find that under this Government, this country and the people have been pauperised. The Indian politics has become commercialised because of the policy of *quid pro quo*. The great concept of Indian unity and integrity has been trivialised. The Government has glamoured corruption. It has become a land of scams. Every year, there are more than one scam of the highest magnitude.

They have saffronised not only the textbooks but also the *Raj Bhavans*, and important technical and scientific organisations. As a matter of fact, the entire cultural milieu of this country is being sought to be saffronised.

What is the position of the media that is one of the pillars of democracy? The Leader of the Opposition has made a reference.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH 'BADNORE' (Bhilwara): Sir, is it right to say in this House about saffronisation of *Raj Bhavans*?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): What is wrong? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, you give the judgment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is only figurative.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, as I said, even the media has not been spared. *Tehelka* is a telltale example. I feel anguished that the whole Parliament has not been able to come and stand by the side of the *Tehelka* journalists, who have done great duty to this nation by exposing corruption in the Defence deals. The President of the BJP had to resign. Why? The President of one of their supporting parties had to resign. What was the reason? The telltale example and irrefutable evidence are there. Instead of feeling ashamed, they are now showing great gusto. Is it not a sense of shame?

17.00 hrs.

Is there no requirement of probity and honesty in our national affairs? Let me remind the hon. Prime Minister what he had said. He had said that somebody has to come back to the Government only upon exoneration by the Commission of Inquiry. Lo and behold! All this had been thrown to winds. The Minister himself had proclaimed. His speech of resignation was telecast, a unique opportunity was given to him. After resignation, he went on the television to give a speech as to why he

resigned where he promised that he would not come back unless he was exonerated. We are being given lectures on morals by these people! What is the message going to the young people of this country? You can give any amount of messages; you can give any amount of promises. So far as national life is concerned for them, it does not matter; their self-interest is more; their party's interest is more. That is why, our Prime Minister has succumbed to the pressures of these diehard fundamentalists. He knows that he cannot survive without the Hindutva. They lost every election throughout India that was fought on achievements of the Governments, performance of the Governments. They lost hands down. But they utilised the killings of thousands and thousands of innocent people, and nobody had condoned that. But they had done it on the plea of tit for tat.

Sir, I have said it earlier here that I visited these camps, and the places in Gujarat. My first reaction was this. Are we a civilised country? On the basis of that, election had been fought. The President of the BJP proclaimed from housetops: "Yes, we have found out our agenda. Our agenda is Hindutva." He had done that as if every unemployed person in this country has got a job; as if everybody has become educated, has received education; as if there is no problem of drought; and as if the dangerous situation in agriculture has been solved. No. Does it not trouble the conscience of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or Shri Lal Krishna Advani that the farmers in this country are committing suicide? Here the primacy is the construction of a temple. Somebody finds with a laser that there was a temple underground, and this joke has been carried on in this country. We say, come back to the real issues; come back to the issues of jobs, development, industrial production, people's safety, and national security.

Well, this throw a challenge about the Congress view on cow protection. Is this the main issue in this country? We shall discuss, Sir, if it is brought. It would be brought, I believe, before the next elections.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe, you have been kind enough to allow a discussion on Ayodhya. We shall deal with it in detail. But, Sir, in the heart of the Capital of India—I mentioned it in the morning—such statements are being made. The language is "Yeh Ram ke saath hein ya Babar ki auladh hein." What is that? "Kisne Theka diya aapko?" What does that mean? Are you self-appointed guardians of Hindus? Who appointed you? You will live in great luxury, and crores and crores of people in this country do not have your luxury. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir that is why we objected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, do you celebrate 6th December as Black day?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You people please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Here just now, Members from the Samajwadi Party were saying that their rally was scuttled by promulgation of Section 144. But *Dharm Sansad* was allowed. What basic issues for the people of this country they were going to discuss and solve?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): To what extent you have provided employment in those States where your Government is in power? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You do your worship. ...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Honourable Somnath Babu, the Hindutva about which you talk, I feel that you are the creation of that Hindutva. Today may you have adopted your own ideology but whether it is not true that you had started your life from Hindu Mahasabha? You started your life from that Hindutva? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, you please go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: My father was not a pretended Hindu like them. ...(Interruptions) He did not utilise Hinduism to divide the nation. ...(Interruptions) Please do not compare yourself with that kind of thing.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

What is going on? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnath Chatterjee Ji please you speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am trying to finish because one of the Members from my party, Comrade Subodh Roy, will speak for a few minutes.

Sir, there is a very important issue of national security. Obviously, we are concerned. We have given assurances on the floor of this august Chamber, in the Joint Session of Central Hall. I have got the speeches as to what assurances were given by our Home Minister. Was he Deputy Prime Minister then?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Probably promoted for that.

Our hon. Home Minister, who is a very respected Deputy Prime Minister and resurrected Law Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley gave categorical assurances. Kindly permit me. In the Lok Sabha, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister says: "That earlier TADA went before the court, it has been approved and everybody knows there were no misuse. Courts have said, therefore, POTO will never be misused." Sir, I will read the exact language, in the Joint Session, what he said: "Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, POTO does not have those lacunae that existed in TADA so it will not be misused." Now, what is the answer: "What can I do? The State Governments are misusing." But all these State Governments are their cohorts.

Where is Shri Pandian? His leader has shown the way. Any political opponent, be he a Member of Parliament, be he anybody, is put under POTA. And this spineless Government and these spineless supporters, who have sold their conscience, sometimes raise these issues. Where is Dr. Krishnan? He comes to us asking us to raise the issue of Dr. Vaiko. He say, 'My leader is in jail, nobody is doing anything. Will you please raise this issue in the House'. I said, 'You raise it and we will support it'. It is because we do not like his policies. We supported every time it was raised. But my sister does not feel anything because she has made some compromises that is why she is sitting in that seat.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Dada, please do not be that uncharitable.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is my trouble, I cannot be angry with you.

Then, of course, Shri Arun Jaitley's assurances are there. I do not want to read his assurances after reading

the assurances of the Deputy Prime Minister. Sir, the point is that on this issue, NDA is totally divided. But what is the result? Have you had any effect on them, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav? Shri Khairi, you have also opposed POTA. Has there been any effect on them? There is no effect. Where is Shri Rashid Alvi? He is not here now.

Shri Pandian, have you opposed POTA? No, you did not oppose POTA. There is no effect on the Government. You are shouting. At least I have got the great satisfaction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN (Krishnagiri): That is why, Shri Pandian is taking a revenge. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not know.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the agony of this country. Politics cannot be devoid of ideology. No Government can function on the basis of day-to-day predilections.

Now, these captive supporters are being utilised. Now, BJP has resurrected its agenda, again talking of article 370. If somebody reminds, then they say: "No, not now. Please do not mind. By some mistake, we have said article 370." Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav will stand up and raise some feeble objection if he gets an opportunity to say. Then, again the same thing. You will raise both your hands in support of this Government. How has POTA been utilised against the terrorist? How many terrorists have been arrested? How many incidents of terrorism have been stopped? A 10-year old child has been arrested; women have been arrested; workers have been arrested; and wage earners have been arrested under POTA. Nobody's conscience is troubled. Shri Kirti Azad, you are a sportsman. How can a sportsman be in BJP? I do not know. Sir, you are an exception. That is why, Sir, you are not in BJP.

Sir, what about the economic situation? Though I do not have to take much time to show that we are in the abyss of economic stagnation, industrial production has gone down; agricultural production has gone down. We are fed up with only promises. Now, the hon. Rashtrapatiiji is being made to say that in the Tenth Plan period, five crore jobs will be created. What has happened to your Common Minimum Programme of NDA? A promise was made to the young people that one crore jobs would be created every year. You give us one list of 100 jobs. We can give you thousands and thousands of names, where the people have lost their jobs in the Government, jobs in the public sector undertakings, which they had. You are closing down the factories. Where is the economic development and in which sector? We have got Samsung;

we have got LG; we have got Sonata; we have got Mercedes Benz new models; and Ambassador of Hindustan Motors has gone. You are having a pride. Where is Shri Suresh Prabhu? He said: "Oh, we have got so many cars these days."

Sir, we are told of Kisan Vikas Patras. How many have been issued? Why are these people committing suicide? Why is it that the Chief Ministers are rushing up to Delhi for the purpose of getting some foodgrains? They are troubling Shri Ajit Singh.

Sir, disinvestment is the biggest hoax that is being played on the people of this country. There was a definite and deliberate promise. There was a publication referred to by the hon. Leader of the Opposition about disinvestment. Significantly, no date is mentioned. If the date of publication is mentioned, then probably five years after, people will ask, "What have you done in five years?" They will say, "That is not published." The date of publication is not mentioned so that no account has to be given.

It is amazing that the Government publication has no date. You will kindly see that they have elaborately said how the sale proceeds will be utilised. Not a single assurance has been kept. There is no redeployment; there is no training; there is no new factory; there is no revival of sick industry; and they are selling them. How are they utilising the sale proceeds?

He is under hiding. Sir, I have found him. He is a very nice man. You should be here on this side. What has happened is the biggest example of chicanery with the people of this country. Can any explanation be given as to how this country has benefited? We are talking of such huge accumulation of foreign reserves. How much? How much has come out of portfolio investment? Sir, you are aware that there are many hon. Members like me who are not so articulate about these financial matters. That is most unsteady. Any time they can be taken away. There are no investments. Let us find out this. I would like the Government to tell us how many foreign direct investments have been in the manufacturing sector; how many jobs they have created; and how this foreign exchange has come to this country. Let us know this.

You are talking of comparing with China. How can you compare with China? They have a policy. They have an ideology. They have probity. Shri Suresh Prabhu, merely talking that we are coming nearer than in population only does not mean anything.

Let me come to your dictatorship. Your Member has been eulogising them. Your type of democracy breaking mosques and killing the people and you are calling the

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people all sorts of names. This is your democracy. Therefore this is nothing but playing with the people's interests and playing with the future of this country and we strongly oppose this.

Fertiliser factories have been closed in three States. In my State, two factories have been closed down. When we went to the Prime Minister, he very kindly said, every State must have one fertiliser factory of its own. Where is it? Where is it in Bihar and Jharkhand? All the factories have been closed. There is no fertiliser factory. Now the foreigners will come here and they will sell their fertiliser with lesser import duty. I have no doubt that some more concessions will come on 28th February. For whose benefit is this? There is no progress.

Education is stagnant. Our good friend, Panditji from Allahabad, is there. Today, I got a beautiful book. Sir, I find that you have contributed. What has been said there—'A Hundred Hues'? It is beautiful. He is a very good friend. He is a nice man. So far as he was in the field of Physics, he was all right. His travel from Physics to Delhi has caused problems. Therefore, what has been the result of this? How many people have come up above the poverty line? Now, there are 26 crores of people who are below the poverty line. This is Government's own figure. There are 12 crore unemployed people registered in the Employment Exchanges.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): How many in West Bengal?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Have I said that I am an independent State? I am not an independent State.

I am governed by his Government's anti-people policy. Now, what is the programme laid out in this Address? What is the programme for their elevation from below the poverty line? Shri Suresh Prabhu has referred only to China. There are no programmes and policies. He says, we must act jointly. We must act jointly with whom? Do they bother for the Opposition? Whenever they get into trouble, the Prime Minister would call us but never bother for anything else. Have they tried to have a consensus on any issue in this country? There are mind-boggling issues. The nation is limping toady, young people have lost faith and all those who have equipped themselves and are highly educated are looking for journey abroad because nothing is available here. How many people get jobs here?

Sir, we are very proud of our development in the IT sector. You are connected with education and you know very well that a high level of educational proficiency is

required to get into the IT sector. How many people can get that? I am happy and proud that when I went to the Silicon Valley I could see so many of them from India but do not forget, in one year, 35,000 young people who had gone to the USA had to come back because they lost their jobs. Who is looking after them?

Coming to the question of problems faced by States, is there any State in this country that is not clamouring for more funds? Some States are obliged by the Government by giving more funds but some others are not. We have heard just now that Rajasthan had asked for rice and foodgrains for the 'food for work' programme but they did not get what they wanted while some other States got. The reasons are obvious and known to us. What are the Government's policies and programmes in this regard? In this Address, not even one word has been said about it. You have been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, one of the most advanced States in this country. Now, Maharashtra, Gujarat and every other State is clamouring for funds. This is because of the imbalance that has been created. This cannot be solved unless we have real federalism in this country.

I know, our Constitution does not provide for federalism of the type we read in books or see in countries like the USA but here in the name of federalism there are passing on the responsibility to the States. When POTA is misused, they say, 'It is the State's power; what can I do?' They have given that law in the hands of the States. They have given the draconian powers to the States. Who asked them to give that? What is the basis of the assurance given by Shri Lal Krishna Advani on the floor of this House that it would not be misused if he has no control over the States? He cannot have control. So, on what basis did he give that assurance?

The States are clamouring for more funds. Even the Sarkaria Commission's Report has not been fully dealt with. If that were done, some relief would have come to the States but that Report is gathering dust in the archives and in the corridors of the Government. Nothing has happened. The financial resources are not there. The States are living from day to day and development is being affected. Like Gautam Buddha, our Government is sleeping in *nirvana* without achieving that height.

So far as corruption is concerned, what more could we say? We had said, standing here, that the hon. Prime Minister's decision to cancel these petrol pump licences was only for public consumption, it would not stand the scrutiny of law and would be stayed. I had said that the very same day on the basis of whatever little law I know and that has precisely happened. All of them went to

court—including some leaders niece, and that order has been stayed. They are carrying on merrily. The land scams have also gone under total hibernation. They have decided to make hay while the sun shines and go on distributing largesse amongst saffronites. Is this the way our country to be governed? Of course, they have no sense of shame.

Now, I come to foreign policy. One of the glories of this country was bi-partisan common foreign policy. All along it has been there until this outfit came. Now, you have given up the country's foreign policy. Today, we have lost the leadership of NAM. Neighbours are against us. We are fighting with them. Today, you speak about Eastern neighbours for reasons which are obvious, trying to rouse communal sentiments and passion. This is not the way to solve the problem. How the freedom loving people of the world will look up to India?

17.26 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Sir, you have noticed, I am sure, what has been said on Iraq. I am referring to Paragraph No. 71.

"We share the concern of the entire world on the unhappy situation relating to Iraq. We have deep interest in peace, stability and security in the region. We hope that the wisdom of the international community, expressed through the UN Security Council, will result in a peaceful resolution of this matter in a manner, which would benefit humanity."

Who is creating that unhappy situation in Iraq? Not one word is mentioned in the President's Address against USA or UK who are openly threatening Iraq with war. Who is responsible for their so-called unhappy situation? That is under-statement of the Century. Deliberate threats are held out. That is why, we as a nation, believing in Non-alignment, peace and disarmament—of course that is being jettisoned—should in one voice, from this House and Parliament must express our solidarity with the freedom loving people of Iraq. We must oppose the hegemonistic approach of USA.

This is the bane of this country. We have adopted their economic policies. We have surrendered to their dictates and even the WTO provisions are being implemented. They are controlling the imports into that country. They are giving subsidies to their own farmers and giving lectures to us. We are so busy inviting one after another, the people from the United State of America and we find that all sorts of anybody and everybody will come and meet the hon. Prime Minister, etc. FBI has an

office here; other companies have an office here and that agency has an office here. They are operating in this country.

As soon as the World Trade Centre incident took place, we offered on *suo motu* to provide facilities in our country to fight against Afghanistan and to fight against Taliban. But what is this? On no occasion, the country is taken into confidence. We strongly object to that. Even now I request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs—if she is a free person, she should go and tell her Leader that the time has come that this House must express it categorically.

Sir, our trouble is that they are dictating us on economic matters. They are dictating to us in our foreign policy matters. They are also translating SPAN now in different languages. Our Attorney General is very happily to read the Hindi SPAN.

Sir, I do not wish to go into education. That is self-condemned. The way the whole atmosphere has been vitiated we need not deliberate on this. My time is also limited.

Sir, I charge that this Government has not only failed on all aspects, but they are also trying now to divide the nation on the basis of religion because they have nothing to show as their performance, trying to rouse the basest passion among the people, communal fundamentalism in this country. Appeal to everybody what will you achieve, tell me, if you divide the country on the basis of religion and have a temple there? Tell us, what will you achieve? Will jobs be created? Jobs have already been created while the temple has been made. let us take it as 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, or 10,000 mandays. But are you addressing yourself to the solution of the major problems of this country? People are waiting.

Sir, our greatest assets are our people. Their expectations are not much. They are happy with small benefits which are their entitlements under the Constitution; they are not a matter of charity. But are they getting it? Therefore, Sir, as I said, its "virtue" is in its length, not either in its contents or in its depth. This country's future cannot be dealt with by an Address which nobody believes in. At least, they were almost having a victim in one of our highly respected *Uprashtrapatiiji*. He was going to be a victim of this. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not saying it in joke. Now, all sorts of things are being said as to how to reorganise these speeches.

Sir, I have read the Address at least thrice to find out which sentence of this Address will create national

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enthusiasm among the people, will give a commitment to the people that India is on the path of development and progress, will give an assurance 'Do not worry, you are the citizens of India, you are the future of India—the young people—and you will have all the facilities, we promise.' What about Kisans? What about workers? Sir, my colleague here, Comrade Subodh Roy will speak on them. So, I am not getting into the details.

I am sorry to say that in spite of our highest respect for our Rashtrapati, we cannot agree to the formulations of the Government, the misleading observations contained in this publication which our respected Rashtrapati in the discharge of his constitutional duty had to read, but I am sure that he did not believe in them either.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to report the motion of thanks on President's Address presented by Dr. Malhotra delivered on 17th February. I will not like to go in details of the one hour fifteen minutes long speech. I will stick myself upto only two paragraphs as to why I support this Address as a Member of BJP.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am from a reserved constituency of Lok Sabha but the question is whether the right representatives of Scheduled Castes get elected to this House under the present electoral system. We all should ponder over it. In our present system anybody can be elected by becoming the representative of reserved seat of Scheduled Caste in Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly even if he does not get a single vote of Scheduled Caste. Hence, I would like to tell you the system prevailing in our country. In view of the dignity of our Parliament provisions have been made in our Constitution for providing representation to all neglected sections of the society. The preamble of the Constitution is discussed time and again in this august House. Today once again I would like to lay down that preamble before you.

[English]

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY

Adopt, Enact and Give to Ourselves this Constitution.

[Translation]

This is that preamble in which for the fulfillment of an object and with the help of which, the Constitution has been enacted and I would like to ask you a question regarding enactment of the Constitution that Dr. Ambedkar had given an instrument in favour of the poor for providing them social justice, economic justice and political justice. Although Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the President of the Constituent Assembly, but whatever has been legislated, the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar is invaluable. Dr. Ambedkar had given a constitution which involves the large interest of poor people in the country, those who were deprived of their rights since thousands of years and also aggrieved of social evils. I would like to ask whether the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is satisfactory even after 55 years of Independence. If we look into the question honestly we will find that these castes have become a chessmen in the hands of politicians. I would like to narrate some historical facts about this. These castes have been deceived by the history itself which is a crime of treachery against these castes. Today after 55 years of Independence, the people who belongs to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are living in poverty and are facing social inequality, and nobody pays attention to them. It is always said that there is unemployment while nobody talks about poverty. Poverty is a complicated matter. There are two categories of poor people, one, those who are economically poor and the other poor who belong to scheduled castes as well as suppressed in social boycotts. Can we say about them very honest because we are all politicians and aware of ground realities can we claim that the condition of scheduled castes has improved. Have they got social justice and social prestige in the present scenario?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the barber cut the hair of a scheduled castes person, it becomes a news item even after 55 years of independence, performing marriage ceremonies in a dignified manner by scheduled caste person become news item. Today even after 55 years of independence if a person belonging to scheduled castes

had have a feast i.e.. if they sit together with the persons belonging to other upper castes if becomes a news. What is the situation prevailing in the country. It is in this context that I would like to refer to the history. History is an evidence that those who assisted in establishing foundation were the people having physical force and those who assisted in it were rewarded with estates. They were rewarded in feudal system. Similarly Britishers came here as traders but with the help of persons like Jayachands and Meerjafars, they become the ruler of this country. Those who helped them to set up their kingdom were provided many benefits and they were awarded titles. Therefore, I would like to submit, as the Members of opposition are present here, did Congress Party which have ruled the country be it in Delhi or in other States of the country, for 50 years the with the support of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, has done any justice with the voters of these castes. During their regime of 50 years, instead of making them the rulers, they treated them as slaves. This is the burning question of present scenario. As I mentioned in the beginning, the situation is same. We belong to scheduled castes where do we stand today. We stand no where. We are bound to follow our party discipline. If we want to express our views about scheduled Castes liberally and if those thoughts are not in the interests of the party, then we are condemned and even refused party ticket. Thus we are helpless because we are said to be pseudo representatives. At present 16 percent of the total seats in Lok Sabha are reserved for scheduled castes candidates. The voters can elect the candidate. However the voters of remaining 84 percent of seats, the scheduled castes voters are not in a position to caste their votes. As I have mentioned in the beginning that even if a single person in the reserved constituency does not caste his vote in favour of the scheduled caste candidate, he gets elected. The tragedy is that the Congress Party has totally neglected them and now wherever the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have turned their back towards Congress party, the Congress party have completely lost public support.

First of all our comrade brother is sitting. They gave a very good slogan. Somnath Chatterjee delivers very good speech. Leftist thinking is in favour of them and two third majority of the total world population was under his influence. They had introduced the voice of proletariat class. Leftists have a very good philosophy. Everybody is a comrade there, he is not treated as thakur or someone else. But the definition of comrades can not much influence the proletariat class. But the time when the scheduled castes people with a lion's share of percentage became a member of Proletariat class in West Bengal, the Government of West Bengal is enjoying the thumping

majority since then. The Congress is out of power over there. The same situation exists in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and place wherever scheduled castes are becoming vigilant member, at those places Congress is trailing behind in games of power because as I have mentioned in the beginning that the Congress has done a crime of treachery against these castes. They made the Government but the government neglected them.

I would like to quote from the President's Address which is at page number 81, Paragraph 54 and paragraph 55. It has been said:-

It is the promotion of social justice and mainstreaming of the weaker sections and minorities has been the constant endeavour of my Government. One of the key strategies for ensuring this is through economic justice and employment-oriented educational assistance. In the current year over 18 lakh SCs, 5 lakh STs and 6 lakh backward class students have been awarded scholarships. Two new merit-based scholarships after 10th standard have been introduced this year—one in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the other for physically challenged students. The various concerned Finance and Development Corporations have a challenging role to play to live up to their mandate.

Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote Paragraphs:—

To give a further thrust to the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, a Scheduled Area and Scheduled Tribes Commission has been set up. The last such Commission was set up in 1960. Similarly, after fifty years, a summary revision of Scheduled Tribes' list has been done under Article 342 of the Constitution, involving inclusion or exclusion of 142 communities. To give focused attention to the needs of Scheduled Tribes, it is proposed to set up a separate National Commission for STs by bifurcating the National Commission for SCs and STs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vajpayee ji and his NDA government has taken a very good decision about them which has generated a ray of hope, enthusiasm and Zeal and Zest among these communities. They are totally distressed and disappointed with the political powers who have ruled the country and we see that in this atmosphere of disappointment and frustration, the people are converting their religion. The majority of them belongs to Scheduled Castes because they are not satisfied with the present set up. What is their religion, they understand the religion or not. They are converting their religion because political parties have not fulfilled their hopes and aspirations. They have not given social justice to them.

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

Today a new order in the name of dalit politics has been created in this country. This class had been treated as untouchable in the society for centuries. Had we allowed the phenomenon of this dalit politics to proceed ahead a new class will be created in political arena. The parties who run national politics should fulfil their hopes. It was expected from national level political parties that they should not drag this class into dalit politics. This new class, an untouchable class will be created in political arena, and if the status which we wanted to provide to dalits in political system is not provided to them it may create an atmosphere of hatred and frustration and everyone knows about it. Now a new set up has been evolved.

Sir, a Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission was constituted in 1960. A commission had to be constituted because the problems of Scheduled Castes are specific. How these Scheduled Castes suffering from casteism for centuries can now be relieved of their plight. And problems of Adivasis are different that is why gradually this commission has become a toy and a showpiece just to appease the people that a commission has been constituted for them. This commission is headed by defeated leaders. Specialists and social reformers have never been taken in this commission. An MP or Minister who is defeated in election is rehabilitated in this commission. Therefore no problem has ever been solved by this commission. (...*(Interruptions)*)

Sir, I would like to thank the NDA Government because they have understood that their problems are different. (...*(Interruptions)*) Sir, this is such an issue on which nobody would like to speak. (...*(Interruptions)*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to the list of hon. Members of your party, fifteen minutes are to be given to each member and your fifteen minutes are already over.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Sir, I would like to speak a bit more on this issue because it is a very serious issue. If you say, I will sit down...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Meghwal Ji, your party has sent a list of nine members here. Fifteen minutes can be given to you according to the time allotted for your party.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Sir, I would like to say that after 55 years a good experiment is going to be made as Scheduled Tribes Commission has been constituted. I hope that the Scheduled Tribes Commission will also not be used for rehabilitation or appeasement of political leaders. I would like to request this Government that socialists should be taken in this commission and

those different organisations which work for their upliftment should also be taken into confidence. It should be seen as to what are their main problems. How they can be brought in the mainstream of the country by strengthening their social, political, economical and cultural aspects? I come from Rajasthan and belong to South Rajasthan. A large number of Adivasis live there. Seven Assembly segments out of nine are reserved for Adivasis in my district Udaypur and seats are also reserved in Dungarpur and Banswada, I come from that region. I feel pity for their condition but cannot say anything except expressing my helplessness. Even today if Adivasis are to live in these areas in winter they will cut down a tree, burn it in a pit and pass the winter days by the heat of that fire. If this is the condition of Adivasis even after 55 years, whom should we blame and how can we change this system? Even today Adivasis...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Please put the blame on your Government.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I will not put the blame on our Government because it has completed only five years by now. He has put the blame on my Government while these people were in power for 50 years. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had given their votes for 50 years to them, whereas this Government has completed five years only. This Government has taken logical steps. I am placing my views before you by elaborating this matter. But even today the life of Adivasis is the same. They do labour one time in the morning. If they get the earnings for a day then they depend on the earnings for the next day. Today they are in a miserable financial condition and surrounded by many problems. But earlier they were the owner of the forests. In this way the problems of Adivasis are different.

I hope that a Scheduled Tribes Commission would be constituted, and the working system of this Scheduled Tribes Commission will be worked out on a scientific basis with the help of socialists. This will kindle some hope and help these classes taste the fruit of freedom in their life. Are they enjoying freedom except the right to vote? They do not have any freedom except this, nothing of the sort. Except this they have no other freedom or liberty. I reminded them preamble.

[*English*]

"Equality of opportunity and status"

[*Translation*]

Can Adivasi spending his night in Kushalgarh and a person spending Rs. 25,000 per month on his education, be called equality of opportunity. We have not been able to provide equal opportunities to them, we could not

provide them quality education. In higher judicial services, there are no candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Today the financial sector is gradually raising a centre in the private sector, but when that financial sector would attain prosperity. How can these people become participants in the financial and social set ups. The House should address this question to itself and find a solution. This question is related to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They do not enjoy social status. They are living in deplorable conditions and unfortunately it is we, the political activists and politicians who have become addicted to this status quoism.

Before independence, Mahatma Gandhi used to run good programmes. A harijan girl used to cook food for Mahatma Gandhi. Is a Harijan girl cooking food for any Congress leader today. Mahatma Gandhi used to stay in harijan colonies. Whether any of Congressmen lead this type of life today? Mahatma Gandhi made charkha his base which was used by carpenters and weavers. In 50 years rule, Scheduled Castes' legacy was finished but now they are waking. The Government has started some good programmes and I would like to refer to some of them. I would like to quote from Page 98 where it is mentions some programmes started by the NDA Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I am just concluding. I would like to thank you but I shall give a reason for that. I have just made the introduction. That new programmes have been introduced to pay special attention and a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been set up by the Government in 1999. This decision had been taken by the Bharatiya Janta Party and this Government. That a separate Ministry would take care of progress of the tribals. The Government has taken up 10 good programmes in SC areas. For the last 50 years these people have been cheated. If these programmes prone to be successful, people would have faith in the NDA Government. The Govt. should start such programmes which would generate a ray hope in them. There gradually you people will go. This is the fact I would like to submit for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes although a special commission has already been set up. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is also here. In these 55 years we have been lagging behind in economical, cultural, political race. Our people are not there in judicial services, scientific fields and in the army. For how long we shall wait. We should have to impart quality education to them for this purpose. In general competition these people fill up seats against reserved vacancies only. If all the seats under general category

are not filled up through general competition, it will remain a dream. Then this Parliament, the temple of democracy, the preamble, all these institutions are useless. With these words I am concluding my speech. You have given me less time. In fact I had lot of points to raise here. You are again and again looking at me and I want to remain in discipline.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to express my views on the Motion of thanks on President's Address.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Hon'ble President's Address. The Hon'ble President is just following a convention. In fact it is a Government document and having it read by the President in the Joint Session of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, a formality has been observed. In his Address the Hon'ble President first of all expressed thanks for peaceful conduct of polls in Jammu and Kashmir and he thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for casting their votes in a peaceful manner in favour of democracy. In this context I would like to expose the difference in words and deeds of the BJP people.

Jammu and Kashmir is predominantly a Muslim area. Today an allegation has been levelled that the minorities have not been brought in the main stream. The President's Address proves that the allegation being made by the BJP on the minorities is politically motivated and that there is gap between their words and deeds. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra was speaking in favour of this resolution and he was blaming the Jammu and Kashmir Government that they are releasing the terrorists who attacked the Parliament House.

I would like to submit to the activists of Bharatiya Janata Party and the people running this Government that they should make introspection before levelling charges on others, when the 13th Lok Sabha was constituted, an Indian Aircraft was hijacked in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. After the hijacking of plane the hijackers told their terms. This Government succumbed to the demands of terrorists and released dreaded terrorists like Azhar Masud. Is this not the same Government?

I would like to know the number of passengers who were travelling in the plane. Had the terrorists killed the passengers, how many people would have been killed and now how many innocent people have been killed during these 3½ years by these terrorists. If a factual analysis of these two situations are made it will become

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

very clear that by freeing these dreaded terrorists in Kandhar these people have played with the security of the country and hurt the morale of the soldiers fighting against the terrorists.

I would like to submit humbly that if we want to eliminate terrorism when we should have a clear strategy by rising above the party lines. If we do not do so, we cannot eliminate this menace. Particularly, I would like to tell the Bharatiya Janata Party people that the country has been facing a shameful situation since the day their Government took over reign of administration. The country did never face such a situation any time after independence.

18.00 hrs.

I would like to submit that our foreign policy has failed to fight cross border terrorism. It is therefore clear that although our Government bows before America though Pakistan has been the father of cross border terrorism and it has been rated so by not less then a country like America, which itself is a terrorist country in my view...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear me. We have received the names of as many as 34 hon. Members to participate in this discussion, out of which only six have spoken so far. Ten hours are allotted for discussing this subject. Tomorrow is the only day we have to discuss this because day after tomorrow, we have some other business to transact. Is it the pleasure of the House that we sit till 7 p.m. today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. We can continue tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir though I am going to speak....(Interruptions) yet the discussion will not be completed tomorrow...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: If you want I shall conclude just now...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, can we at least sit till Kunwar Akhilesh Singh finishes his speech?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Okay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, after his speech is over, we will adjourn the House. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not going to speak. But you please extend the time of the House till 7 o'clock today because so many Members are left...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, I will tell you. So far, we have maintained the time and we have gone according to the allotted time. If everybody cooperates, I think, we will be in a position to finish it. But tomorrow the House may have to sit for long hours, till it is finished.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to request the Government that Shri Kharabela Swain should be appointed as new Minister of Parliamentary Affairs so that, it will be convenient to run the House in fine manner...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, please come to the point.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Suresh Prabhu ji, has seconded the motion of thanks and in his speech he has in the House various figures in regard to the progress made by China and he has tried to prove that had we also followed the path of the China our country could had made the required progress. With due respect I would like to say that corrupt people are hanged in the China. Whether this country and Parliament are ready to hang corrupt persons? I would like to say on this question that...(Interruptions) Operation Vijay...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, please address the Chair. If you will address the others then the people of your State will ask you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if this Government would to through the report presented by CAG in regard to 'Operation Vijay' during Kargil war, then they would able to see the real picture behind it. Since Independence we have never heard that National President of any ruling party, had accepted bribe directly. I am not saying this. Not only India, but the people throughout the world have seen the picture shown by electronic media and print media. The country in which the corruption has become an institution. You want to present the modal proposition of China in that country. If you want to discuss this issue then I am ready to have complete discussion. You are talking about to follow the model proposition of China. But there is institutionalised corruption in our country, labourers are continuously exploited in Feudalist system till date and even toady land reform laws have not been implemented properly how can we do that. I feel that we can not provide new direction to the country by holding such type of discussion. If anybody gives such suggestions then he must compare the situation of our country with that country.

Hon'ble President has mentioned two things in his address in regard to foodgrains stock. I read the Address at one place it has been said that our estimated Gross Domestic Production has fallen due to decrease in agricultural production. On the other hand he said that heavy stock of wheat and rice have piled up the stocks where heavy production of wheat and rice has been reported the Government agencies have procured it on minimum support price in order to ensure that farmers may get remunerative price. I would humbly like to say in this regard that farmers are the one who have not only made this country self-reliant in regard to food grains by their hard work, honesty and but have produce foodgrains in such abundance that our country started supplying foodgrains to various countries of the world. But what they received in return, only hardships, poverty, and helplessness. Today, the farmers can not provide education to their children from his earning. The farmers can not provide proper medical aid to his family from his earning. This is the real picture of the farmers. In 1989 when Janata Dal's Government came to power, it was the first one to understood this pitiable condition of farmers. The then Government had announced to waive off the loans of the farmers upto rupees ten thousands. Shri Ajit Singh ji was also the Minister in that Government. Now the Agriculture Minister is not so sensitive to the problems continuously being faced by the farmers and he is not doing justice with them. He will speak right outside the Parliament. I congratulate the Agriculture Minister that the people are observing the reflection of

honourable Chaudhary Charan Singh's ideology in his personality whenever he speaks for the interests of farmers in the public meetings. But that reflection disappears when he speaks in the House and toe's the tune of the Government in this august House. I want to say that honourable Chaudhary Saheb, people of this country have much more expectations and aspirations from you. Therefore, if you speak publicly in the interest of the farmers outside the Parliament, the same should be repeated in the House also. The farmers will be benefited definitely.

I would like to mention about the condition of the farmers. During the last session, it was said that the sugarcane growers of the Uttar Pradesh, which is the biggest State of the country, wanted that they should get the remunerative price of their sugarcane. That price was of the last year i.e. Rs. 95/- to Rs. 100/- per quintal.

When they staged agitation in Munderwa to get remunerative price for their produce, Police opened firing on them in which three farmers were killed. This was done by the cruel administration of Uttar Pradesh. When this issue was discussed in the House then honourable Prime Minister made the statement that only one farmer has been killed. Next day it became clear that the Government of Uttar Pradesh had given the false report, three farmers were killed over there. Not only that they said that the wheat and paddy's growers have been benefited as they have been given the minimum support price for their produce. I would like to challenge the Agriculture Minister hon'ble Ram Shakal that he should go to Uttar Pradesh and other States of the country and see that how many farmers have been benefited under minimum support price for their produce of wheat and paddy. I do not know about condition of district of Ram Shakalji, but I would like to say that the foodgrains which have been stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India were procured from the middlemen not from the farmers. There is an exploitation of the farmers on large scale in the State. If it proves wrong then I would resign from the office of MP. I would like to say that if you dare to speak this truth among the farmers and prove that this situation is not prevailing over there then I will renounce the politics.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): You are speaking wrong.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to say that his challenge should be accepted and a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in this regard. Firstly, this committee would visit his constituency and see that data related to farmers, only then the crystal clear facts will be come to its knowledge. Now a days the farmers are living in a pitiable condition.

[Shri Akhilesh Singh]

Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the largest State of the country. The sugarcane growers are getting prices for sugarcane between Rs. 82/- to Rs. 85/- per quintal after the increase in prices by Rs. 5/- under S.M.P. after the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, while the prices were between Rs. 35/- and Rs. 100/- per quintal last year. The sugar mills of Haryana adjacent to Uttar Pradesh border are paying Rs. 110/- per quintal to sugarcane growers while the quality of sugarcane of Uttar Pradesh is much better than that of Haryana. Whether it is Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or Bihar, since this Government came to power, the farmers are in distress due to its wrong and dual policy and committing suicide in the States. Even then people who are in power are pretending to be well-wishers of farmers. They said that the sugar industry is in crisis today. Those sugar mills which had been established in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the British days are now being closed down one after another. Not only that sugar mills are closing in the areas of MPs of opposition parties but also in the constituency of MPs of ruling party. Whether it is Gorakhpur or Maharajganj, you can check the record. Honourable Yogi Aditya Nath is sitting here, the sugar mills of Pipriach and Ghugli have been closed in his area. Padrona's sugar mills in honourable Ram Nagina Mishra's Constituency have also been closed. When sugarcane growers agitate then this....* Government kill those farmers by opening fifty on them. If farmers are fired as a reward of their hard work then the country can not progress.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those unparliamentary words should be expunged.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please see and if anything is unparliamentary then it should be expunged. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you associate yourself with the feelings of the farmers of those families whose sons have been killed then you will be compelled to use more strict language than this. The hon. President has reflected the same thing in his Address. When we interact with the whole world then people congratulate us for one thing that we have successfully treated on the path of democracy after 55 years of independence. But when people in power try trample democracy then definitely there will be uncertainty and disbelief against democracy and young people adopt the course followed in Jammu

& Kashmir and the North Eastern States. When these people are holding talks with T.N. Muiva by going to Burma, and talking with terrorists groups outside the country, then why these people are not coming forward for holding talks with those people who are agitating and fighting for their own rights. This is my agony.

He had claimed of development on large scale. He said that they are constructing new roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. He has also talked of honesty. The PWD has given estimates of Rs. 20-22 lakhs for constructing one k.m. long road in Uttar Pradesh. Please constitute a committee which should look into it. I would relinquish politics if it is proved that one km. Road can not be constructed with Rs. 16 lakhs if i.e. with 25% less cost. We can increase the pace of development 25% more by stopping the plundering in construction process.

Sir, as regard to electrification. It has been said in the hon. President's Address in that we will give fresh momentum in the area of electrification. Hon. Shri Ramshakal is present in the House and other colleagues of Uttar Pradesh are sitting here. How much electricity was supplied to the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh five-six years ago and for how many hours electricity is being supplied now. This is the instance of this kind that even after so many years of independence the position of electricity supply in the country has been staggering because we had not constructed new power units. If we do not construct new power units then definitely we can not satisfy people by adequate electricity supply. Now the situation has come to such a pass that people are blocking roads and stopping rail movement everywhere for non-supply of electricity. They are creating problems in law and order situation. As long as we do not coordinate between demand and supply, we cannot solve the basic problems of the people. That is why I would like to say that this Government should try to establish coordination between demand and supply.

The National Health Policy has been announced. In Primary Health Centres in Maharajganj, which is my constituency in Uttar Pradesh, doctors are not available in more than a half Health Centre. The same situation prevails in districts of Gorakhpur, Basti, Siddhartha Nagar, Padrona and Devaria, Doctors are not available in Primary Health Centres in the districts, recently the ministers of previous Government inaugurated a couple of new community Health buildings. It was published in newspaper that people are not getting medicines there even after 1½ years of inauguration of Health buildings. When you inaugurate such things then please try to come across the real situation. If you make the hon. President read much false statement then definitely people's trust in

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

democracy will decrease. So, please state the reality and do not give false statements. The Government have laid emphasis on the development of scheduled tribes. I would like to say that in my constituency have only scheduled tribes people are living. You can see in Uttar Pradesh how the State Minister of Uttar Pradesh have forcibly occupied land. They are commanding authority on them. When the State Minister of your Government oppress the scheduled tribes people then what are the laws meant for. I would like to ask whether the Government by sending a team will make efforts to release the land from those people who have occupied land and other things of scheduled tribes? If you cannot freed the land of farmers possessed by your ministers, then how can you give freedom to common man.

Sir, in the same meaner they have reiterated the commitment of Government towards electoral reforms. My humble submission is that out of the total number of MPs in the House, more then one-third MPs are elected on the basis of money power. Even the recent Lok Sabha elections held in the country were not held with the expenditure limit fixed for it. If elections are held within that monetary limit then the shape of this Parliament of India will change. Now a meaningful initiative should be taken to check the influence of this money power. If no meaningful initiative is taken to end influence of money power then common man's representative cannot be elected to the House. Those who are greedy of money only will be elected to this House. Therefore, I would humbly like to say that now the Government should take meaningful initiative on this question.

It was mentioned that we have cordial relations with the neighbouring countries. Nepal is the only one Hindus 'Rashtra' in the world. People were boasting about 'Hindutava'. The seventh International Hindu convention was held in Gorakhpur...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nepal is our neighbouring country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is not right to criticise the Head of the state.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We do not know what has actually happened in Nepal. The Government of Nepal and the people of Nepal are quite friendly with the people of India and the Government of India. It has been the tradition of this House not to criticise the Head of the

Government or the Head of the State of any other country. I would request the hon. Member not to insist on having this statement of his on the record and that would be in the interest of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is not right to criticise the head of the state.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that would be right.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I fully support the views of Shri Shivraj Patil and submit that if there is anything objectionable in the statement, it should be expunged from the proceeding. Now they are obsessed about the Hindutava agenda vigorously. They have made a stand through his excellency, the President that this would be solved in an amicable manner peacefully. The incident of 6th December, 1992 underlined that there is a lot of difference in their words and in their deeds. In the meeting of the National Integration Council they have promised that law and order situation would be maintained in Ayodhya. They have filed on affidavit in the Supreme Court that we would maintain law and order situation in Ayodhya but on 6th Dec., 1992 some anti-social elements supported by the Govt. demolished the structure. The entire world had seen that incident. Therefore, there is lot of difference in their words and in their deeds. Not only this, they are grinding their axe in the name of Ram and on the other hand they are arresting the ancestors of Ram under POTA in Uttar Pradesh. Today situation is very grave there.

There Kshatriyan organised a convention on 22nd in Deoria and Lucknow in the Eastern state. Not only the Kshatriyan but every community of the society organised a big convention in Pilkhuawa. The kshatriyas have made a valuable contribution in the progress of the country in pre independence days. If you instigate the feelings of people on the basis of castism then the people would not sit quiet and they will react violently. When General Dyer had ordered for firing mercilessly on the masses in of Jalianwallah bagh incident, Uddham Singh was born to take the revenge. So the Government should not allow such things to happen again. Such steps should no' be taken by the Government by which the atmosphere of chaos and instability is prevailed in the country. There is a gross misuse of POTA in Uttar Pradesh. Efforts should be made to control the misuse of POTA otherwise the

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

society will be mobilized in the country and there will be an atmosphere of chaos and instability and you would be held responsible for that situation...*(Interruptions)* Shri Raghuraj Pratap Singh was a Cabinet Minister for five years in your Government. He was cabinet Minister in the regime of Shri Rajnath Singh, Kalyan Singh and Gupta ji his father Shri Uday Pratap Singh was highly reverend by the people of VHP. He used to make Dhoti and Kurta for the people of Rashtriya Svayam Sewak Sangh. Now he has been arrested under POTA ...*(Interruptions)** now, would you like to teach us the definition of crime? Ramshakal ji, is this the definition of a 'criminal'?

I would like to state this because you belong to Bihar, where an eighty years old Kunwar Singh protested strongly against the cruel Britishers. Please do not play such a dangerous game. Please do not ashamed one particular community. Otherwise the society will be disintegrated in fragments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech. Why are you addressing them. Please do not address them.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, had they not provoked me I could have finished my speech by now. I am just concluding. Sir, it has been stated in President's Address that India have cordial relations with Nepal and Bangladesh. Just now Dr. Malhotra was speaking. He was talking about ISI. There was a time when people were always after CIA and KGB and there is a time when people are after ISI. I would like to ask a question if ISI is expanding and strengthening its root. Then what is our intelligence agency doing? If these are being used to counter the political rivals then certainly our intelligence agencies will not be able to compete them. Politicisation of our Government machinery should be banned. If we will politicize the Government machinery then definitely their capacity and quality would be affected.

Therefore do not play such a dangerous game. Nepal is the only Hindu nation in the world. If ISI is expanding its activities then why our intelligence agencies can not eradicate them completely. Sir, if we allege one particular community and we say that people living in India and Nepal are traitors then the stability of our country will be disintegrated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we want our country to follow a path of progress and if we want to face the challenges from World Trade Organisation, then the Government should call an all party meeting. In that meeting we will have to consider over it and decide how to face the challenges of World Trade Organisation. In my view, the most important point, India should strongly recommend that let world market open for individuals then the Indian people will establish new records in the world market.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I would humbly like to submit that Government should ban the happenings against farmers. Govt. should seriously consider over and solve just their problems. If their problems are not timely solved, they will not only will be disheartened but it would also have adverse effect on agricultural production. If there is a unrest among farmers the democracy will be in danger. So do not put our democratic system in danger.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stand adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 25, 2003/Phalguna 6, 1924 (Saka)

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