

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 16, 2002/Agrahayana 25, 1924
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Bulent Arinc, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and other Members of the Turkish Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The delegation arrived in India on 15 December, 2002. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Turkey.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should be thankful to the Election Commission and the people of Gujarat. The people of Gujarat have silenced those Members who were instrumental in stalling the proceedings of Lok Sabha for 22 times. We should be really thankful to the people of Gujarat. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to congratulate the people of Gujarat. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hundreds of persons have been injured and shops of several dozen businessmen have been looted in the violence that broke out after the killing of farmers in Basti. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Akhilesh ji, a discussion on this issue is scheduled to be held on Thursday. At that time, you can express your views.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have made a false statement in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Akhilesh ji, your leader had demanded a discussion on this subject which I have allowed. You may please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Akhilesh ji, your leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav wanted a discussion on this subject. I have conveyed to him that a discussion on this subject will be held on Thursday. So, I disallow the Adjournment Motion moved by you. You can express your views on Thursday.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had myself visited the spot on 13th instant. The blood stains are still visible on the ground. The Government's claim that only one farmer had died is unfounded. Three farmers have been killed at a distance of 100 metres from Munderava Sugar Factory and police are even now harassing and intimidating their ladies after entering into their houses. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I have allowed a discussion on the subject. You can express your views during Zero-Hour. Now you may take your seat.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Issuance of Free Air Tickets

*362. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the category of persons to whom the free tickets have been issued by Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the total amount involved in issuing such tickets by Indian Airlines and Air India separately during the said period, year-wise;

(c) whether this has been the main reason of losses being suffered by the Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons for issuing such tickets; and

(e) if not, the other reasons for loss being suffered by Indian Airlines and Air India ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per industry practice, Air India and Indian Airlines have been issuing free tickets to the following categories of persons in their commercial interest to get wide publicity :

- (i) Artists, Dance troops and other performers for various cultural events,
- (ii) Academics and intellectuals invited to participate as delegates in conferences,
- (iii) Office bearers or members of the managing committees of Business/Industry Associations participating in Trade Fairs,
- (iv) Media personnel, tour promoters, travel writers etc. travelling for promotion of the airlines and India as a tourist destination,

In addition, needy patients of poor economic background suffering from serious diseases like cancer, who have been recommended treatment in specialised medical institutions abroad, are also given free tickets on compassionate grounds.

However, effective October 2001 Air India and Indian Airlines have stopped issuing such free tickets except for normal sales promotion and publicity.

(b) the revenue loss on account of on such complimentary tickets is notional. Such free ticket passengers are generally accommodated only after accommodating the revenue paying passengers.

(c) to (e) In view of the above, there is no such actual loss and the airlines also get wide publicity and visibility in return. Air India has earned a net profit of Rs. 15.46 crores during 2001-02. In the first half of the current year also, Air India has earned a net profit of about Rs. 46 crores. As regards Indian Airlines, the main reasons for losses are as follows :

- (i) High cost of ATF due to increase in prices and high sales tax.
- (ii) Significant reduction in traffic due to 11 September terrorist attacks in US and events following it.
- (iii) Increase in Landing and Navigational charges.
- (iv) Increase in Insurance premium.
- (v) Increase in expenditure related to security arrangements like sky marshal and ladder-point frisking.
- (vi) Flying on uneconomic routes in Northeast and elsewhere in view of socio-economic requirements of the country.
- (vii) Various concessions to senior citizens, physically challenged, students, etc.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I have got my question at number one in the list after 23 years.

The free ticket racketeering was going on unabatedly in Air India and Indian Airlines. It might have stopped after October. But before that, so many questions were raised in this august House and there were revelations to the effect that the racketeering was going on.

The hon. Minister in his reply, very clearly and categorically, has said that 'artistes, dance troupes and other performers' have been issued free tickets. I do not know what does he mean by 'other performers'. After that, he says that free tickets will be issued for 'normal sales promotion and publicity'. We know that Air India and Indian Airlines are gasping for life. After six years, now Air India has earned a profit of Rs. 46 crore. Thank you for that. But Indian Airlines is still incurring losses. I would like to know from the Minister very clearly and categorically whether he will stop issuing free passes for all sorts of categories henceforth.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member for complementing me for the profit earned by the Air India.

After the incident of 11th September, Airlines of several countries were faced with a lot of problems because several Airlines were grounded. The Swiss Airlines and the United Airlines became bankrupt. They had to suffer a loss to the tune of several million dollars. Ever since I have assumed the charge of the office of Civil Aviation Ministry, I have stopped all complementary passes since October onward. However, the provision of issuing complementary passes for business promotion purposes when the programme is sponsored or some artist is given coverage, is still in practice. The Air India has totally banned complementary passes since October. Extra tickets were issued thereafter. That was sufficient to generate and accelerate the annual revenue collection. So, in order to make the Air India a profit making company and to reduce the losses of the India Airlines, we have stopped issuing such tickets.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the second question of the hon. Member regarding the Air India becoming a profit making company is concerned, I would like to inform him that the Air India has earned a profit of Rs. 14 crore during the last financial year. During the current year, the company has already earned a profit of Rs. 46 crore in 6 months. So far as the losses being incurred by the Indian Airlines are concerned and I would say that this is because of high cost of A.T.F. We have spent Rs. 338 crore on it during 2001-2002 whereas Rs. 676 crore are being spent during 2002-2003. After 11th September, we have spent Rs. 12 crore extra on security. So, the losses in the Indian Airlines have been incurred due to hike in fuel prices.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go through my question, you will find that in part (b) I have asked about the total amount involved in issuing free tickets. But it has not been answered in the reply given by the Minister. That is why I am asking the hon. Minister as to what is the total amount involved in the last three years with year-wise details.

Secondly, for the losses and profits or for whatever it may be of Air India and Indian Airlines, the Government has recently appointed a Consultant, A.T. Kearney. I hope the hon. Minister will refer this matter of issuance of free tickets also to the Consultant so that this is stopped totally except for the poor patients suffering from serious diseases like cancer. Except for that category, all the free passes issued to other categories like academics, intellectuals,

artistes, dance troupes etc., should be stopped totally. Will he do that ?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already stated in my reply that free tickets were issued to artists, delegations and entrepreneurs participating in trade fairs. I have said that complementary passes are not being issued to these persons also since October. The hon. Member has raised the point that some passes were issued to the patients suffering from Cancer etc. who were financially weak. Recently, the Chief Minister of Kerala had recommended a case of a sick person who had no money to return from America. In such cases we issued a few tickets on humanitarian grounds because the Air India has to go for expansion. Now the complementary tickets are not being issued. This much I want to make clear.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Please tell us, how much money has been spent on this during the last three years.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I have old data with regard to tickets with me. In 1993-94 a total number of 898 free tickets were issued and thereafter 642 free tickets were issued. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like to clarify that free tickets are issued against the unreserved seats.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may inform the House about the amount involved. He can send this information to the hon. Member later if that is not available right now.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole amount has to be calculated because the Air India has also to bear the expenses of catering. Taxes are charged to provide free tickets. So far as the entire amount is concerned. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, there is no problem in that, you can tell the amount. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify in my reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It has been clearly asked in the 'B' part of the question as to how much money is involved in it. He should have normally replied to this question. The question is specific. Prior notice is given for

such questions. You get ample time to collect information for a reply.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has asked as to how much money has been spent on issuing those tickets. I have got with me the details in regard to the tickets issued from time to time. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I have asked about the amount which he must reply.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : The amount in this regard is very meagre during the tenure of our Government. I have no problem in letting him know the amount which he is interested to know. Such tickets have been issued during the regime of your Government so you are liable to face problems on that score. If I tell you the amount. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, what is the hon. Minister telling? Parliament is sovereign. . . .
(Interruptions) The hon. Minister has stated that it has happened in our time. The Government is a continuity. Let him explain the fact. What is wrong in it?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I shall tell you about this. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A question was asked about the total amount involved in issuing tickets. It is not difficult for the hon. Minister to give the figures. Mr. Minister, you can write to the Member and inform him the figure.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You can see the Part 'B' of the question. What are the annual figures in regard to the cost of tickets issued by the Indian Airlines during the above period. This is a straight forward question about the cost of tickets issued during the said period. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have directed him to inform the hon. Member.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The hon. Minister should give a reply to this effect. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The hon. Minister in his written statement has given us four categories. . . .
(Interruptions) Four categories have been listed in the statement. I need not read it. But the biggest scandal is only in one category that has not been mentioned here. We can understand the embarrassment caused to the hon. Minister. That is why he is not coming out with the figures.

One category that has swindled the entire money of Air India and Indian Airlines is the racket of giving free tickets to the agents. In the United Kingdom, in the European sector, in the American sector and in Canada, there is a practice by Air India to give free tickets after the sale of tickets to a particular amount and thousands of crores of rupees have gone down the gutter in this way. These two flag airlines have been cheated by those agents who are engaged by Air India and their amount is pending with the hon. Minister.

Sir, I must say that the Government has taken some action by not releasing that money. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the amount locked in this particular category which is due to the agents on account of the Government's wrong policy and how does the Minister want to tackle that?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has raised a very good question and thereby he has helped me. The Air India has taken strong measures. Earlier, we used to provide some percentage of free tickets to the agents when they sold more tickets, but now I am happy to inform that the practice of issuance of such free tickets to the agents has been discontinued since October. We are not giving them free tickets.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You are not addressing the question.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : If it is not a reply, then what is it? What can I do if you are not able to get the point. I cannot make things understandable through you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : You have full protection. You can give your reply.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : When he has made up his mind not to listen to the reply. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : We are again and again asking about the total amount of the tickets sold. Why are you avoiding to give the amount. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : I am not avoiding amount aspect. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Information regarding the full amount must be given.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told him that he should inform about the amount.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I have already assured the House that the information regarding the amount would be sent to the hon. Member later on.

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, the hon. Minister must at least come out with the amount which is held up with the agents. . . .(Interruptions) There is a very strong lobby working on the Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two-three more questions are raised even before I complete the reply to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister give the reply.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two-three major steps have been taken by Air India. As hon. Shri Buta Singhji has said that issuance of free tickets has been stopped. Secondly, we took another major decision which our colleagues in the House would appreciate. Earlier, the commission agents used to get a commission of 9 per cent which has now been reduced to 7 per cent. This has earned a profit of Rs. 90 crore to Air India. Apart from that, we have closed our offices which were running at off land stations like Switzerland, Sydney and other such places where there was no flight of Air India but the offices there which were operating. There have been closed. So when the hon. Prime Minister

said that steering through so many difficulties, the Air India has been brought to the position of earning profit. Hence, I solicit your further cooperation in this regard. No such tickets have been issued during my regime, so I have no problem in giving the data.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special efforts, through a Task Force, have been made by the Ministry to revive the economy of Air India and Indian Airlines in order to save them from the trap laid by the Disinvestment Minister to disinvest Air India and Indian Airlines and whether, in principle, the Ministry has decisively decided that these two prestige flag carriers, Air India and Indian Airlines should not be put into the basket of disinvestment.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you want you can give a reply to it.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to this question can be given by the Disinvestment Minister. This question has nothing to do with disinvestment aspect but as I said earlier that we have taken some steps to bring improvements in the Indian Airlines and the Air India. We have increased the utilisation of aircrafts in the Indian Airlines. The Aircraft, Boeing 320 used to fly for 2581 hours which has been increased to 3178 hours. The image of the Indian Airlines regarding on time performance was very poor. Earlier it was 58.57 percent which has been raised to 81.20 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : You can make a statement on this subject anytime in the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should give protection to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER : That does not arise from the Question. You understand the rules very well.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I asked whether, in principle, the Ministry took a decision. He tries to avoid. Then, what is the point in our putting the question in Parliament ?

MR. SPEAKER : This was not the question put in Parliament.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : My question was whether a Task Force was appointed. He could say 'yes' or 'no'. My another question was whether, in principle, they have taken a decision not to put Air India and Indian Airlines into the basket of disinvestment.

He could say 'yes' or 'no'. He is just avoiding it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Rupchand Pal ji, you may speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were the Chief Minister. You are aware as to how we would react if the Members are misled like this. . . . (Interruptions) How can we function?

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the world over, concessional fare is accorded to senior citizens, children and also handicapped people. Both Air India and particularly Indian Airlines have been remarkably fulfilling this social obligation. But in the face of competition by private airlines, which are hardly fulfilling any social obligation, there are reports that both Air India and Indian Airlines are considering a proposal for withdrawing the concessional fares currently granted to the senior citizens and others.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether such a proposal is being considered or whether taking into account the particular status enjoyed the world over by the senior citizens, the handicapped people and the children, this would be continued? They should not surrender to any pressure. Rather, the Government should pressurise Private Airlines to fulfil the social obligations.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the question is complete now. Mr. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have respect all the for elderly persons. That is why we have stated providing concessional tickets to the senior citizens which was not in practice earlier. This facility was initially available upto 2002. The Government is considering to further extend it. We have so many social obligations.

We are making full efforts to fulfil our social obligations and private airlines are also trying to provide more or less all those facilities that are being provided by us.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the matter concerning the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and would like to submit that two flights namely Chennai-Portblair and Kolkata-Portblair are already operational there. In Chennai-Portblair service the cargo rate is Rs. 24.20 per Kg. whereas in Kolkata-Portblair route whose distance from Chennai is less only by five minutes, the cargo rate is Rs. 32.20 per Kg. In this way the cargo rate is Rs. 15 extra in regard to Kolkata-Portblair service. Similarly, in 1998 Chennai-Portblair service was costlier by Rs. 75 vis-a-vis Kolkata-Portblair service which has now gone up by Rs. 560. The fact, however, remains that the distance through Kolkata-Portblair flight is lesser in comparison to Chennai-Portblair route and yet the fare is higher through Kolkata route. Therefore, through you, I would like to get an assurance from the hon. Minister that he would do something to do away with the huge disparity in relation to the cargo fare as mentioned above and I would also like to know if he would bring the higher fare of Kolkata-Portblair flight at par with the Chennai-Portblair flight.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has nothing to do with the main question but I must tell the hon. Member that he has not mentioned about the good things we have done. I had personally gone to Portblair. I along with the Deputy Prime Minister named the Portblair airport after the name of great freedom fighter "Vir Savarkar". The fare upto Portblair was reduced by 10 per cent. I would like to advise the hon. Member to ask a separate question regarding reducing the cargo fare.

[English]

Promotion of FPIs

*363. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schemes that are in vogue to help the Food Processing Industries in the country;

(b) the steps so far taken by the Government to upgrade the existing facilities; and

(c) the details of the innovations brought by the Government to save the Food Processing Industries during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements six schemes to help food processing industries in the country. These schemes, inter-alia, include Scheme for Infrastructure Development, Scheme for Upgradation of Technology, Modernisation and setting up of Units, Human Resource Development, Quality Assurance, Research and Development, Backward and Forward Linkages and Generic Promotion.

The entire food processing sector has been exempted from industrial licence except for alcoholic beverages and items reserved for small scale sector. The food processing sector has been included as a priority sector for bank lending. The foreign direct investment can be made in this sector upto 100% under automatic route except for manufacture of alcoholic beverages and items reserved for small scale sector. With effect from the Budget of 2001-2002, excise duty on processed fruit and vegetable products has been brought down from 16% to zero.

In the Ten Plan Schemes, a number of components have been included for approval like value added centres, integrated cold chain, bar coding and assistance for market intelligence and market survey, etc. These innovative components of the schemes provide impetus for speedy growth of the sector. Further, the sector, as per the Report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has registered a growth of 5.8% during the Ninth Plan, which is comparable to other sectors.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, as per the Minister's statement, there are six schemes to help the food processing industries in the country. One of the components is modernisation and setting up of units. In the recent past, Modern Food Industry was disinvested and sold out. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. What is the status of the food processing industry in the country? What is the total number of units in the country? How many of them are sick? How many of them

are functioning well? How many food processing units are there at present in Andhra Pradesh? What action does the Government propose to make them function well?

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Hon. Speaker, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, we have given financial assistance to about 20 projects and the amount involved is Rs. 7.19 crore. With regard to private industries, as per the data published by Central Statistical Organisation, for the year 1998-99, there are about 23,831 factories in the country and the total investment there is Rs. 52,630 crore of the total investment in the country till 1999.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, he has not answered my first question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is because you did not ask a specific question. You asked a number of questions.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, it was a very specific question. I asked how many of them are functioning well and how many are sick. Is it not a specific question? He should have given their number.

MR. SPEAKER : You can put the same question in supplementary.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, then I will be losing my second supplementary

In the Tenth Plan Scheme, as per the hon. Minister's statement, there are a number of components which will provide impetus for the speedy growth of this sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many proposals are there from various States in the country for the above components and how many of them are there in Andhra Pradesh. I would also like to know what funds have been allocated for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh there are about 20 proposals pending in our Ministry. In the North-East, about 63 proposals are pending. In the Ninth Plan, we have sanctioned one Food Park in Andhra Pradesh. For rice mill, we have given an assistance of Rs. 36 lakh; for bakery, it is Rs. 20 lakh for one project; for marine products it is Rs. 251 lakh for seven projects; for fruits and vegetables, it is Rs. 121 lakh for seven projects; for plant modernisation, it is Rs. 9 lakh for one plant; for poultry processing, it is Rs. 32 lakh; and for cold storage the assistance given is Rs. 50 lakh in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, in the country, because of non-availability of cold storage facilities, more than 30 per cent of the agricultural products and fruit products are perished and destroyed. May I know from the hon. Minister, what is the plan or programme to save these food products from perishing? Sir, Karnataka, which is the largest producer of mango and potato, the State Government has requested for cold storage facilities. I would like to know how many projects he has sanctioned.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Our Ministry is giving assistance for cold storage for non-agricultural purposes and we are also creating Food Parks. In this, we are creating a common facility of cold-storage for the industries which come in the Food Parks. We are also giving assistance to the special socially-controlled atmospheric cold storage and modified atmospheric cold storage. The National Agricultural Board is also giving assistance for setting up of cold storage.

In the country, about 4,199 cold storages are now in operation.

For Karnataka, in the Ninth Plan, we had given five cold storages. The assistance was Rs. 143.75 lakh. Therefore, we are creating environment for the private entrepreneurs to set up cold storages. Those who are ready to set up cold storages can approach the Horticulture Department. In our Ministry, we are setting up cold storages in the Food Parks to reduce the wastage of horticultural products and vegetables.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly the present day Government have formulated several schemes relating to vegetables and fruits so that the agriculturists and horticulturists could earn money from their produce. I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon'ble Minister so far as setting up of food parks are concerned, undoubtedly you are doing restless efforts for early clearance in this regard. But I would like to say that despite your efforts, owing to red tapism your department keeps on raising number of objections and people visit your office every now and then. . . . *(Interruptions)* Though you show courtesy towards them but to no avail. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he is to conduct any review in regard to the number of such projects and since when those are pending? Would you make it time bound so that

all the objections raised by your department may be settled once for all the project is cleared. So you can well understand as to why these are made to visit his office every now and then.

[English]

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Sir, for setting up cold storages, we are giving assistance to the private sector, public sector, co-operatives and NGOs. They have to comply with certain formalities before setting up cold storages. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : What about the Food Park? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : For setting up the Food Park, we are giving assistance up to Rs. 4 crore to the private sector, public sector, co-operatives and NGOs. For setting up the Food Park, they have to comply with certain formalities. They have to acquire the land. Firstly, they have to get the land in their name. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : I am not asking about the procedure. I am saying that there is so much of delay in sanctioning it and there should be a time limit. Otherwise frequent objections are raised.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Sir, to my knowledge, I have not come across any delay. If the hon. Member brings a specific case to my notice, I will definitely look into it and process it as early as possible. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : One such case is already in your knowledge. I have brought it to your notice many times. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : I will make arrangements to process it as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, there is a process, which has already been set in by the Ministry, regarding the assistance to be given under this scheme. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : I am not convinced by the reply given by the hon'ble Minister

because I have brought this thing to his notice twice, I have brought it to the notice of his Ministry and visited twice but despite all this people are not getting it done. . . .
(Interruptions) You should make it timebound.

MR. SPEAKER : You can meet the Minister in his chamber. He will solve your problem.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The hon'ble Member is right. The Government is functioning in this manner. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : The hon'ble Member is right. This Government is running only on papers. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, I am going to ask a specific question. I would request the Minister to give a specific reply.

There is a process which has been set by the Ministry that any assistance which has to come to the applicant, the application has to be routed through the State agency.

The State agency is saddled with the responsibility of seeing that the application is in proper form. The instructions are that only those applications, which fulfil all the parameters set by your Department, are to be sent. After fulfilling all the parameters when the form reaches your Ministry, what is the period taken in your Ministry ? How many days do you take to clear that case ? I would like to have a specific reply. Is there any time limit on the number of days taken ?

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : There is no doubt that the applications for the projects have to come through the State nodal agency. They are fixing some parameters to comply with. The role of the State nodal agency is to forward and recommend the project to our Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants a specific reply as to within how many days you are supposed to clear. Mr. Minister, if there is no specific timeframe, you can say so.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : I cannot give a specific timeframe. They may raise a query. That query has to be answered. If they answer all the queries, we will clear the project as early as possible. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has given you a specific reply that there is no specific timeframe.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : But there has to be a specific timeframe. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, the Ministry has a huge fund which is unutilised.

Development of Tourism

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*364. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to prepare Master Plans and also to take necessary steps for acquisition of land for development of tourism in their States;

(b) if so, the details of the plans drawn up and the project reports submitted by each State;

(c) the response of the Union Government on each proposal;

(d) the names of the States which have not submitted the project reports so far;

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(f) the financial assistance given by the Union Government to each State during the last three years and current financial year ?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) the Department of Tourism, Government of India had requested all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in October 2000 to commission 20 year Perspective Plans. Only the Government of West Bengal took the initiative to commission such a plan. Government of Andhra Pradesh and Goa had already prepared such plans earlier. Therefore, the Department of Tourism, Government of India commissioned such Perspective Plans for other States/UTs.

(e) The drafts of the 20 year Perspective Plans have been forwarded to the respective State Governments/UT Administrations for their comments.

(f) Financial assistance extended to States/UTs for tourism projects during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in the Annexure.

During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for integrated development of six circuits and Rs. 18 crores for development of distention. It has been decided that at least one major destination in each State/Union Territory will be developed with financial assistance from the Central Government.

Annexure

State-wise Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned/Released for Tourism Projects including Fairs and Festivals during 1999-2000 to 2001-02

(Rs. In Lakhs)

	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	222.22	139.60	299.50	206.50	167.85	91.66
Assam	357.35	109.10	338.35	136.90	397.50	196.70
Arunachal Pradesh	233.24	120.70	49.75	17.50	321.90	202.20
Bihar	89.71	29.00	324.48	99.22	1.35	1.35
Chattisgarh	—	—	120.28	37.25	35.00	19.50
Goa	279.82	95.36	93.30	29.90	93.73	49.85
Gujarat	327.64	150.90	469.20	148.10	305.50	100.30
Haryana	238.33	156.00	123.31	66.94	125.44	68.14
Himachal Pradesh	691.79	472.70	397.29	237.40	157.64	78.88
Jammu and Kashmir	311.43	226.00	474.93	294.80	65.50	55.95
Jharkhand	—	—	206.49	86.56	80.00	24.00
Karnataka	890.78	494.20	489.30	245.40	254.76	138.00
Kerala	772.28	357.10	717.60	329.50	680.08	284.20
Madhya Pradesh	435.85	185.10	262.33	86.24	256.37	104.00
Maharashtra	1033.90	379.40	282.69	97.40	1128.20	306.90
Manipur	229.00	70.10	782.77	234.90	—	—
Meghalaya	80.72	22.51	105.59	46.10	87.87	36.95
Mizoram	297.23	280.70	311.19	259.70	73.25	44.20
Nagaland	281.80	279.40	156.53	95.95	41.54	22.70

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa	305.43	136.60	156.94	47.07	38.05	27.12
Punjab	175.00	56.43	203.50	61.33	17.50	12.34
Rajasthan	131.22	58.34	454.96	150.30	5.00	2.50
Sikkim	127.93	79.34	368.62	267.60	108.83	62.29
Tamil Nadu	531.95	208.60	122.83	36.85	533.67	139.60
Tripura	340.76	212.80	333.23	151.60	114.40	55.55
Uttaranchal	—	—	70.19	29.78	65.51	49.79
Uttar Pradesh	749.57	287.10	423.74	171.20	55.74	44.87
West Bengal	194.01	76.56	432.99	295.90	229.85	98.63
Andaman and Nicobar	32.37	16.18	1.78	0.89	—	—
Chandigarh	68.44	22.31	22.13	16.14	8.00	7.12
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	30.00	9.00	8.00	2.40	3.70	1.85
Delhi	24.50	12.20	17.70	9.99	55.01	37.30
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	5.00	1.50
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	17.00	5.10
Pondicherry	163.89	73.73	26.18	9.09	78.61	55.98
Total	9648.08	4817.06	8647.67	4006.40	5609.35	2418.02

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has said that the Union Government have asked the State Governments in October 2000 to formulate 20 years perspective plan but only one State has agreed to formulate such a plan. Andhra Pradesh and Goa have already accepted it earlier. Every State Government laid emphasis on promotion and development of tourism because it is a source of their income. Despite all this the State Governments are not accepting this. I am unable to understand as to why they are not accepting it. I want to put a simple question to the hon'ble Minister as to what is the draft of the plan chalked out by the Government so that more and more State Government accept this plan ?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The hon. Member's question is why the State Governments are not serious about it. I think that is a question which the State Governments can answer.

But my submission with regard to this question is that the Government of India advises the State Government to prepare a plan for which Rs. 10 lakh is sanctioned. Only the Government of West Bengal took the initiative and prepared some plan. No plan was prepared for other States and we have ourselves taken up the responsibility of drawing up that plan. The plans have been drawn up and sent to the State Governments.

So far as the seriousness of the State Governments with regard to tourism is concerned, I have, on that day also, shared the same view as the hon. Member has pointed out. For example, one of the figures is very startling. Even when the amount has been sanctioned by the Central Government, the project is incomplete. This is apart from the issue of culture of governance. For example, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, out of the 345 projects which were sanctioned, 70 projects are still incomplete. In the Eighth Five Year Plan, 272 projects are incomplete out of the 963 projects which were sanctioned. In the Ninth Five Year Plan,

1563 projects were sanctioned, and 1038 projects are yet to be executed. So, this is the position of the State Governments' implementation process. That is why, in the new initiative about which I have already spoken in this House, we have now drawn up a separate scheme. Under the new policy, we are drawing up plans for synthesising elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life. For every State Government, one big hub of culture, tourism and civic life is being created.

For example, starting with Tamil Nadu, we have taken up Mahabalipuram. In Karnataka, Hampi has been taken up. In Rajasthan, Chhittorgarh and Kumbalgarh have been taken up. In West Bengal, about which probably the hon. Member was asking, we have the Mission Sunderbans as a special project. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in May, 2002 the hon'ble Minister has said in the meeting with 'FICCI that in order to promote tourism all the important monuments, Forts and Temples in the country will be renovated. Besides formulating a basic plan financial assistance would also be provided for this purpose. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the said plan has since been formulated ? If so, whether the existing forts in Raigarh and Pune districts have also been included in the said plan ?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : As you are aware, on that day, I answered this question and said that a special scheme has been prepared for all the forts in Maharashtra. Sindhudurg has been given the top priority, for which Rs. 1 crore has been earmarked and sanctioned. There are other marine forts for which plans are being prepared. We would take an integrated view and sanction them.

So far as Maharashtra is concerned, I think, it has got the maximum benefit because we have got projects at Ajanta, Ellora and Daulatabad. All these projects have been sanctioned. They are going ahead with a great deal of zeal and hon. Members from those areas are aware of this. Apart from that, in the Tenth Five-Year Plan, coastal eco-tourism has also been sanctioned.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we have already permitted a Half-an-hour Discussion also in the House. So, during the Half-an-hour Discussion, you can put further questions.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has sanctioned about 967 tourism projects in respect of various States during the last three years but only 252 projects have so far been completed till date. Further, the Government has released only Rs. 2,418.02 lakh out of Rs. 5,609.35 lakh. These facts show that a low release of amount is one of the causes for non-completion of these projects.

Secondly, there is no time-bound programme for these projects. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has formulated any time-bound programme for these projects before they are sanctioned.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, there are three parts of this question.

The first is that the amount released is less than the amount sanctioned. The amount is released in instalments. When the first instalment is exhausted, the second instalment is released. Therefore, when the first part of the project has not been completed, the question of releasing the second instalment does not arise.

So far as the project period is concerned, that period is always prescribed in the plan. We say that they have to complete within the specified period. So, there is that limit.

The figures that the hon. Member has read out pertain to the Ninth Five-Year Plan. In the Tenth Five-Year Plan, as I have already explained, we have started a new initiative and are working on that new initiative under which all States are being directly helped by the Central Government and cultural hubs and tourism hubs are being created.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to know what is the criterion for sanctioning of amounts of the respective States. In the annexure, I find that, in respect of Bihar, in 2001-02, the amount sanctioned is only Rs. 1,35,000 and the amount released is Rs. 1,35,000. I think, Bihar is a State, which in all respects should be a tourist destination.

What is the special reason and why Bihar has been given only Rs. 1.35 lakh ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The State Government sanctions the amount depending on the plan. That is an old figure.

As I have said, in the new plan, we have decided to take the initiative ourselves and we are doing it. For example, in *Vaishali*, about Rs. 9 crore projects have been sanctioned by me in Bihar with regard to the special Buddhists circuits, Jain circuits and Mahavir circuits. So, we are trying to make good the deficiency in the region.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the recent past a new thing has been noticed that in reply to any question on any matter the only reply of the Government happens to be that the State Government is not functioning well hence the scheme is not being implemented properly. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister that Khajuraho which I represent, is a world famous tourist spot and I have given several proposals to the Government in this regard during the last two years. Leave aside the State Government, I want to know as to how serious is the Union Government about implementation of the scheme meant for development of tourism. Is it not true that peak season of tourism at Khajuraho is from October to March only and during this period flights of the Indian Airlines used to operate from Khajuraho every year on daily basis but this year these flights are not being operated daily. Last year also the flights were started when this matter was raised here in the House. Second thing I have said that in fact there is a problem in development of tourism. Development of tourism need co-operation from various departments and the departments have no infrastructure. Therefore, I have suggested that the 'Taj Express' which runs between Delhi and Gwalior remains halted for five hours at Gwalior should be extended upto Harpalpur railway station which is the nearest railway station from Khajuraho and the trains took merely one and half hours from Gwalior. This train can reach back to Delhi at its scheduled time from Harpalpur and there will no additional financial burden on the Government on this account. Do you consider these proposals appropriate? Whether you are satisfied with the efforts made by you at your own level with the Civil Aviation and Railways for development of tourism and what has been the outcome of your efforts and whether you are really satisfied with that and what you are going to do further in this regard? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, this matter pertains to the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Railways. Both the questions

pertain to them. Hon. Ministers have been in touch with me. We have also requested the Ministries of Railways and Civil Aviation to improve the connectivity. They have their own difficulties. So, we have to appreciate that also.

Now, so far as Khajuraho is concerned, in the earlier question also I replied that we have done a lot of work in Khajuraho during the last few months. We have the western sector of temples and that is being approved. A lot of new areas have been acquired and the temple premises are being enlarged. We have taken up a large number of improvement projects of Jain monuments and also new excavations in that area are being taken up which will give a lot of fillip to the tourists' traffic. About Rs. 6 crore have been sanctioned only for the improvement of Jain monuments in these areas of Madhya Pradesh.

So far as the Tourists Department of Cultural Development is concerned, we are doing our best to serve all these important places like Khajuraho. These are our national and cultural assets. We are doing our best.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Civil Aviation and the Minister of Tourism both are present here in the House. . . . (Interruptions) There used to be daily flights but this year flights have not been started so far. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : It is correct that he has done exceptionally well in Khajuraho. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very important issue to raise relating to Rajasthan. I may also be given time to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed half an hour discussion on this subject. You can ask questions at that time.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : My question is related to this. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the Minister of Civil Aviation want to say something. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

World Solidarity Fund Under Earth Summit

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*366. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether at the recent Earth Summit held at Johannesburg it was decided to set up a World Solidarity Fund for encouraging sustainable development;

(b) if so, the constitution, objectives, mode of operation and the governing body thereof;

(c) the Indian contribution towards the fund;

(d) whether any norms have been laid down for aid to different countries under this fund to ensure and encourage sustainable development and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the aid expected for India from this Fund for curbing degradation and achieving Sustainable development under the Tenth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Plan of Implementation, the final outcome document of the World Summit on Sustainable Development mentions about the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund, to eliminate poverty and to promote social and human development in developing countries.

(b) The constitution, objectives, mode of operation and the governing body etc. for the above Fund have not been laid down.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, it is already well for us to wait for largesse from other countries. This year the agriculture in India has been affected because of the larger perception of global warming because of which our polar icecaps have been melting and we have had unprecedented floods in some areas and declining water tables in other areas. While it is already well for us to go off in a big contingent to the other countries for these World Summits, what steps your Ministry is going to take to

ensure even with the local State Governments about sustaining environment holistically? For example, the Government construction in our village areas are not taking into consideration the locally available material; but we bring in asbestos even now which has been banned and which is the largest single contribution to Silicosis and Asbestosis of the lungs as well as the indiscriminate programmes such as the one the Andhra Pradesh Government has taken up called *Neeru Meeru*. An amount of Rs. 1,400 crore has been spent for this *Neeru Meeru* programme resulting in indiscriminate bore wells, giving rise to strange viruses which have destroyed agriculture bringing fluosis to the surface affecting the physical health of women, children and other people and affecting our agricultural crops. Sir, an amount of Rs. 1,400 crore has been spent. Today, the Government of Andhra Pradesh cannot give us water for agricultural sector.

.(Interruptions) You can say what you want.

.(Interruptions)

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Sir, how is it relevant to the main Question before the House ? . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the hon. Member can choose some other platform to raise these issues. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : These are the facts. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, she can choose some other platform to raise these issues. This is sheer misuse of the platform of this august House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, this hi-tech Government did not use even remote-sensing agency to study the layers of water. . . .(Interruptions) The hon. Minister of Environment and Forests. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

.(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I am telling the truth. They do not want to face the truth. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, this is not the platform. . . .(Interruptions) She cannot use this august House to raise this irrelevant issue. . . .(Interruptions) The *Neeru Meeru* programme is good. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you can go ahead with your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, it is happening there. . . .*(Interruptions)* Before listening to the truth, they jump up. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the *Neeru Meeru* programme has yielded good results. The water table has gone very high. . . .*(Interruptions)* Raising it here is irrelevant. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Of course, it is relevant. Sir, I am raising the environmental issue in Andhra Pradesh and they are talking about this. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, that shows their ignorance. It is bad enough that they are ignorant, they want to advertise it also. . . .*(Interruptions)* They do it deliberately. They do not know any thing. I want to ask the hon. Minister – if he will give us the facilities through the MPLAD fund to access the remote sensing agency to give us strata-layering of our constituencies ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can forget the policies but give reply straightaway.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking all of them.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, usually whether on this side or on that side, we will not take this opportunity to score political mileage. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Do you deny what you have done in Andhra Pradesh ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : . . . * . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I will not keep quiet. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members to please sit down.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : This is not an appropriate platform. Please take your seat. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is not good. The hon. Minister is on his legs. He is replying. Let the reply come from the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Member has asked the supplementary question. Let the hon. Minister reply. How are the other Members concerned with it ? . . .*(Interruptions)* She is also a Member of the House. She has every right to ask the question to the Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* The question is in her name. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the hon. Member has used an unparliamentary word against the lady Member. It should not go on record. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, please ask him to withdrawn the words.

MR. SPEAKER : I will remove it from the record. No Member has a right to insult another Member.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Please withdraw your words. . . .*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, I will do it with action outside. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, my sister, hon. Renuka was also a Minister along with me during 1997 and she knows how the multilateral bodies function, whether it is WSSD or CoP-8 Conference. They work in the multilateral world. Suppose, we have to take up the issue of environment, we have to go along with G-77 and China. From country to country, there is no multilateralism. She knows better. As far as this matter is concerned, the question pertains to the World Solidarity Fund. In 1999, the Tunisian President had suggested in the United Nations' General Assembly to set up a multilateral fund so that it can take care of human development, social development, poverty alleviation and so on. I should not forget at this point of time that in 1992 at the UN Earth Summit, it was our Prime Minister who had taken up the cause first to see that an Environment Fund is created.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

Now, the World Solidarity Fund was discussed even in the WSSD Conference which had been held recently in Johannesburg. That particular aspect is being discussed in the United Nations' General Assembly. Dr. Kofi Anan has also put on the matter as priority in the United Nations' General Assembly discussions. I think, most probably, it will be discussed in the days to come. As and when the World Solidarity Fund is established, I think, I would be able to tell something more to my sister.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, the developed nations which have contributed to the largest pollution and the thinning of the ozone layer. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this your supplementary ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I am not talking about them ?

MR. SPEAKER : But is this your supplementary ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not talking about that at all.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, the developed nations such as the USA etc. have contributed to the thinning of the ozone layer and to other factors causing pollution because of their advanced technologies. Will the hon. Minister negotiate in future that such developed nations, which have the money and the capacity to develop green technology, give it either free or subsidised to the developing economies ? We have not contributed to that pollution, but we are expected to come at par when we contribute for such funds.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the developed nations have agreed at Rio conference that 0.7 per cent of the GDP of the particular nation will be expended for this purpose, but to our agony, the developing countries are availing only 0.22 per cent so far. In the WSSD as well as the CoP-8 Conference which has been held in New Delhi, India has, as vociferously as G-77 and China, advocated and demanded that the developed countries should come forward to expend 0.7 per cent, as agreed at various multilateral fora.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : They should penalise the State Governments which violate environmental laws.

DR. V. SAROJA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Question asked is very specific and very pertinent. The reply given to parts b, c, d and e of the Question is not satisfying this House. When the Tenth Five Year Plan is planning to bring down the number of people living below the poverty line by 20 per cent, will the Ministry come forward to constitute the objects, mode of operation and the Governing Body for the fund which is going to be allocated in this procedure ? Will the Government come out with the proposals and the objects to make use of this benefit ? I would like to have a categorical answer from the Minister.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I think, sister Saroja has not understood what I have replied. Actually, this Fund has not yet been set up. The World Solidarity Fund is a concept which is being discussed in various multilateral bodies, including WSSD. Also, it is going to be taken up in the United Nations' General Assembly.

DR. V. SAROJA : I think, before the fund is allocated, we can prepare a proposal and discuss it on the floor of the House so that when the Fund comes, we can make use of it and avoid delay also.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is a suggestion and we will examine it.

DR. V. SAROJA : Thank you.

[Translation]

Amendments to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

*367. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that sections 43 and 44 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which provide certain exemptions in respect of peacock tail feathers are proving to be a serious loophole and contributing towards increase in killing of the National Bird in various parts of the Country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the above Sections of the Act in order to remove the loopholes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to impose ban on acquisition and dealing in the tail feathers of the Indian Peafowl immediately ?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (d) Section 43 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides exemption to the owner of peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from selling or transferring the same. Section 44 of the Act provides exemption to the dealer in peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from obtaining license for dealing in the same.

The available records indicate that most of the deaths of peafowl have occurred due to consumption of pesticide treated seeds sown in agricultural fields. There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the exemptions provided in the Act have led to increase in poaching of peafowl for collection of tail feathers. The tail feathers are collected after being naturally shed by the birds and are extensively used for social, religious and cultural purposes.

Government has introduced the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002 in the Rajya Sabha and the same has passed on 9th December, 2002. The Amendment Bill as passed by the Rajya Sabha provides exemption to the holders of peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from the purview of Section 43. No amendment has been proposed in Section 44 of the Act.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that feathers of our national bird, peacock are being exported openly in the name of other birds which resembles our national bird the peacock. A racket of smuggling of peacock feathers has been busted recently at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to ban or not the export of feathers of peacock and all other birds resembling with peacock. If not, the reasons therefor and the number of cases of smuggling of feathers of peacock

came to light during the last three years and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I think, the hon. Member is mis-informed. We have banned the exports of such things. No such case of export has been intimated to me. If the hon. Member has got any specific case with him, then he may intimate to me. Export of such a thing has been banned and there is no further possibility of such a thing being exported to foreign countries.

12.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Illegal Activities Near Monuments in Delhi

2. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Built heritage turning into dens of vice" appearing in Sunday Times dated December 01, 2002 stating that several of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monuments in Delhi have become dens for drunkards, drug addicts, gamblers and anti-social elements;

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

(c) whether the Humayun's Tomb, a world heritage monument is a parking lot for buses at night;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any concrete proposals to make these monuments safe and secure and environmentally agreeable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

Statement

(a) Government have seen the press report referred to in the Question. But it is not correct to say that several

of the Archaeological Survey of India's protected monuments have become dens for drunkards, drug addicts, gamblers and anti-social elements.

(b) The monuments referred to in this part of the Question have squatters and illegal encroachments/constructions around them. There are bustis and stalls and cannot be described as dens for drunkards, drug addicts, gamblers and anti-social elements.

(c) The unauthorised parking near Humayun's Tomb has been noticed by the Archaeological Survey of India and has been reported to the Police on a number of occasions. Even otherwise, it is an infringement of traffic rules because the area is not earmarked for parking. The matter in respect of termination of unauthorised parking is being regularly pursued with the police authorities.

The land at the entrance of the Humayun's Tomb belongs to the Ministry of Urban Development and has been handed over to the Delhi Development Authority for care and management. The Ministry of Culture/Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, has requested for resumption of this land from the Delhi Development Authority and its transfer to the Archaeological Survey of India for care and management so that, apart from improvement and landscaping, it could be maintained as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tourism and Culture have taken a new initiative to create hubs of culture, tourism and clean civic life around important monuments. In pursuance of this initiative, a number of encroachments have been removed from Delhi such areas as Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, etc. Several other measures are also in hand to rid the city of Delhi and other monuments outside Delhi of illegal encroachments and constructions which have been there for quite some time.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, India is very rich in the abundance of its historical monuments of great beauty and aesthetic value. These ancient monuments and relics were taken care of well even during the British period. The Archaeological Survey of India was founded in the year 1861 during the British period and according to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Act of 1958 – this Act has been in existence for 44 years now – 3,606 monuments in the country are to be protected under this

Act. Out of these 3,606 monuments, 170 monuments are situated in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Sir, my question was relating to a news item that appeared in *The Times of India* dated December 01, 2002. But the answer given by the hon. Minister in the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House, is though exhaustive, yet not at all satisfactory. The hon. Minister has only chosen a few words from the news item to frame his answer. It has been replied that it is not correct to say that several of the Archaeological Survey of India's monuments have become dens for drunkards, drug addicts, gamblers and anti-social elements. This is not true.

Sir, only recently a girl student of the Maulana Azad Medical College in Delhi was raped in broad daylight in *Khooni Darwaza*, which is at a stone's throw distance from the Police Commissioner's office. There are many such other monuments that are unsafe. I only mentioned about *Khooni Darwaza*. There are places like *Qutab Minar*, *Jantar Mantar*, *Purana Quila* etc.

MR. SPEAKER : You may please ask your question now.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, These places are actually being misused by drug addicts and anti-social elements, rapists and all such people. To say that several of the Archaeological Survey monuments do not belong to this category is not correct. This answer is not at all satisfactory.

MR. SPEAKER : If the answer given is not satisfactory, then you can ask the question now.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : In the answer it has also been said that the police officers are also being blamed for the state of affairs in most of the monuments in the city of Delhi. It is just like pot calling the cattle black.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think she wants to put a question.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : With this lengthy and unsatisfactory statement, is the hon. Minister trying to justify the apathy and callous indifference of bureaucrats of the Archaeological Survey of India in discharging their responsibilities and duties? That is my specific question.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : As the hon. Member had herself mentioned, there are 3611 protected monuments in the

country. It is not possible to appoint a security guard at every place, for 24 hours a day. We have important monuments, and we have comparatively less important monuments. At all important monuments, security arrangements are there.

So far as Delhi is concerned, there are 170 protected monuments. The hon. Member has mentioned, and I agree with her, that over the last forty-fifty years, the attention that should have been given to the Archaeological Survey has not been given. We have now drawn up a re-organisation scheme. I am working on that. Under that scheme, all the monuments have been divided into three categories. Monuments of category 1 and 2 are those around which there are insubstantial encroachments – like hawkers, *dhabas*. Monuments of the second category are those around which slums have grown over the years with *jhuggies* and other dwellings. In regard to the first two categories, we have already taken a decision to clear all the monuments of Delhi of these and we have succeeded in it.

I would suggest to the hon. Member, and anyone else who wishes, to see what we have done in Red Fort and what we have done in other places. A lot of work has also been done in Tughlakabad itself. A lot of encroachments have been removed and a very beautiful place has been created there. From Purana Qila and from Humayun's Tomb, a number of squatters have been removed and resettled. The remaining will be removed by the date mentioned.

There is only one category wherein there are substantially-built structures over the last 20 years. In regard to these, I have already held a high-level meeting with the Minister of State for Home Affairs and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. For this category alone we have appointed a Committee which will be headed by the Principal Secretary of the Home Department and the Archaeological Surveyor would be there. Those cases would be viewed clearly. Strict instructions have been issued that no *tehbazaari*, no licence, nothing of this sort should be given around these monuments against protected area as well as prohibited area. Instructions have been given to the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation as well as the Commissioner of Police to ensure that the provisions of these Acts are maintained.

I would like to show you some of the monuments which have now completely changed; their face has been totally changed.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : I do appreciate the measures taken by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a specific question and a specific reply will come.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Humayun's Tomb is a protected world heritage monument as far as the Archaeological Survey of India is concerned. The vacant space in front of the entrance of the Humayun's Tomb is used as a parking lot for tourist buses during the night. The hon. Minister has said that it is not possible to post a constable or a security guard at every monument. But this is a world heritage monument and this is being misused as a parking lot. What steps is the Government taking in this regard? This is a tourist centre also. If this is the way we deal with tourism and monuments, I do not think any progress will be made in this sector. What are the specific steps being taken by the Ministry to remove this parking lot from this area at the entrance of the world heritage monument Humayun's Tomb?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : In my reply to the first part of hon. Member's question I have already stated that the monuments have been divided into various categories. This monument comes under the second category. A number of *jhuggis* have already been removed from there. In regard to the stall which the hon. Member is referring to, the Municipal Corporation had given a licence to that. We have told the Municipal Corporation to cancel the licence and resettle that gentleman somewhere else. They have issued the notice and they have agreed to remove it.

So far as bus parking is concerned, a very large number of letters have been written to the police to ensure that no one unauthorisedly parks vehicles around this monument. I have been assured, even yesterday, by the Police Commissioner that no parking of vehicles will be allowed in this area. This is an infringement of traffic rules.
... (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important topic. A Half-an-hour discussion should be allowed on this.

SHRI E.M. SUDARASANA NATCHIAPPAN : Regarding protection of heritage monuments, reports have come that the Tiruvannamalai temple in Tamil Nadu is going to be taken over by the Central Government. The local shop-owners and other people have demonstrated against this move. Is the Government of India thinking of taking over Tiruvannamalai temple as a heritage monument ?

In the same way, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that in the Sivaganga Parliamentary Constituency, Thirumayam is one of the archaeologically important places. May I know in what way these places are going to be protected and whether the tourist map is going to be re-written by making these spots as important spots to be visited by the tourists ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, there are two parts of the question which the hon. Member has raised. The first part is about Tiruvannamalai. In regard to this, we have issued a preliminary notification for protecting it under the Act which he has referred to. It was not protected and a lot of illegal constructions were going on around that place, as the hon. Member has mentioned. That is being done with impunity. We wrote to the State Government; they have not taken action; the Corporation has not taken action. So, we have issued the notification. The matter is already in the court. A deputation has met me; I told them that preliminary notification has been issued; and that whatever they want to say, they may say and we would certainly consider it. Whatever is the direction of the Supreme Court, we will follow it.

Our only anxiety is that there should be no illegal construction around that Temple, no unauthorised squatting should be there and no encroachment should be there. Then, the area would remain very beautiful. Unfortunately, in the last 10-15 years, that has been going on. That is why, I have not taken action only with regard to Delhi; I am constituting a Cell for taking an overall view of entire India. We have made it clear to the State Governments that we will not sanction any project unless the State Government gives an undertaking that they would not allow any unauthorised construction, illegal encroachments and all types of malpractices that go on around these places.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Utilization Certificates

*365. **SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government insist on production of the utilisation certificates from the organisations/agencies, to whom it provided grants/loans earlier for any purpose, before sanctioning further grants/loan to them;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has been following this procedure strictly;

(c) if so, the number of agencies/organisations from which utilisation certificates have been asked during the last one year and thereafter;

(d) whether the Government are aware that some organisations/agencies have not submitted utilisation certificates for the last ten years even though they are getting fresh assistance/loans every year;

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

(f) whether the Government have conducted any vigilance enquiry in this matter; and;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) As a policy, the Ministry has been insisting on Utilisation Certificates from grantee institutions before sanctioning further grant.

This procedure is being strictly followed and all grantee institutions have been asked during the last one year to conform to this requirement.

(d) and (e) Some State Governments and other autonomous organisations who are granted funds have not submitted Utilisation Certificates for some of the years. However, with a view to giving an impetus to activities and ensuring uninterrupted progress of schemes, they have been made grants in subsequent periods. However, they are being continuously pursued to submit the Utilisation Certificates. In the case of Non-Governmental organisations

no institution from whom Utilisation Certificates is pending has been granted any further assistance.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pollution in Ganga Basin

*368. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Municipalities and Municipal Corporation of the cities located on the banks of the rivers of Ganga Basin are releasing untreated water into rivers and are mainly responsible for polluting their water;

(b) if so, the details of the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations responsible for polluting the water of Ganga and Yamuna, the major rivers of the Ganga basin;

(c) the volume of the sewerage water drained into these rivers during the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to rectify the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) It has been estimated that a quantity of 6910 million litres of sewage is generated every day by the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations of the cities located along the rivers in Ganga Basin. Out of this quantity, a capacity to treat about 3894 million litres per day of sewage has been created.

The volume of sewage partly treated and partly untreated, discharged during the last three years into Ganga from 73 Municipalities and Municipal Corporations is estimated as 2304 million litres per day and that discharged into Yamuna from 26 Municipalities and Municipal Corporations is estimated as 4178 million litres per day.

(d) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan is already under implementation by Government to clean the major rivers including those of the Ganga basin.

[English]

Pawan Hans Tie up with Canadian Helicopters

*369. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) has recently entered into a technical tie-up with Canadian Helicopters Company (CHC) or with any other public sector company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of constitution and functioning of this joint venture;

(d) whether the normal policy and practice of inviting open tenders was followed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of the area of operation of PHHL;

(g) whether the PHHL propose to expand its operation particularly in inaccessible areas not currently covered by air; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. CHC Helicopters International Inc. (CHII) of Canada, on 07.06.2002. The MOU only provides a broad framework for possible CHII assistance to PHHL in upgrading its maintenance facilities and further improving its operational and management systems through induction of state-of-the-art technology; exploring potential for new business opportunities to PHHL through possible operation of its helicopters abroad, and increasing revenue due to the upgraded maintenance facilities.

(c) to (e) Neither the MOU is a joint venture nor does it have any financial implication. Hence, the question of following normal policy and practice of inviting tenders does not arise.

(f) The operations of PHHL include providing support to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) at Mumbai High, Hardy Oil at Chennai, transportation of VIPs for Ministry of Home Affairs in North-Eastern region, regular passenger services under the aegis of Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Administration of Lakshadweep Islands. PHHL meets the helicopter requirements of Governments of Punjab and public sector enterprises like National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), Oil India, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). Besides, PHHL provides helicopters to private parties on charter basis.

(g) and (h) Expansion of helicopter services is an on-going process. PHHL has plans to provide a helicopter each to the Government of Nagaland and the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Cutting of Fruit Bearing Trees

*370. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that several thousand grown up fruit bearing trees have been cut in the process of eviction of encroachers from the protected and reserved forests;

(b) if so, the details of such trees cut down during the last one year and thereafter, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to plant more fruit bearing trees to compensate the loss caused by cutting down the said trees ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) There is no report with the Central Government, except in the case of Andamans and Nicobar Islands, of cutting down of grown up fruit bearing trees in the process of eviction of encroachers from Protected and Reserved Forests. Forest Department, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has planted 3,28,809 plants of forests species on 1050.20 hectares of forest area after the removal of encroachments.

(c) Government is encouraging planting of fruit bearing forest species indigenous to the area under various plantation programmes. The choice of forest tree species is primarily dependent on locality factors and site conditions. However, cultivation of horticultural crops on

forest land is considered a non forest purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

Cheating by Recruiting Agencies

*371. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints during the last three years and thereafter regarding cheating by a number of man power recruiting agencies who are sending employees abroad including Malaysia;

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

(c) the total number of cases that have been registered against these agencies;

(d) the number of such agencies whose licences have been cancelled so far; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints relating to cheating of job seekers by registered and unregistered recruiting agents are brought to the notice of the Government from time to time. The complaints mainly relate to charging of service charges in excess of amount prescribed under the rules, collection of money from the intending emigrants but not actually deploying them for overseas employment, sending some of the workers of foreign countries against non-existent jobs and, in some cases, changing the terms and conditions of employment of workers on their reaching alien land.

(b) A statement giving State-wise details of the agencies whose registration certificates were suspended and/or cancelled during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto 30th November) is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the same period, fifty five prosecution sanctions were accorded in respect of cases registered against unregistered agencies/individuals.

(d) Seven Registration Certificates of registered recruiting agencies were cancelled during the same period.

(e) On receipt of complaints against a registered recruiting agency, the Government takes up the matter with the Indian Mission in the respective country to settle the problems of workers immediately. At the same time the concerned recruiting agency is directed to solve the complaints. Government has recently decided that recruiting agents will settle complaints at the earliest not exceeding 90 days. In case the registered recruiting agency fails/ delays to settle the complaints, immediate action is taken to suspend/cancel the certificate and, if necessary, forfeit the security deposited by them.

While, in case of complaints against unregistered recruiting agencies, the matter is immediately taken up with appropriate police authorities for investigation and suitable legal action against them for violation of the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. On the basis of the investigation, police authorities register cases against such agencies. Also, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested, from time to time, to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to keep a strict vigil against the activities of unscrupulous agencies and take appropriate action.

The Ministry of Labour and the offices of the Protector General of Emigrants and Protector of Emigrants located at eight places in India also conduct public hearings every week with a view to provide an effective grievance redressal machinery for settling the problems of emigrants.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Name of the Registered Recruiting Agency
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	i. M/s. Saad Travel Agency, Hyderabad ii. M/s. Al-Shoeb Enterprises, Hyderabad
2.	Delhi	i. M/s. Gemini Veterans Global Placements, New Delhi ii. M/s. International Manpower Resources, New Delhi iii. M/s. Human Resources Development Consultants, New Delhi

1	2	3
		iv. M/s. Mithun Overseas, New Delhi v. M/s. Salasar International, New Delhi vi. M/s. Global Manpower Resources, New Delhi vii. M/s. R.M. Exports International, New Delhi
3.	Kerala	i. M/s. Viking Tours and Travels, Trivandrum ii. M/s. Al Hajra International Manpower Recruiting Agency and Air Travels, Palakkad iii. M/s. Grand Tours and Travels, Cochin iv. M/s. Sainora Tours and Travels, Trivandrum v. M/s. Air Travels, Enterprises India Ltd., Trivandrum vi. M/s. Time Travels, Trivandrum vii. M/s. Welmen Inc., Trivandrum viii. M/s. Mohemad and Sons, Cochin ix. M/s. Pan Asian Tours and Travels, Changanacherry x. M/s. Princy World Travels, Cochin xi. M/s. Sujina Travels, Trivandrum
4.	Maharashtra	i. M/s. Indo Overseas Export Co., Mumbai ii. M/s. Prince India, Mumbai iii. M/s. Al-Iqra Enterprises, Mumbai iv. M/s. Al-Harsha Trading Agency, Mumbai v. M/s. Al-Hilal International Services, Mumbai vi. M/s. S.M. Tours and Travels, Mumbai

1	2	3
	vii.	M/s. Trehan International Consultants and Engineers (P) Ltd., Mumbai
	viii.	M/s. City Travels, Mumbai
	ix.	M/s. Bombay Travel Service, Mumbai
	x.	M/s. Al-Yamama Travels, Mumbai
	xi.	M/s. Travel Lines International, Mumbai
5. Tamil Nadu	i.	M/s. Ama Travels, Chennai
	ii.	M/s. Lokeshwari Travels, PMT District
	iii.	M/s. New Sun International, Chennai
	iv.	M/s. Keerthi Tours and Travels, Chennai
	v.	M/s. Casio Air Travels Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
	vi.	M/s. M.M. International, Chennai
	vii.	M/s. Aero Star, Chennai
	viii.	M/s. Five Star Travels, Chennai

Loss of Pension Fund of Air India

*372. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India employees self contributory pension fund has been depleted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any changes were made in the scheme against the interest of the employees;

(d) if so, whether the employees have moved the court against the Air India management;

(e) if so, whether the Government have fixed any responsibilities for losses and mismanagement of the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (f) Air India Employees Self Contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme is administered by a trust which comprises of representatives of employees and management of Air India. Member employees, while in service, contribute a portion of their salary every month to this scheme. The scheme envisages a regular pension to the retired employees depending upon length of their service. The scheme is self contributory without any financial support from Air India management.

On a review following the request of serving employees for a fair and equitable distribution of the funds of the trust which were contributed by them, it was observed by the trust that enough funds would not be available for giving the benefits to the existing employees on their retirement due to much higher pay out to the early retirees as compared to their contributions. Therefore, the trustees decided to change the nature of the scheme from "benefit defined" to "contribution defined" meaning thereby that the benefit received by each members will not be defined with reference to the last drawn salary of the member as earlier but will be commensurate with the actual contributions made by him together with the interest earned thereon. This will ensure that the contributions made by individual members are not diverted towards benefits for other members and that each member will at least receive pension to the extent of interest earning on their total contributions. The trustees have also decided to hand over the corpus of the Trust of Life Insurance Corporation of India, who will henceforth manage the scheme. The existing retired employees will have to either accept pensions at the lower rate in accordance with their contributions or to contribute to the trust fund an amount equal to the difference between their total contributions and the benefits being received by them.

The retired employees of Air India have filed a writ petition in Mumbai High Court against the trust and others. The matter is still sub-judice.

Rice Production

*373. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's rice production is likely to drop between 10 million to 80 million tonnes during the current year making it the lowest Indian harvest in seven years;

(b) if so, whether this may affect the Indian exports in 2002-2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for this shortfall;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to balance this shortfall by increasing wheat production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) As per the First Advance Estimates of agricultural production for 2002-03 released on 12.11.2002, the production of rice during kharif 2002-03 is likely to be 66.86 million tonnes which is lower by 12.50 million tonnes or 15.75% than the estimated production of kharif rice of 79.36 million tonnes in 2001-02. Assuming that this year's rabi rice production would not be less than last year's rabi rice production of 12.25 million tonnes, the total rice production during 2002-03 may touch the level of around 80 million tonnes, which is lower by around 12 million tonnes as compared to last year's production of 91.61 million tonnes. The total production of rice in the country during last 7 years including 2002-03 is given below :-

Production of Rice (in million tonnes)

Year	Production
1996-97	81.73
1997-98	82.54
1998-99	86.08
1999-2000	89.68
2000-01	84.87
2001-02 [@]	91.61
2002-03 (kharif only) [#]	66.86

[@]Fourth Advance Estimates as on 27.06.2002.

[#]First Advance Estimates as on 12.11.2002.

(b) to (f) The shortfall in kharif rice production this year has been caused by the drought in a member of States in the country. Export of rice in any given year depends not only on production of rice in that year but also on the surplus stock available for sale. Since the stock of rice continues to be well above the buffer norms, the expected shortfall in production this year may not lead to a shortfall in the export of rice. Though efforts are being made to minimize the adverse impact of drought on production of foodgrains, the continuance of drought like conditions has affected sowing of wheat which is lagging behind as compared to last year. Keeping in view the need to compensate farmers for the losses suffered in unirrigated areas and the additional expenditure incurred in irrigated areas, the Government announced Special Drought Relief price of Rs. 20 per quintal for paddy, over and above the Minimum Support Price, for the kharif season 2002-03.

Reduction in Airfare by IA

*374. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the sectors where Indian Airlines effected cut in fares during the monsoon season;

(b) the details of the routes that were not covered under the said scheme; and

(c) the reasons for keeping such routes outside the realm of fare cuts ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Indian Airlines introduced 'APEX Fares', an Advance Purchase Scheme on select domestic sectors in Economy class for travel commencing from 01st August to 31st October, 2002. This scheme has been extended till 31st March 2003 and is currently applicable on 53 sectors. The list of the 53 sectors alongwith the applicable fares is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Indian Airlines was operating 168 sectors on the domestic network at the time of introduction of APEX fares. APEX fares are currently available on 53 sectors and 115 sectors have not been covered under this scheme. A list of 115 sectors not covered under the scheme is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) Under this scheme the level of fare revision varies from sector to sector and season to season depending

upon various market factors. While deciding the sectors for introduction of APEX fares, the criteria considered were market size, market potential, extent of competition, seasonality and the potential to generate new traffic by diversion of existing traffic from other modes of transport.

Statement-I

*List of 53 Sectors on which Apex Fares are
Currently available*

S.No.	Sector	Total Fares (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai-Kolkata	3770
2.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	2230
3.	Mumbai-Bangalore	2930
4.	Mumbai-Bhopal	2505
5.	Mumbai-Calicut	3275
6.	Mumbai-Chennai	3085
7.	Mumbai-Cochin	3475
8.	Mumbai-Coimbatore	3620
9.	Mumbai-Delhi	3695
10.	Mumbai-Hyderabad	2640
11.	Mumbai-Indore	2115
12.	Mumbai-Jaipur	3165
13.	Mumbai-Jodhpur	2905
14.	Mumbai-Lucknow	6420
15.	Mumbai-Mangalore	2655
16.	Mumbai-Nagpur	2765
17.	Mumbai-Patna	6785
18.	Mumbai-Pune	1375
19.	Mumbai-Trivandrum	3605
20.	Mumbai-Udaipur	2500
21.	Delhi-Ahmedabad	2670
22.	Delhi-Aurangabad	6040
23.	Delhi-Bangalore	4905

1	2	3
24.	Delhi-Bhopal	2655
25.	Delhi-Calicut	7055
26.	Delhi-Chennai	4020
27.	Delhi-Cochin	7135
28.	Delhi-Coimbatore	7070
29.	Delhi-Guwahati	4645
30.	Delhi-Hyderabad	3890
31.	Delhi-Indore	2265
32.	Delhi-Jammu	2640
33.	Delhi-Kolkata	3265
34.	Delhi-Lucknow	2640
35.	Delhi-Patna	4460
36.	Delhi-Pune	3695
37.	Delhi-Trivandrum	7170
38.	Delhi-Udaipur	3390
39.	Delhi-Vadodara	2880
40.	Delhi-Varanasi	2640
41.	Delhi-Bagdogra	4625
42.	Kolkata-Bagdogra	2865
43.	Kolkata-Bangalore	3935
44.	Kolkata-Guwahati	2000
45.	Kolkata-Hyderabad	3130
46.	Chennai-Calicut	2640
47.	Chennai-Cochin	2600
48.	Chennai-Coimbatore	2180
49.	Chennai-Kolkata	3670
50.	Chennai-Madurai	2265
51.	Chennai-Trivandrum	2890
52.	Hyderabad-Ahmedabad	3440
53.	Bangalore-Ahmedabad	5355

Statement-II

*List of 115 sectors on which Apex Fares
are not available*

S.No.	Sector
1	2
1.	Agartala-Guwahati
2.	Agartala-Kolkata
3.	Agatti-Goa
4.	Agatti-Cochin
5.	Agra-Delhi
6.	Agra-Khajuraho
7.	Agra-Varanasi
8.	Ahmedabad-Jaipur
9.	Ahmedabad-Kolkata
10.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara
11.	Aizwal-Imphal
12.	Aizwal-Kolkata
13.	Amritsar-Delhi
14.	Aurangabad-Mumbai
15.	Guwahati-Bagdogra
16.	Bagdogra-Patna
17.	Bangalore-Chennai
18.	Bangalore-Coimbatore
19.	Bangalore-Goa
20.	Bangalore-Hyderabad
21.	Bangalore-Cochin
22.	Bangalore-Pune
23.	Bangalore-Trivandrum
24.	Bhuj-Mumbai
25.	Bhopal-Indore
26.	Bhubaneswar-Chennai
27.	Bhubaneswar-Delhi

1	2
28.	Bhubaneswar-Hyderabad
29.	Bhubaneswar-Kolkata
30.	Bhubaneswar-Mumbai
31.	Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam
32.	Chandigarh-Delhi
33.	Chandigarh-Goa
34.	Chandigarh-Leh
35.	Chennai-Goa
36.	Chennai-Hyderabad
37.	Chennai-Port Blair
38.	Chennai-Trichy
39.	Chennai-Visakhapatnam
40.	Coimbatore-Bangalore
41.	Coimbatore-Cochin
42.	Coimbatore-Calicut
43.	Delhi-Bhubaneswar
44.	Delhi-Goa
45.	Delhi-Imphal
46.	Delhi-Jaipur
47.	Delhi-Jodhpur
48.	Khajuraho-Delhi
49.	Delhi-Leh
50.	Delhi-Nagpur
51.	Delhi-Raipur
52.	Delhi-Ranchi
53.	Delhi-Srinagar
54.	Delhi-Visakhapatnam
55.	Dibrugarh-Kolkata
56.	Dimapur-Jorhat
57.	Dimapur-Kolkata
58.	Goa-Agatti

1	2
59.	Goa-Bangalore
60.	Goa-Chennai
61.	Goa-Delhi
62.	Goa-Cochin
63.	Goa-Calicut
64.	Goa-Mumbai
65.	Guwahati-Bagdogra
66.	Guwahati-Imphal
67.	Guwahati-Silchar
68.	Guwahati-Lilabari
69.	Guwahati-Patna
70.	Hyderabad-Nagpur
71.	Hyderabad-Tirupati
72.	Hyderabad-Viskhapatnam
73.	Imphal-Aizwal
74.	Imphal-Kolkata
75.	Imphal-Silchar
76.	Jammu-Srinagar
77.	Jamnagar-Mumbai
78.	Jodhpur-Jaipur
79.	Jodhpur-Udaipur
80.	Jorhat-Kolkata
81.	Khajuraho-Varanasi
82.	Cochin-Calicut
83.	Jaipur-Kolkata
84.	Kolkata-Lucknow
85.	Kolkata-Nagpur
86.	Kolkata-Patna
87.	Kolkata-Port Blair
88.	Kolkata-Silchar

§

1	2
89.	Kolkata-Tezpur
90.	Kolkata-Viskhapatnam
91.	Kolkata-Ranchi
92.	Calicut-Cochin
93.	Calicut-Trichy
94.	Jammu-Leh
95.	Leh-Srinagar
96.	Lucknow-Patna
97.	Lucknow-Ranchi
98.	Lucknow-Varanasi
99.	Madurai-Mumbai
100.	Bhavnagar-Mumbai
101.	Mumbai-Puttaparthi
102.	Mumbai-Raipur
103.	Mumbai-Rajkot
104.	Mumbai-Ranchi
105.	Mumbai-Vadodra
106.	Mumbai-Varanasi
107.	Nagpur-Raipur
108.	Ranchi-Patna
109.	Goa-Pune
110.	Raipur-Bhubaneswar
111.	Rajkot-Vadodara
112.	Tezpur-Dimapur
113.	Trichy-Trivandru
114.	Jaipur-Udaipur
115.	Visakhapatnam-Mumbai

Note : List does not include Mumbai-Chandigarh sector introduced in the winter schedule and Kolkata-Gaya sector to be introduced on 18.12.2002.

*[Translation]***Agriculture Production in Tribal Areas**

*375. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are implementing any scheme to increase agriculture production in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also extended any credit schemes in the tribal areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to increase the production and productivity of agricultural crops including providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers throughout the country including tribal areas. A Central Sector Schemes on "Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas" is being implemented in selected districts namely Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh), Almora (Uttaranchal), Bastara (Chhattisgarh), Dahod/Panchmahal (Gujarat), Keonjhar (Orissa) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) for the development of horticulture. The State Government/implementing agencies have been advised to allocate funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Tribes as per the Government Guidelines on the subject.

**Connection of International Flights
with Domestic Airports**

*376. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to operate international flights from domestic airports;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued to Air India and Indian Airlines as a result thereof; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to become operative ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) International flights are already operating from the domestic airports at Jaipur, Lucknow, Calicut, Coimbatore, Trichy, Gaya, Varanasi and Patna. A hub and spoke arrangement has been evolved between Air India and Indian Airlines. Under this arrangement, Indian Airlines is operating about 20 flights between various interior airports and International airports at Mumbai and Delhi connecting various airports to International flights of Air India. These flights carry Air India flight number and the passengers can check in for their final destination from their initial boarding point. the passengers are provided with boarding cards for their onward Air India flight. Their baggage is also tagged onto their onward Air India flights. Similar arrangements has been made for incoming flights as well.

Facility has also been provided for the convenient transfer of passengers between international and domestic terminals at Delhi and Mumbai by providing a shuttle coach service at regular interval inside the airport operational area under proper security arrangements. This has benefited all domestic airlines connecting to various international flights.

These arrangements have benefited both Air India and Indian Airlines. Indian Airlines gets good income from these operations carrying international passengers. Similarly Air India also gets good passenger load from the internal points. International passengers from internal points are also benefited from such a convenient arrangement.

This scheme is already operational.

*[English]***Transportation of Fruits**

*377. PROF. UMMAREDDY VANKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Railways for making available a large number

of specialized wagons for transportation of fruits from different agricultural States to metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have demanded any subsidy for introducing this specialized system of transportation of fruits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the request received from the Members of Confederation of Indian Horticulture (CIH), which is an Apex Body constituted by the various product specific associations comprising of major fruits and flowers, the Ministry of Agriculture, through National Horticulture Board (NHB) took up the matter with the Chairman, Railway Board to facilitate the transportation of fruits through specialized wagons. Indian Railways have manufactured a proto-type refrigerated parcel van which can carry both frozen and cold storage goods. The proto-type has been tried successfully and such wagons would prove to be very beneficial in reducing transportation losses of fruits in railway wagons.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Conservation of Rare Medicinal Plants

*378. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

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

(a) the details of medicinal plants and herbs available in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of measures taken by the Government to protect them;

(c) whether any specific project has been launched for their conservation/propagation particularly in forest areas and if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the details of endangered species of medicinal plants identified for the project;

(e) whether the Government are aware that some specific herbs are being smuggled out in large scale; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to check the same and also to protect/conservate the rare herbs?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per report of the Task Force on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants, Planning Commission, Government of India, there are 8000 species of medicinal plants in the country which account for around 50% of all higher flowering plant species of India. These plants are distributed in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Government of India has set up a national level body, namely, "Medicinal Plants Board" under the Chairmanship of Minister of Health and Family Welfare as per Resolution published in Gazette of India: Extraordinary, dated 24.11.2000. One of the areas of its activity is conservation and propagation of medicinal plants. The Board has sanctioned 76 projects in reserved forests on conservation, cultivation and propagation during 2001-2002 in 22 different States.

Foundation for Revitaliation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore is implementing two externally aided projects from UNDP and DANIDA for conservation of wild genetic resource of medicinal plants through establishment of 54 in-situ Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) of approximate 200 ha. size each. These MPCAs are located in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. These MPCAs are located in reserve forest areas as well as in the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

(d) As per the information available, 29 species of medicinal plants have so far been identified and notified by DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi. Export of these 29 plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts as such obtained from the wild except the formulations made therefrom is prohibited as these species required protection against over-exploitation. Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) has also done assessment of threat status of medicinal plants in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

for 100 species and classified them as per the IUCN standard into various categories such as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened and of least concern.

- (e) No such complaint has been received.
- (f) Does not arise.

**Payment of Wages to Helpless
Labour Force**

*379. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cases of gross under payment of wages to the helpless labour force by contractors who provide labour to various Government Undertakings;

(b) if so, action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government Undertakings are permitted to engage labour themselves on contract basis on payment of minimum wages; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) To safeguard the interest of workers primarily engaged in the unorganized sector, the minimum wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act both by the Central and State Governments in respect of scheduled employments in their respective jurisdictions. As and when any case of short payment or non-payment of minimum wages is reported or detected during the course of inspection conducted by the officers of the Central/State Industrial Relations Machinery, legal action by way of filing of claim cases, prosecution etc. are initiated. Further, the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, 1970, provides that in case there is a default by a contractor in payment of wages or short payment of wages, the principal employer is liable to pay the same to the contract labour.

(c) There is no bar on the Government Undertakings to engage labour directly on contract basis on payment of minimum wages.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Fuel Cost

*380. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic airfares in India are among the highest in air tariffs;

(b) if so, whether this is due to high cost of fuel;

(c) if so, whether increase in fuel cost is anticipated in the next six months due to rise in price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and sales tax on ATF;

(d) if so, whether increase in ATF prices can be recovered through hike in air tariffs;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to abolish Inland Air travel tax and excise on ATF; and

(f) if so, by when this is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Domestic fares of Indian Airlines on comparable sectors are much lower than the fares charged by the airlines of the neighbouring countries. The prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), alongwith other operational costs, have a bearing on the fares fixed by all airlines.

(c) ATF is a decontrolled product and oil companies fix the prices of this product on market considerations. Rates of Sales Tax on ATF are fixed by the respective State Governments and vary from State to State. As such, it is not possible to anticipate increases in the prices of ATF or the rates of Sales Tax.

(d) While increasing in air fares, several factors apart from the price of ATF are taken into consideration.

(e) and (f) Government has no proposal to abolish Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) or excise duty on ATF.

**Shekhar Singh Committee's Report
of E and F**

*381. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the serious situation arising out of Shekhar Singh Committee's Report pertaining to environment and forests' condition in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which has adversely affected one lakh population;

(b) if so, whether any study has been undertaken in this regard;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to appoint a Study Team to go through all the pros and cons of the Report and take remedial measures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The Supreme Court by its order dated 7.5.2002 in Interlocutory Application No. 502 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 has accepted the report given by Shri Shekhar Singh, pursuant to the Court's order dated 23.11.2001 and issued direction regarding felling of trees, preparation of revised Working Plan, working of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, removal of encroachment, movement of timber, working of wood based industries and mining of sand. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration had been directed to file monthly affidavits regarding progress on removal of encroachment. All efforts have been made to implement these orders including regular review of the progress of implementation. The Ministry had appointed a Committee consisting of Shri N.K. Joshi, Addl. Director General of Forests and Shri Y.S. Bhawe, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor to go into the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, keeping in view the orders of the Supreme Court as also the report submitted by the Commissioner of enquiry set up by the Supreme Court.

[English]

Drought affected States

3953. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the rainfall from June to the end of October 2002 month-wise and State-wise;

(b) the names of the States have been affected by drought during current Kharif crop and the number of districts of such States have been declared as drought affected, State-wise;

(c) the Central assistance provided to each State so far in order to combat drought situation and take relief measures including drinking water provision and to raise adequate Rabi crop;

(d) whether assessment of crop damage has been done;

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

(f) the demand of the Government of Orissa for the Central assistance to handle the problem caused by this year's serious drought and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) State-wise details, as reported by the India Meteorological Department, is in the Statement-I.

(b) to (e) State-wise details of districts declared drought affected by the respective States, foodgrains allocated, free of cost, under the "Special component" of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme, release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 and assistance released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) initially for current drought, is indicated in the Statement-II enclosed. It is estimated that the loss of Kharif food-grains production will be of the order of 18.72%.

(f) The request of the State Government for assistance of Rs. 871.40 crore from NCCF for the current drought was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), in the meeting held on 16th November, 2002. The Committee approved Rs. 120.18 crore in the first instance for a period of three months, subject to adjustment of balance in the CRF of the State. Since the State Government had adequate balance in their CRF, no amount was released to the State from NCCF. The HLC has, however, decided to review the cases of drought affected States, including Orissa, for further assistance, around mid-January, 2003.

Statement-I***Drought affected States***

(in mm)

S. No.	State	June (01.06.2002 to 26.06.2002)	July (01.06.2002 to 31.07.2002)	August (01.06.2002 to 28.08.2002)	September (01.06.2002 to 30.9.2002)	October (01.06.2002 to 30.10.2002)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109.0	186.3	365.3	456.9	143.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	323.4	1008.5	1438.3	1767.8	65.9
3.	Assam	370.5	909.4	1191.9	1441.4	50.8
4.	Bihar	113.0	580.6	802.2	1011.8	34.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	205.0	318.2	648.8	971.5	29.3
6.	Goa	940.7	1493	2087.5	2299.4	53.8
7.	Gujarat	45.4	284.1	472.1	542.4	0.4
8.	Haryana	25.2	53.4	154.8	320.9	2.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	52.2	226.0	532.6	709.3	13.9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.3	147.5	299.0	408.4	14.1
11.	Jharkand*	185.2	487.6	761.8	1106.2	84.0
12.	Karnataka	188.8	333.4	528.2	603.7	193.5
13.	Kerala	460.6	807.3	1247.2	1281.6	464.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	120.2	206.4	597.9	826.1	33.8
15.	Maharashtra	275.6	440.3	754.8	895.1	28.8
16.	Manipur	196.1	656.4	453.3	755.1	86.5
17.	Meghalaya	1158.4	3286.8	2985.7	3249.3	46.1
18.	Mizoram	151.9	445.6	888.4	1162.3	181.3
19.	Nagaland	113.2	561.6	657.9	954.9	26.2
20.	Orissa	185.6	343.3	624.0	917.6	63.8
21.	Punjab	27.2	111.9	221.9	318.1	5.5
22.	Rajasthan	23.8	59.7	125.1	161.6	0.5
23.	Sikkim	414.3	1168.3	1668.1	1947.7	96.4
24.	Tamilnadu	45.9	70.2	111.6	182.3	178.8
25.	Tripura	284.3	870.2	1162.1	1455.2	53.2
26.	Uttaranchal	159.3	472.3	907.7	1250.2	18.0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	47.1	142.6	382.5	650.3	16.0
28.	West Bengal	294.1	727.3	1038.2	1369.2	80.2

Statement-II*Drought affected States*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	No. of drought affected districts	Foodgrains allocated (lakh MTs)	Central share of CRF released	Assistance released from NCCF
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	3.00	163.77	—
2.	Chhattisgarh	16	0.50	22.72	45.85
3.	Gujarat	13	—	—	—
4.	Haryana	19	0.25	67.23	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	12	0.10	35.96	9.80
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	#	—	14.43	—
7.	Jharkhand	22	0.40	—	—
8.	Karnataka	24	2.00	61.66	171.28
9.	Kerala	10	—	55.60	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	33	1.00	51.78	95.03
11.	Maharashtra	33	—	129.99	20.00
12.	Orissa	30	2.00	90.52	—
13.	Punjab	17	—	101.47	—
14.	Rajasthan	32	7.00	171.16	11.66*
15.	Tamil Nadu	#	0.50	84.87	109.70
16.	Uttaranchal	13	0.50	13.38	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	70	2.00	120.95	237.65
18.	West Bengal	3	—	41.80	—

#State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu have not formally declared the drought affected areas.

*For running of Cattle Camps.

DMS Blacklisted NCCF and KB

3954. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has blacklisted NCCF and KB;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the irregularities those were found by D.M.S. in supplies and rates of NCCF and KB;

(d) whether the connivance of the employees of D.M.S. was also found; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them ?

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

(a) to (e) DMS has blacklisted NCCF as certain discrepancies in the supply order and the actual supply of stationary orders by NCCF have been found. A

preliminary enquiry to ascertain the facts has been ordered.

[Translation]

Encroachment around Tourist Places

3955. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various tourist places in the country are being illegally encroached upon;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take concrete measures to remove the encroachments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) At present there are a number of encroachments at various places of tourist interest. But action has been taken to check further encroachments and set up an effective agency to remove the existing encroachments.

(b) and (c) During the State Tourism Minister Conference held on 5.9.2002 the State Governments were also 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) Does not arise.

[English]

RBI Remarks on MSP Mechanism

3956. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India in their annual report remarked against the minimum support price mechanism of the Government for food crops since it hinders crop diversification;

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

(c) whether RBI stated that due to reduction in Government investment the agriculture production as a whole and employment provision in rural sector got a setback; and

(d) 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) to (d) In their Annual Report 2001-02 the Reserve Bank of India has observed that the policy of declaring differential and exogenously determined Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) has emerged as a major factor inhibiting crop diversification. It has further been observed that the declining public investment in agriculture is resulting in reduced yields and slow down in the growth of rural non-farm employment.

It is not correct to say that MSP mechanism has helped to maintain the prices of rice and wheat at a high level making the cultivation of these two crops more remunerative than pulses and coarse cereals. The production of pulses and coarse cereals has not been remunerative due to poor yield response and not because of low MSP. It is also not true that MSPs of pulses and oilseeds barely cover the cost of cultivation and are always lower than the market price. The MSP of oilseeds other than sesamum and those of gram and arhar have always been fixed at levels higher than cost of production. Market prices of several oilseeds have also frequently fallen below MSP requiring price support operations. It is, however, correct to say that market prices of most pulses have almost always remained above MSP, requiring little price intervention. If high market price of pulses could not make their production remunerative, the problem lies with low yield, which itself is the consequence of lack of any technological breakthrough. Failure of technological breakthrough is also responsible for poor response of oilseeds of MSP.

It is also not correct to say that wheat and rice have been removed from the purview of Essential Commodities Act as rice and wheat still continue as essential commodities under the entry 'foodstuffs'. However, the requirement of licences, stock limits and movement restrictions on specified foodstuffs has since been dispensed with, with a view to ensuring free trade, unhindered movement of stocks and remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Government is emphasizing crop diversification keeping in view the soil health problems being encountered by growing crops like cereals followed by cereals. The crop diversification is also advocated keeping in view imports of oilseeds and pulses.

Despite decline in capital formation in public sector, the gross capital formation in agriculture, including allied sectors, has been increasing in recent years. This reflects the increase in the capital formation in the private sector.

Promotion of FPI

3957. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make use of Research and Development on Garlic and Onions to promote Food Processing Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Scheme provides financial assistance to NGOs, public sector undertakings, co-operatives and private entrepreneurs for setting up, modernisation and technological upgradation of food processing units. Financial assistance provided under the Scheme is also available for promoting food processing industries arising out of research and development efforts. Ministry on its own does not set up such units.

(b) The financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided up to 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and 33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works up to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas.

[Translation]

Development of Anti-Cancer Variety of Tomato

3958. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that US Agriculture Department have developed a variety of tomato which consist anti-cancer element lipoic in a large quantity;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to develop such variety of tomato; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Researchers from Purdue University and United States Department of Agriculture have claimed development of tomatoes containing enhanced cancer-fighting antioxidant lycopene content.

(b) and (c) Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi and National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi both functioning under Indian Council of Agricultural Research are conducting research to develop tomato varieties with high lycopene content. However, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi is making efforts in obtaining more information about this research work.

[English]

Proposal for Nisarga Vihar in Mumbai

3959. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start eco-tourism in Nisarga Vihar, Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Based on the proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra the Project Nisarga Vihar, Mumbai was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for Rs. 45.00 lakhs in March 1999. The Government of Maharashtra informed that the land for the Project was not available in the National Park area and hence the Project was dropped.

Excavation by ASI

3960. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether ASI carried out excavation of historical sites in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such work is underway in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details of sites excavated by ASI in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(e) the Mughal period historical sites identified by ASI for excavation of Mughal period;

(f) whether the ASI discovered 90,000 years old Archaeological sites in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the funds ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

New Agriculture Policy

3961.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic condition of the farmers has deteriorated after adoption of New Agriculture Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of the economic condition of the farmers; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Second phase of the study titled "State of Indian Farmers – A Millennium Study" which is being launched from January, 2003, a country wide survey on professional and economic conditions of farmers would be undertaken. The results of the Survey are expected to be available some time in the year 2005.

New Airports in West Bengal

3962.SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up new airports in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has no proposals to set up new airports in West Bengal.

Protection of Forest Reserves

3963.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to protect the forest reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new projects proposed to be introduced in the country particularly in Rajasthan for the purpose during the Tenth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Assistance is provided by the Central Government under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the protection of forest reserves in different States of the country including Rajasthan. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Details
1	2	3
1.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	100% Central assistance to all the States/UTs of the country to be provided for non-recurring items of expenditure for prevention and control of forest fires. 100%

1	2	3
		Central assistance is also provided for strengthening of infrastructure for forest protection, preparation of working plans/survey and demarcation to the North Eastern States including Sikkim.
2.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	100% Central assistance for the non-recurring items (in case of National Parks and Sanctuaries) and 50% for recurring items (in case of National Parks) of expenditure for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.
3.	Project Tiger	100% Central assistance is provided for non-recurring items and 50% for recurring items of works for undertaking wild life management and protection measures in Tiger reserves.
4.	Project Elephant	100% Central assistance for conservation and protection of identified elephant reserves.
5.	Biosphere Reserves	100% Central assistance for in situ conservation of identified biosphere reserves of the country.
6.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves, Coral Reefs and Wetlands	100% Central assistance for conservation and management of identified mangroves, coral reefs and wetlands of the country.

Development of Tourism in Northern States

3964. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formed a joint working group to develop tourism in the Northern States;

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

(c) whether each of the Northern States has drawn up the tourism calendar and related programmes for the development of tourism in their States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Department of Tourism has not formed any such joint working group.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations including Northern States. This is an on-going process and projects are sanctioned on merits subject to availability of funds.

Termination of Vigilance Officers of IA

3965. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India was retired prematurely;

(b) if so, whether his duties were assigned to the officiating Managing Director of Air India;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received complaints against the present incumbent for misusing his powers; and

(d) if so, what is the Government's response in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India Limited, who was on deputation to Air India Limited, has been prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No specific complaint has been received.

[Translation]

Production of Chillies

3966.SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

Varities produced in Maharashtra	Varities produced in the country
Elaichpur Sannam-S4 Type, Nagpur, Nalchetti, Sannam-S4 Type	Guntur Sannam, Hindpur-S7, Madras Pari, S9 Mundu, Tadapally-Big Long, Tomato Chilli (Warangal Chappatta), Bird Eye Chilli (Dhani), Byadagi (Kaddi), Elaichpur Sannam-S4 Type, Jwala Khandari-White, Kashmir Chilli, Madhya Pradesh G.T. Sannam, Nagpur, Nalchetti, Ramnad Mundu, Sannam-S4 Type, Sattur-S4, Scotch Bonnet.

The latest available State-wise estimates of production of chillies for the years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The estimates of production of chillies in the country and Maharashtra for the year 2002-2003 are not available.

(c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementing/Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans" include following measures for increasing production and productivity of chillies in the country :-

- (i) Production of nucleus seed of high yielding varieties,
- (ii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots,
- (iii) Demonstration of plant protection measures,
- (iv) Distribution of minikits,
- (v) Area expansion programme to encourage cultivation of export oriented chilli varieties.

(a) the variety and quantum of chillies produced in Maharashtra and other States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of chillies likely to be produced in the country particularly in Maharashtra during 2002-2003; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase production of chillies ?

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

(a) The variety of chillies produced in Maharashtra and in the country are given below :-

The scheme provides flexibility to State Government to prioritize the crops and interventions as per the need. During the year 2002-2003, an allocation of Rs. 82.00 crores has been made for Maharashtra under the Scheme for Macro Management in Agriculture.

Statement

The State-wise estimates of production of chillies for the year 1998-99 to 2000-2001

State/Union Territory	Production ('000 tonnes)		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	525.0	496.0	467.0
Arunachal Pradesh	1.6	1.7	1.7
Assam	9.7	8.0	9.7
Bihar	6.4	6.1	5.0
Gujarat	18.2	13.0	10.5
Haryana	1.5	1.5	1.7

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	0.3	0.2	0.3
Jammu and Kashmir	0.6	0.5	0.5
Karnataka	146.5	157.2	144.1
Kerala	—	—	0.3
Madhya Pradesh	19.3	23.9	12.5
Chhattisgarh	—	—	2.2
Maharashtra	57.7	59.0	60.7
Manipur	5.3	4.2	4.4
Meghalaya	1.1	1.1	1.1
Mizoram	4.0	3.5	3.5
Nagaland	4.2	14.0	14.0
Orissa	76.0	87.9	87.9
Punjab	4.5	4.4	4.7
Rajasthan	49.9	44.5	33.0
Tamil Nadu	43.9	55.9	35.3
Tripura	1.2	1.1	1.1
Uttar Pradesh	15.0	16.0	14.4
West Bengal	51.3	52.3	54.9
Pondicherry	—	0.4	0.2
Delhi	—	0.4	0.1
All India	1043.2	1052.8	970.8

[English]

National Horticulture Board

3967. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has developed any plan to provide organizational structure to orange growers of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to boost prospects of exporting horticultural produces of the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has facilitated formation of commodity specific Associations of fruits including Orange at National level. The Orange Growers Association of India is based at Hiwerkhed, in Amravati District of Maharashtra.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce has taken number of measures for promoting the export of horticulture products from the country including Maharashtra. These include, inter-alia :—

(i) Participation in important trade fairs to promote export of fresh produce and processed foods.

(ii) Organization of Buyer-Seller Meet for promoting Processed Foods.

(iii) Publicity and Information dissemination.

Besides, APEDA through State Government and Central Government agencies is implementing the concept of Agri Export Zone (AEZ) and providing financial assistance under its various schemes for promotion of exports.

Coir and Rubber as Agriculture Products

3968. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from the State of Kerala in the matter of deciding coir and rubber as an agriculture commodity under W.T.O. agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been receiving memoranda and representations from the State Government of Kerala, various Members of Parliament and Planters' Associations from time to time for including rubber and coir under the scope of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(c) The Government has already filed its negotiating proposals with the WTO for including rubber and coir in

the rationalization of product coverage in the AoA. The negotiations are scheduled to conclude by 1 January 2005.

[Translation]

**Allocation to Jamnalal Bajaj Research
Institute, Wardha**

3969.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission had allocated Rs. 8.35 crore to strengthen the Jamnalal Bajaj Research Institute, Wardha;

(b) if so, whether a consultant was also appointed by the Commission to supervise this expenditure;

(c) if so, whether the Government had fulfilled the laid down procedure in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of selected candidates in this regard;

(e) whether some senior functionaries of Khadi and Village Industries Commission working for the Institute were also transferred to Wardha on the appointment of the said consultant; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

**Pending Proposal of National Child
Development Project**

3970.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain proposals under the National Child Development Project (NCDP) are pending with the Government in the country, particularly in Bihar;

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

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Government has received new project proposals for setting up of National Child Labour Projects in the country including one for the Nawada district of Bihar. The extension of the National Child Labour Project to new districts is yet to be approved for being taken up in the Tenth Plan period.

[English]

Mango Research Centre

3971.SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Mango Research Centre at Malda/Murshdabad in West Bengal; 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 Mango Research Centre has mandate to carryout research principally on mango crop. Alongwith this its mandate also covers basic strategy and broadly research on fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants that can be inter-cropped with mango. The Centre is being set up on land provided by the Government of West Bengal.

**Indo-Bangla Joint Task Force for
Flood Management**

3972.SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an Indo-Bangla Joint Task Force for flood management in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Task Force would submit its report to the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) Yes, Sir. An Indo-Bangladesh Task Force for Flood Management in Ichhamati Basin has been constituted in June, 2002.

(b) The Task Force held its first meeting including the site visits from 17th to 24th September, 2002 and has formulated an action plan to complete the task by June, 2003.

Foreign Assistance for Flood Control

3973. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sought foreign assistance from China and Bhutan to control floods by Brahmaputra in Assam and other States; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance sought and the response of these countries thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) and (b) the Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of China in January, 2002, for provision of hydrological information namely rainfall, water level, discharge and other relevant information on Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra river in respect of 3 stations, namely, Nugesha, Yangcun and Nuxia in flood season by China to India. The information will be furnished from 1st June to 15th October every year and will be useful for flood forecasting purposes in the North Eastern Region. The Chinese side has also agreed to provide this hydrological information if water level exceeds mutually agreed levels during the non-flood season. China has further agreed to provide information on a real time basis on abnormal rise/fall in the water level/discharge and other information which might lead to sudden floods on the basis of existing monitoring and data collection facilities.

As a follow up of this MOU, an Implementation Plan has also been signed, in pursuance of which the Chinese side has started transmitting data on rainfall, water level and discharge to India for above 3 stations since 1st June, 2002. China has also supplied the historical data for the last ten years.

As regards Bhutan, a scheme titled "Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydro-meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers common to India and Bhutan" is in operation since 1979. The network consists

of 35 hydro meteorological/meteorological stations located in Bhutan and being maintained by Royal Government of Bhutan with funding from India. The data received from these stations is utilised in India by Central Water Commission for formulating the flood forecasts.

Further, the Government of India have also taken up the matter with the Royal Government of Bhutan relating to the problem of floods created by rivers originating from Bhutan and have proposed to set up a Joint Team of Experts of Flood Forecasting, Prevention and Management with the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources and concerned State Governments. The response of the Bhutanese side to the proposal is awaited.

New Generation Aircrafts

3974. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the internal expert committee report constituted to identify the new generation aircraft for Air India and to consider the proposal for their procurement;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Committee has submitted the report to the Management and Board of Air India. The report envisages commencement of operations to 7 additional international stations and increase in fleet size of Air India.

(c) Government is yet to receive the final proposal from Air India.

[Translation]

Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly

3975. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank aid provided for Agriculture Technology Project to Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly is being misused;

(b) if so, the steps taken proper by Government to check this irregularities and to ensure proper use of aid provided by the World Bank; and

(c) whether any officer has been held responsible for this irregularity so far ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Issue of Security Passes

3976. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted by Air India for issue of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) passes for operational areas;

(b) whether a number of employees of Air India at IGI Airport working in operational areas have charge sheets/criminal cases registered against them;

(c) if so, whether a number of them have been issued BCAS passes for working in operational areas;

(d) the number of them who have been denied the passes; and

(e) the reasons for denial thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As per the guidelines of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), applications of the employees received in the prescribed format of BCAS, duly signed by the authorised signatories and attested by the Air India Security together with 4 copies of photograph of the applicant, are forwarded to the Regional Dy. Commissioner of Security. The passes are issued by the BCAS after verification of the employees requirement as per the job assigned to them.

(b) Out of 28 cases of Security, Commercial/Traffic, Inflight Services/Catering, Operations and Ground Services

Departments, there are 26 cases of chargesheet and 3 criminal cases.

(c) BCAS passes are withdrawn only if the chargesheeted employees are proved to have committed crimes which impinge the security of Air India's operations. In certain cases, even if the misconduct is proved, the nature of the offence may not be serious enough to deny the PIC to the employee. Nevertheless BCAS takes a final view before issuing the PIC to the employees.

(d) No Air India employee has been denied the PIC in last issue.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Sanctuaries

3977. SHRI M.K. SUBBA Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chakrashila wildlife sanctuary in Goalpara has been grossly neglected;

(b) if so, the population of Golden Langurs in the sanctuary in 1994 and as per different census since then;

(c) the details of species of plants, birds, amphibia, butterflies and fishes in this sanctuary; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on protection and conservation of these species since the establishment of the sanctuary ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No census of animals has been carried out by the Government agencies in this sanctuary. However, in 1988 a Non Government Organisation (NGO) estimated the population of Golden Langur at 60-70 individuals and as per a recent research work carried out by an individual researcher the population of the species is estimated to be about 200 individuals comprising 11 troops.

(c) Some of the important species found in the sanctuary include : Golden Langur, Tiger, Leopard, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Civets, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Clouded Leopard, King Cobra, Banded Krait, Turtles, Peacock Pheasant and Hornbill.

(d) The sanctuary has been notified in 1994. The central assistance was started in 1999-2000. The expenditure incurred since 1999-2000 in the sanctuary under Centrally Sponsored Schemes is as follows :

Name of Scheme	Expenditure
Development of national parks and sanctuaries	Rs. 14.24 lakh
Eco-development in and around protected areas	Rs. 2.6 lakh

Use of Fertilizer

3978.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of Bio-fertilizer, Bio-manure, Micro-nutrients, as supplement to chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division on Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC);

(c) whether the Government propose to take over the above units and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under HFC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) The Government promotes the soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with biofertilizers and organic manures as integrated nutrient management for maintaining soil health and productivity.

(b) The Government has decided on 5.9.02 to close down the entire Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd. (HFC) including its fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP and ARD) as the same was not found to be techno-economically viable.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to take over any of the biofertilizer units by the Ministry of Agriculture. However regarding Krishi Vigyan Kendras under HFC, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is setting up a Committee to decided about the appropriate organisation to whom these can be transferred.

Use of Fertilizer

3979.SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI SUBODH ROY :

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation participated in Inter Governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Floklore of World Intellectual Property Organisation held during June 2002;

(b) if so, whether the report adopted by the Committee states that Indian delegation indicating in the meeting that Health Heritage Database has established in India;

(c) if so, the details of above database and web-site, including organizations involved in creating database, quantity of data, specification and sources of data, year and month of its establishment and amount spent for creating above database, category-wise;

(d) whether WIPO invited contributions to be submitted before April 26, 2002, on traditional knowledge including medicinal, agricultural, scientific and technical knowledge alongwith details of national periodicals, journals or gazettes concerning traditional knowledge-related issues for immediate knowledge of patent examiners for defeating false claims;

(e) if so, the details submitted including "Wealth of India" and Medicinal and aromatic plants abstract published by CISR, if any;

(f) whether infromation from Wealth of India was used to protect use of turmeric for wound healing; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft report states that the delegation of India "provided demonstrations of National TK databases".

(c) The test database that was linked on the WIPO website (<http://www.wipo.int/globalissues/tk/tkportal/>)

index.html) contains data on fifty medicinal plants in the following fields :-

1. Chemical Constituents.
2. Medicinal Properties.
3. Biological Activity.
4. Taxonomy.
5. Vernacular Names.
6. Other Industrial Uses.
7. Patents.

The data has been compiled from published literature such as books, journals, abstracts and patent documents issued by patent offices. All the data in the Test Health Heritage Database were collected from the public domain.

The Health Heritage Database that was linked to above site was initially developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research by using the in-house information and human resources of the National Chemical Laboratory, a constituent unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research during the period October-December, 1999.

(d) WIPO compiled inventory of Traditional Knowledge journals during March/April, 2002.

(e) National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources sent the information for its journal 'Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge' to WIPO.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research submitted prior art references from more than 30 sources including that of Wealth of India contesting the turmeric patent at United States Patents Office.

Reservation in Post for Trainee Pilots

3980. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation is applicable for the post of Trainee Pilots in Air India as per Government orders;

(b) if so, whether the representation of SC/ST and OBC have reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively;

(c) the number of Trainee Pilots belonging to SC/ST/OBC as on July 2, 1997;

(d) whether Air India conducted Test/Interview for 44 posts of Trainee Pilots recently; and

(e) if so, the number of candidates selected against SC/ST and OBC vacancies were settled alongwith the details thereof ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As on 2.7.1997, 16 SC, 03 ST and 08 OBC Trainee Pilots are in Air India.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Air India conducted a written test on 17.11.2002 followed by an interview for 44 posts of Trainee Pilots through which 4 SC and 1 OBC candidates have qualified. The OBC candidate has been treated as a general candidate, as he has not availed any concession.

Establishment of Lion Safari in Maharashtra

3981. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Lion Safari in the country particularly Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any requests from certain States including Maharashtra have been received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A Proposal to establish a lion safari near Sangli City was received from Government of Maharashtra. The proposal was not approved by the Central Zoo Authority and State Government was advised to utilize its resources for improving the housing and health care facilities in the existing zoos of the State.

Re-employment of Ex-Employees

3982. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether ex-employees of Indian Airlines especially probationary Air Hostesses are given preference in re-employment in the Airlines;

(b) if so, the Air Hostesses so appointed during each of the year since 1999 with their qualification, age, ground of appointment and the post appointed;

(c) whether they have been given regular appointment or tenure appointment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, along with the period of tenure ?

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

(b) to (d) In view of reply given to (a) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Special Package to Uttar Pradesh

3983. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide a special package to Uttar Pradesh for development of cattle-rearing, poultry-farming and fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said package is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Government is not proposing any special package for the development of cattle rearing, poultry-farming and fisheries in Uttar Pradesh. However, the on-going Plan schemes of the Department are being implemented in all the States including Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Slaughter of Cow

3984. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether slaughter of cow and its progeny takes place on Bakri Id inspite of the judgement of Supreme Court during November 1994 which made such an act illegal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No reports have been received in this regard. However, the subject of preservation of cattle is under the purview of the State Government as per the Constitutional provisions.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3985. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the grant provided to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) working in Bihar by the Union Government during the last three years till date, place-wise;

(b) the programmes undertaken by these kendras for benefits of the farmers;

(c) whether the Government propose to streamline the functioning of Agwanpur (Saharsa) KVK which is in bad condition after conducting inquiry into the complaints of the misuse of allocated funds for the kendras getting assistance particularly the Agwanpur Kendra; and

(d) 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) During the last three years an amount of Rs. 895.14 lakhs was provided to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in Bihar. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The KVKs in Bihar are run by the State Agricultural University, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Public Sector Undertaking. They are expected to take up the activities including training of farmers, training of extension personnel, front line demonstrations and on-farm testing. As reported by these agencies, during the last three years, a total of 1701 training programmes were organized

covering 37,000 farmers, rural youths and in-service personnel. A total of 1229 frontline demonstrations were conducted, besides various on-farm trials.

In the case of Agwanpur (Saharsa), an enquiry has been undertaken. The ICAR proposes to take remedial actions that may be necessary after the process is complete.

Statement

KVK-Wise Details of Grant Provided during last three years

		(Rs. in lakhs)
S.No.	Name of the KVK	Amount
1.	Munger	49.06
2.	Darbhanga	51.51
3.	Vaisali	53.07
4.	Begusarai	70.82
5.	Saharsa	48.71
6.	Nalanda	66.04
7.	Banka	51.91
8.	Patna	58.77
9.	Sekhupura	52.92
10.	Muzaffarpur	57.61
11.	Bhojpur	93.11
12.	Nawada	77.93
13.	Bhabua	47.39
14.	Jamui	52.8
15.	Madhubani	63.49
Total		895.14

[English]

Survey on Ground Water Level

3986.SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of vulnerable areas affected with the problems of flouride, nitrate, arsenic in ground water;

(b) if so, whether such survey was conducted in Kolar area of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) As per ground water quality survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), higher concentration of flouride, nitrate and arsenic in ground water has been observed in parts of some of the districts of various States in the country. Studies indicate that in Kolar district of Karnataka, about 13% of the samples have fluoride value more than permissible limit, 25% of the samples have shown nitrate value more than permissible limit.

Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The CGWB provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. The CGWB has taken periodic monitoring of water quality. The data thus collected is made available to concerned State Government agencies for taking remedial measures.

[Translation]

Maize Production

3987.SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of maize in metric tonnes in Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total area of land in the State under maize cultivation; and

(c) the quantity of maize being exported from the State at present, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The year-wise details of total production of maize and total area of land, covered under maize cultivation in the State of Maharashtra during last three years, are as under :-

(Area in hectares)
(Production in Metric Tonnes)

Year	Production	Area
1998-99	511400	278400
1999-00	433000	281000
2000-01	223000	262500

(c) The State-wise data of export of maize is not maintained by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, M/o Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the concerned Nodal Department/Ministry for Foreign Trade. However, the details of total export of maize seed and other maize from India along with value during the period April 1999 to June 2002, year-wise, are given below :-

A Maize Seed

Year	Quantity in Kg.	Value in Rs.
1999-00	1103580	47062905
2000-01	2848596	93716403
2001-02	15981400	338429043
April, 02 – June – 02	3198190	27172245

B. Other Maize

Year	Quantity in Kg.	Value in Rs.
1999-00	168000	1529137
2000-01	29615560	179154418
2001-02	97522774	572789700
April, 02 – June – 02	16497160	84007548

[English]

Parking Charges at IGI

3988.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various tariffs levied by Airport Authority of India prescribed for parking of vehicles in Cargo Complex and New Customs House at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi;

(b) whether the exporters while making several visits during a day to co-ordinate their export work have to pay multiple parking charges for every entry for visiting Cargo Complex and New Custom House; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The tariff for parking of vehicles in Cargo Complex and New Custom House at Indira Gandhi International Airport for a single entry and parking upto 4 hours is Rs. 10/- for scooter/motor cycle, Rs. 30/- for car/van/jeep and Rs. 50/- for minibus/tempo/truck/heavy vehicle/commercial vehicles of all agencies.

Multiple parking facility at Cargo Complex and New Customs House is available to the exporters on purchase of single monthly pass for each vehicle from the car park contractor.

[Translation]

Opening of Khadi Outlets

3989.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the main markets in the country particularly Uttar Pradesh are not having outlets of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) if so, the details of the markets not having the said outlets alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to open outlets of Khadi in such markets ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not have its own outlets in all the States. The States that are not having Departmental outlets of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The KVIC encourages institutions and private entrepreneurs to sell Khadi products through their own marketing outlets/showrooms.

Conservation of Sites in Chechar

3990. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India, Patna has recommended for protection of the heritage sites of Chechar in Vaishali district of Bihar and for opening a museum on August 10, 1999 and again on January 15, 2001;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to declare the important places of Chechar as protected site and open a museum there ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Patna Circle of Archaeological Survey of India has sent a proposal for protecting the ancient site at Chechar in Vaishali (Bihar). Details of land schedules and site plan are being collected. However there is no proposal to set-up a site museum.

Death of Migratory Birds

3991. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about ten thousand migratory birds have died due to cyclone in the Kulik Bird sanctuary near Raiganj town in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in future to face such eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 16,721 carcasses of open bill storks were recovered and buried after cyclone on 24.9.02 and 25.9.02 in this sanctuary. At the time of breeding, birds and their chicks stay in delicate condition in nests in the trees and fall victim to storms. Wind breaks are effective in providing protection against storms.

[English]

Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II

3992. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have forwarded the Modified Identification Report of the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II to the World Bank;

(b) if so, whether any funds have since been sanctioned by the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps the Union Government have taken to take up the matter with the World Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Boost to Farm Sector

3993. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New steps planned to boost farm sector" appearing in the Hindu dated December 4, 2002;

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

(c) whether his Ministry has undertaken an exercise to effect a reduction in the interest rates and bring about a simplification in the procedures to provide credit to farmers;

(d) if so, the success achieved in this regard by the Government;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to affect a change in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide easy credit to the farm sector ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is taking a number of new initiatives to boost the farm sector on the lines mentioned in the news items.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being made for increasing the availability of credit and lowering of interest rates for the farm sector. However, in view of the financial stringency lowering of interest rates has not been possible at present. For providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers and simplification of procedure, the following steps have been taken :—

1. Nationalised/commercial banks and Regional Rural banks have been restructured and recapitalised in order to strengthen them.
2. A scheme of Kisan Credit Cards has been introduced in order to provide easy and flexible credit to farmers.
3. To strengthen the cooperative structure, rehabilitation package for revamping of cooperative credit institutions has been announced in the Budget 2002-03.
4. Banks have been asked not to insist margin money for crop loan/term loan granted to farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-
5. Banks need not to insist upon collateral security/ third party guarantee for crop loan upto Rs. 10,000/- Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security.
6. Loans above Rs. 10,000/- banks may have discretion in the matter relating to margin security.
7. Total interest debited to the account of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short term advances.

(e) Government of India have taken the following steps in this regard :—

- (i) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force to suggest reforms in the State Acts dealing with agricultural marketing was constituted.

(ii) A National Conference of State Governments/ Union Territories has been held on 27.9.02 to discuss the recommendations of the Task Force.

(iii) A Standing Committee of State Ministers has been set up under the chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Agriculture to work out an action plan for implementation of the reforms.

(f) As stated in reply to part (d) above.

Steel Authority of India Limited

3994. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last two years have been encouraging;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the encouraging performance by the SAIL, the Central Government propose to plan expansion and development of other Steel Plants in the country;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) SAIL incurred losses of Rs. 729 crores and Rs. 1707 crores during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively mainly due to general slowdown in the economy, fall in international prices, oversupply situation in the domestic market etc. However, there has been an improvement in its financial performance in the first half of the current year during which SAIL cut down its loss to Rs. 467 crores after tax as against Rs. 704 crores during the corresponding period of the last year. An increase of 12% in NSR, a volume growth of 8% in mild steel production and sales, lower capital related charges primarily contributed to improved results. Apart from this, the Company has been maintaining its thrust on cost control drive and rationalisation of manpower through introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to further improve its profitability.

(c) and (d) Though Government has no such proposal, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), a

Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Steel, is setting up a commercial pig iron plant with a capacity of 300,000 tonnes per annum at Nagarnar, District Bastar, Chhatisgarh.

(e) Does not arise.

Rain Fed Farming

3995.DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive policy for rain-fed farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such policy is likely to be formulated;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being given to States which are already implementing such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total amount of financial assistance given to State as on March 31, 2002, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a National Agriculture Policy in 2000 which accords very high priority for watershed development programmes intended for promotion of rainfed farming in the country. Integrated

and holistic development of rainfed areas will be promoted by conservation of rain water, by vegetative measures on watershed basis and by augmentation of biomass production through agro and farm forestry with the involvement of the watershed community.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is being extended to several States from the Union Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development through the following schemes :—

A. Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
2. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA).
3. Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR).

B. Ministry of Rural Development

4. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
5. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
6. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

The State-wise and scheme-wise assistance provided as on 31st March, 2002 are in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Financial Assistance provided to various Watershed Schemes since inception to 2001-02

S.N.	Name of the State/ UT	NWDPA	RVP and FPR	WDPSA	DPAP	DDP	IWDP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8379.617	7300.000	0.000	20807.000	4071.000	9718.470
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	277.000	0.000	762.150	0.000	0.000	94.850
3.	Assam	2701.387	598.150	680.000	0.000	0.000	2398.930
4.	Bihar	1870.433	4252.280	0.000	1684.000	0.000	482.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	1434.900	392.000	0.000	1381.000	0.000	945.770

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6. Goa		153.563	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7. Gujarat		12952.177	4575.500	0.000	6521.000	12303.000	4362.170
8. Haryana		1041.518	1862.170	0.000	0.000	5237.000	573.660
9. Himachal Pradesh		2127.520	11400.150	0.000	1037.000	2836.000	3615.410
10. Jammu and Kashmir		694.512	4105.640	0.000	1497.000	4985.000	969.490
11. Jharkhand		0.000	87.100	0.000	1569.000	0.000	424.580
12. Karnataka		19390.165	11200.450	0.000	7668.000	3727.000	3163.460
13. kerala		6372.900	2000.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	712.430
14. Madhya Pradesh		21560.513	20183.530	0.000	14091.000	0.000	4616.890
15. Maharashtra		26065.958	8215.400	0.000	10073.000	0.000	1781.380
16. Manipur		1458.900	0.000	1880.000	0.000	0.000	1289.010
17. Meghalaya		948.550	0.000	1163.000	0.000	0.000	297.650
18. Mizoram		3100.670	107.030	2821.330	0.000	0.000	983.230
19. Nagaland		2891.900	0.000	3056.000	0.000	0.000	3736.300
20. Orissa		10543.822	4431.030	0.000	2736.000	0.000	3162.440
21. Punjab		679.660	579.610	0.000	0.000	0.000	426.480
22. Rajasthan		32870.840	19296.130	0.000	3950.000	35445.000	4133.220
23. Sikkim		1294.910	1290.050	0.000	0.000	0.000	1619.070
24. Tamil Nadu		11451.611	6825.470	0.000	5335.000	0.000	2777.630
25. Tripura		1523.290	415.250	989.310	0.000	0.000	260.230
26. Uttar Pradesh		16880.217	18234.700	0.000	8261.000	0.000	7800.320
27. Uttaranchal		1649.230	8100.500	0.000	835.000	0.000	705.040
28. West Bengal		4053.475	3449.990	0.000	1180.000	0.000	432.000
29. DVC*		0.000	9819.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
30. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		16.315	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
31. Daman and Diu		2.315	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32. Andaman and Nicobar Island		330.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33. Delhi		0.000	86.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	250.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Chandigarh	0.000	95.270	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35.	Headquarters	0.000	207.370	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
36.	Others	0.000	0.000	0.000	52.000	15.000	0.000
Total		194717.868	149110.800	11351.790	88677.0000	68619.000	61732.110

*includes matching share of DVC.

NWDPRA = National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

RVP and FPR = Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catechments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.

WDPSCA = Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area.

DPAP = Drought Prone Areas Programme

DDP = Desert Development Programme

IWDP = Integrated wastelands Development Programme.

[Translation]

Demand of Rejection of Second Labour Commission

3996. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether major Trade Union Organisations have demanded rejection of the report of Second Labour Commission as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated November 30, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) (a) to (c) The Government has seen the news item. The Trade Unions have generally opposed certain recommendations in the Report of Second National Commission on Labour especially relating to retrenchment, lay-off and closures. However, they have also suggested for further consultations in the matter. The Government has already started tripartite consultations on the recommendations of the Commission with various social partners. The recommendations were discussed in the 38th Session of the Indian Labour Conference and at a National Seminar on Unorganised

Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002. A Tripartite Committee meeting is also proposed to be convened in the month of February, 2003 for processing the recommendations in the report of the Second National Commission on Labour.

Antibiotic Medicines used by Fishermen

3997. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fishermen are using antibiotics to keep their fish export consignment healthy;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in rejection and banning of Indian fish product export to Europe, USA, Japan;

(c) whether this has caused pecuniary loss to the Indian exporters of fish and revenue loss to the Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up international level of fish processing units so that Indian fish products compete at the world market, and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) There were instance of antibiotic usage by shrimp

farmers to counter disease incidence in aqua farms until a campaign against the abuse of antibiotics was taken up by various organisations.

(b) and (c) Exporters have faced problem due to antibiotic residue issues as the European Union has put on red alert the Indian products, i.e., 100% testing of every consignment for the presence of banned antibiotics which has resulted in rejection of some consignments. No estimation on the loss of revenue on account of such rejections is available.

(d) and (e) the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has already taken necessary steps to upgrade the processing facilities in the country to meet the stringent quality control measures and to conform to international standards and norms.

[English]

Sail Boat at Nagoa in Daman and Diu

3998. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu for Catamaran Sail Boat at Nagoa for approval;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The project for provision of Catamaran Sail Boat at Nagoa was prioritised for central financial assistance of Rs. 3.20 lakhs during 2001-2002 but the project was not sanctioned.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. All States/Union Territories

including Daman and Diu have been requested to submit proposals for the year 2002-2003 under the new schemes.

[Translation]

Haj Pilgrimage Scam

3999. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Court has issued any notice to his Ministry in connection with Haj Pilgrimage scam involving more than hundred crore rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Ministry has tendered any reply to the court in response to the said notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to get this scam probed through any Committee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (f) A Civil Writ Petition has been filed by Kul Hind Tanzeem, Khuddamul Hujjaj against Government of India seeking an inquiry in the management of Central Haj Committee affairs for the period of the present Chairman, appointment of an Administrator; and conducting of negotiations for fixation of airfare under the Chairmanship of a sitting Judge of High Court. A coordinated response on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation has been filed in the Court. The matter is subjudice.

[English]

Irregular Appointment

4000. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item that appeared in the "Asian Age" dated November 5, 2002, captioned "Talent discovered in Mrs. Rudy";

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any procedure/norms were violated;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item alleges favours shown to Mrs. Neelam Pratap Rudy, Airhostess, Indian Airlines in :—

- selection exercise for filling up of the post of Assistant Manager (In-flight Services).
- her deputation to Alliance Air.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Babupur Steel Plan

4001.SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steel plants functioning in Madhya Pradesh particularly Babupur steel plant in Satna district;

(b) whether Bahupur steel plant has been shut down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether rail line casting about ten crores rupees was laid down four years ago for the transportation of high grade stone available in abundance in this plant;

(e) if so, whether said plant has been closed down under some conspiracy due to which thousands of labourers are rendered jobless; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) There is no steel plant at Babupur, Satna. Only a captive limestone mine of Raw Materials Division, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is there. The mining operations are suspended, through the mine has not been closed. Due to high silica content in the limestone, there has been a poor off-take by steel plants. Consequent to the change

in steel making technology after modernisation of steel plants, low silica limestone is required.

(d) to (f) No rail line costing Rs. 10 crores was laid. The rail line was existing since 1967 for loading of rake of 35 box "C" wagons. Due to Railway's operational problem, their safety requirement and their demand to supply 35 boxes "C" rakes, the rail track had to be modified to accommodate rakes of 58 "N" box wagons. The approximate cost of modification was less than Rs. 2 crores.

The mining operation has been suspended as explained above. As much the question of conspiracy does not arise. The workers/labourers have been re-deployed or opted for golden hand shake (Voluntary Retirement Scheme).

[English]

Damage to Monuments due to Burning of Effigies

4002.SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during Vijaya Dashmi celebrations effigies were burned in the vicinity of the protected monument of Darya Khan Lohani, in South Delhi;

(b) whether such activities caused damage to the monument of historical importance; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the authorities not initiating any preventive measures in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no damage was caused to the monument.

(c) ASI had reported the matter to local police authorities.

Ban on Cow Slaughter

4003.SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian species of cows have become extinct while some are on the verge of extinction due to cow slaughter in the country;

(b) whether the Government are considering to ban the issue of cow slaughter in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be banned;

(d) whether Indian Animal Welfare Board Inquiry team was constituted to conduct an on the spot assessment of the situation on the occasion of Bakrid in 2001;

(e) whether the said team found evidence that cow progeny from many places in Bihar are sold and taken to West Bengal and are being smuggled to Bangladesh from there;

(f) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan for ban on meat exports and extra vigilance to check cattle smuggling to Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal slaughter of cows and Inter-State transportation of beef-especially to Kerala and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Constitutional provisions the powers to ban cow slaughter is vested with the State Governments, as enshrined in Entry 15 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

(d) The Animal Welfare Board of India has constituted a Task Force in 2001 which has since submitted its report.

(e) From the outcome of the interviews with farmers, regulated Cattle Market Committee, Cattle Sellers, Traders, Police Officials, Check Posts and other animal activities by the Task Force, it can be interpreted that there was evidence that cow progeny from many places in Bihar are sold to West Bengal and from there taken to Bangladesh.

(f) and (g) There is total ban on export of cow meat. The international borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan

are manned by security forces, who check smuggling of cattle also.

(h) To check the illegal transport of cattle more effectively, the Prevention of cruelty to Animals, Transport of Animals Rules have been amended by Transport of Animals Amendment Rules, 2001. Most of the States/UTs have enacted laws to ban cow slaughter. In addition, there are laws governing transport of cattle from one State to another.

Irrigation Facilities to Farmers in Gujarat

4004. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor irrigation facilities for the farmers of dry areas in Gujarat i.e. Kutch, Saurashtra and North Gujarat as the ground water level has gone alarmingly low;

(b) if so, the action proposed by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to supply Narmada Water to Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources regularly monitors the ground water level at various parts of the country including the State of Gujarat through a network of National Hydrograph Monitoring Stations. Analysis of data collected by the CGWB has indicated fall in the level of ground water and consequential irrigation problem in various parts of Gujarat, including those in North Gujarat, Kutch and Saurashtra.

(b) Water being a State subject, action to augment the ground water resources and creation of irrigation facilities is taken by the concerned State Governments. Accordingly, Government of Gujarat is implementing major, medium and minor irrigation schemes for development of irrigation facilities in the State. Out of these projects, 17 ongoing and 14 new major/medium irrigation projects are to provide benefit to the water scarce/drought prone districts including other districts of Gujarat. In order to

complete long pending major and medium irrigation projects in the country and to get early benefit from the locked up investments, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was launched by the Government of India in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments. Under this programme, Rs. 2166.85 crore has been provided for 14 major/medium projects in Gujarat including the Sardar Sarovar project upto November 2000. In addition, the CGWB has undertaken exploratory drilling in Gujarat besides construction of tube wells in Kutch district of Gujarat. All the successful exploratory wells of CGWB are being offered/handed over to the State Government. Out of 404 successful wells, 125 wells have already been handed over to the State Government for their use upto September 2002. In addition, 240 wells have also been offered to Government of Gujarat, which are yet to be accepted by them. A Central Sector Scheme "Study of Recharge of Ground Water" was also implemented in the country during the Ninth Plan. Under this scheme, the CGWB had approved three projects for artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rainwater harvesting in the State of Gujarat in the last three years. The proposal to continue this Scheme for artificial recharge in the Tenth Plan is at consultation stage.

(c) and (d) The Sardar Sarovar Project is under construction and after completion it will provide Narmada water to the State of Gujarat. About 17.92 lakh hectare irrigaiton potential can be created through Narmada main canal that will provide benefit to 12 districts of Gujarat including Kutch among 9 other drought prone districts of Gujarat. The canal project will be completed in two phases. Phase-I of the canal is nearing completion and about 1 lakh hectare irrigation potential will be created in Gujarat on completion of the canal Phase-I (Gujarat portion). Under the Fast Track Programme of AIBP, 100% loan assistance amounting to Rs. 94 crore has been additionally provided to Gujarat for Narmada main canal Phase-I (Gujarat portion) for completion of the canal is one year's time.

Assurance of Pepsi Cola

4005.SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Pepsi Cola has assured that it would work for the benefit of farmers through commercialisation of agriculture in some States in collaboration with concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pepsi Cola has backed out from their assurance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Protein Feed Boost Milk Yield in Indian Cow

4006.SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the protein feed boost milk yield in Indian cows as announced by the Australian Scientists who completed a three years projects in India; and

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

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

(a) Protein feed boost milk production is a fact known to scientists, farmers and whosoever is involved in milk production system since long. No project on this aspect is in operation in "ICAR" by Australian Scientists.

(b) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Reservation in IARI

4007.SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reserved posts for Backward Classes (Administrative, Scientific and Technical) lying vacant in the Indian Agriculture Research Institute between 1999 to 2002;

- (b) the efforts made to fill up these vacancies; [English]
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken against guilty officers ?

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

(a) Scientific: The instructions on reservations in the scientific cadre have been made applicable for direct recruitment at the entry grade only i.e. Scientists in the pay scale of Rs. 8000-13500. On the directions of the Hon'ble CAT the reservations for various categories at the entry level is made discipline wise since 1994.

Thus, the vacancies were announced discipline wise irrespective of the actual occurrence of vacancies at the entry level in the various units of the Council. Therefore, the actual number of vacancies reserved for backward classes in IARI cannot be specified.

Technical: Twenty posts are lying vacant between 1999 to 2002 for the Other Backward Classes.

Administrative: Seven posts are lying vacant between 1999 to 2002 for Other Backward Classes.

(b) and (c) As far as recruitment to the scientific positions at the entry level is concerned, the Council has been holding annually the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Examinations and the reservations are made discipline wise as per the directions of the Hon'ble CAT. The Council has also conducted three Special Recruitment Drives exclusively for filling up vacancies in the reserved categories.

The vacant positions for filling up of posts by direct recruitment in the technical and administrative category including those reserved for Other Backward Classes could not be filled up due to Government of India orders contained in the Department of Expenditure O.M. No. 7(3)/E(Coord)/99 dated 5.8.99 on Expenditure Management and providing ban on filling up of vacant posts and orders contained in the Department of Personnel and Training O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001 providing for annual recruitment plan by restricting direct recruitment to 1/3rd of the total vacancies subject to further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

- (d) Question does not arise.

Reinvent EPF India Project

4008.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have launched a "Reinvent EPF India Project" recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the work on this project is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) (a) and (b) Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the project, 'Re-inventing EPF India' with the mission to re-invent the Organisation and reposition Employees' Provident Fund Organisation with the following goals :

- (i) Allotment of permanent and unique number of Provident Fund members for identification. This will be known as Social Security Number.
- (ii) Networking of all Provident Fund Offices to facilities online settlement of claims within 2-3 days.
- (iii) To provide anywhere, anytime facility to customers.
- (iv) to develop mechanism for monitoring of compliance online and on monthly basis.

(c) The process has already been started but the time frame for it to become fully operational cannot be indicated at this stage.

[Translation]

Degree Holders of Para Medical Society of Delhi

4009.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the MLT (Medical Lab Technician) degree holders passed from para medical society of Dehli can get their names registered in the Government Employment Exchanges;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said medical society is recognized from AICTE;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to close-down the said society; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the above degree holders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Society has not been approved by AICTE for running any technical courses under the purview of AICTE.

(d) and (e) There is no direct provision in the AICTE Act to close down the institutes running technical courses not approved by AICTE. However, AICTE issues public notices from time to time in all National Dailies advising student not to take admission in institute/programmes not approved by AICTE.

[English]

Raid by AI Vigilance

4010.SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any raid was conducted at Bangkok International Airport by the Air India Vigilance Wing in the last three years;

(b) if yes, the number of crew members found in illegal possession of Air India articles/materials;

(c) the financial value of the articles/materials found in possession of the staff; and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) A surprise Check was conducted by Air India Security at Bangkok Airport on Flight AI309/25AUG00 and a total of 7 crew members were found in possession of Air India

property (bonded items) costing Rs. 3437/-. the action taken by Air India against the erring staff includes reduction to a lower grade for a specified period and stoppage of post retirement passage benefits.

Arrival of Foreign Tourists

4011.SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of tourists from Europe, USA and other Asian countries have been visiting India mainly for their dental care;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the number of such tourists who have visited this country during the current year, the number of hotel bookings alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide important multi-media information to the prospective tourists through foreign diplomatic missions to attract maximum number of foreign tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Information with regard to number of tourists, their hotel bookings and the foreign exchange spent by them in respect of the foreign tourists coming to India for the specific purpose of dental care is not compiled.

(c) The various steps taken to attract more foreign tourists to the country include advertisement and promotion compaigns through the Web-site of the Department of Tourism, Multi-media CD ROMs which are distributed through the Indian missions and Indiatourism offices overseas.

Revival and Operation of Kulti Works

4012.SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether in course of the revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO), Kulti works, a premier manufacturer of spun pipe and cast commodities was proposed to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is a proposal for revival and operation of Kulti works under Government venture submitted to the Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : (a) and (b) The rehabilitation package that has been approved by the Government in June 2002 for Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), inter alia, includes closure of Kulti Works of IISCO. The employees of Kulti Works would be separated through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) with financial assistance as grant-in-aid from the Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Violative Construction Work in Taj Mahal

4013.DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM :

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

(a) whether ASI has undertaken any construction work for building a tourist reception centre in the forecourt of the East Gate of Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, whether such alterations would change the basic design of Taj;

(c) whether this construction is in violation of Monument Protection Act as also the Supreme Court judgement; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. However under a programme of the National Culture Fund, A Visitor Facilitation Centre is proposed to be located within the existing arcades of the courtyard adjacent to the Eastern Gate.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Storage of Rain Water for Irrigation

4014.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme under which the rain water could be stored for irrigation and other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (c) No such new scheme has been launched for storage of rain water for irrigation and other purposes. However, a live storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of a number of dams under various stages of construction. Government of India is providing central loan assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to help the State Governments in their efforts to harness rain water and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by speedy completion of certain selected ongoing schemes. Besides, a live storage capacity of 132 BCM is likely to be created on completion of irrigation/multipurpose schemes under various stages of consideration.

Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

As a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for

Water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro-power etc.

[English]

Proposal for Fishing Harbour

4015. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala submitted any proposal for fishing harbour at Koyilandy in Kozhikode district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be cleared and the financial assistance sanctioned therefor ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for construction of fishing harbour at Koyilandy in Kozhikode district at a total cost of Rs. 23 crores and sought for central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The proposal for development of fishing harbour at Koyilandy as submitted by the State envisages construction of breakwaters, quay wall, auction hall, dredging, land acquisition, approach and internal roads, parking area and other ancillary facilities.

(c) On scrutiny of the proposal, the State Government has been requested to forward detail project report after completion of the ongoing model studies with revised structural designs, if needed and firm and realistic cost estimate together with the confirmation such as (i) availability of necessary land for development of the proposed fishing harbour, (ii) necessary environmental clearance has been obtained from the competent authority for implementation of the project and (iii) adequate budgetary provision exists in the State Budget to share 50% capital cost of the project. Since State Government has not yet forwarded the complete proposal as requested above, the time period by which the project is likely to be cleared and financial assistance provided cannot be indicated by the Union Government at this stage.

Recommendations of Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairy

4016. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of Working Group of Planning Commission on animal husbandry and dairy for the Tenth Plan have been considered by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations accepted by the Government ?

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

(a) and (b) The Working Group on animal husbandry and dairy for the Tenth Plan was set up by the Planning Commission to identify the thrust area and approach to be adopted for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sectors for the Tenth Plan. The recommendations of the Working Group have been considered by various groups and committees set up by the Planning Commission to finalise the Tenth Plan. However, as the Tenth Plan is yet to be approved, it is not possible to indicate the extent of acceptance of the recommendation of the Working Group.

Documentation of Paintings

4017. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 4000 miniatures and portraits of various Art Schools dating from the 14th century exist at the Raza Library in Rampur;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to document and preserve them and also make them available in printed form;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (d) The photo documentation of the miniature paintings is nearing completion. Also, the images of these paintings have been scanned and digitized. 157 damaged miniatures and portraits have been scientifically restored since 1995. The Rampur Raza Library has so far

published 218 selected miniatures. Another catalogue of 157 paintings of Akbar's album titled 'Tilism' has been completed and is ready for publication. The work relating to conservation, preservation, documentation and publication is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

**Financial Assistance of Agriculture
Sector**

4018. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether contribution by agriculture sector in economy of the country during the nineties has come down;

(b) if so, the contribution of agriculture sector to economy during 1990-91 and 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for slow development in agriculture sector ?

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

(a) to (c) According to National Accounts Statistics, the contribution of agriculture sector including Animal Husbandry to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices has increased from Rs. 1,45,734 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 4,21,396 Crore in 1999-2000. However, the percent share of the sector in GDP at current prices came down from 28.5 to 24.0 during this period. The percent share of the sector in the State GDP at current prices for the years 1990-91 and 1999-2000 is given in the Statement State-wise. In the process of economic development the share of agriculture in GDP tends to decline over time.

Statement

*State-wise Percentage share of Agriculture Sector
including Animal Husbandry in State GDP at
current prices in the years 1990-91 and
1999-2000*

State/UT	1990-91	1999-2000
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	34.6	25.4

1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	30.3	29.5
Assam	33.5	34.3
Bihar	37.7*	36.0**
Jharkhand	N.A.	20.9
Goa	12.8	6.9
Gujarat	25.2	14.7
Haryana	43.4	32.9
Himachal Pradesh	26.5	21.7
Jammu and Kashmir	29.4	26.4
Kernataka	31.2	27.2
Kerala	26.6	19.3
Madhya Pradesh	34.8*	31.8**
Chhattisgarh	N.A.	20.0
Maharashtra	19.4	14.4
Manipur	32.9	22.5
Meghalaya	23.1	23.2
Mizoram	21.4	20.0
Nalagand	23.4	24.0
Orissa	29.7	31.8
Punjab	43.6	39.8
Rajasthan	42.7	27.8
Sikkim	41.5	24.6
Tamil Nadu	17.8	14.8
Tripura	35.3	26.3
Uttar Pradesh	40.1*	33.8**
Uttaranchal	N.A.	N.A.
West Bengal	26.1	26.4
A and N Islands	31.6	21.6
Chandigarh	N.A.	1.4

1	2	3
Delhi	4.1	1.6
Pondicherry	8.3	5.1

Source : Directorates of Economics and Statistics of respective Governments of States/U.Ts.

Note *Estimates relate to undivided States.

**Estimates relate to divided States

N A Not Available

Shifting of Government Offices to Check Pollution

4019.SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY

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

(a) whether pollution has reached an alarming stage in a large number of cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details indicating the level of pollution in such cities;

(c) the reaction of the Government towards increase in pollution in the said cities;

(d) whether there is any proposal to shift the Government offices to the small cities in order to ease the burden of pollution in major cities;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the number of the Government offices shifted to the smaller cities to ensure balanced development and to check pollution during the last two years and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (f) Based on the ambient air quality assessment carried out by various Pollution Control Boards, the levels of most of the regulatory pollutants are within the stipulated standards. The pollutants are found to exceed the standards in some areas during certain period. The details in respect of seven cities is given in the enclosed Statement. The various measures taken include tightening of vehicular emission norms, improvement of fuel quality, action against the polluting industries, installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants and Sewage Treatment Plants. Action has also been initiated for management of municipal solid waste, bio-medical waste and hazardous waste. The strategy to control pollution entails regulatory and promotional measures to check air, water, land and noise pollution from various sources like industrial pollution, vehicular emissions and other human activities. In the National Capital Region Plan, the decentralisation of the economic activities in the core city was stipulated which included shifting of Government offices to satellite towns.

Statement

City name	2000			2001			2002		
	RSPM	NO _x	SO ₂	RSPM	NO _x	SO ₂	RSPM	NO _x	SO ₂
Ahmedabad	197	25	8	198	36	10	161	36	9
Bangalore	109	47	22	87	26	11	65	25	12
Chennai	63	15	8	66	11	7	38	8	6
Delhi	154	29	16	120	29	14	125	31	11
Hyderabad	87	21	13	77	23	12	55	22	7
Kolkata	121	30	14	102	66	16	104	69	10
Mumbai	110	29	9	81	25	12	56	14	9

Source : CPCB/SPCBs/NEERI

*[English]***Unused Air Strip in Salem**

4020. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a stretch of unused runway (air strip) in Salem in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to develop it in order to construct an airport there; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) There is no unused airstrip at Salem.

(b) and (c) There is an operational airport at Salem maintained by the Airports Authority of India where only non-scheduled operators and State Government of Tamilnadu are operating their flights including VIP flights.

Trauma Centres in ESI Hospital

4021. SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ESI Hospitals where Trauma Centres have been established, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to the Union Government for sanction and set up Trauma Centres at ESI Hospitals in the state;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No separate Trauma Centres have been established. However, the facility is available as a Speciality in some ESI Hospitals.

(b) to (d) A proposal from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of a Trauma Centre in ESI Hospital, Indra Nagar at a cost of Rs. 3.50 crore has been received in ESI Corporation. the matter is being examined by the ESIC, in consultation with the State Government.

*[Translation]***Jamnagar-Delhi Flight**

4022. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from various organisations to start direct flight from Jamnagar to Delhi and from Delhi to Rajkot, Madnagar and Saurashtra in view of trade and industry potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when they are likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Earlier Indian Airlines operated a thrice weekly B-737 service on Delhi-Udaipur-Rajkot and return route on which passenger carriage per flight between Rajkot and Delhi was around 25-30 passengers, therefore, the said service was discontinued.

Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services of different regions of the country. All scheduled airlines, including private airlines are free to operate on all domestic routes subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Population Dependent on Agriculture

4023. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population of the country which earns its livelihood from agriculture and related industries;

(b) the percentage of contribution of agriculture based industries as a whole to the economy;

(c) whether the Government are making any extra efforts to promote agro based industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) According to the Population Census - 2001, the

agricultural workers consisting of cultivators and agricultural labourers constitute 58.4 percent of the total workers in the country.

(b) The percentage contribution of the sector consisting of agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing and food industries to the Gross Domestic Product in the year 2000-01 was 27.3.

(c) and (d) In order to provide better livelihood the Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country, wherein Margin Money is provided for setting up agro and rural industries. As on 31.03.2002, 1,40,481 projects (provisionally) have been sanctioned in the country under the REGP Scheme of the KVIC and 14,42,128 jobs (provisionally) have been created.

In view of the crying need to generate additional employment and the successful experience of the programme so far, it has been decided to continue the programme during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. The target set for the 10th Plan is to generate an additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons with a proposed investment of Rs. 1250 crore.

[English]

National Seeds Board

4024. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of availability of quality seeds, the farmers have been affected at large;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which superior seeds varieties would be made available after the establishment of the National Seeds Boards ?

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir. Certified/quality seeds are already available in sufficient quantities to meet the demand of the farmers.

Establishment of Botanical Gardens

4025. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted a survey for establishing herbal and botanical gardens in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the locations identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the further action taken by the Government to establish the said garden on each and every selected location ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Government has not conducted any such survey for establishing herbal and botanical gardens.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Missing Notification

4026. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has failed to locate the preliminary notification by which Jantar Mantar was declared a protected monument in 1958;

(b) if so, whether this would effect the status of Jantar Mantar as a protected monument;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the non-availability of the preliminary notification hampered the efforts of ASI to check construction of a high rise building on Janpath lane within 100 metres of Jantar Mantar; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The preliminary notification dated 3rd May, 1957 has so far not been traced. However, the preliminary notification dated 10th October, 1956 which was superseded by the notification issued on 3rd May, 1957 as well as the confirmatory notification dated 6th January, 1958 are available, which declare the monument as protected as per the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(c) Question does not arise.

(b), (d) and (e) The matter is sub-judice.

**Renovation of Nashik, Shirdi and
Shani Shingnapur in Maharashtra**

4027. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any comprehensive proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for renovation and beautification of Nashik, Shirdi and Shani Shingnapur in Maharashtra before Kumbh Mela 2003;

(b) if so, the details of allocation of funds made for the purpose in 2002-2003;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open new hotels and Paryatak Yatri Niwas on said places with the assistance of World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No such proposal for grant of Central Financial Assistance during the year 2002-2003 has been received in the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Steel Authority of India Limited

4028. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was exporting just 6 per cent of his total production and the balance 94 per cent was consumed in the domestic market;

(b) whether the SAIL is considering to export its goods to China and other Asian countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Housing Facility for EPF Beneficiaries

4029. DR. (MRS.) RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to construct home for EPF beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the number of employees to be benefited therefrom;

(d) whether any requests to this effect has been received from certain States;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken on each request, State-wise;

(f) whether a project of 10,000 homes with the help of HUDCO is being implemented in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to construct said homes for EPF beneficiaries of Mumbai also;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) by when these homes are likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) The Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) which is a tripartite body, at its 158th meeting held on 22.10.2002 has, in principle, approved launching of a housing scheme for Employees Provident Fund subscribers. A letter has been written to Chief Ministers of all the States for providing the houses/plots at cheaper rates; the cost of which shall be borne by the members.

(f) to (i) Discussions are being held with the officials of HUDCO and DDA to have ready built houses/flats in Delhi for EPF subscribers. The exact number of houses/flats will depend on the specific request from the EPF subscribers.

The proposed Scheme will cover EPF subscribers all over the country. The time-frame can not be indicated at this stage.

[Translation]

Medical/Welfare Scheme for Rehri-Patriwalas

4030. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a medical/welfare scheme for the benefit of "Rehri-Patriwalas";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) At present there is no proposal with the Government to formulate a medical/welfare scheme exclusively for the benefit of "Rehri-Patriwalas". However, there is a proposal to frame an umbrella legislation for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector, which may also include "Rehri-Patriwalas".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Relief to Fishermen

4031. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh sought exemption of royalty and licence fee payable to the Ministry of Telecommunications on very High Frequency Radio Sets/Shore Communications Stations used by fishermen; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the relief proposed to be given to the fishermen in this regard ?

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

(b) The Ministry of Communications charges a licence fee of Rs. 100/- and royalty of Rs. 4800/- per annum per link for communication over a distance of 50 to 60 KMs. But for fishing vessels, only Rs. 250/- per annum per vessel as licence fee (no royalty), which is quite moderate, is charged for issue of Maritime Mobile Station licence.

[Translation]

Reintroduction of London Terminator Service

4032. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reintroduce the 'London Terminator Service' which was suspended four years back; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Air India is already operating one London Terminator Service w.e.f. 13th July, 2001. In addition, London is a transit halt on seven of Air India's daily New York flights. Besides, three Chicago bound flights have London Halt. Thus there is a total of 11 weekly operations to London.

[English]

Revision of Fare

4033. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the Air Fare to Bhubaneswar from Delhi and other places with a view to attract more tourists;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) by when the air fare is likely to be reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Fares in the domestic aviation industry are not regulated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Regional Office of EPFO

4034. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to open a regional office of Employees Provident Fund Office at Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where these offices are proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Monitoring Committees for Sewage System

4035. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted any monitoring committees of sewage system for different rivers of the country especially for Yamuna river in East Delhi and Noida;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any targets had been fixed for constituting monitoring committee of sewage management system by the year 1999;

(d) if so, the details; and

(e) the action taken by the Government so far to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) A Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Members, Planning Commission exists since 1987 to monitor the progress of Ganga Action Plan and the National River Conservation Plan. The committee undertakes technical analysis and review of the progress made in the implementation of river Action Plan, identifies shortfalls and gaps in the implementation and suggests ways to improve/expedite implementation.

A High Powered Committee was constituted in 1998 under the chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to assess the problem of pollution created by the non-availability of minimum flow in river Yamuna and to suggest remedial measures. This committee in its efforts to maintain minimum flow in the river Yamuna also reviews and monitors the sewage systems set up and proposed in Haryana, UP and Delhi.

Under the orders of the Supreme Court issued at different times, the following Committee were constituted;

A Committee headed by Shri P.K. Kaul, former Cabinet Secretary, was set up on 6.1.1998 to consider the complaints and suggest remedial measures in a Public Interest Litigation case regarding conveying sewage from East Delhi colonies and its treatment.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority was directed on 4.5.2001 to monitor the implementation of the aforesaid P.K. Kaul Committee report.

In compliance of the orders of the Supreme Court dated 9.9.2002, the Government suggested the Supreme Court that the monitoring of the P.K. Kaul Committee report in the National Capital Region may be appropriately undertaken by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority.

[English]

Increase in Ceiling Amount

4036. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government including Government of Gujarat have made request to Union Government to increase the ceiling of expenditure of the ESI scheme per I.P. family unit per annum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ESI Corporation has entrusted Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad to conduct study and suggest a reasonable ceiling. The report is likely

to be received by February, 2003 and on its receipt, the same will be placed before the ESI Corporation for taking decision.

Drought affected States

4037. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted to identify the States as drought affected; and

(b) the reasons for the exclusion of Kerala from the list of the drought affected States ?

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

(a) In terms of the provisions of their Land Revenue Acts or Relief Codes, etc., the respective State Governments are required to declare drought when the conditions laid in that behalf in the relevant Act/Code are met.

(b) The Government of Kerala have recently declared 40 taluks in 10 districts of the State as affected by drought.

[Translation]

Funds for Child Labour

4038. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether several foreign institutions provide financial assistance to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in India related for child labour and women labour projects; and

(b) if so, the details of these institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Government of India has been financing Voluntary/Non-Governmental Organisations by way of grant-in-aid for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of child labour and women labour. In the event of assistance being available from any other source including international organisations/foreign institutions, total assistance will not exceed the ceiling provided in the scheme. Details of such organisations/institutions are not maintained.

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

4039. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) annual losses are still very high even after the price hike of milk in 2000;

(b) if so, details of deficit and losses for the last two years, year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to minimise the losses and the details of estimated loss for the last six months;

(d) whether 60% D.M.S. plant capacity is unutilised; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to utilise the idle capacity ?

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

(a) and (b) The deficit and losses suffered by DMS during the last two financial years are as under :—

(Rs. in lakh) (Provisional basis)

Financial Year	Deficit	Losses	Total
2000-01	780.25	1178.10	1958.35
2001-02	0.34	1607.14	1607.48

The losses are mainly due to heavy return of unsold milk and its reprocessing cost, pilferage, under utilization of plant capacity, FAT and SNF losses.

(c) Delhi Milk Scheme is adopting professional approach in different areas of operations such as marketing, transportation and plant operation and also adopting economy measures such as curtailing OTA, abolition of posts etc. to reduce the losses. It is difficult to estimate the losses for the first six months as the annual account are prepared after the close of the financial year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. DMS has entered into an agreement with Mother Dairy for custom packaging of Mother Dairy milk of about 2 lakhs litres per day to utilize the unutilized plant capacity.

Revision of Monument List

4040. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to revise the list of protected monuments in view of the fact that many of the protected monuments appearing in the present list were found missing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Government are considering a thorough reorganisation of Archaeological Survey of India. This reorganisation includes review of the old list of protected monuments. While some monuments are being added, a few which are comparatively of less importance and which have disappeared on account of construction during the last 20-30 years, would be deleted.

Agricultural Marketing

4041. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reforms being initiated in the agricultural product marketing field;

(b) the number of Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centres set up during the first half of the current fiscal year; and

(c) the number of the rural populace who gained employment under the above schemes ?

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

(a) An inter-Ministerial Task force on Agricultural Marketing reforms constituted by this Department in its report has made recommendations relating to legal reforms for promotion of competitive agricultural markets, direct marketing and contract farming programmes, rationalization of market fee structure, pledge financing and warehousing receipt system. These recommendations were discussed with the Ministers dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing of all State Governments and Union Territory

Administration and the representatives of the concerned Departments/Agencies of the Central Government at a National Conference held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 27.9.02. There was a consensus among all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the need to introduce reforms in the Agricultural Marketing sector. Since the subject of the agricultural marketing fell within the purview of State Governments, they were advised to go ahead with the implementation of the reforms measures as suited to them. With a view to evolve an action plan for the implementation of the reform, and to give effect to the recommendations made by the Task Force in this regard, a Standing Committee of State Ministers has been set up on 13.11.2002 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture).

(b) The scheme for setting up of a Network of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres by Agriculture Graduates is a purely Banking Sector Scheme, without any Government of India subsidy or grant assistance, refinance for which was announced by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on 23.7.2001. the actual implementation of this Banking Scheme is being monitored by the Banking Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, through NABARD. However, Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) are providing training to these Agriculture graduates.

As per the information regarding success stories available with MANAGE Hyderabad, 110 Agri-Clinics and Agri-business Centres were successful during the first half of the current fiscal year.

(c) While the exact number of rural populace who gained employment under the above scheme is being ascertained, it can be reasonably assumed that about 300 persons in rural areas have been gainfully employed by setting up of these Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres.

Less Minimum Wages Paid to Unorganised Labour

4042. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Employees in the Unorganised sector are being paid less than the stipulated minimum wages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken a survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that labourers in the Unorganised Sectors are paid the laid down minimum wages and to deal severely with offenders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Under the statutory provisions of the Minimum Wages act, both Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages for the workers engaged in the scheduled employments which are mostly in the unorganised sector.

As regard enforcement of the Act it is secured at two levels. In the Central Sphere, it is implemented through the officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery and in the State Sphere, through the State enforcement machinery. The Inspectors of these machineries appointed under the Act, conduct regular inspections of the establishments and also investigate complaints and whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages. There are legal and penal provisions also in the Act against the defaulting employers.

Kisan Co-ordination Committee

4043. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kisan Co-ordination Committee (KCC) has demanded an end to the existing policy of the Government for monopoly procurement of foodgrains and the removal of State controls on internal and external trade in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the National Task Force on Agriculture (NTFA) too had made recommendations for the entry of private sector into warehousing;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have examined the demands of the KCC and the recommendations of NTFA with regard to the ending State monopoly on procurement and storage of foodgrains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Kisan Co-ordination Committee has inter-alia resolved that the Indian farmers can become global players if only the Indian Agriculture can be freed of coercive recoveries, the shackles of Government interventions and institutions and scrapping of monopolistic Government role and unnecessary claims of intermediaries. It further resolved that the time is opportune for restructuring the system of market support and privatizing the support mechanism through abolition of the Food Corporation of India.

(b) to (d) An inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms has inter-alia suggested that the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) being the premier warehousing agency at the national level, it should be the ideal institution to be classified as the Accreditation Agency. In the long run some new institution has to be established for the purpose of regulation as the players cannot be the monitors and if the Central Warehousing Corporation becomes the regulatory body, it has to go out of the warehousing field itself. The Government in consultation with the CWC may decide this issue further. The Task Force has emphasized the need to introduce in respect of agricultural commodities, a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country, to promote warehousing receipts as a prime tool of trade and trade financing. In order to grant the status of negotiability to godown receipts, amendment to the Negotiable instrument Acts or in the alternative, enactment of a new central legislation on the pattern of The Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1933 is recommended.

In respect of Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy (procurement policy), the Task Force has recommended to think of an alternative policy of de-linking MSP from procurement particularly if the private sector is to be restored its rightful role in the marketing of agricultural produce. The present system of procurement is

recommended to be strengthened by introducing objective methods of quality assessment and giving wide publicity to FAQ norms amongst farmers.

With a view to evolve an action plan for the implementation of the reforms, and to give effect to the recommendations made by the Task Force in this regard, a Standing Committee of State Ministers has been set up on 13.11.2002 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture).

Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for the Construction/modernization of Rural Godowns. The projects for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individuals, farmers, group of farmers/Growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Non Government Organisations, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporation, Co-operatives, Agro-Processing Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations in the entire country. Under the scheme, subsidy of 25% on the capital cost of construction of the godown would be provided after the completion of the project. For person belonging to SC/ST and Hilly areas and North Eastern States the quantum of subsidy is 33.33%.

(e) There is no proposal of either to scrap the existing procurement policy or to abolish the FCI and the present procurement policy would continue.

Vizag Steel Plant

4044.SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of target set for Vizag Steel Plant during 2002-2003;

(b) the progress made as on date as compared to the last year; and

(c) the extent to sales are likely to be increased by the end of the year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) The details of the targets set for Vizag Steel Plant during 2002-2003 and the progress made till November, 2002 compared to corresponding period last year are as under :

Item	Target for 2002-03	Progress made in 2002-03 (upto November 2002)	Achieved in 2001- 02 (upto November, 2001)
Hot Metal ('000 t)	3400	2591	2220
Liquid Steel ('000 t)	3000	2212	1963
Saleable Steel ('000 t)	2675	1953	1762
Gross Margin (Crores)	657.19	564.41	383.09
Cash Profit (Crores)	367.66	458.06	170.44
Net Profit (Crores)	(-)101.81	147.64	(-)141.67
Total sales (Crores)	4218	2773	2416

(c) The extent of sales are likely to be increased to nearly Rs. 4400 crores by the end of the year.

[Translation]

Establishment of Memorial/Museums

4045.SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cities where museums/ memorials and cultural heritage have been established for the benefit of tourism industry in India;

(b) whether there is no budgetary provision for archaeological excavation, regular preservation and protection of the monuments in Rajasthan;

(c) whether there is no provision for regular preservation and development of 18 State museum and 2 art galleries in Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has 35 Site Museums as per list in the enclosed Statement. There are also 3606 Monuments and Sites under its protection.

(b) Adequate budgetary provision exists for carrying out excavation and conservation of monuments.

(c) and (d) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Culture an amount of Rs. 28.00 lakh

was released to the Government of Rajasthan for developing their museums. However, it is understood that the amount could not be utilized due to non-release of matching funds by the State Government.

Statement

List of Archaeological Museums of the Archaeological Survey of India

S.No.	Name of the Museums
1	2
1.	Amaravati Museum, Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh)
2.	Aihole Museum, Aihole (Karnataka)
3.	Badami Museum, Badami (Karnataka)
4.	Bijapur Museum, Bijapur (Karnataka)
5.	Bodhgaya Museum, Bodhgaya (Bihar)
6.	Chanderi Museum, Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh)
7.	Chandragiri Museum, Chandragiri (Andhra Pradesh)
8.	Fort St. George Museum, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
9.	Gwalior Museum, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
10.	Halebidu Museum, Halebidu (Karnataka)
11.	Hazarduari Palace Museum, Murshidabad (West Bengal)
12.	Indian War Memorial Museum, Red Fort (Delhi)
13.	Jageshwar Museum, Jageshwar (Uttanchal)
14.	Kalibangan Museum, Kalibangan (Rajasthan)
15.	Kamlapur (Hampi) Museum, (Karnataka)
16.	Kondapur Museum, Kondapur (Andhra Pradesh)
17.	Khajuraho Museum, Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)
18.	Konark Museum, Konark (Orissa)
19.	Lothal Museum, Lothal, Gujarat
20.	Mumtaj Mahal Museum, Red Fort (Delhi)
21.	Mattanchery Palace Museum, Cochin (Kerala)
22.	Nagarjunakonda Museum, Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh)
23.	Nalanda Museum, Nalanda (Bihar)

1	2
24.	Purana Qila Museum, Purana Qila (New Delhi)
25.	Ratnagiri Museum, Ratnagiri (Orissa)
26.	Ropar Museum, Ropar (Punjab)
27.	Sanchi Museum, Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh)
28.	Sarnath Museum, Sarnath (U.P.)
29.	Salimgrah Museum, Red Fort (Delhi)
30.	Sheikh Chilli's Tomb Museum, Kurukshetra
31.	Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya, Red Fort (Delhi)
32.	Taj Museum, Agra (U.P.)
33.	Tipu Sultan Srirangapatnam (Karnataka)
34.	Vaishali Museum, Vaishali (Bihar)
35.	Velha Goa Museum, Goa (Goa)

[English]

Procurement of Arecanut

4046. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement of arecanut from Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is done under MIS;

(b) if so, the terms of payment to the farmers and whether this has been followed strictly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the actual quantity of arecanut procured upto end October 2002 from the growers of these Islands and value thereof, amount paid and balance, if any, yet to be paid to the growers;

(e) whether harvesting of fresh crop of arecanut has already commenced and there has been a persistent demand from the farmers to extend the MIS upto June 2003; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme is implemented by the Union Territory Administration/its designated agencies, the Andaman and Nicobar Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd. (ANCOFED) and the Ellon Hinengo Ltd. (EHL). The terms and conditions of MIS as approved by the Central Government are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) As per report received from NAFED, the Central Nodal Agency, a quantity of 756.73 MTs of Arecanut was procured upto end of October, 2002. The total value of procured stock is Rs. 4.16 crore. An amount of Rs. 2.67 crore has been paid to the farmers and a balance of Rs. 1.49 crore is payable to the farmers.

(e) and (f) As reported, harvesting of fresh crop has commenced but, so far no proposal for extension or fresh MIS has been received from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar.

Statement

No. L-15016/26/2001-MPS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATION

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 9th August, 2002.

To

The Commissioner (Agriculture),
Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Port Blair – 744101 (Fax No. 03192 – 33629)

Subject : Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of arecanut in A and N Island during 2002-2003.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of this Department for Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of arecanut in A and N Islands during 2002-03 as given below :—

- (i) The procurement of arecanut will be made at the Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs. 55/- per kg.
- (ii) A quantity of 3250 MTs will be purchased under MIS by the U.T. designated agencies. However,

the procurement of arecanut will be made by the U.T. agency/ agencies under the supervision of the central agency i.e. NAFED which will supervise/coordinate the operations from procurement to final disposal with the U.T. agency/agencies.

- (iii) The period of operation would be from the 01.6.2002 to 31.8.2002 extended up to 31.10.2002.
- (iv) The market overhead expenses allowed for the above operation will be Rs. 13.60 per kg. or actual expenses whichever is less.
- (v) The procured quantity of arecanut by the procuring agency will be disposed at the maximum realizable rate to reduce the losses on Government account.
- (vi) The losses in the above operation will be shared equally i.e. 50:50 basis between the Central Government and the State Government. The Government shall, however, bear its share of loss incurred in the market intervention operation up to an extent of 25% of the procurement cost or actual loss whichever is less.
- (vii) Fair Average Quality (FAQ) only will be procured under the scheme.
- (viii) Purchase centres/areas will be decided by the procuring agency in consultation with the U.T. Government.
- (ix) The stocks will be purchased from the Cooperative Societies, farmers organizations or directly from the farmers to eliminate the possibility of middleman taking advantage of the scheme.
- (x) The procured stocks will be disposed of in the open market. If necessary this can also be sold to processing unit within the U.T.
- (xi) The procuring agency will furnish the audited accounts to this Department through U.T. Government within the period of three months of the completion of the MIS operation.
- (xii) In order to avoid recycling, the stock should not be sold in the same U.T. from where it has been

procured till duration of MIS. However, if the prices are better it can also be sold locally also.

(xiii) The procuring agency/agencies will be required to submit expenditure statements on standardized formats for reporting expenses incurred on procurement, carrying and disposal.

(xiv) The U.T. Government/U.T. designated agency may furnish weekly reports indicating purchases made under the scheme and the ruling market prices to this Department regularly.

(xv) Under normal MIS, NAFED is paid 1.5% service charges on procurement value of the non-perishable commodities. However, in this operation, the actual operation being handled by the agency/agencies of the A and N Administration. The NAFED would be supervising/ coordinating and helping in disposal of the stock. Thus, NAFED would be paid service charges @ 0.5% of the procurement value.

Sd/-

(P. Sampath)

Dy. Director (Cooperation)

Copy to :

1. Resident Commissioner, Government of A and N Administration, Veer Tikendarajeet Marg, 12, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.
2. Managing Director, NAFED, Sidhartha Enclave, Ashram Chowk, New Delhi.

Copy also to :

1. PS to AM/MOS(A)
2. Sr. PPS to Secretary (A and C)
3. PPS to Special Secretary
4. PPS to AS(M)/JS(Coopn.)/ESA/Horticulture Commissioner
5. PS to AS and FA with reference to their diary No. 1636/FA/2002 dated 7.8.2002.

Investment In Pawan Hans

4047. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning a series of major investments to strengthen Pawan Hans Helicopter Operation including operations abroad;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Pawan Hans Hub in Karnataka for southern operations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to become operational ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Market Development Assistance for Coir Products

4048. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States including Kerala has introduced a scheme for giving Market Development Assistance for Coir and Coir Products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme so far, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government intend to help the lower income group workers of coir sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the name of States who have requested for additional allocation of funds alongwith the extent of assistance provided to them by the Government, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are implementing the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme introduced by the Coir board.

(b) The Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme introduced with effect from 2000-01 provides financial assistance to the Apex Cooperative Societies, Central Cooperative Societies, Primary Cooperative Societies, Public Sector Enterprises in the Coir industry and the Showroom and Sales Depots of the Coir Board.

The MDA is granted at the rate of 10% of their average annual sales turn over of coir products including coir yarn and rubberized coir goods during the preceding three financial years. This assistance is shared on 1:1 basis between the Central Government and the concerned State/ Union Territory Government.

(c) Details regarding number of beneficiaries State-wise are as follows :—

Kerala

Mats and Matting Societies	8 Nos.
Coir Primary Societies	327 Nos.
Primary Coir Cooperative Societies	53 Nos.

Tamil Nadu

Coir Industrial Societies 55 nos.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Market Development Assistance ultimately benefits the Lower Income Group workers of coir sector. Moreover, under the Mahila Coir Yojana and the Development of Brown Sector Schemes, assistance is also provided to Lower Income Group workers.

(f) The State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have requested for additional allocation of funds. The details showing their claims and the assistance provided to them are given below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2000-01			2001-02		
	Claims received	MDA earmarked	MDA released	Claims received	MDA earmarked	MDA released
Kerala	89.35	80.00	80.00	366.79	100.00	60.00
Tamil Nadu	38.55	30.00	30.00	37.39	25.00	25.00
Karnataka	36.26	25.00	—	42.32	25.00	—

Environment Health Management Plan

4049.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to develop an environment health management plan for the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments are proposed to be involved in implementing the said plan; and

(d) if so, the details indicating the steps taken in the matter, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Alloy Steel, Plant, Durgapur

4050.SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials from Jindal Group visited the Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur to assess ASP's property;

(b) whether the Jindal Group propose to buy ASP;

(c) if so, whether Jindal Group was the only bidder for Salem, Steel Plant and to ensure an integrated pattern of plant they need to install equipment from ASP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Officials from Jindal Group visited the Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur but not to assess ASP's property.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***ATM in Palace on Wheel in Maharashtra**

4051. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to install A.T.M. in 'Palace on Wheels' in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licences to Photographers

4052. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government issued licence to photographers for photography inside the Taj;

(b) if so, the details of the eligibility criteria fixed for the issue of licence;

(c) the number of photographers who applied for the licence and the number who were subsequently issued the licence;

(d) the details of eligibility condition fulfilled by the successful photographers;

(e) the number of the successful candidates who have been practising photography for over two years;

(f) whether any irregularities have been reported in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken against those found guilty ?

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

(b) According to the erstwhile applicable eligibility criteria, the applicant should have been a citizen of India, and a major; owning reputed photo-studio well equipped with photography infrastructure and running over 5 years; not located within 200 Meters from Taj Mahal but situated in Agra district; and having no dues of Sales Tax and Income Tax outstanding, etc.

The Government has now decided to revise the above eligibility criteria with effect from 1st January, 2003, and remove the condition of owning of Photo-studio; and grant licences to anybody fulfilling the revised criteria, for a period of three years, on payment of licence fee of Rs. 500/- but licence may be cancelled in case of violation of terms and conditions of licence.

(c) About 376 applications had been received, and after scrutiny, about 120 persons had been issued licences. However, under the new system which will come into effect from 1st January, 2003, anybody fulfilling the new terms and conditions will be able to get a licence straightway.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

*[English]***Flight from Amritsar to Metros**

4053. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that there is no direct flight available from Amritsar to other metro cities at present;

(b) if so, whether the Government is actively considering to start direct flights linking Amritsar with other metro cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines links Amritsar with Delhi. According to Indian Airlines estimates, there is not sufficient traffic potential from Amritsar to other metros, viz. Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata etc., to start direct flights.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Decline in Production of Fish in Gujarat

4054. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the production of fish in Gujarat during the last two years;

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

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase fish

production particularly in Saurashtra and Kutch region in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to augment fish production, specially in Saurashtra and Kutch region in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The fish production declined in 2000-01 over 1999-2000 due to low rainfall during monsoon as indicated below :

	(Lakh Metric Tonnes)
1999-2000	7.40
2000-2001	6.61
2001-2002	7.02

(c) Yes. In Deep Sea Area.

(d) The following major steps have been taken to augment fish production :

- (i) Development of infrastructure
 - Construction of Jakhau Harbour
 - Planning of construction of Okha and Dholai Fisheries Harbour
- (ii) Enforcement of ban on fishing from 10th June to 15th August, 2002.
- (iii) Sales Tax subsidy on diesel used for fishing.
- (iv) Subsidy on nets and boats.
- (v) Welfare schemes for fishermen.

Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited

4055.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees working in each unit of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) as on October 1, 2002;

(b) the period for which they have not been paid in different units as on October 1, 2002, Unit-wise;

(c) the value of work executed last year and the same in hand at present, unit-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to make the concern viable and ensure regular payment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) The number of employees working in each unit of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) and the period for which they have not been paid as on October 1st, 2002 is given in the Statement. Unit-wise value of work executed last year and the same in hand, at present, is also indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(d) To make the concern viable the Government has extended support to the company's effort to reduce its workforce and contain its manpower costs. This support is in the form of Government of India guarantee for raising Rs. 250 crores from banks to fund VRS in the company. Government has also released an amount of Rs. 89.44 crores to HSCL in March 2002 towards payment of outstanding dues to its employees.

Statement

Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited

(Rs. in lakhs)

Unit	No. of employees	Payment due since	Turnover 2001-02	Balance work on 1.12.2002
1	2	3	4	5
Kolkata Office	38	June, 02 (4)	218	–
Delhi	24	January, 02 (9)	1032	1073
Bokaro	2565	June, 00 (28)	2292	823

1	2	3	4	5
Bhilai	1592	August, 00 (26)	2754	541
Durgapur	59	July, 99 (35) (excluding August to November, 01)	96	125
Rourkela	61	June, 01 (16)	148	315
Vizag	375	August, 02 (2)	5949	2319
Ranchi	72	June, 02 (4)	2548	4787
Duburi	55	July, 02 (3)	607	1079
Kolkata (Projects)	34	June, 02 (4)	1137	819
Unchahar Zone	82	July, 02 (3)	1345	2420
Hyderabad	29	August, 02 (2)	984	3866
Karnataka	27	August, 02 (2)	2349	3385
Kerala	11	January, 02 (9)	163	2014
Chennai	15	August, 02 (2)	662	1233
Bolani	4	October, 99 (36)	0.90	Nil
Talcher	36	Nil	1966	3179
Patna	36	August, 02 (2)	659	2974
Korba	17	August, 00 (26)	102	32
Bhopal	11	Nil	590	1531
Mumbai	1	May, 01 (17)	14	45
Total	5144		25616	32560

Brackets indicate number of outstanding monthths.

Poaching and Export of Leopards

4056.SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Forest Departments have allowed hunting of leopards;

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

(c) the number of leopards killed during the last two years and thereafter;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to export the leopards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Decline in Water Table in Rajasthan

4057.COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan to tackle fast depleting water table in the State by restoration of Traditional Water Sources and water harvesting structure;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to establish any scheme on the pattern of "Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana or Prime Minister Rural Employment Scheme" and provide necessary funds to the State required for water harvesting structure in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the time by which such a scheme would be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources has received one proposal from the Government of Rajasthan on rain water harvesting to raise the level of ground water in Rajasthan. At present, the CGWB has no Scheme under which funds could be provided to the State Government of Rajasthan for implementation of the proposal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of Veal in Hotels

4058. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite ban on the production of Veal in the country all the Five star hotels are selling it openly;

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

(c) the action taken proposed to be taken against these hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) the subject of ban on production of Veal, and its enforcement lies in the purview of the State Governments. As for the sale of Veal by Five Star Hotels in the country, there is no such information as per available records.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

4059. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any all around development plan for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) In March, 1999 the State Government of Andhra Pradesh sought the following dispensations from the Government of India, for RINL (VSP) :

- (i) Set-off the accumulated losses
- (ii) Approval of capacity expansion
- (iii) Provision of Government Guarantee for raising funds, and
- (iv) Extension of Government Guarantee for working capital loan.

A detailed proposal containing the above suggestions was under consideration of the Government at that time. However, after examination, it was not found viable. In the meantime, the Disinvestment Commission recommended writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. A turn around proposal which inter-alia includes the following is under consideration of the Government.

- (1) Writing off of accumulated losses.
- (2) To extend Government of India Guarantee for working capital limit of Rs. 500 crores and providing/extending GOI Guarantee in favour of existing lenders till disinvestment takes place.
- (3) Subsequent disinvestment of 51% of its shares from the President of India to a strategic partner/ buyer.

As efforts towards a consensus between State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of

India is going on, no final decision has been taken in the matter.

[Translation]

**Re-employment of Retired Officers
on Deputation**

4060. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees and officers are taken on deputation basis by Alliance Air from other departments, Airlines;

(b) if so, the number of officers/employees on deputation in Alliance who have been employed in this manner after their retirement; and

(c) the details in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c) A total of 49 employees have been appointed on contract by Alliance Air after their retirement of which 42 are technical personnel and 7 non-technical.

[English]

Production and Export of Coir

4061. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether removal of MEP fixed earlier for exports of coir products have achieved any results in improving exports and production of coir products;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) whether the Government intend to introduce the same to encourage the production and export of coir products and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of production/export of Coir and Coir products are as follows which indicate improvement in Production and exports of coir and coir products :

Year	Production of Coir fibre (in M.T.)	Exports of Coir and Coir products (Qty. in M.T.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	3,64,000	67493.08	313.66
2001-02	3,75,000	71334.81	320.58
2002-03	3,90,000*	81000.00*	450.00*

*Target

(c) The decision of abolition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) was taken in the larger interest of the coir industry after due consideration of various issues involved.

[Translation]

Promotion of Herbal and Medicinal Plants

4062. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the programmes being implemented by the Government for the promotion of herbal and medicinal plants;

(b) the names of the research institutions working for the purpose in the country;

(c) the percentage of production last year;

(d) whether the Government are running any training programme in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) The following programmes are being implemented by the Government of India for the promotion of herbal and medicinal plants :

1. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/ Complementmentation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme the State Governments can prioritise their activities as per the felt needs and requirement among various programmes.

including development of medicinal and aromatic plants.

2. The Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (DISMH) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the following schemes :

- (i) Central Scheme for development and cultivation of Medicinal Plants.
- (ii) Central Scheme for development of Agro-techniques and cultivation of Medicinal Plants.

Besides, the DISMH have constituted a National Medicinal Plant Board for overseeing the development of medicinal plants, which is implementing various programmes for the development of medicinal plants.

(b) The names of the research institutions working for providing research support for the development of medicinal and aromatic plants is given in the Statement.

(c) No estimates are available about the production of herbal and medicinal plants during the last year.

(d) and (e) The Government is providing training to the farmers for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants under the Macro Management scheme. During the year 2001-02, 75 training programmes were organised and 5460 farmers were trained. Besides, the National Medicinal Plants Board has sanctioned 23 projects for training officials/growers/collectors and other stake holders in the medicinal plants sector during 2001-02.

Statement

List of Research Institutes engaged in Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

(Para (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question No. 4062 for 16.12.20002)

A. Institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

1. National Research Centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand, Gujarat

Under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants under the ICAR, research

on medicinal plants are being carried out at the following research centres :

- (i) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi
- (ii) Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand (Gujarat).
- (iii) C.C.S., Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar (Haryana).
- (iv) Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (HP).
- (v) Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore (Karnataka).
- (vi) College of Agriculture, Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV), Indore (MP)
- (vii) College of Agriculture, Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, (JNKVV), Mandsaur (MP).
- (viii) Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishawvidyalaya, Aola, (Maharashtra).
- (ix) Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, (Rajasthan)
- (x) N.D. University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad (U.P.)
- (xi) Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikara (Kerala).

B. Other Organisations

1. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow
2. National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow
3. Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu
4. Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneshwar
5. Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat
6. Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT), Palampur
7. Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore
8. National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune and
9. Central Drug Research Laboratory (CDRI), Lucknow.

10. National Bureau on Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) New Delhi
11. Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram
12. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora, Uttaranchal

[English]

Linking of Peninsular Rivers by Canals

4063. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Governments of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for linking the peninsular rivers by canals;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component.

Assistance to Agricultural Universities

4064. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the projects/schemes/programmes of agricultural universities and technological universities funded by ICAR and the Union Government in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have set up any task force for evaluating the achievements; and

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

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

[Translation]

Paddy Production

4065. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of paddy in the country has declined this year in comparison to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy in order to increase the production of paddy in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rice production has declined due to adverse climatic conditions particularly rainfall during Kharif – 2002.

(c) and (d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereal Based Cropping System Areas were under implementation for increasing production and productivity of Cereals including rice the country. However, since October 2000, the above schemes have been subsumed under Macro-Management Mode of Agriculture to give more flexibility to States and implement the programmes on the basis of States priority and requirements.

Besides above, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "On-Farm Water Management Scheme for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India is also in operation since 2002 for increasing production crops including rice. Under this

scheme, farmers are being assisted for construction of dug wells, tubewells, lift irrigation points and use of pumping sets.

[English]

Development of Tuna

4066. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for according permission for a proposed joint venture for development of Tuna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to enter into an agreement for a joint venture tuna project with M/s World Tuna Development International Inc., (WTDI), USA, under which the Andhra Pradesh Government is to import 12 tuna longliners. In the meantime, details Guidelines for fishing operations in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has been finalised by the Government. In view of above and the proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, certain further clarifications have been sought from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Import of Seeds

4067. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have to import seeds of improved variety in order to meet their shortage;

(b) if so, the total number of the varieties of seeds imported during the last three years and the amount spent thereon, separately and year-wise; and

(c) the details of distribution of those seeds to various States/Union Territories ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[Translation]

ALMS – Bowl of Buddha

4068. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the article written by the former Chief Secretary of Bihar on the alms-bowl of Lord Buddha;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to bring back the alms bowl of Lord Buddha to Vaishali ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the article written by Dr. S.V. Sohoni, the former Chief Secretary of Bihar, which appeared in the "Bodhi Chakra" (pages-107 to 110) in 1994, on the alms bowl of Lord Buddha. However, there is no corroborative archaeological evidence to substantiate the presumption that the alms bowl at Kandhar is the same given by Buddha to the people of Vaishali.

(c) The Government has no proposal to bring back the alms bowl of Lord Buddha to India unless it is proved through archaeological evidence that the alms bowl at Kandhar is the same one given by Lord Buddha to the people of Vaishali.

[English]

Dugda Drainage Project

4069. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dugda Basin Drainage project is still to be implemented;

(b) if so, whether a small river Kudi Was meant to be diverted through a different channel as a part of the scheme and has not been done; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) As per the information furnished by the Government of West Bengal, Dubda (Dugda) Basin Drainage Scheme has already been implemented. The period of execution was from 1971-72 to 1982-83. The completion report of the scheme was furnished in 1988-89.

(b) The Government of West Bengal has informed that the Kudi Khal alongwith Negua Khal were primarily responsible for the floods in Dubda basin. In the Dubda Basin Drainage Scheme, Kudi Khal was diverted by excavating Kudi diversion channel which was designed to accommodate the entire field run off of Kudi catchment area (136 sq. km.), which is a sub-basin of Dubda basin. The off take of Kudi diversion channel started from southern end of Kudi at the crossing of Kudi Khal with Egra-Mohanpur road with a design discharge of 106.55 cumecs (3760 cusecs)

(c) The diversion channel of river Kudi was actually excavated and it got silted up over the years. A scheme costing Rs. 237.00 lakh has been prepared by the State Government of West Bengal for posing before NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund VIII. Upon sanction of the scheme by NABARD, the State Government of West Bengal proposes to complete the same within three years.

Air Polluting Industries in Kerala

4070. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that pollution level in the air of Eloor and Ambalamedu in Ernakulam of Kerala is above the permissible limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any facility for regular check-up of Air Pollution quantity in the Industrial belt of the said area;

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

(e) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has received any complaints regarding the air pollution caused by Carbon Chemical Factory at Karimugal in Ernakulam;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken to provide regular check-up facility for air pollution in the said district ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (g) Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with the Kerala State Pollution Control Board has set up ambient air quality monitoring stations at Eloor and Ernakulam for regular ambient air quality monitoring. The results indicate that the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are within the national ambient air quality standards whereas, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) are exceeding the stipulated norms. Central Pollution Control Board has received one complaint regarding the pollution caused by the Phillips Carbon Black Ltd., which was referred to Kerala State Pollution Control Board for immediate necessary action. The Board has issued series of directions to the industry and the case is sub-judice.

Yatri Niwas in Towns

4071. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up "Yatri Niwas" in various small towns of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocations made for the purpose during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India had a scheme in Ninth Plan to provide financial assistance every year to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for Construction of Yatri Niwas in the country identified in consultation with them. During the last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02, 29 Yatri Niwas were sanctioned in various States involving an amount of Rs. 12.01 crores and an amount of Rs. 4.64 crores has been released.

In the Tenth Plan, Construction of Yatri Niwas is proposed to be covered under the new schemes (i) Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits and (ii) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

Private Operators to use Appropriate Aircraft

4072. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals regarding allowing private operators to dictate air service needs and to choose appropriate aircraft to match payload and sector distance requirements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) As per the extant Air Transport Policy, choice of the aircraft type and size has been left to the air service operators. Further, operators are free to operate to any station in India subject to compliance of the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Livestock Diseases

4073.(PROF.) UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought international assistance to tackle the various diseases affecting cattle population;

(b) the names of the States where the problem is most endemic and prevalent to the equal of a calamity;

(c) whether the Government have set up a task force to tackle this problem;

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to curb the diseases affecting livestock all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPPE) scheme, a sum of Rs. 21.86 crore was received from European Union (EU).

(b) Rinderpest is not present in any State of the Country at present. The whole country is provisionally free with effect from 1st March, 1998.

(c) No, Sir. At Government of India level, the scheme is monitored by Central Project Monitoring Unit and in the States/Union Territories, staff of the Directorates of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services implements the scheme.

(d) Funds allocated under National Project on Rinderpest Eradication during 8th, 9th and 10th Plan are indicated below :

(Rs. Crores)

Plan	Funds Allocated
8th Plan	59.06
9th Plan	39.71
10th Plan (Proposed)	40.00

(e) For controlling the animal diseases, the Government of India provides funds to the States and Union Territories for two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. (i) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication and (ii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

Illegal Employment

4074.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bonafide candidates through Employment Exchange are denied employment opportunity in the Ministry;

(b) whether any recruitment norms have been violated;

(c) whether the Minister received any representation from the elected representatives of West Bengal in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) All the Ministries/Departments are required to follow recruitment norms laid down by the Department of Personnel and Training and no such violation has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Sea Wall in Kerala

4075.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government regarding construction of sea wall, in the State, especially in Kasaragod and Kannur districts of Kerala for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A revised proposal amounting to Rs. 267.50 crore was received from the Government of Kerala for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project for construction of new sea walls, reformation works and groins in the State including the districts of Kasaragod and Kannur. This was examined in Central Water Commission and comments have been sent to State Government in June, 2002, reply to which is awaited. Further, a scheme amounting to Rs. 3.00 crore was also received from the State Government, which is under examination for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Development of Fatehpur Sikri

4076. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India directed the ASI in 2001 to develop Fatehpur Sikri as heritage city in consultation with Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation has been held with Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or being taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court as per its order dated 13.12.2000 has asked Archaeological Survey of India to develop Fatehpur Sikri as a heritage city and directed the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to render all assistance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Director General alongwith officials of the Archaeological Survey of India held a meeting with the

Chief Secretary which was followed by two more meetings with the Commissioner, Agra Division, Vice-Chairman, Agra Development Authority. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture himself visited the site for on the spot-study on August 23-24, 2002, and held detailed discussion with the representatives of State Government and other local agencies concerned. HUDCO has been appointed as a consultant and a comprehensive plan is being prepared on the basis of which the entire complex of Fatehpur Sikri would be improved and converted into a tourism-cum-cultural hub.

Review of ICAR

4077. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a six member committee to review the administrative structure of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, to what extent this panel has been able to examine the ICAR functioning;

(c) the main recommendations made in this regard; and

(d) the extent of which they have been implemented ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The committee has completed its examination of the ICAR's functioning and is in the process of preparation of the report.

(c) and (d) The Committee is yet to submit its report.

Chennai-Salem and Bangalore-Salem Air Service

4078. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to start air services between Chennai-Salem and Bangalore-Salem by Alliance Airlines;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the feasibility;

- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard ?

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

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, according to Indian Airlines' estimate, the level of traffic from Salem is not sufficient for viable operations with Jet type of aircraft available in Indian Airlines' fleet. The Turboprop type of aircraft in Indian Airlines' fleet is currently fully committed in operation of services to Lakshadweep. Due to non-availability of suitable smaller size aircraft, Indian Airlines is not in a position to operate services to Salem.

Trust for Library Association

4079.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the file relating to constitution of Trust to administer the fund of rupees one crore twenty lakhs saved from the International Federation of Library Association has been misplaced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to constitute the trust ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir, the file has not been misplaced.

(b) Not applicable, in light of the reply to section (a); and

(c) Though it was proposed to constitute a Trust by the Department of Culture, it has not yet been set up. Government will take a view in this matter after taking into account all the aspects.

PF Loan

4080.SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PF loan applications that have been sanctioned during the period June to October, 2002;

(b) whether the Government/Air India has received complaints about non payment of loans to employees after the present Director of Finance took charge; and

(c) if so, the action taken to remove the grievances of the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The number of PF loan applications that have been sanctioned during June to October, 2002 is 833.

(b) and (c) Complaints are received and redressed on a regular basis. No serious complaint has been received by the Government.

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Countries to Promote Tourism

4081.SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sign any bilateral agreements with 12 countries for mutual co-operation to promote tourism by 2020; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries and the details of the agreements signed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Tourism, Government of India is in the process of examining Tourism Cooperation agreements to be signed with 12 countries namely Japan, Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, China, France, Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany and United Arab Emirates.

[English]

Contamination of Sea-Coastal Water

4082.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a two-year study of shrimp samples from off coastal water along Sassoon Dock, Ferry Wharf and Bhayander, in Mumbai wherein it has been revealed that 15000 to 20000 tonnes of Mumbai's daily sea-food supply have tested to be containing heavy toxic deposits of lead and cadmium metals harmful for human consumption; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent such high contamination of sea-coastal waters by factory effluents

and to protect the consumer of the harmful effects of consumption of such shrimps of different varieties and other contaminated sea foods ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) According to the information received from Institute of Science, Mumbai such a study has been carried out by them.

(b) In recognition of the need to prevent environmental pollution of coastal waters from industrial effluents and potential contamination of sea-foods, the Government has already initiated several steps which inter-alia include :

- (i) Implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 (as amended from time to time) which prohibits setting-up of industries in Coastal Regulation Zone area, as well as prevent discharge of untreated effluents into the inland water bodies and coastal waters.
- (ii) Stipulations of 'standards' for discharge of industrial effluents in river and marine waters.
- (iii) Setting-up of common effluent treatment plants and hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities.

Setting up of New Godowns in Maharashtra

4083.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from the Government of Maharashtra to set up 500 new godowns in the State to tackle the problems of storage of agriculture produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Renovation/Expansion of Rural Godowns through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Maharashtra State

Agriculture Marketing Board, the nodal agency identified by Government of Maharashtra for implementation of the Rural Godown Scheme in the State has received 1464 proposal (1419 for new and 45 for renovation) for creation of storage capacity of 10.36 lakh MT (9.26 lakh MT for new and 1.10 lakh for renovation). NABARD has not received any request from Government of Maharashtra to set up 500 new Godowns in the State.

(c) Central assistance for the proposed godowns will be provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in accordance with the guidelines prescribed under the Scheme.

[Translation]

Creation of Posts

4084.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether six posts of Deputy Chief Executive Officers were created in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the year 1990-91 and 1991-92 without the approval of the Government;

(b) if so, the amount misutilised on the pay and other facilities provided to these officers;

(c) whether these posts still exist without approval of the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government are likely to fix responsibility of creating the said unauthorized posts and incurring wasteful expenditure and take action against the guilty officers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) 5 posts of Deputy Chief Executive Officer were created in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the year 1990-91 and 1991-92 without the approval of the Government.

(b) Information is being collected from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) 5 posts of Deputy Chief Executive Officer have been abolished in August, 2002. The Chief Executive

Officer, KVIC has been asked to examine the matter and submit a report to the Government. Further necessary action shall be taken thereafter.

Expenditure on ICAR

4085.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on agricultural research in Bihar by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether new variety crops have been developed to increase foodgrain production in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of new crops varieties of food crops developed and released for Bihar State during the last three years are as under :

Crops	Varieties
Rice	6201 (PA 103), Pant Dhan-16, Krishna Hamsa
Wheat	Malviya Wheat (HUW 468), PBW 443, HD 2733, KRL-19, HW 2045, HUW 533, PBW 343
Maize	Prakash, PAC 738, Shaktiman-1, Shaktiman-2, Seedtech 2324
Barley	Ritambhara, Haritima, RD 2552, K 603
Small Millet	Little Millet – Tarini, Barnyard Millet – VL Madira-181, Kodo Millet – KOLAB
Chickpea	Pusa 1003 (Kabuli), Gujarat Gram-4, HK 94-134 (Kabuli), GCP 105
Fieldpea	Swati (KFPD 24), HUDP-15 (Malviya Mattar-15), DDR-23 (Pusa Prabhat)
Urdbean	KU 92-1 (Azad Urd-1), IPU 94-1, RBU 38 (Brakha)

Statement

The Expenditure Incurred on Agricultural Research Projects/Schemes in Bihar

(Rs. in Lakh)

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Fund Allocated	Expendi- ture	Fund Allocated	Expendi- ture	Fund Allocated	Expendi- ture
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. AICRP on Rice	24.34	24.34	23.57	23.57	30.84	26.99
2. AICRP on Maize	16.10	16.10	24.58	21.40	18.33	15.00
3. AICRP on small Millet	7.33	7.27	6.53	5.85	6.98	6.86
4. AICRP on Wheat	2.91	2.61	6.51	6.26	6.26	6.26
5. AICRP on Pigeonpea	20.74	20.74	25.65	25.65	25.65	25.47
6. AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard	9.19	9.19	10.50	10.50	7.82	7.82
7. AICRP on sugarcane	6.63	6.63	9.60	9.60	12.30	12.30
8. AICRP on Jute and Allied Fibres	5.69	5.69	6.89	6.89	12.19	12.19
9. NSP (Crops) – Breeder Seed Production	6.44	6.19	6.59	6.19	13.44	3.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. AICRP on Honey bee Res.	2.05	2.05	2.57	2.57	6.26	3.11
11. AINP on Agriculture Acarology	1.69	1.69	0.85	0.85	0.00	0.00
12. AICRP on Nematodes	1.03	1.03	0.51	0.51	0.00	0.00
13. AICRP on pesticide Resi.	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.72	3.72
14. Sugarcane Breeding Inst.	6.87	6.87	9.20	9.20	29.67	29.67
15. Central Tobacco Research Institute Regn. Station	44.26	44.26	48.36	48.36	50.07	50.07
16. Indian Agricultural Research Institute Regional Station	12.37	12.37	63.77	63.77	12.98	12.98
17. NSP Crops – Seed Technology Research	8.83	7.71	8.83	8.83	9.22	9.22
18. Directorate of Water Management Research	210.00	209.91	140.00	139.27	100.00	99.64
19. ICAR Res. Complex for Eastern Region					14.00	14.00
20. AICRP on Ground Water Utilisation	60.00	59.94	30.01	30.01	75.00	60.18
21. AICRP on Soil test Crop Response	7.50	7.50	9.64	9.64	8.51	8.51
22. AICRP on Microbiological Decomposition	6.54	6.54	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60
23. AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments	4.02	4.02	3.75	3.75	4.35	4.35
24. AICRP on Micro and Secondary Nutrient Soil Pollutants	11.25	11.25	10.35	10.35	12.52	12.52
25. AICRP on Soil Physical condition	10.39	10.39	14.96	14.96	10.94	10.94
26. AICRP on Agroforestry	5.00	5.00	5.20	5.20	6.61	6.61
27. AICRP on Water Mangement	9.15	9.15	10.54	10.54	10.16	10.16
28. AICRP on Agrometeorology	2.87	2.87	2.56	2.56	3.57	3.57
29. AICRP on Weed Control	6.83	6.83	2.00	2.00	6.01	6.01
30. AICRP on Diaraland	5.90	5.90	6.50	6.50	8.52	8.52
31. AICRP on Cropping System Research	7.19	7.19	6.25	6.25	7.73	7.73
32. National Agriculture Technology Project	106.75	68.48	139.49	59.03	85.41	47.15
Total	633.49	593.34	645.99	560.29	605.66	531.15

AICRP – All India Coordinated Research Project

NSP – National Seed Project

AINP – All India Network Project

*[English]***ESIC Pensioners Association**

4086. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from "Employees State Insurance Corporation Pensioners" Association regarding medical allowance to pensioners in Mumbai; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has received representation from ESIC Pensioner's Association, Mumbai, regarding payment of medical allowance in Mumbai.

The Pensioner's Association, Mumbai has requested for payment of fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month in lieu of OPD treatment. The ESI Corporation has adopted the scheme of Government of India for drawal of fixed medical allowance @ Rs. 100/- per month in lieu of OPD treatment in areas not covered by CGHS Dispensaries, in respect of ESIC Pensioners. Necessary instructions with regard to payment of fixed medical allowance @ Rs. 100/- per month have been issued. These instructions are applicable to those ESI Corporation pensioners who are residing in an area where no ESI Dispensaries/ESI Hospitals are available. Since, ESI Dispensaries/Hospitals are set up and functioning from Mumbai, the scheme of payment of fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month in lieu of OPD treatment is not applicable to the ESIC pensioners residing in Mumbai. Further, indoor facilities are also available to ESI Corporation Pensioners through ESI Hospitals.

Indo-Bhutan River Commission

4087. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Indo-Bhutan River Commission for flood management in North Bengal;

(b) if so, its terms and conditions; and

(c) the time by when the Commission would submit its report to the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have taken up the matter with the Royal Government of Bhutan relating to the problem of floods created by rivers originating from Bhutan and have proposed to set up a Joint Team of Experts for Flood Forecasting, Prevention and Management with the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources and concerned State Governments. The response of the Bhutanese side to the proposal is awaited.

*[Translation]***Provident Fund Adalat**

4088. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether "PF Adalat" are in operation in various PF Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in the payment of provident fund in the country particularly in PF offices of Uttar Pradesh;

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

(e) The steps taken by the Government for disposing such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats are organized at all Regional/Sub-Regional/Sub-Accounts Offices for redressal of grievances of the members of Provident Fund. The Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats are held on 10th of every month and if 10th happens to be a holiday, these are conducted on the next working day.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement on the number of complaints received during the year 2001-2002, State-wise, is enclosed.

(e) Prompt and quick action is taken for disposal of the grievances received in Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats.

Facilitation centres have also been set up in all the offices to assist the members and educate them for filing the claims. Besides, grievances are also monitored by the head office of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation on a regular basis.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Region	No. of grievances registered before the Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat during the year 2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300
2.	Bihar	91
3.	Delhi	20
4.	Gujarat	282
5.	Haryana	144
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6
7.	Karnataka	355
8.	Kerala	179
9.	Madhya Pradesh	44
10.	Maharashtra	266
11.	North East Region	12
12.	Orissa	446
13.	Punjab	198
14.	Rajasthan	130
15.	Tamil Nadu	1309
16.	Uttar Pradesh	411
17.	West Bengal	168
18.	Uttranchal	5
19.	Goa	10
20.	Jharkhand	8
21.	Chhattisgarh	10
Total		4394

[English]

Security Check for Forged Documents

4089. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India security staff at IGI airport check documents of passengers travelling on Air India flights and other airlines;

(b) if so, the procedure for checking documents;

(c) whether Air India security put any acknowledgement stamp after checking the documents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of passengers during the last three years who travelled on forged documents; and

(g) the action taken against the erring security officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India security staff at IGI Airport check travel documents of the passengers travelling on flights of Air India and Virgin Atlantic Airlines, to ensure the genuineness and validity of the passport and visa.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No acknowledgement stamp is put by Air India security staff since basic responsibility of document checking is of Bureau of Immigration, who are authorised to affix stamp on the passport of the passengers after verifying the genuineness of the passport and visa. Air India security staff check documents as an added precautionary measure.

(f) and (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

National Policy on Barren Land

4090. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate National Policy for barren land management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for formulating a National Policy in this regard; and

(d) the salient features of this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Barren Lands include lands like mountains, deserts etc., which cannot be economically brought under cultivation. At present, there is no National Policy exclusively for barren Land. However, Government of India has formulated a 19 point National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and circulated to all the State Governments for its implementation.

[English]

Loss to Crops by Animals

4091. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to indiscriminate and large scale tree cuttings in the Sagarehwar (Maharashtra) Sanctuary, the animal life is facing danger;

(b) if so, whether hitherto confined deers are now destroying standing crops of the farmers outside the sanctuary as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to combat the same ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Seamless Air Navigation

4092. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed any MoU with ISRO to build a satellite based

augmentation system to support seamless air navigation over the Indian Airspace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above system is likely to be operative ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Airport Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for development of Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) to improve the accuracy, integrity, availability and continuity of Ground Positioning system (GPS) signals to meet stringent Civil Aviation requirement for Air Navigation Services. This system will be jointly implemented by the AAI and ISRO and when in place, it will serve the area between the coverage of Geostationary Navigation Overlay System of Europe (EGNOS) to the West and Multisat Based Augmentation System of Japan (MSAS) to the East. The SBAS system with full operational capability is expected to be in place by 2007.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price

4093. SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy followed for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various agriculture products;

(b) the support price fixed by the Government for agricultural and horticulture products at present, product-wise;

(c) whether there is any resentment at the national level to the said policy of the Government;

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

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to effect changes in the said policy of the Government;

(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) and (b) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), Jute Corporation of India (JCI), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

2. The Government decide on the MSPs for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors

which, in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of support prices.

3. While making its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers a number of important factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers (terms of trade) etc. A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities fixed by the Government in recent years is enclosed.

4. The Government is also implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities on the request of a State/U.T., Government which is ready to bear 50% losses, if any, in its implementation and their proposal for implementing the MIS should be supported with full justification. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when prices tend to fall below economic levels.

(c) to (g) Keeping in view the current economic situation and the factors mentioned in para 3 above, the Government fixes the MSPs of major agricultural commodities each season. Necessary changes in the policy, whenever required, are made.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices (According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Special Drought relief price	(#) increase in MSP 2002-03 over 2001-02
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	455	485	485	5	—
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	—
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5. Ragi			390	415	445	485	485	5	-
6. Wheat			550	580	610	620			
7. Barley			385	430	500	500			
8. Gram			895	1015	1100	1200			
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			
13. Sugarcane@			52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	64.50		2.45(3.9)
14. Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34		1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	-
	H-4		1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	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			
18. Sunflower Seed			1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	10(0.8)
19. Soyabean	Black		705	755	775	795	795	10	-
	Yellow		795	845	865	885	885	10	-
20. Safflower			990	1100	1200	1300			
21. Toria			965	1065	1165	1265			
22. Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)		22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00		1(3.7)
(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)		22.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00		1(3.4)
23. COPRA	Miling		29000	3100	3250	3300	3300		-
(Calender Year)	Ball		3125	3325	3500	3550	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 of masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

*[English]***Fishing Projects in Daman and Diu**

4094. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Union Territory of Daman and Diu for Construction of Fish Aquarium, development of fish landing centre at Ghoghia and fishing harbour at Vanakbara;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details, present status and action taken are as below :

(i) **Development of Fish Aquarium** : The proposal of Daman and Diu on Fisheries Plan Schemes to be implemented during Tenth Five Year Plan including establishment of fish aquarium has been examined and necessary administrative approval has been issued.

(ii) **Development of fish landing centre at Ghoghia** : The proposal submitted by Union Territory of Daman and Diu for construction of fish landing centre at Ghoghia at a cost of Rs. 52.12 lakh was approved in January 1998 and central share amounting to Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been released to the Daman and Diu Administration for taking up the construction works. Based on the directions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore carried out necessary investigations and submitted Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for upgradation of fish landing centre at Ghoghia with additional facilities. On examination of the TEFR, the UT Administration approached the Ministry of Agriculture for inclusion of additional facilities and creation of new posts for management of Auction hall. The UT Administration has been requested to make

in depth assessment for requirement of permanent staff for management of auction hall as it involves substantial expenditure and creation of posts does not come under ambit of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(iii) **Development of fishing harbour at Vanakbara** :

The initial proposal of Union Territory of Daman and Diu for construction of fish landing centre at Vanakbara at a cost of Rs. 43.80 lakhs was approved in January 1998 and the central share amounting to 40.00 lakhs has been released to the Daman and Diu Administration for taking up the construction works. At the directions of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore carried out necessary investigations and submitted Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for upgradation of fish landing centre into a fishing harbour. On examination of these TEFR, the UT Administration had requested the Ministry of Agriculture for inclusion of certain additional facilities such as dredging in creek, basin jetty and a permanent crane of 60 to 70 MT. The UT Administration has been advised to carry out detail hydraulic model studies and forward its findings.

*[Translation]***Smuggling by Staff of IA**

4095. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that smuggling continues unabated with active connivance of the staff of the Indian Airlines and those deployed at the airports;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the Government during the last two years along with the number of employees found involved in these cases;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the guilty officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The number of cases alleging involvement of Indian Airlines employees in smuggling in the last two years i.e. 2000-2002 (till date) is six. 10 employees of Indian Airlines and 4 family members of the employees were involved in these cases.

(c) Indian Airlines Vigilance Department is holding periodic co-ordination meetings with the Customs, Central Bureau of Investigation, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and other Enforcement Agencies to prevent smuggling activities involving Indian Airlines employees.

Discussion with the Station Managers and Airport Authority officials of foreign stations are also held periodically to strengthen measures to prevent smuggling involving Indian Airlines aircraft and employees.

Indian Airlines Fraud Prevention Unit has issued an alert notice dated 11th February, 2001 to all the stations on Indian Airlines network advising them to take necessary measures like thorough rummaging of the aircraft on arrival, maintaining record of the employees authorized to attend the aircraft, periodic surprise inspection by senior officers to check movement of the staff and their duty allocation to prevent smuggling activities.

(d) Appropriate disciplinary action has been taken/ initiated in all the cases in accordance with the Service Rules of Indian Airlines.

[English]

Development of Konark

4096.SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

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

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

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

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

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (h) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Information Hubs for Domestic Service Providers

4097.SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the share of services sector-skilled and unskilled workers in the country's GDP;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to open information hubs for domestic service providers to receive information/knowledge on market access opportunities in other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The share of services sector in the country's GDP for the year 1999-2000 (at current prices) was of the order of 47.8%.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Labour to open information hubs for domestic service providers to receive information/knowledge in market access opportunities in other countries.

Development of Cooperatives in Gujarat

4098.SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has urged the Union Government to develop the cooperatives situated in Saurashtra and Kutch in North Gujarat which were relegated during 1970; 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) and (b) No such proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat to develop the cooperatives situated in Saurashtra and Kutch in North Gujarat. However, under Flood II Project, Saurashtra and Kutch in North Gujarat were covered through Gujarat Dairy Development Corporation Ltd. (a State Government Enterprise). Government of India had disbursed Rs. 17.42 crore to seven districts of Saurashtra and Kutch through National Dairy Development Board under Operation Flood II Project during 1978-85.

Insurance for Workers in Unorganised Sector

4099.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide insurance cover to all the workers engaged in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the workers in the unorganised sector;

(d) if so, whether any time frame has been fixed for providing this facility to the workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in the year 1999-2000, out of the total workforce of 397 million in the country, 369 million are in

the unorganized sector. The Government has launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001' in 50 identified districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. In addition to this, Janshree Bima Yojana is in operation since 2000 to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorganized workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. The Group Insurance Scheme is also available for the beedi and cine workers covered under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and Cine Workers' Welfare Fund.

[Translation]

Contaminated Ground Water

4100.SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether ground water is being contaminated by 'E-waste' in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban its import; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No study has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board in this regard.

(b) and (c) Don't arise.

[English]

Development of Khadi and Village Industries

4101.SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to earmark certain amount in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of Khadi and Village Industries and to increase job opportunities for rural unemployed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have adopted new technology with the assistance of National Institute of

Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Indian Institute of Technology etc. for modernization of Khadi and Village Industries and to cater to the needs of the young generation and to compete with the private sector companies; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the scheme of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target set for the 10th Plan is to generate an additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons with a proposed investment of Rs. 1250 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has opened a Design Centre in collaboration with the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. The NID is also a National Consultant to the KVIC for providing support to strengthen their capabilities for undertaking design projects. The KVIC is also collaborating with IIT, Delhi for revamping the Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, Wardha for strengthening research and development activities in the areas of rural industrialization.

Agriculture Insurance Corporation

4102.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the commodities likely to be covered under Agriculture Insurance Corporation; and

(b) by when the said Corporation is likely to start functioning ?

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

(a) The proposed Agriculture Insurance Company will initially implement the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). NAIS, at present, covers food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual horticultural/commercial crops subject to the availability of past yield data.

(b) General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has informed that the new Company would become operational in the beginning of 2003.

Restoration of Heritage Sites

4103.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether a project for restoration of the heritage site of Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, has been undertaken by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH);

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard indicating the progress so far made;

(c) whether any fresh antiquities have since been recovered in the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of heritage sites taken up by INTACH for restoration in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. (The Central Government have also its own projects that are being executed in Khajuraho).

(b) INTACH has undertaken the work to desilt (1) Prem Sagar, (2) Khajur Sagar and (3) Shiv Sagar apart from conservation of the eastern ghat of Khajur and Shiv Sagar respectively.

(c) and (d) 19 sculptures depicting religious and secular features are reported to have been recovered.

(e) No centrally protected monument is being restored by INTACH in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Production

4104.SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the second largest producer of foodgrains in the World;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether India's share is the least in the world trade in relation to foodgrains;

(d) if so, the extent of India's share in this regard; and

(e) the reasons attributed to India's minimal share ?

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

(b) As per FAO Production Year Book 2000, India ranks second after China in foodgrains production in the World during the year 2000. The foodgrains production in China, India and the World during the year 2000 was 412, 253 and 2104 million tonnes respectively.

(c) to (e) As per FAO Trade Year Book 1999, India's percentage share in world trade in respect of cereals and pulses during the year 1999 are given in the table below :

Item	Cereals		Pulses	
	Import	Export	Import	Export
%Share in world	Negligible	0.1%	8.8%	1.6%

While India is a net exporter of cereals it is a net importer of pulses. The share of a country in world trade depends on a number of factors like domestic demand and supply position, domestic prices, international demand and supply position, international prices, etc.

[English]

Trivandrum-Gulf Flight

4105.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Jumbo Jet flight for Gulf sector on permanent basis particularly, Dubai;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to operate flight on Trivandrum-Jeddah sector in view of heavy traffic due to Haj pilgrimage;

(c) if so, whether any study has been conducted to operate flight on Trivandrum-New York sector also; and

(d) if so, the time by which the above flights are likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Air India is already operating 15 flights to Gulf with 747 aircraft out of which 3 flights are for Abu Dhabi/Dubai sector.

(b) During Haj pilgrimage, 20 flights will be operated from Kozhikode to Jeddah to cater to the Haj pilgrims. In addition, 11 flights will operate from Kochi to Jeddah to cater to the demand from other South Indian points.

(c) and (d) Air India operates 13 flights a week from India to USA. These flights originate from Mumbai. Feeder flights from various points of India such as Ahmedabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore are operated to connect the outgoing and incoming from Mumbai and Delhi to USA.

Case against AI Official

4106.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards news-item captioned "A-I chief in Rs. 1 lakh perk-up" appearing in the Asian Age dated August 29, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, whether any complaints have been received regarding unlawful activities of the Air India's officiating Managing Director; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It has been alleged in the report that Shri Gogoi, Off. Managing Director, Air India continues to draw Productivity Linked Incentive applicable to Engineering cadre despite being promoted to Dy. Managing Director from the post of Director Engineering. Air India has stated that since Shri Gogoi continues to oversee the Engineering services of Air India as "Accountable Manager" to ensure compliance with the requirement of Joint Aviation Authority and Civil Aviation Authority, he is eligible to receive PLI as per company rules. There is no other complaints against Shri Gogoi.

[Translation]

**Development of Horticulture
in Jharkhand**

4107. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the development of horticulture in Jharkhand during 2002-03;

(b) the steps taken to make the horticulture related institute in Ranchi a full fledged institute;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify areas where horticulture products can be grown to derive maximum benefit therefrom; and

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

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

(a) During 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 12.00 crores have been allocated to Jharkhand under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme the State Government can prioritize their activity as per their felt needs including activities for development of Horticulture.

(b) Presently there is no proposal to make the horticulture related institute in Ranchi to a full fledged institute.

(c) and (d) No specific survey has been conducted to identify areas where horticulture products can be grown. However, programmes for development of horticulture are taken up after assessing the potential of the area.

Economic Condition of Agricultural Sector

4108. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has analysed the economic conditions of the working labourers in agricultural sector in the country after globalisation;

(b) if so, the average number of working days of these agricultural labourers annually during 1990-91 and the total number of working days these labourers had got employment during 2000-2001; and

(c) the average annual income during the above mentioned period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force are obtained from quinquennial National Sample Survey Organisation. As per the surveys carried out by them during 1999-94 and 1999-2000, the percentage of workers engaged in agriculture was around 65% and 60% respectively. Out of the total of 397 million workers in the country in the year 1999-2000 the number of workers who worked less than 183 days in a year was around 3 million. The annual average wage per workers engaged as casual labour was Rs. 7704 in rural areas and Rs. 11748 in urban areas during the year 1999-2000.

The Government has launched various employment oriented schemes like Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana to provide wage employment whenever there is acute shortage of employment such as lean agriculture seasons or drought. Some of the other schemes include Swaranjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc.

[English]

National Dairy Development Board

4109. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has agreed to examine the proposal of providing its vast infrastructure to help small farmers and landless rural workers to do backyard poultry farming in several States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No decision has been taken in this regard so far.

[Translation]

**Pending Application for Setting up
of Steel Plants**

4110.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued for setting up of steel plants during the last three years and number of applications still lying pending; and

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) As per the New Industry Policy announced in 1991 no industrial licence is required for setting up a steel plant barring for certain locations.

One industrial licence was issued for setting up of a steel plant during the last 3 years. One application is pending for issue of industrial licence for setting up a steel plant on which decision will be taken as soon as recommendation of State Government of Maharashtra is received.

[English]

**Market Intervention Scheme for
Potato and Onion**

4111.SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of State Governments particularly Government of Karnataka had conducted Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for Potato and Onion during the Kharif period 1997;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by each of the State Governments for conducting such MIS, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have to share the losses under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the requests of the State Governments for reimbursement of the Central Share are still pending with the Union Government;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to release the Central Share to State Governments ?

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

(a) MIS for Potato and Onion during Kharif 1997 season was implemented in Karnataka only.

(b) to (d) A total loss to the extent of Rs. 3.38 lakh was incurred in procurement of Potato and Onion under MIS during Kharif 1997 season in the State of Karnataka to be shared both by the Central Government and State Government on 50:50 basis.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) As per procedure laid down, the reimbursement of Central Government share would be released to the State Government after approval of the accounts by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance which is seized of the matter.

[Translation]

Tourism Centres

4112.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) the number of tourism centres situated in various States at present, area-wise;

(b) the names of places where new centres have been set up since 2000 and the amount spend on each centre till date; and

(c) the names of places where new centres are proposed to be set up during 2003 and 2004 ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) There are a large number of tourist centres/places in the country which are visited by the tourists both international and domestic. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the tourism projects at the places of tourist interest

identified in consultation with them. During the last two years i.e. 2000-01 and 2001-02, 572 projects were sanctioned involving an amount of Rs. 142.57 crores at the places of tourist interest identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) During the 10th Plan, it has been decided to develop six tourism circuits in the country each year and a major destination in each State/UT each year.

Computer Scam

4113. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inquiry into computer scam that took place in I.C.A.R. has since been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the inquiry is likely to be completed ?

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

(a) The CBI has investigated into two cases alleging irregularities in the purchase of Computers and other equipments under NATP and NARP. The investigation reports reached the ICAR Hqrs. on 8.5.02 and 4.12.02 respectively.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment In Civil Aviation

4114. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government reviewed the investment made in the Civil Aviation sector during the last three years both in public and private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required for execution of approved development projects and the resources mobilised so far;

(d) the details of incentives finalised/under consideration to attract the required private/foreign direct investment in this sector; and

(e) the details of major projects proposed to be taken/completed during the tenth plan period in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance for Exhibitions

4115. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the KVIC has urged State Governments to resume financial assistance for extending higher rates of discount in exhibitions to be held in various States;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether the KVIC propose to adopt cost cutting measures to bring down the selling price of its products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The costing of Khadi products is regulated by a Cost Chart System which is reviewed from time to time and action is taken accordingly. Sliver cost has been reduced by 10%.

Assistance for Development of Tourism in Tamil Nadu

4116. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has sanctioned only Rs. 45 lakhs for development of infrastructure at Courtallam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enhance the assistance to rupees two crore;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Development and promotion of tourist places/centres is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides funds for the identified projects in consultation with them. A project for construction of Tourist Lodge at Courtallam was sanctioned for Rs. 39.30 lakhs.

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each. State/Union Territory for overall development each year. Accordingly Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu has been identified for development under Destination Development Scheme.

Renovation of Monuments

4117. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any comprehensive programme for renovation of 'Faryahbag' Mallicarjun Mandir (Ghotan) and Bahadurgarh (Shrigonda) in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra heritage site at Mandu and Bagh Caves in Dhar;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) the budgetary allocation for these monuments for last three years, monument-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government are aware of poor state of maintenance of "Bhui-Kot Killa" in Ahmednagar and Baldujiv temple at Kenjhargarh and Kichikeshwari temple at Khiching in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj are in urgent need of renovation;

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereon; and

(f) the details thereof and by when they are likely to be undertaken for renovation ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the 10th Five Year Plan the centrally protected monuments at Mandu and Bagh have been included for comprehensive conservation and development.

Conservation of (1) Farabagh Palace, Ahmednagar and (2) Mallikarjuna temple at Ghotan, Maharashtra have also been included in the conservation programme for the year 2002-2003.

Bahadurgarh in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra is not a centrally protected monument of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) The year-wise expenditure incurred over the last three years on the centrally protected monuments at Bagh, Mandu and Farabagh are as tabled.

Rs. in lakhs				
Sl. No.	Name of monument	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Bagh Caves	5.98	2.35	9.44
2.	Monuments at Mandu	3.85	13.87	15.21
3.	Farabagh Palace	0.10	0.64	2.67

The Mallikarjuna temple at Ghotan is in a good state of preservation and no expenditure was incurred for its repair in the preceding three years.

However an allocation of Rs. 0.25 Lakhs has been booked for its maintenance in the current financial year.

(d) to (f) The "Bui-Kot Killa" in Ahmednagar, Baldevjiu Temple at Keonjhar and the Kichikeshwari temple at Kiching of Mayurbhanj district, Orissa are not centrally protected monuments and do not come under the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Stalling of Fleet Expansion

4118. SHRI T.M SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India and the Indian Airlines are not in a position to take up fleet expansion programme in the absence of a clear cut policy on disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Airlines's proposal for fleet expansion is under consideration of the Government. Air India is in the process of finalising its fleet expansion proposal and the proposal, when finalised, will be submitted for the approval of the Government.

Market Intervention Scheme

4119.SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of States which requested for reimbursement of the central share of money on Market Intervention Schemes after the approval of the Central Government, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(b) the reasons for not reimbursing the central share till date; and

(c) the steps taken for the speedy release of the central share to these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Following States have requested for reimbursement of the losses incurred from Market Intervention Schemes :—

State	Commodity	Year
Karnataka	Onion/Potato	1996-97
Karnataka	Onion/Potato	1997-98
Karnataka	Oil Palm	2001-02
Andhra Pradesh	Chillies	1996-97

(b) and (c) The main reason for pending reimbursement is that the State Governments have not furnished the audited accounts in proper form. The Central Government share would be released after proper verification of the accounts when received from the State Governments concerned.

World Trade Treaty on Agro Export

4120.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has framed any National Policy to replace the present World Trade Treaty on Agro-Export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Article 20 of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), provides for commencement of negotiations as from 1 January 2000 to continue the reform process, initiated with the entry into force of the AoA on 1 January 1995, with the objective of establishing a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system. The mandate for negotiations agreed by Ministers at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001 provides for substantial reduction in domestic support, reduction of with a view to phasing out, export subsidies, and substantial improvements in market access. Special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January, 2005.

India's position and approach to the negotiations is formulated after consultations from time to time widely held with Governments of States/Union Territories, representatives of political parties, farmers associations, eminent agro-economists, research institutions and other stake holders in the agricultural sector.

Import of Metallurgical Coke

4121.SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its Chinese counterpart for import of metallurgical coke;

(b) if so, the quantum of Metallurgical coke proposed to be procured from China as per the MoU agreement; and

(c) the salient features of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No quantum of Metallurgical coke has been fixed for procurement from China as per the MoU agreement.

(c) The salient features of the agreement are as under :

- Both sides understand that according to regulations by the Government of China, only 7 Chinese companies are authorized to export coke of Chinese origin to India.
- The Ministry further understands that Indian companies can only import coke from the authorized 7 Chinese companies;
- The CCCMC (China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters) further undertakes that the 7 companies, which are also members of CCCMC, shall be agreeable to sign long term agreement of Supply/Purchase with Indian buyers at competitive market prices;
- Both sides understand that long term arrangements shall be established to avoid market risk and to remove uncertainties in supply;
- Responsibility of fulfilling the contract/agreement will be incumbent upon the Chinese and Indian Companies with whom the contract is signed.
- The Ministry and the CCCMC shall supervise implementation of the agreement/contract signed between the Chinese supplier and Indian buyer and shall help to settle disputes between the two sides till a satisfactory solution is accepted by all;
- The Ministry and the CCCMC will hold timely meetings in the future to develop potential cooperative programs;

Threat to Dakshineswar Temple

4122. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Dakshineswar Temple in West Bengal is facing threat from the erosion by Ganges;

(b) if so, whether the Dakshineswar Trust made any appeal to the Government for the intervention in this regard; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal prepared by the Kolkota Port Trust, and forwarded by the Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal has been received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests through the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

The proposal is under examination whereby 30% of the project cost is proposed to be borne by the State Government and 70% by Government of India.

Employment Generations

4123. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government or any of its agencies have made any study to find out impact of structural forms on the growth of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the employment generation at present in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to improve the employment situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Neither the Planning Commission nor Ministry of Labour is aware of any study at All India level to empirically assess the impact of structural reforms on generation of employment opportunities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time, employment grew at the rate of approximately 0.98% per annum against the labour force growth of 1.03% per annum during 1994-2000.

(d) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses 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 of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy

constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

**Handy Audio Remote Kit at Channakeshava
Swamy Temple**

4124. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Handy Audio Remote Kit' at Channakeshava Swamy Temple, Belur in Hassan district in Karnataka would be available to the tourists;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to provide the technology and equipments for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to Union Government to construct a Yatri Niwas at Belur; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Central Financial Assistance is provided to State Governments and union territories for information technology based on the merits of the proposal and subject to availability of funds.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka.

(d) No proposal in this regard has been received from the State Government of Karnataka.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amendment in Trade Union Act

4125. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the Trade Unions functioning at present at the national level;

(b) whether any amendment has been made in the Trade Union Act in order to reduce the number of trade unions and to make them effective and democratic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) There are 12 Central Trade Unions Organisations functioning at the national level.

(b) and (c) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 was recently amended and the amended provisions have come into force w.e.f. 09.01.2002. The thrust of the amendments is aimed at reducing multiplicity of trade unions, promoting internal democracy, rank and file leadership of the trade unions and facilitating their orderly growth and regulation.

Ban on Brick Kilns Around Taj

4126. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether brick kilns are causing harm to heritage sites;

(b) if so, whether the kilns were banned in Agra to protect the Taj;

(c) if so, whether a Commission was constituted for this purpose;

(c) if so, whether the Commission has recommended opening of the brick kilns in the prohibited areas;

(d) if so, whether this would not cause harm to Taj; and

(f) the reasons for granting such permission ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the direction of the Supreme Court Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) project has been formulated to regulate the proliferation of environmentally unfriendly industries such as brick kilns. The Supreme Court has prohibited brick kilns from functioning within a radius of 20 kms from significant monuments in Agra.

(c) A joint inspection committee was formed as per the directions of the Supreme Court to find out whether brick kilns were following the standards fixed by the

Central Pollution Control Board and to verify the distance of the brick kilns from the significant monuments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Questions does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to and Reconstitution of KVIC

4127. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been reconstituted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be reconstituted;

(d) the extent of rural employment generated by KVIC during the last year and the number of villages covered;

(e) whether SIDBI has agreed to provide funds for KVIC schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been constituted and the details are given as under :

1. North Zone	Member	Dr. Mahesh Sharma, New Delhi	Full time
2. South Zone	Member	Shri S. Rajgopal, Mudurai, Tamil Nadu	Part time
3. North Eastern Zone	Member	Shri Khiren Rijju, Arunachal Pradesh	Part time
4. East Zone	Member	Shri Dev Das Apte, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	Part time
5. Central Zone	Member	Shri Pradeep Bhargava, Lucknow (UP)	Part time
6. West Zone	Member	Shri Harish C. Shah, Mumabi (Maharashtra)	Part time
7. Expert Member		Shri Banwari Lal Gaur, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	Part time
8. Expert Member		Shri Martand Singh, Mehrauli, New Delhi	Part time
9. Ex-Officio Member		Financial Adviser, Khadi and Village Industries Commission	
10. Ex-Officio Member		Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Commission	

Dr. Mahesh Sharma has been appointed Chairman, KVIC, on 2nd October, 2001.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During 2001-2002, 3.43 lakhs employment opportunities were generated under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the KVIC in the country. Village-wise details are not maintained centrally, however, all villages of the country are covered under the REGP.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Production of Rose

4128. SHRI Y.V. RAO Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Y.S. Parmar University in Himachal Pradesh has developed a cheaper and better technique of growing roses;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to give incentives to the grower for adopting this technique;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to hold any trials on this variety to increase production and exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise.

Inspection of Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

4129.SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed meeting between representatives of India and Pakistan has taken place recently;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistani side demanded inspection of some projects in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) The Permanent Indus Commission held its last meeting (87th) in New Delhi from 28th May to 1st June, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Pakistan Commissioner requested during the meeting to arrange the Special Tour of Inspection to Salal, Baghlihar and Dulhasti Plants on the river Chanab in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This tour has not taken place so far.

Strategy for Traffic Development

4130.SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have constituted a Task Force to Project Traffic demand by 2025;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to engage to prepare the Project Report;

(c) if so, whether a Scheme relating to development strategy to project the Traffic demand upto the year 2025

formulated by the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is under the consideration of the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, by when the scheme will be cleared ?

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

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

Setting up of Technology Business Incubators in States

4131.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage FPIs by adopting Technology Business incubators in the country;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Kerala has urged the Union Government to set up such a project; and

(c) if so, the reactions of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries operate a scheme for financial assistance of research and development projects. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to Research Institutions, Laboratories, Universities etc. for developing new products and technologies.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala had furnished a concept sketch for setting up a technology Business Incubator. They were asked to furnish specific proposals along with detailed project report. No response has been received.

Production of Edible Oil

4132.DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for production of edible oil under oil palm cultivation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the various promotional measures and other incentives given for encouraging farmers to take up oil palm cultivation;

(c) the target fixed for total acreage to be covered under oil palm cultivation for Tenth Plan;

(d) the States identified for oil palm cultivation; and

(e) the total outlay fixed for the oil palm cultivation under Tenth Plan ?

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

(a) No targets are proposed for production of palm oil during Tenth Five Year Plan. However, targets for area coverage are proposed under Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP).

(b) Under OPDP assistance is provided towards the cost of Planting Material, Cultivation Inputs, Installation of Drip Irrigation System, Diesel Pumps, Training, Development of Wasteland, Extension and Publicity, Establishment and Staff, Frontline Demonstrations, Leaf Nutrients Analysis Laboratories, Testing of Genotypes under varied environmental conditions.

(c) A target of 50,000 ha. has been proposed to be covered under OPDP during Tenth Five Year Plan.

(d) Presently the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Tripura, Assam and Kerala are covered under OPDP.

(e) An outlay of Rs. 50, crores is proposed under OPDP during Tenth Five Year Plan.

Holiday Package from IA

4133. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines jointly with Nepal tourism is offering holiday packages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the package would be in force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines in association with Nepal Tourism Board

has launched Holiday Packages to Kathmandu from the following 11 Indian cities :-

Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Amritsar, Cochin, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore.

The participating Hotels (ranging from 3 to 5 Star) in the packages are :-

Everest Hotel, Hotel Yak and Yeti, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza, Grand Hotel and Shangri-la Hotel

Packages Duration :

3 Nights/4 days,

2 Nights/3 days (Ex-Kolkata)

The Packages includes :

- To and fro air tickets in economy class (discounted by 20 per cent)
- Stay at select hotels (special rates have been negotiated)
- Airport - City - Airport transfers
- Breakfast
- Sightseeing tours

(c) The packages are available from 15th November 2002 till 31st March 2003.

[Translation]

Compensation to Drought Affected States

4134. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated under various heads and foodgrains provided by the Union Government for tackling the situation arising out of drought to assist the affected people during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of works undertaken for providing jobs to tackle the situation during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to tackle the drought conditions in future in the country, especially in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Orissa; and

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

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

(a) and (b) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, State-wise

details of assistance released from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and foodgrains allocated for relief employment, during 1999-2000 to 2001-02, for drought, is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Necessary action has to be taken by the State Governments concerned.

Statement

Compensation to Drought Affected States

S.No.	State	Assistance released from NFCR/NCCF (Rs. in crore)			Foodgrains release (lakh MTs.)	
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2001-01 and 2001-02
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75.36	—	—	—	16.50
2.	Chhattisgarh	— @	40.00	18.94 *	—	5.28
3.	Gujarat	54.58	85.00	27.00 *	—	1.48
4.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	18.98 *	—	0.12
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	73.42	—	23.20 *	—	—
6.	Karnataka	17.09 #	—	—	—	1.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	38.86 #	35.00	22.72 *	—	2.52
8.	Manipur	4.93	—	—	—	—
9.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	1.50
10.	Mizoram	6.00	—	—	—	—
11.	Orissa	—	35.00	14.62	—	2.50 #
12.	Rajasthan	102.93	85.00	78.97 *	—	7.40
13.	Tripura	5.34	—	—	—	—

NFCR – National Fund for Calamity Relief.

NCCF – National Calamity Contingency Fund.

* – For drought of 2000-01.

@ – During 1999-2000, Chhattisgarh was part of Madhya Pradesh.

– For drought and floods.

[English]

Agricultural Land to Peasants

4135.SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of farmers who were given agricultural loan in Punjab during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the amount of loan recovered so far from each category; and

(c) the details of measures proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the recovery from big farmers ?

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

(a) The total number of farmers who were given agricultural loans during the last three years in Punjab is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Category-wise break up of recovery is not available. However, as informed by Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks taken together have recovered an amount of Rs. 11223.27 crore from the farmers during last three years.

(c) Punjab Governments has two Recovery Acts viz., Punjab Public Monies (Recovery of Dues) Act, 1983 and Punjab Agricultural Credit Operations and Misc. Provisions (Banks) Act, 1978 for recovering the dues from borrowers. There is a proposal for amending these acts. Besides, One Time Settlement Scheme by the banks is under operation for speedy recovery of loans from the farmers.

Statement

Category-wise total number of farmers who were given agricultural loan in Punjab during the last three years

Year	Upto 2.5 acres	Above 2.5 acres to 5 acres	Above 5 acres	Total
1999-2000	82260	62312	94275	238847
2000-2001	356147	64904	103549	524600
2001-2002	541218	86655	119912	747785

Source : NABARD and RBI

MOU by ITDC with KSTDC to Promote Tourism

4136.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has signed an Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU)

with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to promote tourism in the State; and

(b) if so, the type of services that the ITDC propose to offer to KSTDC to promote tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ITDC has signed a MoU with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. to collaborate and provide services to the State Government in the areas of Reservation and Marketing, Development of new packages, Publicity and Printing of tourist literature, Tourism Event Management, Human Resource Development, Adventure Tourism, Project Implementation, Development of Heritage properties and monuments and Technical and Economic Consultancy services on mutually agreed terms.

Funds to States for Irrigation Projects

4137.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to various State including Rajasthan for irrigation projects during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the said funds were inadequate for the purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject and as per present policy, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. The total anticipated State-wise expenditure for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for the Major and Medium Projects is Rs. 48,259.08 crore as reported by the State Governments. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

The Union Government has also launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 to assist the States for expeditious completion of large

irrigation and multipurpose projects costing Rs. 500.00 crore or more which are beyond the resources capability of States and also for completion of other projects which are in an advanced stage of construction. The details of funds released under AIBP during last five years are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of States and U.Ts.	Rs. in crore
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4207.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.73
3.	Assam	288.77
4.	Bihar	1909.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	240.97
6.	Goa	245.45
7.	Gujarat	5454.48
8.	Haryana	1109.93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	65.09
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	167.56
11.	Jharkhand	0
12.	Karnataka	8700.51
13.	Kerala	685.47
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2224.63
15.	Maharashtra	13087.27
16.	Manipur	177.43

1	2	3
17.	Meghalaya	10.48
18.	Mizoram	0.14
19.	Nagaland	0.86
20.	Orissa	2410.23
21.	Punjab	516.11
22.	Rajasthan	1735.13
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1292.17
25.	Tripura	33.63
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3028.51
27.	Uttanchal	41.19
28.	West Bengal	680.48
Total		48254.90

Union Territories

29.	A and N Island	0
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	D and N Haveli	3.38
32.	Daman and Diu	0.8
33.	Delhi	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	0
Total		48259.08

Statement-II

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	CLA Released during					Total CLA Released
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.000	79.670	65.015	95.020	281.660	595.365
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	7.500	7.500	15.000	30.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	12.400	13.950	14.540	24.077	14.521	79.488
4.	Bihar	5.150	36.185	129.695	148.440	3.420	322.890
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.500	9.500	10.520	13.930	48.200	86.650
6.	Goa	5.250	0.000	3.500	61.650	58.000	128.400
7.	Gujarat	196.900	423.820	272.700	421.850	581.690	1896.960
8.	Haryana	12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	12.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.500	5.000	11.047	18.015	3.244	43.806
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.000	0.000	4.680	10.460	11.070	26.210
11.	Jharkhand	8.890	11.640	14.345	9.050	10.820	54.745
12.	Karnataka	90.500	94.500	157.140	171.000	492.500	1005.640
13.	Kerala	15.000	0.000	0.000	22.400	11.275	48.675
14.	Madhya Pradesh	110.000	81.250	95.325	151.328	215.410	653.313
15.	Maharashtra	55.000	50.860	49.875	97.020	39.100	291.855
16.	Manipur	26.000	10.780	21.810	1.500	9.360	69.450
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	2.694	5.512	4.470	12.676
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	1.433	1.433	2.000	4.866
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	2.730	5.000	5.000	12.730
20.	Orissa	85.000	71.500	90.250	100.320	168.475	515.545
21.	Punjab	100.000	0.000	42.000	55.620	113.690	311.310
22.	Rajasthan	42.000	140.050	106.665	78.467	96.315	463.497
23.	Tripura	5.100	3.975	34.653	13.883	21.063	78.674
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	78.000	76.500	286.000	315.900	354.690	1111.090
26.	Uttaranachal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27.	West Bengal	20.000	10.000	25.000	26.825	38.608	120.433
28.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	1.360	0.000	2.400	3.760
Total		952.19	1119.18	1450.48	1856.20	2601.98	7980.03

Delineation of Protected Areas

4138. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an exercise is under process to delineate areas in the seas/oceans which are to be barred to vessels engaged in purse seining fortune, squid jigging and pelagic trawling and tapping of fish;

(b) if so, whether the proposed regulations will cover the Exclusive Economic Zones; and

(c) the objectives of the proposed revised norms ?

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

(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

VRS in Public Sector Steel Plants

4139.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been introduced in public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, the number of employees/workers who took VRS since the introduction plant-wise; and

(c) whether any review has been made thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In SAIL the number of employees who have taken retirement under the various Voluntary Retirement Schemes is as follows :

Plant	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1998-99	1999-00	2001-02	2002-03 (up to Aug. 02)
BSP	1148	2983	832	743	1110	1005	1134	1170	3397	1354	1296
DSP	163	386	295	337	510	340	511	1254	3184	413	466
RSP	188	535	480	603	711	562	605	1201	2619	1251	428
BSL	18	105	77	69	216	93	129	908	1233	1611	650
ASP	6	33	49	83	87	68	90	650	1529	410	407
SSP	0	1	1	1	2	3	5	38	61	69	90
VISP	0	0	0	596	683	334	494	113	187	1000	209
Others	12	71	54	20	148	121	185	641	1407	402	312
Total	1535	4114	1788	2452	3467	2526	3153	5975	13617	6510	3858

*VISP was a subsidiary of SAIL and merged with SAIL in 1998.

**There was no VRS scheme during 2000-01.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. has not introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme in its plant at Vishakhapatnam.

(c) As per the MOU signed with Ministry of Steel, the manpower in SAIL is to be brought to the level of 1,00,000 by 2004-05. The manpower as on 31.10.2002 is approximately 1,41,000 and therefore the thrust on Voluntary Retirement in SAIL continues.

Linking of Rivers

4140.SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes formulated for linking of rivers to ensure equitable distribution of water to various States;

(b) whether these schemes would be able to meet the requirements of water for agricultural purposes in the States; and

(c) if so, the present status of schemes and the authority authorised for implementation of the schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalaya Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water

resources. The National Perspective Plan envisages creation of 35 Million hectare of additional irrigation potential. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility report and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. Central Government has set up a Task Force to devise suitable mechanism to suggest modalities for arriving at consensus amongst the States for sharing and transfer of surplus water to deficit areas and also to identify the priority links which could be implemented quickly as well as mechanism for their clearance, funding etc.

Drought Relief to Gaushalas

4141.SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for drought relief to the Gaushalas of Rajasthan and Gujarat during each of the last three years and current year as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government provided financial assistance during the last three years to some Gaushalas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Government also channelised assistance through Animal Welfare Board of India to them. In all, an assistance of Rs. 1.92 crore was provided for drought relief to Animal Welfare Board of India and to some Gaushalas of Rajasthan and Gujarat during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002.

During the current year a total amount of Rs. 41.50 lakh has been sanctioned for drought assistance. An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh has been released by way of first instalment to Rajasthan Livestock Development Board, Jaipur for assistance to eligible Gaushalas of State. No such proposal for assistance was received from the Government of Gujarat.

Increase in Operating Cost

4142.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently 3 major domestic airlines in the country held a meeting jointly with the Government to work out a strategy to arrest the increase in operating cost;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereon;

(c) the pending demands of Indian Airlines, Jet Airlines and Sahara Airlines on the of cutting costs in operations;

(d) the steps being taken to reduce landing and parking charges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (e) Government has constituted a Committee to examine the question of rationalising the Airport User Charges levied by Airports Authority of India in the light of representation by 3 major domestic airlines.

International Flights from Hyderabad

4143.SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the introduction of international flights from Hyderabad to Hong Kong and Gulf regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in taking the final decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Requests have been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh from time to time for introduction/restoration of flights from Hyderabad to various destinations in Gulf such as Dubai, Riyadh, Dammam, Muscat, Bahrain, Kuwait etc. They have also requested for introduction of direct flight between Hyderabad and Hong Kong to facilitate the travel

of Software Professionals of the State to the West Coast of USA. Indian Airlines is presently connecting Hyderabad to various stations in Gulf such as Dubai, Kuwait, Sharjah and Muscat. Besides Hyderabad is also directly connected to Dubai and Doha respectively by Emirates and Qatar Airways. Software professionals of Andhra Pradesh desiring to travel to the West Coast of USA can do so over Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, both of which are connected to Hyderabad.

[Translation]

Vigilance Cases against Employees of IA

4144.SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether vigilance cases are pending against the staff of his Ministry and other undertakings like Air India/ Indian Airlines/Pawan Hans D.G.C.A./B.C.A.S.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against erring persons in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of pending vigilance cases in which chargesheets have been issued to erring officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation (M/o CA), Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), Air India Limited (AIL), India Airlines Limited (IAL) and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) are as under :—

Name of Organisations	No. of cases pending
M/o CA/DGCA	03
BCAS	01
AIL	34
IAL	23
PHHL	05

Appropriate action against the erring officials will be taken after the proceedings are completed and the charges are proved.

[English]

Transfer of Land of RINL

4145.SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for transfer of 200 acres of land of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) to develop a world class port at Gangavaram;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh in May 1997 has requested for 2000 acres of land of RINL (VSP) for developing a minor port at Gangavaram.

(b) and (c) After due deliberations with all concerned central Ministries/Departments, Government of India in October 2002 has permitted RINL (VSP) to enter into an agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for reconveyance of a total of 1400 acres of land subject to certain conditions which *inter-alia* include transfer of 700 acres of land on land to cost basis.

[Translation]

Commission to Travel Agents by IA

4146.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Indian Airlines agents operating in the country at present alongwith their number in Delhi; and

(b) the details of commission given during the last two years till date agent-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The total number of Indian Airlines approved passenger sales agents operating in the country as on 30.11.2002 is 1724.

The total number of Indian Airlines approved passenger sales agents in Delhi as on 30.11.2002 is 267.

(b) The total agency commission outgo of Indian Airlines including Alliance Air for the last two years is given below :

Year	Rs. in Crores
2000-01	310
2001-02	290

[English]

Allocation to Agricultural Sector

4147.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for several years less than 50 percent of the amount requested has been allocated by the Planning Commission for Agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this would have an adverse impact on agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated for agro production for the last three years, State-wise ?

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

(a) and (b) There has been lower allocation of funds by the Planning Commission than what Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation has proposed for the development of agriculture in the past years due to budgetary constraints.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps based on regionally differentiated strategy like on-farm water management, Macro Management in Agriculture, Technology Mission on Horticulture Development in North East and Technology Mission on Coconut. Besides these programmes, other major programmes like promotion of micro irrigation techniques for optimal utilization of water, dissemination of agricultural technologies, Oilseed Production programme, National pulses development programme, Cooperative sector reforms, Seed Sector reforms and Watershed development programme have

been undertaken to increase the production and productivity of the agricultural crops in the country.

State-wise details of funds released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6175.51	3914.84	4235.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	475.05	761.31	1216.81
3.	Assam	386.91	1099.27	1798.80
4.	Bihar	240.70	419.59	1844.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	963.00	1610.05
6.	Goa	202.06	49.12	222.15
7.	Gujarat	4789.31	4713.47	3108.33
8.	Haryana	1648.80	1833.74	1988.36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1116.09	1338.17	1896.97
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1060.35	917.87	916.43
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	1175.49
12.	Karnataka	8159.30	7180.52	7039.95
13.	Kerala	2571.59	3724.72	2698.61
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7696.70	5506.69	6813.06
15.	Maharashtra	8324.33	10633.31	10598.78
16.	Manipur	984.03	935.68	938.27
17.	Meghalaya	598.02	724.74	969.27
18.	Mizoram	894.94	1088.99	1766.82
19.	Nagaland	1223.07	1489.72	1717.66
20.	Orissa	4594.78	1680.81	2073.05
21.	Punjab	1206.84	849.49	1063.00
22.	Rajasthan	8470.36	8133.23	6763.15

1	2	3	4	5
23. Sikkim		541.89	825.29	1292.44
24. Tamil Nadu		5513.83	5665.59	5416.38
25. Tripura		951.07	817.25	1609.10
26. Uttar Pradesh		7603.00	7068.83	7938.75
27. Uttranchal		0.00	882.00	1515.35
28. West Bengal		1534.60	1537.09	2913.80
Total		76963.131	74754.33	83140.28

**Flights from Bhopal to Hyderabad and
Chennai**

4148. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether direct air service from Bhopal to Hyderabad and Chennai is not available at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to connect Bhopal with the State capitals of South India; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(b) The traffic potential on the sectors Bhopal to Hyderabad and Chennai is not sufficient for operation of a direct flight.

(c) and (d) Airline operators are free to operate on any sector subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

[Translation]

Tourism Projects of Maharashtra

4149. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of tourism projects submitted by various State Governments including Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the names of projects cleared by the Government during the said period along with the amount sanctioned and released, project-wise; and

(c) the progress made by the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In the Ninth Plan, Department of Tourism, Government of India provided financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for the projects relating to Budget Accomodations, Wayside Amenities, Refurbishment of monuments, Tourist Lodges, Tourist Bungalows, SEL Show, Information Technology etc. identified in consultation with them. During the last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02, 967 projects involving an amount of Rs. 239.00 crores were sanctioned in the country including the State of Maharashtra. An amount of Rs. 112.41 crores has been released for these projects.

(c) Out of 967 projects sanctioned during the period from 1999-2000 to 2001-02, 252 projects have been completed and remaining projects are at various stages of completion.

Tourism Projects

4150. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects approved and being implemented in the country especially in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years, till-date;

(b) the number of private agencies providing information and other facilities to the tourists;

(c) whether private agencies/operators have to obtain licence for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations sanctioned 967 projects for financial assistance involving an amount of Rs. 239.00 crores during last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02 to all the States/UTs including the States of Bihar and Jharkhand. An amount of Rs. 4.15 crore has been sanctioned for 19 tourism projects in Bihar during last three years and an amount of Rs. 2.86 crores has been sanctioned for eight projects in Jharkhand during last two years since its inception.

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism has a scheme to grant recognition to those Travel Agents/Tour Operators

who apply for recognition voluntarily. The recognition is given by the Department of Tourism after scrutiny of documents and inspection of the agency by the Regional Directors of Indiatourism offices along with the representatives of the travel industry. Recognition has been given to four travel agents/tour operators in Bihar.

[English]

Durgapur Steel Plant

4151. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Durgapur Steel Plant is making profit;
- (b) if so, the profit earned since 2001-2002;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to grant financial assistance to Durgapur Steel Plant for the production of semi-finished and finished products; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Durgapur Steel Plant has suffered a loss of Rs. 262 crores in the year 2001-2002 and Rs. 131 crores in the first half (April-September) of 2002-2003.

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

Reclamation of Waste and Degraded Land

4152. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is 60 million hectares of waste land and degraded land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of proposal for bringing it under cultivation or forest cover under the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (d) the amount earmarked for the purpose, State-wise ?

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

(a) and (b) As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India 2000' brought out by the Department of Land Resources using remote sensing satellite data, the total extent of wastelands/degraded land in the country is 63.85 million hectare. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 4400.00 crore is allocated for the implementation of three major Watershed Development Schemes of the Department of Land Resources viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Under these scheme, the State-wise allocations of funds are being made based on the proposals received from the State Governments. In addition, two watershed development programmes namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas and Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers are being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for which allocations are being made by State Governments out of total fund allocated under Macro Management Mode.

Statement

		Area in 000' ha.
S.No.	States/UTs	Wasteland
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5175.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1833.00
3.	Assam	2002.00
4.	Bihar	2100.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	.
6.	Goa	61.00
7.	Gujarat	4302.00
8.	Haryana	373.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3166.00

1	2	3
10. Jharkhand		**
11. Jammu and Kashmir	6544.00	
12. Karnataka	2084.00	
13. Kerala	145.00	
14. Madhya Pradesh	6971.00	
15. Maharashtra	5349.00	
16. Manipur	1295.00	
17. Meghalaya	990.00	
18. Mizoram	407.00	
19. Nagaland	840.00	
20. Orissa	2134.00	
21. Punjab	223.00	
22. Rajasthan	10564.00	
23. Sikkim	357.00	
24. Tamil Nadu	128.00	
25. Tripura	2301.00	
26. Uttar Pradesh	3877.00	
27. Uttaranachal		***
28. West Bengal	572.00	
29. A and N Island	28.00	
30. Chandigarh	0.00	
31. D and N Haveli	7.00	
32. Daman and Diu	4.00	
33. Delhi	14.00	
34. Lakshadweep	0.00	
35. Pondicherry	4.00	
Total	63850.00	

*Area included in Madhya Pradesh

**Area included in Bihar

***Area included in Uttar Pradesh.

Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh

4153. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects taken up in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the details of outlay for these projects;

(c) whether the projects have been completed within the stipulated time period;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the present status of the projects; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for expeditious completion of the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) and (b) The details by Major and Medium Irrigation Projects alongwith their outlay taken up in Andhra Pradesh during the IX Plan are as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost	IX Plan outlay
Major Project			
1.	Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Project	70.77	44.23 (Expenditure upto March, 2002)
Medium Projects			
1.	Kovvada Kalva	52.11	52.11
2.	Subbareddy Sagar	10.10	10.10
3.	Surempalem	44.38	44.38
4.	Suddavagu	48.36	48.36
5.	Yerravagu (PP Rao)	35.77	35.77
6.	Pedderu (Vizag)	38.67	0.00
7.	Peddagadda	40.00	0.00
8.	Thotapally Barrage	460.00	0.00
9.	Tharakarama Thirtha Sagaram	274.45	0.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All the 10 projects programmed for taking up during IX Plan were not approved/cleared by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Planning Commission. Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Project taken up with loan assistance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is stipulated to be completed by 31.12.2002 except the distributary system programmed to be taken up with contribution from beneficiary farmers, which has not taken place due to drought conditions. It is expected to be completed by June, 2003 with NABARD loan assistance. Out of 9 Medium Irrigation Projects, 6 projects (Sl.No. 1 to 6) are nearing completion. The work on remaining 3 Medium Projects has not commenced.

(e) Irrigation being a State subject and as per present policy, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Marketing System for Khadi Products

4154. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of outlets have been opened by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission under the brand name Khadi;

(b) if so, the details of locations of such outlets;

(c) whether KVIC propose to introduce agents to sell such products in different parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of such a marketing system initiated by KVIC ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has introduced a franchise agency scheme since October 2002, whereby private showrooms owners are allowed to stock and sell selected branded Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) products.

Coconut Mite

4155. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agricultural experts of Alumni Association of University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore have asked the farmers to immediately desist from trying any chemical control measures to fight coconut mite menace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures suggested by the experts;

(d) whether the Union Government had agreed to provide help and assistance to the coconut grower in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Association has suggested to use only the botanical pesticides for the control of coconut mite.

(c) The scientists of the university have found botanical pesticides especially the neem based formulations to be effective against coconut mite.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An assistance of Rs. 1350.40 lakh has been provided to Karnataka for the control of coconut mite during 1998-99 to 2001-02 by the Government of India.

National Forest College

4156. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to open a National Forest College in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the possibility of setting up the said college in the State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Investment of Provident Fund
Money of AI**

4157. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of organisations where Air India Provident Fund Trust Money is invested alongwith the amount in each firm and return received;

(b) whether there is any default; and

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

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

Kerala In Special Tourism Zone

4158. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to include Kerala in the "Special Tourism Zone"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith assistance provided for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Bekal in the State of Kerala was identified as a Special Tourism Area as per the then scheme of the Department of Tourism. Kerala State have formed Bekal Development Authority for this purpose. A project for integrated development of Bekal was sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 190 lakhs during 1991-92.

[Translation]

Promotion of Agriculture In Bihar

4159. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any concrete scheme to promote agriculture in Bihar during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent in Bihar during the said plan-period, year-wise; and

(c) the increase in agricultural production likely to be achieved in the above State as a result thereof, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The major Schemes under implementation to boost the agricultural production in Bihar State by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are :

1. Macro Management in Agriculture
2. On-farm water management
3. Oilseeds production programme
4. National pulses development programme
5. Accelerated maize development programme
6. Establishment of Agri-clinics
7. Construction of Rural Godowns.

Under the Macro Management Scheme State Governments have been given enough flexibility to prepare their work plan with regard to their region/area/crop specific interventions for increasing the agricultural production and productivity of the crops.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 67 crores has been allocated for Bihar State during the year 2002-03 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. State-wise allocations of funds as well as production targets are finalized on year to year basis during the Plan period.

[English]

Conversion of Homes into Memorials

4160. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 3169 dated August 5, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the information with regard to formulation of policy of convert the ancestral homes of National leaders of the Country into National memorials/museums have since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The information was sought from the State Governments which has not yet been received.

Development of Kanha Reserve

4161. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kanha reserve offers tremendous tourist potential of attracting tourist from all over the world;

(b) if so, the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Kanha during each of the last five years and the earnings made thereby both in Indian and foreign currency during the said period; and

(c) the specific steps being taken to maintain a balance between tourism and preserving the ecology of this forest reserve ?

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

(b) Department of Tourism, Government of India does not maintain tourist arrival figures as also foreign exchange earnings destination-wise. However, as per the information made available by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the total number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Kanha during the last five years is as follows :

No. of tourist visits

Year	Domestic	Foreign
1997-98	41,026	2,244
1998-99	40,383	2,454
1999-2000	41,816	2,483
2000-01	43,960	2,688
2001-02	51,655	1,761

(c) Government of India has formulated the policy and guidelines on Eco-Tourism in India in 1998 in consultation with the Tourism Industry and NGOs, etc. The policy aims to preserve, retain and enrich our natural resources and to ensure regulated growth of Eco-Tourism

with its positive impacts of environmental protection and community development.

Reinstating AGM Security, Air India

4162. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the AGM Security of Air India, IGI Airport was suspended by the Government on account of alleged lapse concerning security at IGI Airport in the case of illegal travel by two Afghan Nationals to London on flight Air India 111;

(b) if so, whether he has since been reinstated on the same again; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reinstating him again on the same position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Shri G.S. Bankoti, Assistant General Manager – Security, Air India was placed under suspension alongwith three other officers of Air India at IGI Airport for procedural lapses in connection with the travel of two passengers (stowaways—Afghan Nationals) to London on Flight AI-111 of 28th October, 2001 without proper travel documents.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A High Level Committee comprising of the officers from the Departments of Security, Commercial and HRD of Air India investigated the case. The committee after going through the material documents and statements of officials concluded that suspended officials are responsible for this lapse. Air India therefore decided to "censure" Shri G.S. Bankoti, AGM-Security for this lapse.

Irrigation/Watershed Projects In Uttar Pradesh

4163. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation project, water-shed projects during run/proposed to be run in the Kheri (Lakhimpur) district in Uttar Pradesh, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (c) There is 1 ongoing irrigation project and 2 Nos.

Watershed Projects in Khe. (Lakhimpur) district of
Uttar Pradesh. The details are given in the enclosed
statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status	Latest cost (Rs. in Crore)	Proposal
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A. Irrigation Projects

1.	Improving Water Management of Sarda Canal System	Ongoing (Unapproved)	136.00	The Project proposal envisages rehabilitation of 74 years old existing system according to present day needs so as to give continuity and to provide any risk aversion due to possible damages in the existing works/structures. The distribution system is proposed to be remodeled to its designed capacity.
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B. Watershed Projects

Name of Project	Project Period	Total Area (in ha.)	Total Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Total Releases (Rs. in Lakh) upto 2002-2003
1. Lakhimpur Kheri-I	98-99 to 2002-03	12240	489.60	391.20
2. Lakhimpur Kheri-II	99-2000 to 2003-04	12104	484.16	314.22

Deccan-Odyssey Train in Maharashtra

4164.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of
TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Deccan-Odyssey Train would commence
from January 26, 2003 in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is joint venture of Ministry of
Tourism, MTDC and India Railways; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the train frequency
and route ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI
JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The train is likely to be
operational in May 2003.

(b) and (c) The Deccan-Odyssey Train is a Joint project
of the Ministry of Tourism, Maharashtra Tourism Development
Corporation and Indian Railways. This train proposes
to undertake a 7 day round trip on Mumbai-Ratnagiri-

Sindhudurg-Goa-Pune-Aurangabad-(Ajanta-Ellora-
Daulatabad)-Mumbai route.

Financial Assistance to Families of Fishermen

4165.SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a
proposal from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu for
Financial Assistance to the families of the Fishermen
affected by Natural Calamity and also relief to Fishermen
crossing territorial sea water limits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Union

Territory of Daman and Diu for financial assistance/relief to the families of the fishermen affected by natural calamity and those crossing territorial seawater limits so far. It is primarily for the States to provide relief to the people affected by the natural disaster and central Government supplements their efforts thereof. However, under the welfare programme for fishermen implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, central assistance of Rs. 43.25 lakh has been extended to the Union Territory of Daman and Diu during 2001-2002 for the benefit of fishermen.

Industrial Dispute Act, 1947

4166. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court in its decision in 2001 has decisively held that the State Government is the "Appropriate Authority" under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 and Contract Labour (R and A) Act, 1970 in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any delay in issuance of appropriate Government order in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which an order is likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Civil Appeal Nos. 6009-6010/2001-Steel Authority of India Ltd. and others v/s National Union Water Front Workers and others dated 30.8.2001, laid down the criteria that the Central Government is the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for Central Government Company/Undertaking or any other Undertaking included in Caluse (a) of Section 2 of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, any industry carried on by or under the authority of Central Government (such an authority may be conferred either by a Statute or by virtue of a relationship of principal and agent or by delegation of power) or Railway Company or specified controlled industry. Otherwise in relation to any other establishment, the State Government will be the appropriate Government. On the receipt of said judgement

the clarification letters were issued by Ministry of Labour to all State Governments on 19.4.2002, clarifying the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes act, 1947 in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings.

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

National Pension Scheme

4167. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited under the National Pension Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend this scheme and to bring more people under its ambit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated for implementation of this scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the funds proposed for implementation of this scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Employees Provident Fund Organisation administers the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions act, 1952. However, the National Old Age Pension Scheme which is a componet of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) had been administered by the Ministry of Rural Development until the year 2001-02. Planning Commission, after a review, transferred the Scheme to the State Plan from the year 2002-03. The funds are now being released as Additional Central Assistance to the State Plan. The total funds allocated under the National Old Age Pension Scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan were of the order of Rs. 2374.66 Crore. The details of number of beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) during the year 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Total Number of Benefited Reported
1.	Andhra Pradesh	466000
2.	Bihar	639086
3.	Chhattisgarh	140576
4.	Goa	3270
5.	Gujarat	62755
6.	Haryana	50372
7.	Himachal Pradesh	23291
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	16413
9.	Jharkhand	151990
10.	Karnataka	183265
11.	Kerala	141165
12.	Madhya Pradesh	442484
13.	Maharashtra	388597
14.	Orissa	492366
15.	Punjab	45265
16.	Rajasthan	101460
17.	Tamil Nadu	314362
18.	Uttar Pradesh	944758
19.	Uttaranachal	45002
20.	West Bengal	331224
21.	A and N Islands	
22.	Chandigarh	2714
23.	D and N Haveli	
24.	Daman and Diu	241
25.	NCT Delhi	
26.	Lakshadweep	41
27.	Pondicherry	4180
28.	North Eastern States	439052
Total		5429929^f

Earth Summit on Sustainable Development

4168. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the recent Earth Summit on Sustainable Development held at Johannesburg an international regime was set up to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biological diversity and to promote equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources;

(b) if so, whether a well laid out plan and strategy has been worked out for reduction in the rate of biodiversity;

(c) if so, the details of such a plan; and

(d) the steps being taken in pursuance thereof and the targets fixed in this regard under the Tenth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has taken various measures for reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity in the country. These include :

(1) A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) has been formulated which envisages preparation of action plans for (i) 14 themes relating to biodiversity at their national level; (ii) for all States and Union Territories; (iii) for 10 Inter-State Eco-Regions and (iv) 17 Sub-State Local sites.

(2) The Biological Diversity Bill-2002 has since been passed by Parliament to address the issues concerning :

(i) to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity;

(ii) to regulate the access to genetic resources of the country;

(iii) to respect and protect knowledge of local communities related to biodiversity;

- (iv) to secure equitable sharing of benefits with local people as conservers of biological resources and holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources;
 - (v) to conserve and develop areas important from the standpoint of biological diversity by declaring them as biological diversity heritage sites;
 - (vi) to protect and rehabilitate the threatened species;
 - (vii) to evolve effective participation of institutions of self Government in the broad scheme of implementation of the provisions of this Bill;
 - (viii) to constitute National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards for conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity resources in the country.
- (3) India is Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and have taken various steps to meet the commitments and various opportunities offered by the Convention. The main implementation measures for the CBD are through formulation of national strategy, legislation and administrative instruments to be developed.
- (4) Measures for the Tenth Five Year Plan include covering important wetlands in the country under ongoing conservation schemes, identification of selected coral reef areas in the country for intensive conservation and management, providing special emphasis on conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Construction of Dams on Rivers

4169. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether due to Bandhs being provided on 'Phalgoo' and 'Korbar' rivers flowing in Gaya district are being deprived of irrigation facilities;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct dams over these rivers to over-come drought; and

- (c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (c) No project proposal has been received from State Government of Bihar for construction of dams over Phalgoo and Korbar rivers. Irrigation being a State Subject, Irrigation projects are formulated, planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own priority.

[Translation]

Agriculture Growth Rate

4170. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture production rate is very low in Eastern and North-Eastern States as compared to other States despite abundant reserves of ground water there;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of agricultural growth rate in the Eastern and North-Eastern Region; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the agriculture growth rate in Eastern and North-Eastern Region ?

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

(a) and (b) The State-wise normal production rates (average yield based on figures of 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01) of foodgrains, oilseeds and sugarcane are given in the Statement enclosed. It may be seen from this Annexure that while the production rates in Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Orissa and Sikkim are lower than the national average, in respect of other Eastern and North – Eastern States these are higher than the national average for some crops but lower for others.

The production rate varies a great deal from region to region because it depends on a number of factors such as condition of soil, facilities of irrigation, duration of the crop (gestation period between sowing and harvesting),

farm size, quality of seeds, timely application of quality inputs, managerial skills of farmers and availability of credit, etc.

(c) The production of principal agricultural crops in Eastern and North – Eastern regions of the country shows a long – terms upward trend, albeit with aberrations due to variations in agro climatic conditions.

(d) The Government have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on “On – Farm Water Management for increasing crop production in Eastern India” for the year 2001-02 and for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, West Bengal as also in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Further, in order to improve production and productivity of agricultural commodities in the country, including Eastern and North – Eastern States, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promotion new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States so as to give flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirement.

Statement

State-wise Normal Production Rate of Foodgrains,
Oilseeds and Sugarcane*

(kg./hectare)

S.No.	State	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Sugarcane
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1979	780	79645
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1090	984	–
3.	Assam	1382	482	38962
4.	Bihar	1676	804	44279

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	972	354	–
6.	Goa	2613	1733	50282
7.	Gujarat	1270	868	70098
8.	Haryana	2941	1320	56010
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1754	532	27264
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1487	711	21400
11.	Jharkhand	1108	664	39799
12.	Karnataka	1347	640	102035
13.	Kerala	2029	614	84500
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1116	899	41707
15.	Maharashtra	887	923	87775
16.	Manipur	2312	465	–
17.	Meghalaya	1492	668	–
18.	Mizoram	1800	926	–
19.	Nagaland	1206	977	–
20.	Orissa	1019	440	58856
21.	Punjab	3935	1059	66250
22.	Rajasthan	941	874	43807
23.	Sikkim	1289	673	–
24.	Tamil Nadu	2385	1544	108619
25.	Tripura	2014	711	–
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2090	785	56797
27.	Uttaranchal	1725	621	62230
28.	West Bengal	2197	852	73254
All India		1656	866	70578

*Average of 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

–The crop is not a major crop in the State.

Testing of BT. Cotton

4171.SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bt. Cotton was produced on experimental basis in Ananadwan College of Agriculture in Maharashtra

(b) if so, whether the result of this testing has not been found satisfactory;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government thereof ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The results of this testing were found to be satisfactory.

(c) So far, 225 Kg seed cotton from one-acre plot has been harvested and the level of American bollworm infestation was below economic threshold level.

(d) The team from Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur of ICAR visited the site and examined the facts. It did not find significant damage to the crop by American bollworm.

[English]

Migration of Farmers

4172.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-remunerative pricing policy of the Government for farm products, the farmers in various States are migrating from villages to cities in search of jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government particularly in drought prone districts of Gujarat ?

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The migration of farmers from villages to cities may be ascribed mainly to search for better employment, expectation of better wages and living

conditions, transfer of service/contract, housing problems, social/political problems etc.

One of the main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production. The Government announces each season the Minimum Support Prices (M.S.Ps.) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies like Food Corporation of India (FCI) – paddy, wheat and coarse grains; Jute Corporation of India (JCI) – Jute; Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) – Cotton; National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) – pulses and oil seeds; and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The M.S.Ps. of major agricultural commodities have been raised over the years. There has been record procurement of agricultural commodities in recent years. The Government has announced the payment of special drought relief prices, ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal, over and above the M.S.Ps. for Kharif crops of 2002-03 season. The M.S.Ps. and special drought relief prices are payable all over the country including Gujarat.

Plant Quarantine Authority

4173.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Finance Ministry has turned down the proposal to establish plant Quarantine Authority;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the hurdle in setting up this authority ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The Finance Ministry has not agreed with the proposal. The work relating to plant quarantine is being done by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage as per the provisions contained in the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 and the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989. Finance Ministry has suggested that the limitations of the existing Act/Order may be overcome through amendment of the Act/Order. Further, the Expenditure Reforms

Commission recommended that no new autonomous body be created without the Cabinet approval.

(c) Since the Department of Expenditure has turned down the proposal twice, this Department has been unable to establish a plant quarantine authority till date. However, the matter is being taken up again with Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to get their concurrence on the establishment of the proposed authority.

Land Erosion

4174. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Territory is being lost to Pakistan due to land erosion;

(b) if so, the total area lost as a result thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has diverted the course of Ravi and Sutluj rivers; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government to prevent the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Certain works undertaken by Pakistan, besides factors such as adverse country slope towards India and meandering nature of the river, have the effect of diverting the flows of river Ravi towards India.

(d) The Government of Punjab undertakes counter protective works as and when needed from its own resources. Union Government is also providing financial assistance in the form of special loan and grant-in-aid as well as technical expertise to the Government of Punjab for undertaking the works.

[Translation]

Revival of Hindustan Coir Limited

4175. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for revival of Hindustan Coir Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such revival scheme also includes the retirement scheme for the employees working therein; and

(d) if so, the number of employees to be given retirement under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, Government is contemplating an exit from direct production activity by divesting the Hindustan Coir unit of Coir Board.

(c) and (d) Coir Board has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for surplus staff in the Board, including Hindustan Coir.

[English]

Agriculture Production

4176. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the agriculture production during the last three years and till-date, year-wise;

(b) whether agriculture production is declining gradually;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase agriculture production ?

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

(a) The all-India production of foodgrains, oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta and sugarcane for the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02, as also for kharif 2002-03 is given below :

(In million tonnes)

	1999- 2000	2000-01	2001-02*	2002-03** (Kharif)
	1	2	3	4
Foodgrains	209.80	195.92	211.32	90.64
Oilseeds@	20.71	18.40	20.73	9.89

	1	2	3	4
Cotton#	11.53	9.65	11.69	9.08
Jute and Mesta##	10.55	10.48	10.79	10.73
Sugarcane	299.32	299.21	292.21	276.39

* Fourth Advance Estimates for 2001-02 as on 27.06.2002

** First Advance Estimates for 2002-03 as on 12.11.2002

@ Includes Groundnut, Castorseed, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Rapeseed and Mustard, Linseed, Safflower, Sunflower, Soyabean.

Million bales of 170 kgs.

Million bales of 180 kgs.

(b) and (c) The production of principal agricultural crops in the country shows a long-term upward trend, although with aberrations due to agro-climatic conditions.

(d) In order to improve production and productivity of agricultural commodities in the country, the Government have launched various initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States so as to give flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements.

[Translation]

Transfer of Agriculture Land

4177.SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take any steps to simplify transfer of the procedure of transfer of agricultural land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Land is a State subject and, therefore, to bring legislation to prevent conversion of cultivable land for any other purpose falls under the purview of State Government. Some of the States, through their State Land Use Boards, have issued instructions to line Departments of their Governments to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural uses and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land.

[English]

Bio Diversity in North East

4178.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that North East region is going without rich value addition to Bio-diversity;

(b) if so, the effort made by the Government in this regard to tap and add value to it;

(c) the details of the items on the agenda that were discussed in the 72nd annual session of the Academy of Sciences and Symposium on Bio-diversity in Shillong;

(d) the share of India in the Bio-diversity business; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase it ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The North East Region is not going without rich value addition to biodiversity. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) project undertaken by this Ministry includes action plans for all the North-Eastern States and the North East Ecoregion. These action plans spell out strategies required for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The other initiatives for conservation of biodiversity in the North East include: setting up of protected area network consisting of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves; establishing Botanical Gardens and Zoological

Parks; and identification of wetlands for intensive conservation and management.

(c) The items that were discussed in the 72nd Session of the National Academy Sciences India and the National Symposium on Biodiversity held in Shillong from 25-27 October 2002 inter alia included sustainability of the cereal growing systems in the North Eastern Region; medicinal plant wealth of Meghalaya – its conservation, sustainable use and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues; faunal resources and sustainable development; microbial diversity and its sustainable development; access to plant genetic resources – the changing scenario; biodiversity information system for North East India; role of industry in the sustainable utilization of biodiversity; bioresource development of North-East India.

(d) and (e) Considering the multi-sectoral nature of biodiversity, it is difficult to come out with India's share in the biodiversity business. The Department of Biotechnology has recently established an Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development at Imphal. Objectives of this Institute include bioresource development and their sustainable utilization through biotechnological interventions for the socio-economic growth of the region with the goal of scientific management of bioresources.

Technology Mission on Coconut

4179. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that sanction of funds accorded and released for the implementation of Technology Mission on Coconut for Kerala State is not reasonable;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken so far to expand the scope of Coconut Technology Mission ?

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

(a) to (c) The Central Sector Scheme on Technology Mission on Coconut was sanctioned by Government of India during 2001-2002 as part of IX Plan with an outlay of Rs. 400.00 lakhs. Funds under the scheme are released by Government of India to the Coconut Development Board

and not State-wise. The Coconut Development Board implement the scheme in the form of projects with focus on technology development, demonstrations and adoption in the field of the insect/pest and disease management; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. The projects which come under the purview of Technology Mission are considered and approved any Project Approval Committee in the Coconut Development Board on merit. So far, 7 projects have been sanctioned in Kerala. The Scheme is being implemented during the year 2002-2003 with an outlay of Rs. 2000.00 lakh.

Employment Generation

4180. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Labour in its Report No. 11 of 2001 has pointed out stagnation in creating additional employment generation, particularly for the educated youths;

(b) whether the quantum of unemployment has increased from one plan period to the other;

(c) whether the Government would achieved its goal of reducing unemployment to a negligible proportion by 2002;

(d) whether any action has been taken to improve upon the skill training and education to create job opportunities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the quinquennial sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated number of openly unemployed in the country which was of the order of 7.5 million in 1993-94 has gone up to 9.0 million in 1999-2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Improvement in the skill training of the work force is a continuous process. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) introduce new Trades from time to time and discontinue the obsolete ones to keep pace with the

changing pattern of demand for the skill in the Labour Market. Ministry of Labour has launched a special drive to expand vocational training facilities in the country by utilizing the available infrastructural facilities in recognized schools, polytechnics etc. in second shift.

**Misleading Information to Standing
Committee on Labour by CCL**

4181. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the management of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has not provided misleading information on the various issues to the Standing Committee on Labour who visited CCL, Ranchi in the month of October, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) As per the available information, the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has not furnished any misleading information to Standing Committee on Labour who visited CCL, Ranchi in the month of October, 2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to Part (a) above.

[Translation]

Violation of Apprentices Act

4182. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of violations of the Apprentices Act during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Some industrial establishments do not engage apprentices as per quotas fixed under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961. At All India level, the percentage utilization of seats vis-à-vis quota fixed for trade apprentices has been varying

between 71% to 73% during the last three years as per following details :

Year	Quota fixed	Seats utilized	% Utilization
2000	227501	165474	73%
2001	216944	155534	72%
2002	216504	153303	71%

(b) Legal proceedings under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961 are initiated by the Central Government against the defaulting establishments in Central Public Sector and by the respective State/UT Governments against the defaulting establishments in the State/UT Public Sector and Private Sector. During the last 6 months, Show Cause Notices have been issued to 6047 defaulting establishments by Centre and States under Sections 30 and 31 of the Apprentices Act.

12.11 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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 Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History 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 Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6581/2002]

- (2) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 647 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2002 under section 26 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6582/2002]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6583/2002]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6584/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh Projects and Tubewells Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the of the Uttar Pradesh Projects and Tubewells Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6585/2002]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Account.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6586/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6587/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of

the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6588/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6589/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6590/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 :—

- (1) The Employees' State Insurance (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. N-12/13/2/98-P and D in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001.

- (2) The Employees' State Insurance (General) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. N-12/13/2/99-P and D in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6591/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation, Jaipur, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation, Jaipur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6592/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6593/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperatives Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

Cooperatives Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6594/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Bank and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002,
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Bank and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Bank and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6595/2002]

- (5) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sikkim Livestock Processing and Development Corporation Limited, Sikkim, for the year 1994-95 to 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sikkim Livestock Processing and Development Corporation Limited, Sikkim, for the year 1996-97 to 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6596/2002]

- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English) versions) by the Government of the working of the Sikkim Livestock Processing and Development Corporation

Limited Sikkim, for the year 1994-95 to 1997-98.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6597 /2002]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 6598/2002]

12.11½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report of the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 2002 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.12 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Eleventh Report presented to the House on 12th December, 2002

have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Kumari Mamata Banerjee | 26.07.2002 to 12.08.2002 |
| (2) Begum Noor Bano | 18.11.2002 to 05.12.2002 |
| (3) Shri Vaiko | 15.07.2002 to 12.08.2002 |
| | and |
| | 18.11.2002 to 17.12.2002 |

It is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.13 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth Report

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : I beg to present the Thirty-Eighth Report (13th Lok Sabha) (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on "Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)".

12.13½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Nineteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixteenth Report on demands for grants (2002-2003) of the department of Food and Public Distribution (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).

12.14 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

One Hundred-sixth to One Hundred-eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests :

- (1) One Hundred-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Department of Science and Technology on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred-second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Science and Technology.
- (2) One Hundred-Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Department of Ocean Development on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Ocean Development.
- (3) One Hundred-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Department of Space on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundredth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Space.
- (4) One Hundred-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Department of Biotechnology on the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninety-ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Biotechnology.
- (5) One Hundred-tenth Report on Action Taken by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred-third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

- (6) One Hundred-eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred-fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

12.15½ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri C.S. Chaturvedi, General Secretary, Vasundhara Residents Welfare Association (Registered) requesting setting up a Central Government Health Scheme dispensary in the Vasundhara Colony, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

12.16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Non-supply of medicines in CGHS dispensaries

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up the Calling Attention. Three Members, S/Shri Basudeb Acharya, Prasanna Acharya and Prabhat Samantray, have given notices to me. Members are requested to ask clarificatory questions. On the Calling Attention notice, no speeches are allowed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The situation arising out of non-supply of medicines in CGHS dispensaries and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) : The Central Government

Health Scheme or CGHS as it is generally called, is a welfare scheme of the Central Government which takes care of the medical needs of Central Government employees and pensioners in the cities where the CGHS scheme is in operation.

The medicine supplies to CGHS dispensaries throughout the country is, as per procedure, made after the CGHS makes annual indents to the Medical Stores Organisation, that is, MSO which is a subordinate office under the Directorate General of Health Services. This procedure has been in vogue since the year 1981. The MSO floats the tenders calling suppliers and manufacturers of medicines and drugs to supply medicines as per the requirement in respect of the drugs specified in the tender along with the required quantities. After the tenders are received and scrutinised by the MSO. The concerned manufacturers and suppliers who have been short-listed are awarded the tender for supplying the medicines. After this, the manufacturers and suppliers supply the medicines and drugs to the seven Government Medical Store Depots, that is, GMSD, in the country. The GMSDs then supply the medicines and drugs to the CGHS Medical Store Depots from where they are further distributed to the various CGHS dispensaries.

The medicines which are not supplied by the MSO to the CGHS or which are not available in the dispensaries are indented with the authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS for supplying these medicines to the dispensaries.

A list of medicines is recommended by a Committee of Specialists in the respective fields which is adopted for a period of two years as the drug Formulary for purchase by MSO.

- (a) The current Formulary was notified in March, 1996 with its validity upto 31.3.1998. This Formulary had been extended from time to time for short periods. It takes about four to six months to process the supply of medicines by MSO after receipt of an indent.
- (b) The number of Drugs in this Formulary were 317 (both Generic and Proprietary)
- (c) A Comprehensive combined new formulary for CGHS/MSO was approved in February, 2002 by

the Government. This could not be made operational due to certain complaints about the recommendations and reservations expressed by the Internal Finance division. This formulary had the following number of drugs.

1. Generic – 507 drug items
2. Proprietary – 655 drug items.

Of late, that is since the year 1998 onwards, due to non-finalisation of the formulary for drugs, the MSO has not been able to process the procurement and supply the medicines to the CGHS in required quantities indented by the CGHS. Therefore, the CGHS had to depend on the authorised local chemists for supplying medicines to the CGHS dispensaries against the individual prescriptions of the beneficiaries.

In this connection, the following points are important with reference to the present supply situation of medicines and drugs in CGHS dispensaries :—

- (a) The Annual Indent for Allopathic medicines was placed with the Medical Store Organisation, Directorate General of Health Services on 17.6.2002. However, due to non finalisation of the formulary since 1998, the MSO has not been able to process for procurement of drugs.
- (b) During an earlier strike by the local chemists under CGHS Delhi in April, 2002, it was decided to procure 92 generic drugs from the Safdarjung Hospital for a period of one month as per their rate contract. The cost of medicines supplied was Rs. 13.45 lakh. The drugs received were since distributed to the various dispensaries in Delhi.
- (c) Limited quantity of medicines numbering 34 required for emergency were also procured from Kendriya Bhandar and distributed to the dispensaries which extend emergency service after OPD hours.
- (d) The Local Chemists in Delhi went on strike since 1st November, 2002 and refused to supply medicines. As a stopgap measure, an indent has been placed with the Hospital Services

Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited (HSCC) for procurement of medicines for a period of five months against 203 items (138 generic and 65 proprietary) for supply to CGHS Delhi and other cities outside Delhi. These include :

- (i) 138 generic items as per the drug formulary of GNCT of Delhi
- (ii) 65 proprietary drug items based on the commonly indented medicines purchased from Local Chemists under CGHS.

So far till 13th December, 2002 CGHS Delhi has received 71 items which include 48 proprietary and 23 generic drugs. The total supply is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

The system of Authorised Local Chemist under CGHS :

- (a) Prior to 1991. CGHS Delhi was procuring non-formulary drugs prescribed by the Government specialists and the medicines not available in the dispensaries through Super Bazar. This was a time consuming process and the indented medicines were supplied on the 4th or the 5th day and the process was cumbersome as there was only one outlet at Cannaught Place, New Delhi, catering to more than 80 dispensaries all over Delhi. It was, therefore, decided to introduce a system of Local Purchase by appointing authorised local chemists in the strategic places all over Delhi within two to three kilometres distance from the dispensary for the convenience of the beneficiaries. The process of selection of the chemist is through open tender. The chemists are appointed for a two-year period after going through the codal formalities and the terms and conditions fixed by the Government. One of the major criteria for the selection of the Authorised Local Chemist for CGHS is based upon the maximum discount given by the applicant chemists on the maximum retail price of the medicine.

[Shri Shatrughan Sinha]

(b) The issue of Sales Tax :

A complaint was received through the Cabinet Secretariat in September, 2001, where evasion of Sales Tax by the empanelled chemists of CGHS in collusion with the Additional Director (HQ), CGHS, and Accounts Officer, CGHS, was alleged. It was mentioned that the chemists are merely furnishing a certificate along with their bills to the effect that they have paid the sales tax for all the medicines supplied to the CGHS but with collusion of officers, a system has been devised whereby the CGHS pays the sales tax on the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) whereas the chemists procure the medicines at a lower price.

The matter was enquired into and placed before the then HFM who ordered that this should be referred to the C and AG for inquiring into the matter of overcharging and recovery of sales tax. This was referred to C and AG on 24.12.2001.

The Office of C and AG has sent an interim report on 3.12.2002 observing that a random check of the bills of local chemists under CGHS Delhi has revealed overcharging and that the Department should get the bills checked through Internal Audit. Accordingly, the Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry has been requested on 13.12.2002 to take up the audit for the last three years and the current year.

About sales tax, the C and AG has intimated that a separate report will follow. Meanwhile the 10 per cent deduction from the bills of local chemists has been done pending final clarification from C and AG.

(c) Strike Notice by the Authorised Local Chemists :

The Authorised Local Chemists are on strike with effect from 1.11.2002 till date regarding the following :

- I. "Immediate release of amount withheld @ 10 per cent from their bills for last one year.

- II. Payment of their regular bills for the last three months."

Payment of the bills were cleared up to mid-August 2002 from the budget estimates allocation of Rs. 55 crore, out of which the pending liability was Rs. 11.60 crore. An additional amount of Rs. 8 crore was allocated in November 2002 and the bills received from the Authorised Local Chemists in CGHS (HQ) up to September, 2002 have been cleared.

The projected additional expenditure for making payments up to March 2003 is Rs. 56.00 crore.

To avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries on account of non-availability of medicines, the following steps have been taken to augment the supplies of medicines to CGHS.

A contingency plan has been implemented for allowing the beneficiaries to purchase medicines from open market and get the expenditure reimbursed as under :

- For serving beneficiaries from their respective departments.
- For pensioners beneficiaries from the CGHS Headquarter through their respective dispensaries. Payment is being made in the dispensaries to avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries.
- (i) An indent for supply of 203 medicines has been placed with the Hospitals Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC), a Government of India Undertaking. The first batch of supplies of proprietary items has been received on 29.11.2002 and till 13.12.2002, 71 items have been received – Generic 23 and proprietary 48.
- (ii) The number of medicines received through HSCC as on 13.12.2002 is as follows :

Generic	-	23
Proprietary	-	48

It may therefore be seen that efforts have been made to make available medicines to beneficiaries through bulk

purchase and through authorising the beneficiaries to purchase directly from market. Efforts will be made to improve availability of medicines further.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I must mention to you that the rule says that the statement should be brief. I have not been able to define it, perhaps.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : I am new to the job, Sir. Next time, I will be more careful.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, at least the hon. Members can make brief statements.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Shatrughan Sinha ji either does not come to the House and when he comes, he gives such a big reply which wastes a lot of time of the House. He could place that on the Table of the House. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has given his reply. If you have to ask any question in this regard. You can ask that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is said in this House about me time and again that I do not attend the House. With your permission I want to tell that I pay due regards to the House. Whenever I am away from the House. That is because of official work and with your kind permission and with the permission of the Prime Minister and for that I give due information to you. I never go away just for playing and always go away in connection with some work.

MR. SPEAKER : No body has levelled any charge against you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : Honourable Member is saying. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He only wants you not to give such a lengthy statement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : And do not be so touchy.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Although the Minister for Health and Family Welfare has made a long statement, I do not find anything in it to show that an attempt has been made to resolve the problem. The authorised chemists are on strike from 1st of November. Also, they went on strike in the current year in the month of April and stopped supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries for a few days. Then they called off their strike because there was some assurance from the Government that their problem would be looked into. They waited for a few months. But that problem has not been resolved.

He has stated that he has made some contingency plan. What is that contingency plan ? The Hospital Service Consultancy Corporation has been asked to procure some medicines. What have they procured and supplied so far ? They have supplied only 23 generic medicines and only 48 proprietary medicines.

Out of thousands of medicines which are to be supplied to the dispensaries of CGHS in Delhi, only this number of medicines, – 23 generic and 48 proprietary – have been supplied to the dispensaries. Every day we are receiving telephone calls, particularly from the senior citizens about this. There are about 5,000 pensioners or senior citizens who are dependent on these dispensaries. If it is a five thousand, then you have to add another four or five thousand to this number. Then, see how much is it ? Most of them are senior citizens. One Shri J.L. Chadha is a Central Government pensioner and he is drawing only Rs. 4,000 as pension. He is a heart patient and his monthly medicine bill comes to Rs. 1,000. For him, getting medicine was not at all a problem till recently. He is a beneficiary of CGHS. Getting only Rs. 4,000 as pension, how can he purchase medicines also ? The hon. Minister in his reply has stated :

"For pensioners beneficiaries from the CGHS Headquarters through their respective dispensaries, Payment is being made in the dispensaries to avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries."

Now, the patients will have to purchase medicines. Heart Patients, kidney patients and cancer patients are required to purchase medicines to the extent of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : We have a recommendation to make. We have the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. We do get some relief from that. Time taken for processing the cases should be reduced.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After kidney transplantation, a patient is required to purchase medicines to the extent of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000. The CGHS card holders used to get medicines of whatever value. But since 1st of November, this is not so. I am particularly talking of senior citizens and I am not talking of serving Government employees. My concern is for senior citizens, older people and the pensioners, who get a very paltry amount as pension. How can they purchase medicines and then submit the bills for reimbursement? We know how much time it takes. We have the experience. Some times we have to submit bills for reimbursement. But it takes about two to three months.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : They do not have uniform reimbursement policy. When you take a CGHS pensioner, you are supposed to service the CGHS beneficiary anywhere in India. You have recognised institutions which come under the umbrella of CGHS because you cannot set up independent authorities to look after all of these. *(Interruptions)* Now, you are saying that you cannot pay the bills because you have to go by the AIIMS rates. AIIMS get medicines on free import duty. But you do not give this facility to other institutions. So, this is not a uniform policy.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister in his reply mentions :

"It may therefore be seen that efforts have been made to make available medicines to beneficiaries through bulk purchase and through authorising the beneficiaries to purchase directly from market."

Mr. Minister, this is not the solution.

I say this because in this very House, when this matter was raised, Mr. Minister, you assured the House that this problem would be resolved within one week. That assurance was given on 27th November on the floor of this House. Today, it is 16th December. *(Interruptions)* The assurance was given on 27th November saying that the

problem would be resolved within one week. Mr. Minister, you could not resolve the problem. You are asking the authorised chemists to do this. . . .*(Interruptions)* Ten per cent is being deducted from the bills as they are over-charging. It was referred to the C and AG one year back. The C and AG had given the interim report on the first week of December, 2002. On 13th December, the Ministry asked its Internal Audit and Accounts Department to have a thorough check. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, will you please conclude now? I call Shri Prasanna Acharya to speak next.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know whether the Ministry did not get sufficient time to call the authorised chemists to discuss the problem and resolve the issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat now. Shri Prasanna Acharya to start his speech now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister is not resolving the issue. Today, thousands and thousands of pensioners are suffering.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prasanna Acharya, you can ask only questions. Please start.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, most of them are not getting the life-saving drugs. What effective steps the hon. Minister has taken or the Government has taken to resolve this issue when the assurance was already given. It is not only so for the Allopathic medicines. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like to know about this from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down. You know the rules very well.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you can go to any of the Ayurvedic Dispensaries. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Should I go?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He said that I could go to any of the dispensaries.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You can visit any of the Ayurvedic Dispensaries or the Dispensaries where Indian system of medicine is given. The hon. Minister is talking of giving importance to Indian system of medicine. But, Mr. Minister, if you go to any of the Ayurvedic Dispensaries, you will not find any ayurvedic medicine. In a *Unani* Dispensary, you will not get any *unani* medicine. . . .
(Interruptions) You can go to any of the Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries. For the last eight months, not a single ayurvedic medicine is available in the Ayurvedic Dispensaries. The situation is not there where the chemists have stopped supplying the medicines. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prasanna Acharia, you can start your speech now. Your name will be dropped if you do not start your speech. Please start it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : For the last eight months, why the Ayurvedic medicines are not available in the Ayurvedic Dispensaries ? I would like to know about this from the hon. Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow to take on record what Shri Basu Deb Acharia is saying if he does not conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, will complete it in a minute.

I demand that a Committee of Members of Parliament should be constituted and they should undertake visit to all of the dispensaries, both Allopathic and Ayurvedic, to find out the problems of non-supply of medicines.

MR. SPEAKER : Your suggestion is noted. Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I demand that the Government should immediately take effective steps not only to supply 125 medicines out of the thousands of medicines but all the medicines which were available prior to first week of November, 2002. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. You must understand the difficulties of others also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Even the common medicines are not available. By when will the Government of India take steps to supply all the medicines ? By when will it resolve the issue and normalise the situation ? I would like to know about these things.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the statement of the hon. Minister was glamorous. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if possible, clarifications can be asked. No other speech is allowed. Those hon. Members, who have given notice, will only be permitted. Please sit down.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : As I was telling, he has made a very glamorous statement. The statement was as glamorous as the hon. Minister himself. But I am sorry to say that the Ministry has taken away the glamour of all the Central Government employees and the ex-employees because of its inaction. As you are aware, since the last two months, there is not a single medicine which is available in the CGHS Dispensaries.

Sir, I would also corroborate the statement made by Shri Basu Deb Acharia that no medicine is available in all the Ayurvedic Hospitals also since last eight to 10 months. Even common medicines like Envas and such other medicines are not available in CGHS Dispensaries.

As you know, after retirement, and while in service also, most of the people are now-a-days affected by diabetes and even Insulin is not available in CGHS Dispensaries. So, you can well imagine the condition of those patients. I would like to cite just one example here. I am not going to cite the example of any employee or ex-employee. I would just refer to the miserable situation faced by one of the sitting hon. Member of this House. He is Shri Jagannath Mallik. He was here and because of his ill-health he has now left the House. He is a diabetic and for the last several years he has been taking Mixtad Human Insulin Cartridge. He went to Annexe but Insulin was not supplied to him. So, he had to take some other medicine prescribed by the doctor from the open market

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

and after taking that medicine he was about to collapse. He was immediately rushed to RML Hospital and the doctor said that had he come an hour late, the hon. Member would have died. If this is the condition of an hon. Member of this House because of the continued inaction of the Ministry of Health, then you can well imagine as to what would be the fate of other Government employees who are poorly paid and ex-employees of the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhat Samantray.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, this is a very important matter. Please allow me two minutes more.

MR. SPEAKER : I will not be able to take up 'Zero Hour' today. There will be no 'Zero Hour', if Members go on speaking like this.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, as you know, a particular amount is being deducted from the salaries of Central Government employees for availing the facilities in CGHS Dispensaries and it is a contract between the Government of India and employees and ex-employees. So, I think, it is a breach of contract on the part of the Government because the employees are paying for it, the ex-employees are paying for it, we, the Members of this House, are paying for it and the ex-Members are paying for it. It is a contract between those who are paying for it and the Ministry of Health and, I think, it is a breach of contract because for the last several months even common medicines are not being supplied to CGHS Dispensaries.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat now. Shri Prabhat Samantray, you please start your speech.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, I would request you to please give me one minute more.

Sir, as the hon. Member was mentioning, the reimbursement process is a time-consuming one. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether he will find out a simpler process of reimbursement and will allow the employees and ex-employees to purchase the medicines from the open market. I would also

like to know whether the Minister will specify a time period – for example 15 days or one month – by which the Ministry will reimburse the money to those patients who have purchased medicines from the open market. Then, what are the steps that the Government is taking to immediately resolve the so-called strike of the chemists because it has appeared in a section of the Press and it is rumoured outside that the strike is not due to any sales tax problem, but they have gone on strike due to some clandestine reason? As we come to know from a section of the print media, some malpractices are going on in the purchase of medicines and that is why this problem has arisen. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Samantray ji, you should start otherwise your name would not remain in the list of speakers.

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given the Calling Attention notice and probably the hon. Minister has misread the Calling Attention because he has not mentioned anything relating to the situation arising out of non-supply of medicines in CGHS Dispensaries in his statement. He has mentioned about his difficulties and he has mentioned what steps he is going to take. My question is: what for the Central Government Health Scheme has been introduced? The objective says :

"The Central Government Health Scheme was started in 1954 with the objective of providing comprehensive medical care facilities to the Central Government employees and their family members; and"

"(b) to avoid cumbersome system of medical reimbursement."

That being the objective, where is the question the reimbursement coming up? It is not a question of reimbursement. It is a question of providing medicines to the patients or the beneficiaries or the card-holders. You know that under the CGHS, the number of beneficiaries is 42,37,088 while that of the card-holders is 5,77,805.

The hon. Minister has stated that this problem is continuing since 1998. I do not find any reason whether the system has collapsed or is still alive. If the system of the Central Government Health Scheme is under dispute since 1998 and no final decision has been taken on that, I believe, nobody should claim any credit that he is running a Ministry. It is not a question of the present hon. Minister.

Since 1990, a decision has been taken. Why is that system still there? Why is the Director-General of Health Services still there in office? Why are they not resolving it? What are they for there? If the Government is going to decide it tomorrow, why can they not do so today? There is a loss of lives of the beneficiaries. A breach of contract has been forced upon the beneficiaries. They are paid for this. They have to get the benefit out of that. It is duty of the Central Government Health Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : They have to rise to the occasion. My simple question is this. The hon. Minister should tell us today as to when he is going to provide, with whatever the system he is at command the medicines – not reimbursement – to the beneficiaries. He must assure this House today.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : Thank you very much. Sir. Before I proceed, in a humble way, what I would like to know from you is this. Does the rule apply only to me while I am making a statement? I suppose it also applies to the hon. Member? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The rules always apply to those who obey them.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is up to you.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : I am obedient.

Sir, first of all, I would like to say – to sum up the whole thing – I have heard them. I have heard certain cases about which they have mentioned, that is, regarding Shri Chandha and also an hon. Senior Member of the House, how he fell sick, how he was rushed to the hospital. I

am really concerned about that. I feel very sorry for that.

But I would also like to tell you before I proceed further or before I come to certain points that there is no breach of contract. I am not here for the breach of contract. I am here to strengthen the contract. Sir, do not, at least for God's sake, question my motive. I am trying to work it out. I am finding out a solution.

[Translation]

He was talking about the Chemist, about the medicines that we were getting earlier. It has got another aspect also. The aspect of the Chemist is that CAG has raised some objections which we have stopped. But that is not our intention. Let me tell you that we are getting the medicines from Delhi Pharmulutory and making bulk purchase of the medicines which have been appreciated by WHO. It is for the first time that we are purchasing the medicines in bulk after I joined and the House would be glad to know that we are getting not only tested, most effective and quality medicines but getting medicines at lesser prices by about twenty to fifty percent and sales tax is also being saved. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh) : Minister, Sir, we are not getting medicines in time. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : Sir, I am obedient, as such I will keep quite. I welcome his sentiments. I am realizing that medicines are not being supplied and there has been shortage of medicines off and on. We had started this fight and struggle that everything should go on smoothly and there should be no difficulty at all in regard to availability of the medicines. I feel sorry for the difficulties that people have faced. But simultaneously, I want to say that on last occasion also we had said that.

[English]

It should be resolved within a week's time.

[Shri Shatrughan Sinha]

[Translation]

Some extra time has been taken but it is not so that I am not making efforts. This much I want to say before you that we will do it within a few weeks say within one month. When you will see me next time, you will not raise this question. There would not be any shortage of medicine anywhere. This is what I want to assure this house through you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister has given his statement in a nice way and has given a nice statement that he will leave no chance to raise this question in the time to come. I want to ask a very minor thing from you and it may be that this thing not be related to this question. When poor farmers and workers work in the fields, then there are chances of their getting bitten by the snakes. The medicine for treatment against Snake bite is not found available in the hospitals. When we were in the Government in Uttar Pradesh, we had ordered that every hospital should keep with it injections for treatment against snake bite. . . .

(Interruptions) We had also made arrangements for treatment against dog bite. When a person is bitten by dog, he can be treated sooner or later but when a person is bitten by a snake, he or she dies within a short period. Snakes are very venomous. As such I request you that you should make arrangements for keeping medicine for treatment against snake bite in every hospital at your own level or at the State Government level and also give such publicity that medicine is available.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The procedure is that those Members who have given a notice to me can only ask the questions. But since Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is the leader of his party in the House, his question may be answered if you desire. But it need not be taken as a precedent.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA : Sir, I welcome the suggestion given by honourable Mulayam Singh ji and I will keep it in mind and take positive and meaningful action in this regard.

12.53 hrs.

RE: DELAY IN RELEASING MPLAD FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Through you I want to raise a very important question in this House. More than three years of the thirteenth Lok Sabha have elapsed. Six crore rupees have been provided under the MPLAD funds for Itawah district and 156 proposals have been received for development of this district. All the proposals of the district are lying incomplete and not even a single work has been fully completed. District officer and district Administration are not taking any action on all the proposal due to their arbitrary attitude and no work is taking place. The rules provide that whatever proposals would be received from member of Parliament, action will be taken thereon within 45 days but more then three years we have elapsed and all the works are lying incomplete. Besides it, whatever new proposals are being given, those proposals are not receiving any attention and those are not being sanctioned. It is a very important matter which I am raising in this house through you. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable member has raised a very genuine question. Every work is lying incomplete. They deposit the money in the bank and purchase new vehicles with the interest accruing to that deposit and travel here and there. Fund are not spent on the development of the Parliamentary constituency. My submission is that that some stern orders should be issued. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is related to my home district Itawah from where I have been elected an M.L.A. for eight times continuously. This is the area from where Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya is an M.P. I myself requested the district officer thrice. Barring Itawah, funds for members of legislative Assembly and legislative council of all the neighbouring districts have been released. The district magistrate of Itawah has told some of our friends that come what may, he will not release the Member of Parliament and Member of Legislative Assembly/Council funds at any cost. He added that Mulayam Singh has also complained

in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of this I have to request you to kindly refer this matter to the committee of privileges and it may be investigated by today evening. Why the funds have not been released till date, where they have kept these funds? What are the ground realities behind it and if D.M. or C.D.O. are offered commission from fifteen to twenty five percent, then they would release the funds by today evening. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister would you like to say something on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter pertains to Shri Vijay Goel ji. In this connection what I know is that whatever complaints are received, those are looked into and disposed of also. I will talk to Vijay Goel ji in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, this matter is related to you and with your goodness every thing can be possible. You should intervene in this matter. This is all but formality. . . .(Interruptions) Whatever he wanted to say, that he has said that he has rightly stated and we will not object to that. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, you will have to specifically intervene in this matter. You please intervene in it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, whatever you have stated, I have heard all that and I myself will talk to the Minister in this regard.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHY (Salem) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of the farmers who are cultivating banana in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

There is a multinational company by name Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore. This company is situated in Bangalore which supplies tissue culture banana seeds to the farmers. And because of the extensive canvass and the kind of promises made by the company, the farmers were made a believe that this was a hybrid

variety which they can indulge in cultivating. Sir, to their dismay, believing it to be true thousands of farmers had taken tissue culture seeds from this company. Two years have elapsed. Even the feathering is not taking place. Ultimately, the farmers have been put to very huge loss. This is a serious situation.

This situation was raised by Shri P.H. Pandian way back in 2001 and addressed the Ministry of Agriculture that this was the plight of the farmers in those areas. The Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore has completely deceived the farmers of those areas who are cultivating banana.

Sir, the Ministry was kind enough in sending a team to investigate this issue. The team, under the Chairmanship of the Director, National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy, visited the spot and they found out the cause of the loss of farmers. They felt that 80 per cent was due to poor quality of planting material. They were categorical in their finding that because of the poor quality of seed and tissue culture supplied by the multinational company, Indo American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore, the farmers were put to huge loss.

I would like to cite the case of Shri V.R.N. Murthi alone, who is a big farmer and has taken seeds worth Rs. 95 lakh from this company. That report is available with the Ministry. Even then, the Ministry is insensitive and indifferent to that report. I would like to know whom they are shielding. Is the Ministry in line with the case that the farmers who are born out of debt are going to die out of debt? Is this the situation? Is it not the duty of the Government to book the culprit and give relief to the farmers? The farmers have gone to the National Consumer Forum. Two years have elapsed. The company did not even file a counter reply. The Ministry is sleeping over it. The Ministry of Agriculture knows that there is a report and because of the poor quality of seeds, the farmers are dying. I would like the Ministry to initiate immediate action. The banks are asked to recover the loan from the agriculturists. Two years have elapsed. The report is with them. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandian will associate with him.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, I would like to know as to why the investigating team has not initiated any action. Whom are they shielding ? Are they shielding the multinational company ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Prasad ji, don't you want to express your views.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I want to express my views after supporting him.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nuniya Mallah, Tatma, Turha, Tanti and Kumhar – all these castes are among the most backward castes in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : When the Bill will come before you, at that time you can express your views.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these castes are very backwards castes from the financial and social point of view and are at par with the scheduled castes but due to wrong policies of the Government these castes have been included in the list of most backward castes in Bihar whereas in other States, these have been listed as Scheduled Castes. All these castes have formed a confederation and have held a number of meetings and launched agitation. As such I demand from the Government to bring a comprehensive bill in this regard and include such most backward castes of the country in the list of scheduled castes so that they can get the benefit of reservation etc. as with getting opportunity to participate in the social economic change.

13.01 hrs.

RE: ENTRY OF FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENT IN RETAIL SECTOR

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the

Government, especially the Ministry of Commerce to a very important matter which is being linked with our retail trade economy of the country.

On 26th November, *The Economic Times* published a very sensational story which exposes how the Planning Commission is differing with the decision of the Cabinet or a section of the Planning Commission is differing with the ultimate Tenth Plan document. The Tenth Plan draft document has said that the opening up of this sector, that is, foreign direct investment, in the retail trade is an immediate requirement of the Government whereas the committee headed by the Planning Commission Member, Shri. N.K. Singh has said as follows :

"The retail sector in India is dispersed, widespread, labour intensive and disorganised. In the right of this, it is not thought desirable at present to lift the ban on FDI in retail trade."

The Tenth Plan document finally said that it is required. Not only that, but also the Cabinet Sub-Committee had several meetings. There, they opined that this area should not be interfered by foreign direct investment.

Several Chambers of Commerce, several retail trade groups from Maharashtra, Kolkata and many other parts met our Party and many MPs of this House. We are sorry to say that still the clarification has not come out in spite of the fact that the Tenth Plan document has been endorsed by the Prime Minister. Maybe, the Prime Minister was not sufficiently conveyed as to what is going on inside. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, as it is alleged, that the multinational retailers through the bureaucratic circles are continuously putting pressure on the Government to take an anti-national decision on allowing foreign direct investment in the retail trade. This will, perhaps, destroy the entire prospect of the retail trade in the country.

Today we are going to discuss the Competition Bill. Before that, if this thing has already been done and the document of the Planning Commission is finally endorsed by the Government, then I do not know how they will be protected.

Sir, so far I know that in the month of July, the Group of Ministers deciding on the limits of FDI, rejected the

proposal of following the FDI into retail trade. In the month of June, the Task Force of the Planning Commission on Employment headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, categorically advised not to allow FDI into retail trade on account of its adverse consequences on employment. Therefore, I strongly feel that if at this stage the Government can clearly make its position, these retail trade groups of India can at least be assured that their trade and activities shall not be further interfered by foreign direct investment as this will not only liquidate employment but also it will adversely destroy or affect the entire prospect of these groups. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are also allowed to associate with this.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I also associate with what he says.

Sir, lakhs and lakhs of retail shops would be closed and multinationals would capture all the shops in the country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Commerce Minister is here. I request him, through you, that he may please respond to this. Let him clarify the position and let it go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : If the Commerce Minister so desires, he may respond. I have no objection.

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Sir, the existing policy since 1997, as you know and as the hon. Member knows, is that foreign direct investment in retail trade is not permitted.

As the hon. Member rightly said, the N.K. Singh Committee also seems to have come to the same conclusion. As to the other question, there is a Group of Ministers on this and I am not aware of any such proposal before it. If it comes up, it would be considered by the Group of Ministers and reported in general. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I said that the Tenth Plan document prepared by the Planning Commission has endorsed it while the Group of Ministers has rejected it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : In any case, the Tenth Plan document is also coming up before the National Development Council. All the Chief Ministers including Congress Chief Ministers would have an occasion to comment on individual proposals. In that, there are trading activities for exports or for joint ventures, which are permitted in wholesale activities and so on but those are specialised things. If you would like me to read them, I can read them out but as far as retail trade in general is concerned, he is completely right that since 1997 that has been the Government's policy. I understand, there were two companies which were given permission before 1997 in this regard but since then nobody has been given permission. We have checked that with the Reserve Bank also.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the farmers were demonstrating peacefully and staging a dharna on 11 December at the Munderawa Sugar mill in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh for releasing the payment of arrears of sugarcane price and fixing the sugar cane price, three farmers were killed there in the police firing. In this very context I had given a notice to you on 12.12.02 through an adjournment motion. When the hon. Prime Minister reached the House after 1200, he gave an assurance to make a statement in the evening. But when the Minister for food gave a statement in that context it was mentioned that only one farmer was killed. We did not agree to that statement. Our Hon. Leader Shri Mulayam Singh ji directed us to immediately make an on the spot visit of the place and inform him about the factual position there. As per his directions when we visited Basti on 13.12.02, we saw that the entire Basti district had been turned into a police cantonment. On hearing the woeful stories of the farmers' families we realised that we people don't have any right to be elected to the Parliament if we can't solve their problems. The Munderawa incident is a living example of misleading statement which the Government has made. The 'Dhala' (slope for loading/unloading) which was only 100 metres away from the Munderawa Sugar Mill gate, the soil lying there which has mingled with human blood was the indication of the cold-blooded murder of the farmers by the Police even after attaining Independence. Two farmers were killed at the sugar mill gate whereas the other one was killed on the

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

western side of the 'Dhala' one farmer-Badari Chaudhary was killed only 50 metres away from where they were staging a dharna. I would also like to say in this context that the police not only bashed the people but they also looted the shops of the businessmen. The tea shops of Sanjay Kumar Modanwal, Anil Kumar Modanwal and Jairan Chaudhary were also looted. Amin Chaudhary, Jokhan Agrahari and Valmiki Verma were brutally beaten and their hand and feet were also broken. Hundreds of people are injured. When they came to know that I had come there as a member of the delegation of the Samajwadi Party, thousands of people gathered there and narrated their sad stories. That made me realised the cruelty which the Britishers used to show during the independence struggle, the same kind of cruelty the police showed once again against the farmers at the Munderwa gate. This has certainly shaken even humanity. We want to say through you. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know that a discussion is to be held on this subject.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the police have lodged innocent farmers in jails. Today the farmers are prevented from undertaking agricultural and other activities. This should be stopped forthwith. The Government should be taken to its task for its misleading statement. The post-mortem report has revealed that farmers died due to firing. I, therefore, humbly request that those farmers who have been lodged in jails should immediately be released. The families of those farmers who had been killed should be given a compensation of Rs. 20 lakh each and those injured should be given a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs each. Those who are involved in the killing of farmers should immediately be arrested and sent to jails.

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak at length during the discussion.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The Uttar Pradesh Government has laid a wrong report in the House. Therefore, the Uttar Pradesh Government should immediately be dismissed and the misleading statement of the Uttar Pradesh Government about which the Minister of Food and Civil supplies, Shri Sharad Yadav has

informed this House, he should also be dismissed from the Government immediately.

SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the paddy growers to Madhya Pradesh are compelled to burn their paddy crops. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this, through you. Balaghat is a paddy producing district and I want to raise the problems of the paddy growers in the House. Today, the farmers are burning their paddy crop in the entire Jabalpur Division. The main reason behind is the gradation system of the FCI and assigning the job of paddy procurement to the marketing federation by the Madhya Pradesh Government. During the last few years, paddy procurement used to be done through the societies. But the State Governments have reduced their number to one-third and the FAQ norms have been made more stringent and the procurement process is delayed by two months. As a result of which the farmers have sold their produce directly to the tenders. The last year scandal of Madhya Pradesh which involved procurement of paddy by the traders from the farmers and the same paddy was sold as levy later on. This clearly shows that the paddy procured at cheaper rate was again sold to the Government after milling. The rice mills which even did not consume a single unit in milling were reported to have done milling of thousands of quintal of paddy. Despite having evidences against the traders in this regard no action was taken against them and even today the paddy procurement centres are closed. I, therefore, request you that the Central Government should intervene in this matter and set up an inquiry into the said scandal. This is the tactics they have been adopting continuously. The last date for providing subsidy by the Central Government is 31 December, this date should be extended otherwise all the farmers would be exploited. Today, farmers are burning their paddy crop, but tomorrow they could also commit suicide.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of brutality is concerned, a demonstration was held at a power station in Madhya Pradesh where hundreds of people were injured in the heavy lathicharge. Farmers are meted out this sort of injustice from all quarters and the Madhya Pradesh Government is not paying any attention towards this. I want that the Central Government should intervene in it.

13.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Five
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

14.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Forty-fifth Report***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to
present the Forty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory
Committee.

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to release Funds from Central Road
Fund for construction of Sagar-Rahli-Patala
Jabalpur Road in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, the Sagar Jabalpur road passes via Rahli and
Jhalon which fall in my parliamentary constituency in
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. This road reduces the distance
between Sagar and Jabalpur about 40 kms and the road
between Jabalpur highway and Kolkata highway from
Bamhori Tiraha on Sagar-Devari road can be got
constructed from the Central Road Funds and thus, two
main highways can be linked with each other. This will also
help in reducing the journey time passengers of four Lok
Sabha constituencies of these two divisions and also in
saving money. I, therefore, request the Government that
financial assistance may be extended for the construction
of Sagar-Rohli-Jhalon-Patal-Jabalpur road from the Central
Road Fund on priority basis.

- (II) **Need to ensure that small savings' agents in
Mumbai get their incentive commission paid
early**

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, delay
in issuing certificates by NSO, Finance Ministry to the small
savings' agents has resulted into serious problem. The
State Government is paying incentives, additional
commission to the small savings' agents for the business
carried on by them in the previous year. Year-wise
certificates are to be issued by NSO for collection done
by these agents for PPF, postal savings etc. Lot of
hardships are being faced by the agents in Mumbai. Till
now, certificates have not been issued by Mumbai region
since 1999-2000. Finance Ministry, Budget Division must
take urgent action and ask NSO, Mumbai Division to issue
certificates to sort out the differences with Maharashtra
Government and get the incentive commission paid to the
small savings' agents.

- (III) **Need to resolve acute drinking water problems
in Ajmer district Rajasthan**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, Ajmer district has been witnessing the severe
drought condition and famine for the fourth consecutive
year. The sources of drinking water have been dried up
in rural areas. The water in old reservoirs and steps wells
is also on the verge of drying up as not even a single
drop of water fell on earth this year. Hand-pumps and wells
have also been dried up. The water table has gone down
drastically. And the scanty water which is available that too
has high content of fluoride. People are suffering from
several diseases and severe deformities by consuming this
water. Survival of cattle becomes difficult due to shortage
of water. Villages have to fetch water from far away places.
Therefore, the Government is requested that the scheme
for digging up deep tubewells through underground Water
Board may be approved to meet the drinking water crisis
in rural areas of Ajmer district and Special economic
package may please be sanctioned for making available
drinking water from Beesalpur Drinking Water Scheme to
the villages where water has fluoride content in it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is looking very good in Rajasthan turban today. There is a maxim also

'Rag, rasoi, pagri, Kabhi-kabhi ban jaye'

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, please sit down.

(iv) Need for replacement of old railway bridge on Delhi-Howrah railway line between Karwigwan and Aang railway stations near Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh

DR. ASHOK PATEL (Fatehpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 40-metre long bridge over the Pandu river near Fatehpur between Karwigwan and Aang railway stations on Delhi-Howrah railway line constructed in 1863 during the British regime, is in a dilapidated conditions for long. This bridge could prove fatal at any moment for the Express trains playing between Delhi-Howrah. The construction wing of the Eastern railway had submitted a report recommending re-construction of the said bridge 11 years back but the same has not yet been cleared so far. Local railway officers are very much concerned after the Rafiganj train accident. Therefore, I request the Government to undertake the reconstruction work of above bridge at the earliest in order to avoid any major accident.

(v) Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Boden block of Nuapada district, Orissa

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, there is acute drinking water shortage due to chemical contamination (Fluorosis) in Boden block in Nuapara district of Orissa. I request the Central Government to allocate funds immediately as the State Government of Orissa has already sent a proposal in this regard. I also request the Government to draw a programme to provide safe drinking water to all affected Gram Panchayats of the Block.

(vi) Need to establish a Bench of Supreme Court at Nagpur

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMPWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, for quite sometime past there have been demands for the setting up of a permanent Bench of the hon'ble Supreme Court at a place other than Delhi to enable the people to pursue their cases in the highest Court of Justice without spending much time and money which they have otherwise to do coming to the capital for the purpose.

Nagpur which is the second capital of Maharashtra and the geographical capital of the country, is the fastest growing city, has immense potential due to its central location for trade and distribution as well as logistics. Within the country it is well connected with more than hundred cities by road, rail and air. There is no other city in the country which is so centrally located as is Nagpur.

Having all these facilities, I would urge upon the Government to consider setting up of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur which will facilitate people from all the States to have an easy access to the highest Court to pursue their cases.

(vii) Need to confer ownership right on the labourers residing in labour colony in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the people living in the labour colonies in Kanpur and a few other major cities of Uttar Pradesh has worsened. These colonies of the Department of Labour are very old and are in a dilapidated condition. The Department of Labour is not in a position to spend money to provide civic amenities in these colonies and the Municipal Corporation also is not interested in improving the civic amenities. As a result, life has become hellish for the people living therein. For a proper solution to this problem the best way would be to transfer the ownership of all dwelling units of these colonies to their occupants at cost price or minimum cost by way of proper registry or allot them in their favour. After that the municipal corporation may levy routine taxes on the lines of ones being levied in other colonies of the city

and develop necessary civic amenities so that the people living in these colonies may be able to lead a proper civic life.

(viii) Need to protect the interest of workers engaged in Zari Industry

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, "The Zari" embroidery is an old handicraft in our country and several lakhs of workers are engaged in this cottage industry. There are important centres of Zari embroidery at Mumbai, Surat, Delhi, Kashmir, Jaipur and many other cities. Thousands of Zari workers from West Bengal work in those centres. The embroidery works are exported to many West Asian countries. But after the Gujarat riot, this has been hampered and exports reduced from Kandla port.

The Western countries like the USA, UK, Germany etc. are imposing duties and preventing exports on the flimsy ground of child labour. The Central Government also imposed heavy excise duty on this Zari embroidery saree and dresses.

I urge upon the Government to make a special plan for improvement of Zari embroidery work. The Government should allow to import sarees and dress materials on which Zari embroidery work is done and then help export of those embroideries.

The Government should also make a special package for Zari industry by giving bank loan and by opening training centres for Zari workers and designers and provide assistance to Zari producers, exporters and *ostagars*.

(ix) Need to lay new rail line connecting Farenda, Maharajganj, and Siswa in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 14 years have passed since Maharajganj district came into existence and this district is mainly an agricultural district situated on the Indo-Nepal border, but it has not been linked by rail line till now. If Anand Nagar Maharajganj and Maharajganj - Siswa are linked by rail line, then after Gauge conversion of the Gorakhpur-Gonda loop line the Assam bound trains

passing through Bihar will have to cover 60 to 70 kilometers less distance.

Therefore, I urge the Government to start the work of linking Farenda to Maharajganj and Maharajganj to Siswa by new rail lines immediately in larger public interest.

(x) Need to set up hydel power project on Penganga river in Hingoli Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Penganga river is situated in Sahastra Kund, Taluka Kinwat in my constituency Hingoli which remains full of water for 8 to 9 months in a year and a survey was also conducted here to set up a hydel power project but what happened to that survey is not known to us whereas a hydel power project is quite feasible here. Maharashtra may have to face a major power crisis in times to come. Shortage of power in the State is already being felt. It is very necessary to make this project operational in this area. This will facilitate irrigation facilities to the farmers besides development of the area in future. At present the supply of electricity in Maharashtra is falling short of its demand. So with the commissioning of this project Maharashtra will start getting electricity as per the requirement.

Therefore, I urge the Government through this House to take immediate action for sitting up hydel power project in this area.

(xi) Need to take up issue of restoring Buddha's demolished statue of Bamiyan with the Government of Afghanistan

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, in February, 2001, the Taliban demolished Lord Buddha's statue in Afghanistan, the largest of its kind in the world. The Taliban fighters launched the attack on Buddha's status with rockets and tanks which sent shock waves throughout the world including the entire Buddhist community.

The world famous statues of Bamiyan Buddha were unique measuring about 150 feet high and dating back to 2nd and 5th centuries A.D. I request the Union

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

Government to take up the matter with the Afghanistan Government to restore the Buddhist treasure for the benefit of the mankind. This will help in preserving world cultural, religious and historical heritage.

(xii) Need to accord sanction to proposals of Government of Chhattisgarh for declaration of Bilaspur-Ambikapur-Garhwa and Bilaspur-Ambikapur-Varanasi State Highways as National Highways

[Translation]

SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sanguja is a tribal dominated district of Chhattisgarh. With poor transportation facilities people have to face great difficulties in going to and coming from the neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to construct two new national highways in order to link Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

1. The proposal for Bilaspur-Katghora-Ambikapur-Ramanujan-Garhwa dated 3.3.01 has been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi.
2. The proposal for Bilaspur-Katghora-Ambikapur-Vodrunagar-Varanasi dated 8.6.02 has been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi.

Therefore, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to urge the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Union Government. Kindly to accord sanction to both the said proposals regarding new national highway in public interest.

14.20 hrs.

**CONTROL OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS
(LAND AND TRAFFIC) BILL – Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up Legislative Business – Further consideration of Control of National Highways Bill.

Dr. V. Saroja was on her legs. She is not here now.

Shri Muniappa may speak now.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to participate in the discussion of this Bill. I also welcome the need for the passage of this Bill, to empower the National Highway Authority and Tribunal to deal and to solve the problems arising in the existing provisions of the Bill.

Unless and until we take up this work in a proper manner, we cannot complete this and it may even take decades to complete. That is why, the hon. Minister, Maj. Gen. Khanduri has taken up the work to deeply develop roads fastly, on both golden quadrilateral – north-south and east-west.

Under *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, they are getting the projects from the States, to have complete connectivity to the villages in seven years. It is really a welcome decision taken by the Government. At the same time, the progress is also very good.

I would just like to suggest 2-3 points. I will not take much time of the House. The first important thing that I would like to mention here is that wherever we have a population of more than 25,000-30,000, we have to have a long-term plan for 50 years or so. We have to have coordination with the States and we should have ring-roads instead of one-side by-pass roads, at least up to the *tehsils* which can control the traffic which is coming inside the *tehsils*.

The second point is about conversion of Bangalore-Cuddapah road into a National Highway, via. Tirupati. This is an Inter-State road going through three States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka connecting the coastal route from Chennai to West Bengal. If you connect Bangalore-Cuddapah-Tirupati with the Chennai-Orissa-West Bengal route, it will be very good.

You have already taken up some roads in Karnataka for conservation and extension. Here too, I request you to take up one project. You already have the projects of extension of Highways No. 13, 206, 207, 209, 212 and 218 of about 1204 kms. Apart from this, you may kindly consider my proposal.

Thirdly, for maintenance of roads in Karnataka. The allocation that you have made is for Rs. 3797 crore, but you have given Rs. 774 lakh during 2002-2003. It is very meagre for the maintenance of roads. I urge upon the hon. Minister to allot in the Budget of 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 5000 lakh for the development of roads in Karnataka. This is the important suggestion of mine. I request the Minister to take up these things. I further request the Minister to expedite the proposals that are pending from Karnataka.

The fourth point is this. You have received proposal from Karnataka. Those proposals are in connection with National Highway No. 4. I request you to consider those proposals on top priority. Bangalore-Chennai Highway via. Kolar is highly traffic infested; and every day there is one casualty or more than 300-400 casualties are there in a year. So, I request the hon. Minister to consider the proposal of converting this into a four-lane road, on top priority.

The second one here is on the construction of divided four lanes carriageway on NH-4. The cost estimated is Rs. 680 crore. This project is pending with the Ministry, the proposal of which was submitted on 21.10.2002.

A proposal, for about Rs. 326 crore, regarding four-lane road from Bangalore towards Chennai – 100 kms. Via Kolar has already been submitted by the PWD Minister. It is pending with the Government. It should be cleared on top-priority basis. The Minister had also laid the foundation of some of these roads, when he visited the State last time. The work should progress on these roads.

I do not want to take much time of the House. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider my suggestions. We really appreciate the work undertaken by you and we support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic Bill) 2002 was moved for consideration in the House by the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways on 13 December and I am on my legs to speak on that Bill. Sir, while moving this bill the hon. Minister had apprised the House of its objectives that while Rs. 60,000 crores

have been provided under the National Highways Development Programme, about Rs. 2.5 thousand crores are being spent under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Encroachment and illegal construction on roads is becoming a problem day by day. So such a tribunal was needed for which this bill has been introduced. I welcome this bill. Such bills are quite necessary. But one thing I would like to say that before this bill the States have their Roadside Land Control Acts. Had it been implemented properly by the authorities concerned, perhaps this problems would not have assumed such a proportion as it is today. There should also be a provision to take action against those authorities who are incharge of national highways and who fail to take action in time.

Today, while the construction of national highways has progressed and improved continuously under the leadership of the hon. Minister, at the same time the problem of traffic control has come up due to resource crunch. A number of States are facing such problems. Shops of motor mechanics and dhabas are opened by the roadside. Those who do not have an inch of land of their, own., encroach upon Government land thus affecting the traffic on national highways and State highways. The hon. Minister belongs to Uttaranchal. He had asked me to name such a place. I do not know the name of that place but I would like to say that with your efforts the Badrinath-Kedarnath road has been constructed quite well. The Gyani ka Dhaba falls on this route. Passengers stop there for taking meals and this causes traffic jams everyday. In this regard you will have to think out a solution to such traffic jams. The national highway No. 21 is in Himachal Pradesh. This runs from Chandigarh, Swarghat to Manali. There are two major cement factories at Barmana and Dadlaghat on this highway. The largest users of this national highway are these big companies and traffic jams are caused by large trucks of these companies, because of truck drivers park their trucks on this road, take their meals in the dhabas running by the side of this road and sleep comfortably there. There is no provision to control this because the State Government has limited resources. You yourself are an ex-servicemen. My suggestion is to utilize the services of ex-servicemen for this purpose. A task force of ex-servicemen may be constituted and its personnel may be stationed at such places where there is concentration of industries. The companies which operate large trucks

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

should also be charged. And at such places the services of ex-servicemen should be utilized to control the traffic in order or prevent traffic jams. This is very important. I hope you would pay attention to this.

Secondly, the State officers in charge of the national highways are indeed in the Public Works Department. I have referred to the Roadside Land control Act. The national highway officials are mostly in States. Under this Act they have got the right to prevent anybody from constructing anything within 17 meters from the centre of the road. For example if the road is 10 meters wide no construction is allowed upto 7 meters on both the sides. If I am not wrong, no construction is allowed upto 3-4 meters on the State highways also. Illegal constructions are done in connivance with the officials otherwise these illegal constructions can be demolished at once with the help of the police. They first let the people occupy the land illegally, then they serve notices to the encroachers facilitating them to go to the court, claim adverse possession and get stay orders. If this is going to be the practice, the hon. House may pass as many bills, this problem will remain as it is. So such officials also should be made liable to attract strict action.

The third major problem is that on these national highways there is no provision of public utilities etc. The passengers and the tourists park their vehicles here and there in search of lavatories. This results in accidents, and you have also given a figure that about 70,000 people are killed every year in road accidents. The root cause of it is that there is no parking facilities on these roads. I have referred to the Dhabas. Public lavatories should also be constructed at proper places by the side of the national highways. A special drive is needed to remove the encroachments. I do know that many poor persons open car puncture shops at any place for a livelihood. They need proper attention and rehabilitation at a proper place, but it should be ensured that the national highways are kept open and unoccupied. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, we support this Bill which has been brought by the hon.

Minister. No doubt, the intention of the Government is good. We also welcome the Government's decision to construct Golden Quadrangular. Though the intention of the Government is good, it is very difficult to implement it on all the roads. I would suggest that before the implementation of this Act, the Government should consult the State Governments. At the time of its implementation, they should also involve the local self-Governments like municipalities and panchayats. It is because serious problems will arise at the time of its implementation as thousands and thousands of people are living by constructing their own dwelling houses and pump sets within the road area. Not only that, there are so many legal business complexes and establishments which have been there for a long time. They have been living there even before this programme came into being. They are in possession of the roadside land. I would request that before removing these people, sufficient compensation should be given to them. Otherwise, people will go to courts and the courts would interfere. They will given interim orders and the work will be stayed which will hamper the public interest. So, before removing people who are living there by legally establishing their business complexes and the houses, sufficient compensation should be awarded to them.

Some people are also unauthorised occupants of the land. They are encroachers. They have no right to remain there. They are socially and economically very powerful. They just grab the land. They should be removed immediately.

Another problem is regarding the provision of drainage system on both sides of the road. Otherwise it will cause serious water logging. I will give you one example. National Highway 60 is under construction from Kharakpur in West Bengal to Balasore in Orissa. The project is implemented under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. This has caused serious water logging. There should be a provision for drains. Otherwise the road will be damaged very soon due to water logging.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one more aspect. In the implementation of these road construction projects, the local poor people should be given employment opportunities and such other facilities. It would be a privilege for them to participate as workers in the implementation of these schemes.

We support this Bill and welcome the intention of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill.

Sir, I am from Madhya Pradesh where the highways are 4725 kilometers long. I would like to thank the hon. Minister that 2500 kilometers of highways were constructed in fifty years whereas another 2500 kilometers of highways have been constructed just in four years. You have referred to the declaration of these highways as national property in clause-3, but implementation is pivotal. The State Governments do commit mistakes, and you might have taken note of such things. Even after repeated directions from your side sign boards have not been put on the national highways. First of all, when a road is constructed, it carries a three-years guarantee, but when a pothole appears, its supervision rests with the State Governments or the National Highways Authority. But it has been seen that this work is not done. In such a situation, what to take action against anybody or what to make a complaint against anybody, there is no sign of any action being taken thereon.

So far as quality improvement is concerned, I cite the example of NH-69. You will have to find a way out for quality control. I charge the State Government of taking no action at all. As soon as you declare a State highway as national highway, the State Government stops the maintenance and management of such highways, and you cannot imagine the plight of the road due to this apathy. The allocation to the State for this purpose has been raised from Rs. 40 crores to Rs. 130 crores, but if you consider the utilization of this money, you will be disappointed. There is no provision for the maintenance of national highways. You have not enacted any legislation in this regard under which directions for taking action could be given.

In the end, so far as temporary or permanent disruption of traffic is concerned, through you I would like to submit that wherever a culvert is broken on the national highway, traffic is diverted. In this diversion of traffic, the State Government is at fault, because most often traffic

diversion is made on roads which is not in good condition. I would like to thank you once again for the funds you have provided and for doing in four years what was not done in forty years. If you do not consider monitoring of the highways by the State Governments, your efforts will go in vain and will remain on paper only. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002 moved by the hon. Minister for Road Transport and National Highways Development. I am not going into the details.

As far as Kerala is concerned, the allocation of funds is very meagre in comparison to other States. There are only a few National Highways in Kerala whereas there are a number of roads which could be declared as National Highways. Though the Government of Kerala has proposed several roads to be declared as National Highways, yet the proposals are pending before the Ministry.

The allocation of fund for National Highways maintenance and reconstruction in Kerala is very meagre. Kerala is also not getting due consideration for golden quadrilateral super highways. Kerala has been neglected in the implementation of the *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana*. The allocation made for this scheme is very low. Kerala Government has also sought assistance for the improvement of the State Highways. But the Ministry does not consider that in a serious manner.

The condition of the National Highway 208 deserves special attention. Action should be taken to remove curves and turnings between Shencottai and Punalur.

The stretch between Aryankavu and Thenmalai should be broadened. It is essential to have a bypass in the Kottarakkara-Punalur town. Reasonable compensation should be given to the owners of shops and other establishments when they are removed from the area. The road from Kundara to Quilon should be made four-lane. As the road at Ezhukone junction is very high, the

[Shri Kodikunnil Suresh]

approach roads on both sides have become very narrow. This should be examined to avoid the height of the road in Ezhukone. The railway overbridges at Aryankavu-Nedumbayikkulam and Valakkode-Punalur should be broadened as accidents have become frequent on NH-208. Widening and re-construction is very much needed. The Government should ban the bringing of cattle from Tamil Nadu by road for slaughter as this is becoming a traffic hazard. . . .(Interruptions) NH 20 is facing regular problems due to cattle.

Though Theni-Kollam National Highway has been announced, alignment has not been finalised nor construction started. There should be bypass roads at Adoor, Pandalam, Chengannur, Tiruvalla, Chenganacherry and Kottayam towns. The railway overbridge at Mylom should be broadened. The portion from Kottarakkara to Kottayam in the proposed National Highway should be made four-lane as traffic jam and accidents are quite common in this route.

The Punalur-Muvattupuzha road should be declared a national highway at the earliest possible. The distance from Punalur to Muvattupuzha via Pathanapuram, Konni, Pathanamthitta, Ranny, Kanjirappally and Palai will be only about 120 kms. The hilly agricultural belt of Southern Travancore will get a new life if this is declared as a national highway. This will considerably help the Sabarimala pilgrims also. This road, which links many tourist spots, will also be a major link to the Kochi-Madurai and Thirumangalam-Kollam National Highway.

The Thiruvananthapuram-Shenkottai road also should be declared a national highway. This is a major road linking Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The distance from Thiruvananthapuram to Shencottai via Kattakkada, Aryanadu, Nedumangad, Palode, Kulathoopuzha, Thenmalai and Aryankavu will be only 150 kms. The demand to make this road a national highway is long standing.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. My first request is that for a Bill of this magnitude and importance, the Business Advisory Committee should have given more time. Anyway, I will be very brief. I congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought this Bill. I support this Bill, but I have certain reservations and apprehensions about certain clauses of this Bill. One of

them is regarding access to the national highways. In Kerala and in many other States, there are many village roads and State highways which are actually acceding through the national highways. Quite a large number of such roads are there in Kerala. When this clause is implemented by the authorities or when cases come before the Tribunal, the village or the *gram panchayat* authorities and State authorities should be consulted. In the Miscellaneous Clause 42, it is said that wherever any village headman, village accountant, village watchman or other village official becomes aware of some accident or some deformity or defect in the national highway, then it is the bounden duty of such person to inform the highway authorities.

But as far as these persons are concerned, they are under the control of the *gram panchayat* or the municipality or the local body as such. So, they will not be doing this duty as their bounden duty. There should be some coordination between these authorities and the National Highway Authorities so that the purpose of this legislation would be fully served.

Another aspect is regarding land acquisition. That process is undertaken by the State Governments and there is inordinate delay in that. The process of land acquisition is very time consuming. So, there must be some machinery by which we can bring down the time taken.

Regarding the loans that come from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, naturally consultants would be undertaking the work of preparation of estimates and also the supervision. That is what I am given to understand.

That is what I am made to understand. If I am wrong, I hope the hon. Minister will correct me. So, if that is the case, what is found is that all such estimates are actually boosted estimates. Commission is also given to the consultants on the basis of this estimate and so naturally it gets boosted. I would request the hon. Minister to take care of this point when replying to this legislation (Interruptions)

Regarding my constituency, there is the Dharmadam bridge which is sixty years old, which is there on the National Highway No. 17. It is in a very depressed condition. I have taken up this matter several times earlier.

Instead of waiting for the Tellicherry-Mahe-by-pass to materialise, this bridge should be taken up.

Another pending work is about the Palolipalam reconstruction work. It is also a by-pass on the National Highway No. 17. The reach between Chengottukavu and Nandi is 11 km. in my constituency. I shall be giving the details later on to the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, you can give the details later on.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : I am not going into the details now. I am winding up after making just one point.

There is no coordination among the various agencies like the Water Authority, Electricity and Telecom Authorities while these important roads are dug up by them. There should be some Coordinating Authority or Agency to see that once the road is constructed, it is not dug up or spoiled.

Next, the contractors or the consultants, who execute the work, are not actually doing it in a superb manner as is expected of them. The standard of work is not that good. Potholes and cracks appear just a few months after the construction is completed. This point should also be taken up with the monitoring agencies.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri A.K. Panja to speak now. You know the time constraint. You have seen it just now. You have only two minutes to speak. You will have to stick to it.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta, North East) : I take note of that. I would appreciate it.

Sir, roads, or railways are the arteries and veins of our country. It is well known. It appears from the record that there are 58,112 kms. of State and National Highway roads and 32.5 lakh km. of State and rural roads. My first request to the hon. Minister is that the existing roads should be put in order.

In respect of most of the roads, not only unauthorised people are encroaching upon them but also shops are built up and the district administration does not take any steps whatsoever. Therefore, will the hon. Minister – the hon.

Minister should, in my submission – involve the district administration, the District Magistrates, the Superintendents of Police to see that unauthorised construction does not take place ?

In West Bengal, most of the National Highways are in great disorder specially NH-34 connecting Calcutta with North Bengal. I had been to Purulia last week-end. It is well known that Purulia is under-developed and it has been declared as such since Independence. The road in that area is in such a bad condition in the National Highway (NH-32), State Highway and the Rural ways that it is difficult to travel. So, I hope the hon. Minister will have a special look at it and he will answer as to what is being done for developing it.

Coming to the North-East, road is the only way out for the people. There is no railway link almost everywhere. The only way are the roads. Sikkim has been brought in the other day by amending by North-Eastern Council Act. There should be four-lane way. It will improve the traffic system, movement of people, vehicles and goods and also tourism. Similar is the position in Assam and Tripura where scanty railway lines are there. Further, roads are in extremely bad conditions whether they are from South to North or other side.

I had occasion to deal with Bangladesh. If the road from Calcutta to Dhaka in Bangladesh and also from Dhaka to Agartala (Tripura) India is connected immediately, there would be a connection established from Tripura directly. This is my request. coming all the way in a circuitous way is extremely difficult. This will also open the way to NE States in the Hills.

I would also request the hon. Minister to take care of illegal parking. I would request you to visit and enter Calcutta from the G.T. Road one day. The three-lane illegal parking by the lorries, which want to enter Calcutta, is creating problem. It is so because there is a prohibition not to enter the city before 8 p.m. or 10 p.m. So, kindly make a study of it and make special provision if at all it is necessary by making a parking zone away from N.H.

I would like to mention one more thing here. In the contract which is being given to the contractors for

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

construction of roads, the hon. Minister should include a provision on the following. The planting of trees must start immediately as soon as the road is constructed. The marking of kilometres, curves and other dangerous places which is being put up (now only about 10 ft. from the dangerous spot), should be done properly so that the truck drivers and others can easily understand. Then, there should be proper indications given on the side of the road about STD Booths, eating places, Medical Centres and Petrol Pumps. The best example for this was the work done by Shri Bansilal in Delhi-Chandigarh road and, I think, that will give some idea as to how to do these things.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and, that through you, I would like to make a plea to the hon. Minister. I have discussed with him and have written to him in the past and he has categorically stated that, if the State Government of Nagaland so recommends, the National Highway, which is to be constructed on the international border may be considered.

Sir, the proposed National Highway connecting NH-150 at Jesami with NH-37 at Sibsagar has a total road length of approximately 490 kms. will require an investment of Rs. 343 crore at 2002 price level. This highway will serve the people of Mon and Tuensang districts which are the two most backward districts of the State. The rice cache of mineral deposits which exist along the ophiolite belt of Kiphire. Wazeho, Pokhpur and Nimi are limestones, nickel, cobalt, chromium, copper, zinc, magnesite, marble of exquisite quality have been identified along with the recently discovered platinum can be explored for economic upliftment of this region. This road can open myriad opportunities in the field of trade and commerce for both the State and our country with our neighbours Myanmar, China, Thailand and Singapore. I would therefore request the hon. Minister that this matter should be taken up immediately.

Sir, I am all for this Bill, but certain features have not been incorporated in the Bill. The roads which are crossing through the villages, towns and cities have to be elevated overhead because the traffic on these highways are fast moving. As rightly pointed out by one of our colleagues the hospitals, motels, restaurants should be constructed along these highways, also mobile police force and a

trained work force have to be employed on these highways so that the traffic is given smooth passage and everybody enjoys travelling on these roads.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister will reply now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak for only one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, I called your name, but you were not present in the House at that time.

Mr. Minister, can I give one minute to each hon. Member who wants to speak ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, I give you one minute now. Please be brief.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I support the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002. This Bill really facilitates speedy and early acquisition of land and also the creation of the tribunal will address several problems that come up from time to time.

I would like to raise one pertinent question regarding the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent as many as 17 proposals for conversion as National Highways and they are pending with the Government of India. The proposals include the extension of NH-214 which is one of the very important aspects. The proposal is regarding extension of NH-214 from Pamarru to Ongole, touching Challapalli, Pulligaddah, Penumudi, Repalle, Bapatla and Chirala and it, once again, joins NH-5. In this connection, several representations were made right from 1991 onwards to successive Ministers. A representation in this regard was given to the hon. Prime Minister also by all the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh. Our Chief Minister has also written letters and

the Minister of Roads and Buildings of the Government of Andhra Pradesh has called on the Surface Transport Minister for this purpose.

Sir, I would also like to remind, at this juncture, that the hon. Speaker also spoke to the present Surface Transport Minister in his chamber on this matter and it has been written to me by the Surface Transport Minister that this would be considered during the Tenth Five-year Plan along with such proposals received from other States. Since the Tenth Plan is in operation now, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly take up the extension of NH-214 from Pamarru to Ongole, which includes the construction of a bridge across the river Krishna between Pulligaddah and Penumudi.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since you have fixed the time limit that is why I would conclude by making few submissions.

The national highways which particularly pass through rural areas, have many a shops on both the sides of the road and wherever there is a residence, the resident would want to encroach the piece of land in front of his house. To meet this purpose he would install an idol of Hanumanji and it appears that Hanumanji becomes encroachment officer. By installing an idol he encroaches the land. A tea stall and betal shop further block the road entirely and lead to occasional incidents and accidents. In such a situation hon. Minister should talk to the State Government in this regard, the moment they start installing the idol there and encroaching the land, the Government should issue instructions and remain alert in anticipation to tackle the situation. Until such a situation of congested roads due to opening of tea stalls or betal shops and other shops is prevented, there is no scope of limiting or restricting road accidents.

Secondly, he has not worked upon any new national highway since he became a Minister and is neither in a position to do so. The condition of earlier national highways is worsening. The roads of Bihar are fit for fisheries and the condition of national highways is gradually becoming so. I met the hon. Minister personally and requested him upon which he assured me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to discuss about two-three roads. When Nitish Kumarji was the Minister he had given approval to the link from Chhapra to Gopalganj via Siwan as a National Highway which is the main road connecting eastern Bihar. People start perspiring when they see the condition of the road hon. Minister will be horrified to see it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I am not giving a speech, I am only narrating if I were delivering a speech you could have rung the bell and asked me to conclude. I will conclude after making my submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Did you see Venkateswarluji, he took only one minute to make his submissions.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I would like to submit that condition is really worse. Another road which links two States from Hajipur to Gajipur. You may belong to Uttaranchal now but one time your State was Uttar Pradesh. That road connects Uttar Pradesh to the main route to Bihar. Its condition has also worsened. We have discussed national highway No. 101 with hon. Minister also. A portion of funds for national highway No. 101 has been given by you, that is all right. Secondly, you had said that 31 to 45 per cent of the funds will be released within a week or so and remaining instalment will be cleared in February. I would request you that the area covered by national highway No. 101 is flood prone and it has been heavily damaged during flood. The Bihar Government does not sanction any funds since it is a national highway. And it will not give, since it is a national highway and you are also not releasing any funds. What will be the condition of those roads during floods ? We have requested the hon. Minister personally. Through you, I would request that funds may be released immediately for the construction of national highway No. 101. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I conclude after making one more submission. . . .*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, this is too much. You should not take this much time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Dharna is being staged
*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

by people in Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are staging dharna, right in front of us.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am not on dharna. I am requesting you that people are on dharna on national highway No. 77 Hon. Minister should take immediate action by addressing himself to their problems.

With these words, I conclude.

15.00 hours.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is fully aware of the various issues that we have brought before him on the question of transportation network. In fact, all the Members of the North-East have signed a petition, particularly, with regard to the East-West Corridor Project under the National Highways Development Programme.

I would like to bring to his notice, particularly, about something that has become some sort of discrimination. We have mentioned in our petition that a 300-km spur-line may be added from Jorabat near Guwahati to Silchar via Shillong, as in the case of the North-South Corridor from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, which has a 360 kms. spur-line from Salem in Tamil Nadu to Kochi in Kerala. This would be along National Highway Nos. 40, 44 and 53 and would pass through Meghalaya. We would like to have a fair deal on this.

Secondly, the spur line to Silchar will also open up the Barrak Valley, Mizoram and Tripura. It will open up the entire North-East to the Southern portion.

Now, I would also like to make a mention that we have suggested that from Naogong to Ledo will automatically take up the old road which was used during the War time. It will connect to Southern China in Kuming, Yunnan district.

The third point, which is very important is that the hon. Minister is aware that India is a signatory to the Transportation Network Programme in November 2002 with five South-East, namely, Asian countries, Thailand,

Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. They have launched the Mekong-Ganga Linkage which will undertake to develop transportation networks in the entire East-West Economic Corridor project and the Trans-Asian highway. This will bring together the land mass of the North-East, with Myanmar, with the South-East Asian countries and with Southern China. I think, this is very important. It will be funded by the Asian Development Bank, so there is no dearth of fund. He can have this road network done like, as it was mentioned with Bangladesh also, it can come to Tripura and open the North-East.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing the Control of National Highways Bill 2002. The National Highways right from Chennai to Kanyakumari, more specially the segment where I travel from Chennai to Chidambaram, Ulundurpet up to Trichi can be taken care. I only wish that the four-lane road from Chengalpet to Tindivanam, should be completed at the earliest. The work is going on but at a snail's pace. I request the hon. Minister to look into this personally.

Secondly, I have been travelling to my constituency for the last three years by road. But now I have decided to travel by train because I am not able to travel by road. I only wish and pray that our hon. Minister should have a journey with me from Chennai to my constituency on road. Of course, every hon. Member is privileged to request like that, but I only feel that the hon. Minister should come to know the physical strain which I feel while travelling on the road for about 200 kms. He knows the problem, but still I request him to kindly take care of all the roads, particularly those that I have mentioned.

Especially after the recent rains, some roads are not motorable or even walkable. I would request the hon. Minister to concentrate especially on the four-lane from Chengalpattu to Trichy, at least up to Tindivanam; and also the stretch of road from Vikrarandi to Neyveli via Panrutti and Kolianur Road. These are in very pathetic condition. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter personally.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, please

allow me to speak for only one minute. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is a Member on the Panel of Chairmen. He has to come and relieve me now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the National Highway, NH-32, connecting Bokaro with Tatanagar passes through Purlia district of West Bengal. I think, this is the worst National Highway. The Government of West Bengal has already sent a proposal for strengthening and widening of NH-32 in the district of Purlia. I would request the Minister that the proposal, which the Government of West Bengal has sent, for strengthening and widening of NH-32 should be approved, sanctioned, and fund should be made available so to that not only undertaking repair work but also strengthening and widening of this particular National Highway is taken up immediately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Minister. Please be brief. The hon. Minister should also be brief because we have to take up other Bills also.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today and on the 13th many a Member expressed their views on this Bill. I am grateful to all those who have supported this Bill realising its magnitude and importance. Not only this they gave their blessings for the implementation of this Bill. Several Speakers, expressed their apprehensions in its implementation for which I would be seeking their cooperation.

I repeat the aim of this Bill.

[English]

The aim of this Bill is to prevent encroachments and to remove the existing encroachments so that the roads, which are constructed with so much of efforts and money, are fit to be used for the purpose for which they are meant.

[Translation]

In the beginning of my speech I had submitted that we are constructing too many roads. You all have pointed it out as well but we are not able to make optimum use

of these constructions. That is why it is imperative to check illegal encroachment in future and whatever encroachments that are these should be removed in such a manner to make the roads suitable for use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the submissions made by several Members on this subject were not directly related to this Bill. You have also fixed time limit, I will therefore, not be able to give reply to all the points. But most important was the point raised about constructing a new national highway. In a letter written to the hon'ble Members I had discussed the present policy in regard to it that it would be decided after the Tenth Five Year Plan. Now, there is a document in the Tenth Five Year Plan which says there is no much scope for constructing new national highways since so many of them are already there and there are not much funds for their maintenance, therefore their construction should be banned. A policy would be framed for the construction of proper roads and some arrangement to be made for the construction of new national highways. N.D.C. is meeting on the 21st. Thereafter, it will be decided and a policy will be framed by the Planning Commission.

Many Members discussed about several proposals that were sent. We have sent back all the proposals to the State Governments in June. Certain norms have been laid in them.

[English]

Certain norms have been sent to them. Based on them, as and when the ban is lifted, we will be able to decide on them. At the moment, the ban is not lifted.

[Translation]

I have told you from time to time about the national highways constructed in the last three years whose condition as pointed out just now by hon. Prabhunath Singhji is pitiable. It is my humble submission that when we took up the construction of these national highways, condition of some of the roads out of them was like rural roads.

These days the cost of repairing one road is from Rs. One crore to Rs. 1.25 crore. For maintenance we get

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

only 40 per cent of the authorised funds which means Rs. 40 out of Rs. 100, now how do we utilise it-is our problem. Would you understand our problem. . .
(Interruptions)

Hon. Members have raised some specific points. I am grateful to Shindeji as he detailed us about the magnitude and importance of this Bill. He made certain points and hon. Members also endorsed that talks should be held with the State Government. It is our constant effort.

About land acquisition several hon. Members suggested that we must consult the State Government in this regard. I would like to remind you that in the provision for land acquisition we go through the State Government only, we do not acquire land on our own. We ask the State Government and all the notifications are issued by it and compensation is also settled. Then they tell us the amount we have to pay as compensation which is given to the State Government and which is further given to the owner of the land. That is why we do not deal without involving the State Government. You may clarify your doubts in this regard, if there are any.

Raghuvansh Bahu has also stated lot of things. He has inter alia, said that the Union Government wants to bring the roads under the State Government under its control. It is not so. This Bill is only in regard to the roads which have been taken over by the Union Government for which it has paid the compensation or when the road is transferred to us by the State Government then they transfer the ownership to us. I am only talking about the roads whose ownership is with the Union Government. We do not exercise control on the roads under the control of State Government. State Government has its own rules and regulations. I hope even they will frame such laws for their own roads, State highways and major district roads.

Shindeji gave a good suggestion of framing a uniform law for the entire country. Right now, it is upon the will of the State Government to leave the empty space across the roads. Some provide upto three metres space while others provide upto fifty metres. That is why the suggestion of a national law is fairly good and I will make efforts that it is adopted unanimously.

Toll tax which is somehow not related to this topic has been discussed but I am trying that it is made as much practicable.

A query was raised by Shri Mehtab regarding highways and express ways. The definition from the dictionary quoted by you was correct in its own sense but the definition made by Indian Road Congress applies to us and we follow it. Broadly, it is that express way is a way in which

[English]

The entry and exist points are identified at definite places.

[Translation]

One cannot enter an express way from anywhere and exist from anywhere. This feature is still not there on national highways. One can go from anywhere on a national highway and exit from anywhere. This is the main difference.

Raghuvansh Babu had discussed certain roads. He has pointed out two flyovers. I would like to tell you Prabhunath Singhji and other hon. Members of Bihar that we had taken certain State highways few years back upon which seven incomplete flyovers were constructed and a dispute relating to the funding of the construction was going on. I have sanctioned Rs. 51 crore for those seven flyovers just 8-10 days ago which includes your flyovers as well. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : They are on hunger strike. We request you to make an appeal. . . .
(Interruptions) We went there yesterday also. They are ready to die. Neither your officials nor officers go to talk about the repair of these flyovers. You may please visit them and tell them about the action taken by the Government.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : We have informed the Bihar Government. We will take action accordingly.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Please tell your Chief Engineer to apprise them about the action they are likely to take.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When I called your name, you were not present in the House, now you are on your legs when hon. Minister is replying.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Maheshwar Singhji has also given certain good suggestions. He has talked about accountability. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Those people are fasting. At least ask them to break their fast.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people are fasting there, make them break their fast. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am speaking from Lok Sabha, what more can I do. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH : They are the Government officers, you must ask them to end their fast.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Hon. Minister may request from here and his officers may go and meet them there and can make them break their fast. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am speaking from Lok Sabha, what more I can do.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We are suggesting him, that is why he is resolving this problem.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you have to address the Chair. Please do not address hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

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

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member had raised the point of checking encroachment or removing them. The provision which we are making in the Bill will be the responsibility of the State

or some officer, it is not yet their responsibility. First they make them encroach then they take action for removing them. It will be clarified under this Bill and accountability will be fixed, each officer will be allocated an area within which any encroachments will be his liability and his accountability shall be fixed that is why I have noted his suggestion. When rules will be framed his suggestion will be incorporated therein.

In view of all these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would urge upon the House to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, if there is a time constraint, you may kindly ask the hon. Minister to reply to our points in writing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you can give a written reply to all hon. Members who have raised important points. You may reply to all those suggestions given by hon. Members in writing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for control of land within the National Highways, right of way and traffic moving on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation thereon, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 50 stand of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 50 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.17 hrs.

English]

COMPETITION BILL, 2001

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up item No. 19 – The Competition Bill, 2001.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move* :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interest of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

I request that the House do consider and pass this Bill. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 6th August, 2001. Thereafter, it was referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report.

15.18 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

The Committee submitted its Report to Parliament on the 21st November, 2002, suggesting certain amendments. Almost all of them, except for three, have been accepted and for which amendments the Bill shall be moved.

This Bill is necessary as existing laws do not promote, foster or sustain competition; and the Monopolies and

Restrictive Trade Practices Act would be replaced by this Bill when it becomes an Act because that Act is no longer an effective instrument.

The Bill is now before the House for consideration and passing and I seek the consent of the House to this piece of legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interest of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, before we start the discussion I have to make a special request to the House.

For the last four weeks, the House was very generous to pass all legislations being brought. This is one of the very important legislations. As the hon. Minister of Finance has said, even the Standing Committee has examined it and the Government has accepted almost all recommendations, but technically this has to be passed by both the Houses to become an Act. As there are about 89 amendments, based on the Standing Committee's recommendations, unless we pass it there today, reprinting and getting it passed in the other House would not be possible. So, my request to the House is to forget about the rest of the business but let us pass today the Competition Bill. If needed, we can have the Half-an-hour Discussion a little latter.

But my request would be to pass this Bill today after the discussion. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : This is agreeable to us.

I would like to be very brief. This Bill seeks to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. The Bill

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

we referred to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee has made several recommendations. It appears that the Government has accepted many of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

Now, what remains for us to do is to give the consent to this proposal and then see that the amendments, which are moved, are accepted and become part of the Bill. I think, there will be no difficulty in doing these things.

What are the principles on the basis of which this Bill has been brought before this House? I do not find much of a difference between the principles, which were followed, in the MRTP Act and this Bill. It does not mean that all the principles, which are part of the MRTP Act, have been accepted in this Bill also, as they existed. There have been certainly some changes and these changes, it is expected, should help the producer, the trader and the consumer.

Now, as far as the producer is concerned, he should be allowed to use his liberty, his freedom to enter any area he likes and conduct the productive activities in a manner that the consumers will get the benefits and the producers also will get the benefits. I am a little apprehensive that this Bill may or may not help the industry, may or may not help the consumers, but this Bill may help the trader to some extent. Why am I saying this thing? The intention is to see that the powerful entrepreneur does not dominate the scene and does not create hurdles in the efforts made by other industries in producing. But generally it happens and we know that. It does not happen only with the written agreements between the industries but with the oral agreements also.

Now, the entire automobile industry is in private sector. Now, what has happened? Have the prices of the cars and vehicles produced come down? The answer is 'no'. Is the quality of the vehicles produced better? The answer is 'yes'. But the prices have not come down. So, there is an understanding between those who are in the industry that they may try to produce better quality of vehicles, but they would not reduce the prices.

How does this help the consumer? The consumer gets a better product. But he will not get a better price.

There is an unwritten agreement between the producers that the prices will not be brought down. And with every passing year the prices of vehicles are going up. So, we have helped the industry which we should do and we should not grudge this kind of a freedom to the industry. But, does it help the consumer also in saying that the prices come down? Their experience is that the prices have not come down.

Now, this is with respect to the industry in one area. The automobile industry is one area. Take for instance the textile industry. It is a different area. In textile industry you have the handlooms, you have the powerlooms and you have the textile industry. How do you help the powerlooms and the handlooms as against the textile industry? It is said that the law is moving in the direction of status from the contract. There was a time when the contract was important and status was not recognised. Before that status was recognised but the contract was not recognised. Now the time has come when we have to recognise the status also. The status of the handloom industry has to be recognised as against the status of the powerloom industry and the status of the handloom industry and the powerloom industry has also to be recognised as against the textile industry. How do we do it?

If the restrictions are not put on the textile industry in recognition of the status of different parts of that industry, the justice, the economic justice will not be done to the people. That is a problem. I am afraid that this law may be of very little use in achieving this objective. Certainly the Government can make the policies and give the directions and if the Government makes the policies and gives proper directions this may help.

The second apprehension I entertain is about the delays. My friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also going to speak and I think he is going to speak in greater detail than I am doing here now. He would be able to touch upon that. But I would like to make a passing reference to the delays. The law provides that to the extent possible, the Civil Procedure Code will be used in deciding the cases by CCI. It also provides that the principles of natural justice will be used in disposing of the cases.

The only question which occurs to me with respect to these provisions is that if you take a case to a court of

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

law and apply the Civil Procedure Code it takes long time. If you apply the principles of natural justice, it also in principle means the same thing and nothing very different because the Civil Procedure Code is not against the principles of natural justice. Even if you discard the principles under the Civil Procedure Code and accept the principles of natural justice yet you will not be in a position to dispose of the cases in time in which they should be disposed of. If there is a combination and a monopoly is created and if the case is taken to the Commission and from the Commission to the High Court in appeal, maybe ten years' time will be required for disposing of the case and the intention with which the combination was made, the intention with which the monopoly was created, the intention with which the steps were taken to see that there is no competition in the market will be frustrated.

But how to overcome these difficulties is really a question and that question has to be solved; maybe by laying down the policy at the start itself that the cases should be disposed of within the given time, maybe by having the persons who would be manning or who would be functioning in the Commission who are in a position to dispose of the cases without any loss of time and without any delay.

That is required to be done. If that is not done, the very purpose of having this law will be frustrated. There are one or two other points to which I will make a reference and then, I will take my seat.

Clause number 9 provides as to how the Chairman of the Commission and the members would be nominated by the Government. At whose instance, at whose advice will these nominations be made? I think, the Standing Committee has made a recommendation and probably, the Government is coming up with a rule saying that as to how the Chairman and the members will be nominated, will be decided by the Government and that would be provided in the rules. Probably, this is the intention of the Government. I am not going to counter it.

One very big issue which has to be taken into account by us is that this Commission, CCI is an organisation which deals with the entire country as such. It deals with the other

countries also and if it is dealing with other countries also, it should not have the oligarchic character in nomination as well as in its functioning. It should be more democratic. The provision under clause 9 provides that the Selection Committee would consist of the Chief Justice, two Ministers, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Cabinet Secretary. Of course, two Ministers represent the Legislature. They are the representatives of the people, but why should we have this kind of a lopsided arrangement? Why should we not have some more persons representing the Legislature? In all the bodies, which are of quasi-judicial nature, the person sitting there has to function as a judge. He should be impartial. The Governments may come and the Governments may go, but the body should be impartial and should act according to the law and the principles of justice. If this is our intention, why should we not have a few more persons from the Legislature in which the Ruling side as well as the Opposition side and somebody who is sitting in the judiciary as head of the judiciary, also are given the authority to nominate or make the suggestions for the nomination of the chairperson and the members of the body. I am leaving this thought to you. While making rules, you can make that rule or you may again discuss this matter before this power to make the delegated legislation is used by the Government at a later stage. For this purpose, you may discuss, if you think proper, with others also.

Clause number 12 is also very important. I have a very strong objection to clause 12. What is this clause 12? It reads :

"The Chairperson and other Members shall not, for a period of six months from the date on which they cease to hold office, accept any employment in, or connected with the management of administration of, any enterprise which has been a party to a proceeding before the Commission under this Act : . . ."

I have very strong objections to this clause. My objections are of two kinds. One is that period of six months is very small. In the Government service, if a military officer retires, he is not allowed, if I remember correctly, at least for one year or two years to take up any job. Now, here, we are mentioning 'six months' only. Why should we mention 'six months'? Why should we mention this small

period? Why is there so much of hurry in providing an opportunity to the Chairman or the members to take up the jobs outside, when they retire. Chairman retires after attaining the age of 70 years and a member 65 years and he is in a hurry to take up the job and he takes up the job of the company the case of which was decided by him.

Sir, I have a strong objection to this period of six months. Probably, the Standing Committee has made a suggestion to extend this period from six months to one year and the Government also is inclined to accept this suggestion. I would say that even this period of one year is not enough. But certainly, one year period is better than a six months period.

Sir, my second objection is, why should the Chairman and the Members of this Commission be allowed to take up a job in a company that was adjudicated upon by them while they were a part of the Commission? This restriction of one year or six months does not prohibit them from not taking up a job in a company, the dispute of which was considered by them as the Chairman or Members of the Commission. I think, this portion of this clause should be deleted. If we do not delete this clause, then I think, we would not be doing justice. At least we shall have to show that justice is being done. People would not feel that justice is being done if the Chairman or the Members join such companies – cases of which companies, adjudicated by them, may be in for or in against, while they were a part of the Commission – within a period of six months. So, my strong objection is that a Member of the Commission or the Chairperson should not be allowed to join any company which was investigated into and adjudged by this Commission. Otherwise, there would be injustice.

Sir, my last point is with respect to clause 64(ii). This is the last clause of the Bill and it pertains to the members of the Monopolies Commission, the officers of the Commission and also the employees of the Monopolies Commission. I am of the strong view that this Bill, called the Competition Bill, is in essence and in principle, trying to achieve the objectives that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act was intending to achieve. Maybe, there were some difficulties in that and maybe that

we require a different kind of provision but the investigation, adjudication and administration are not going to be very much different from what it was in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

You have the officers and employees here who had worked in this organisation for so many years. Now, they have the advantage of having got the training in this field. They also have got the advantage of having understood the intricacies and complications of the law. Why should they now be asked to take pension and go home? Why should there not be an assurance given here on the floor of the House to those people that the scope of this Bill is not going to be limited but its scope would be more wide and their job would have a wider range than what it was in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act or in the existing Act? Therefore, I would like to request that – it is ultimately for the hon. Minister to decide – those who have served this country through this Monopoly Commission for all these years, may be they had committed some mistakes but a major part of their services have been useful to the country, should not be asked to go and fend for themselves now and we change according to the situations, we change organisations, those who have worked in an organisation for a very long time should not be asked to go. That is not a correct approach. The Government would actually stand to gain from the goodwill and experience of the persons who have worked in that organisation. The Government, would gain more than they would lose by retaining a few officers. Some might say, what would happen to the members of the Commission? The situation is completely different in case of the members of the Commission. I do not think that it is necessary for us to continue with them. But if the Government wants to continue with them, they may do so, but there need not be any assurance given on the floor of the House that their services would be continued in the CCI also.

But, certainly, assurance needs to be given to the hundreds of members who were working in the MRTP Commission. Certain provisions are there to do that. I would request the hon. Minister to assure the House, through you, that the interests of the employees of the MRTP Commission would be protected. I hope the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Government will not grudge sustaining a small loss for the benefit of the citizens whose goodwill and willingness to work is more important than anything else.

These were the points that I wanted to make.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Competition Bill 2001. I will be very brief in my submission. I also want that this Bill be passed today itself.

As we say, a private monopoly is much worse than a Government monopoly. Every country in the world has an organisation like MRTPC, which we had earlier. I am reminded of a case of monopoly that took place in America two-three years ago wherein the top computer company of the world Microsoft, had acquired the number-two computer company of America. However, the Unfair Trade Practices Commission of the Government of America prevented the company from doing that. It forced the Microsoft not to acquire the other company. The Commission ordered the division of Microsoft into two companies and imposed a very heavy penalty on the company. I am not a student of economics but I do not remember that in our country we have had any such provision.

In the present age of mergers and acquisitions there are some companies which are going on acquiring other companies at their sweet will. I do not want to mention names. There is nobody to put a full stop to all this. Most of the time it is SEBI which is asked to intervene in such affairs. Now the Government has come forward with this Bill, which is a welcome step.

I fully agree with the provisions of the Bill. I do agree that, as Shri Shivraj Patil has said, it may help the consumer or it may not help the consumer. But, what is the harm in making an effort by making a provision? There is absolutely no harm in this.

As said, this is not going to have any impact on the smaller companies. It is not the smaller companies which impact the country's economy. It is when the big companies, the big fish, merge together that they actually gain a monopoly over the economy of this country. As hon.

Shivrajji has said, there are many automobile companies in the country now. After they came into being, the quality of automobiles has improved. However, they seem to have formed some sort of a cartel because of which the prices are not coming down. There is a possibility of this happening in the country in the future. So, it is absolutely necessary that we should have this law.

There is a provision in this Bill that acquisitions by all companies having a net worth of Rs. 1,000 crore and a turnover of Rs. 3,000 crore will have to be evaluated by this Commission. The Commission can refuse or approve the same at its discretion. Any person can file a complaint before the Commission. The fine imposed by the Commission would be at least 10 per cent of the average turnover of the last three years of the company, irrespective of the nature or gravity of the act.

I think, this is absolutely a very fair thing to do in future. I will take two minutes more and conclude my speech. I will give you some difference between the earlier MRTP Act enacted in 1969 and the new Bill which is going to be passed today. As you know, the MRTP Act of 1969 was based on size as a factor whereas the present Bill is based on structure as a factor. Previously, there was very little administrative and financial authority with the Competition Commission of India, but in the present Bill, there is relatively more autonomy for CCI. The earlier Bill was reactive and rigid, but this is proactive and flexible. There was no penalty for offences earlier, but here, there is penalty of at least 10 per cent of the profit earned over the last three years. So, I fully support this Bill. I also appeal to everybody in this House – since it has already been cleared by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which is Mini-Parliament – to pass this unanimously.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thoroughly oppose the Bill not because I am in support of monopoly, but because it is not the right time for a country like ours, with our stage of development and with acute problems being faced by this country, to go in for such a new piece of legislation.

I know the compulsion of the Government. At every international gathering, there is pressure by the European Commission; there is pressure from the WTO lobbies who

have extended themselves inside the Government and at very important high places who work more for the WTO, for European Commission than for this country. This is not my observation, but this is the observation of some of the important business houses of this country, that Indian market should be geared to face competition from within the country and outside. Why is it so ? What is competition conceptually ? What does it mean ? There may be varieties of competition – friendly competition fierce competition, cut throat competition and cooperative competition.

In Japanese, I am told, that the meaning of the word 'competition' is killing. So, competition means you should kill the opponent. In a country like India, we have set certain goals in our Constitution which requires cooperative competition, that is, small sector should compete with the medium sector. But at the same time, there should be some sort of arrangement of cooperation in the form of 'ancillarisation', as it is taking place in China and in many other countries – as has been said philosophically in our country from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

I do not say that whatever had been said at that time or whatever had been initiated at that time will always hold good. I do not say that. There have been changes and we have to adapt ourselves to those changes. Competition should be between equals. We have a large public sector company. Indian Oil Corporation; what is the standard of the global oil major ? It is ten times that of Indian Oil Corporation. The turn over of two automobile corporations of the world taken together is more than the GDP of this vast country with more than one billion people.

On mere publicity campaign, one multinational pharmaceutical company spends more than the whole Budget of the largest State of this country. There cannot be competition between unequal. Is it an urgent thing to say that the provisions already existing in the country are inadequate ? It was being said that the MRTP suffers from a large number of infirmities. I find the proposed piece of legislation suffers from larger number of infirmities.

There is a proposal to set up a Competition Commission. Is it a judicial or *quasi-judicial* body as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons ? Is it a corporate body ? What is it ? Is it to be put at par with the Tea Board,

Coffee Board or Spices Board ? Is it a company that will like any other reconstruction company be able to take over, sell, make profit and whole of its proceeds will be put in the Consolidated Fund of India so that the Government can get itself out of the present financial distress and make up the fiscal and budgetary deficit ? They have been asking the SEBI as to the quantum of proceeds put into the Consolidated Fund of India. They are asking the IRDA. Here also, they have a 10 per cent penalty on the average of last three years of turn over. It is unimaginable. Who will decide all this ? What will be the parameters ? Nothing has been explained here. It is being said that it will be determined by the size, but whose size ? Is it on the basis of Rs. 1000 crore of assets or Rs. 3000 crore of turn over ? I am not sure. Maybe, 150 to 200 companies will come within its purview.

If you compare the Indian domestic industry *vis-à-vis* the global multinational corporations, we are just peanuts, the pigmies. The country needs, our industry needs, some more time to grow. I do not say, let them grow as a monopoly or let our profit making public sector, gas, oil or telecom, be handed over to some private monopoly houses irrespective of whether they honour their commitments for extending the service in rural areas. "We should forget all that. They are our friends". This is what is said by those in the Government. They are high officers, high dignitaries. This is my personal view. Who has authorised them to sell these assets. Some relevant rule in MRTP could have served the purpose. How can the Indian domestic industry, in the Indian market as also abroad grow as a right player ? So, more time is required. There should not be any haste. I do not know why there has been such haste.

I have mentioned about infirmities in the proposed law, the Minister would explain as to why there is so much discretionary powers of the Government ? They will give the direction. They will supersede. It seems that they want to put some yes man as their Chairman. Different stories are being heard that a particular bureaucrat, who had been working as some consultant, is thinking of putting that no judicial control will be there. According to the Supreme Court judgement such a Commission needs to be of judicial character. As far as I could gather, the Department of Company Affairs, in its submission to the Standing

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Committee, has stated that it should be a judicial body and not even a *quasi-judicial* body.

In 1969, the MRTPC Act came into being to control the concentration of monopoly. In 1986, the Consumer Protection Act came into being to control the unfair trade practices and to protect the consumers' interest as also for their welfare. It is claimed to be the motto and the chief purpose. Can it not be achieved by the Consumer Protection Act? The Consumer Forum has 10,000 pending cases. They have no infrastructure. That is why, they ask as to how can more cases be transferred to them. They are unable to do it. That is the submission made by them. The MRTP has 5000 pending cases. How can they protect the interest of the consumers? Now, the unfair trade practices is being done away with here. In 1991, the merger and amalgamation were deleted. Now, they are bringing the merger and the amalgamation. That is the order of the day. The SEBI is there to take care of it. There is a take over court. There have been several committees headed by important people. They have made their recommendations. What is the status of this regulator? What is its chief function? Is it to adjudicate? If it is so, it should be a judicial body. Will it work as a super regulator? The Departments like DCA, SEBI, and RBI are there to look into different sorts of mergers, acquisitions, and all these things because financial services are also incorporated. What is the status? It has not been mentioned. What is the purpose of this new law? What is the reason to bring it at this juncture?

The service sector will remain untouched. The illustration of Microsoft is being given in the service sector which is growing globally and becoming more and more powerful. But who will be affected more in the Indian situation? It will be the manufacturing sector which is in distress. Who is going to be protected by this? Is it small industry? It is cottage industry? The small industry accounts for the largest number of employment. It accounts for 40 per cent of our exports. Will they be protected by this anti-competition piece of legislation? Will the Government be clear about it? I believe that this is not going to serve any purpose at all. Our own domestic industry will suffer as a result of this piece of legislation.

Our small industry will never be protected which requires to be protected urgently. Our domestic industry requires to be protected from hostile sort of attacks of the multinational corporations who are getting more and more de-listed from our stock exchanges but are controlling the market in various ways. They will have the advantageous position. So, I oppose it. It is not going to protect the consumers' interest. They have said that size is the criteria and not the market share. I have already stated that if you take it in size, this is just peanut. Who will determine the dominance in the market? They will determine it subjectively. I have a great suspicion that this discretion would lead to corruption. With political arrangements, we do find that corruption is taking place. We have seen it in disinvestment process. We have seen it in the case of Centaur Hotel. To whom is it going to benefit? Is it the hidden agenda of the ruling alliance or the ruling party to extract money from the so called monopoly houses demanding that, your functions are anti-competitive.

16.00 hrs.

There is a suspicion because there is hardly any transparency introduced by the Government. The Government will determine everything. It cannot be allowed. In the given situation our industry requires that the Government should be uniform in its support and not selective saying that I will support someone even if he has access to private information, even if he is involved in insider trading and even if he has access to official secrets. Still they are being favoured to the public sector. In another case they said ONGC cannot be allowed to be a bidder in the disinvestment of HPCL/BPCL. It is equity? It is fair? Is it equal treatment? If that be the policy of the Government, it is going to ruin both the private and the public sector industries in the country.

What I want to know is what will happen to the staff? We have our professionals. There are men who came on deputation through the UPSC selection and they are told that after the repeal of the MRTP Act, after dismantling of it, everyone will have to go. In that case no person will continue in service. Only your own yes-men will be put as chairpersons and they will just do whatever they are told to do in the interest of a particular political party or a

particular group or a particular industry. This cannot be allowed.

I think that this Competition Bill is not required at all. Let us wait till April, 2005 when there will be a discussion at the WTO level. This competition law and other measures in relation to investment and trade will become clearer and some decision will be taken. At that point of time let us be innovative and creative. Globalisation does mean surrender to whatever we have been told to do. The United States till today does not have any comprehensive competition law. Several Acts are there with them since the period of 18th and 19th centuries. Even in the UK and other European countries, the Commission is considered to be a super body to which references are made. We are not equal; we are yet to develop; we are not equal to the powerful multinational companies of the world. In such a situation, enormous powers are given to the Union Government in sections 53 and 54.

Then, they take shelter under security consideration and public interest. I know a story of public interest. I had asked a question about 15 or 20 years back, when Congress was in power, as to how much advertisement was released to a particular daily which had been always working continuously in favour of and in support of the Government. I was told in the reply that the quantum of advertisement released to that particular group of journals could not be divulged in public interest! Is this public interest? In these days, with such discretionary and subjective powers with the Government and the Government's intention being what it is, I believe that it is not going to serve any purpose. Rather it will cause disaster to our existing ailing industry.

It is being sold in stages like the first stage, second stage and third stage. It will be gradually implemented in stages. FICCI has suggested a period of time of 15 to 20 years. I believe that the practice of Ministers sitting in the Selection Board is not in order. What does it mean? How can they sit in the Selection Board? They should not be. Ministers should never sit in the Selection Board. There should be some provision that the chairperson or the members should not be allowed to join any industry and no relative – distant or close – of those people should be in any way connected with the industry. Otherwise, what has happened in the past will get repeated.

I oppose the Bill in the national interest and in the interest of our domestic industry. I think that this is not going to serve any purpose. Let us wait till 2005.

We can have a thorough discussion about the merits of MRTPC. For the time being. Let us plug the loopholes in MRTPC. Let us strengthen it with certain amendments. That is one of the suggestions of the Standing Committee also. I believe that would serve the purpose. I oppose the Bill and I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw the Bill till such time when it is suitable for our industry and for our country to bring in such a kind of legislation.

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate the hon. Minister for introducing this Competition Bill of 2001. This is one of the things where it will take time, at least three years, for formulations and also for going into various aspects of it. The most important item here is that the Committee consists of not only judiciary but also of experts from various other fields, like economics, accountancy, etc., who have lot of experience and knowledge in these subjects. We need this sort of Competition Bill in the present juncture of the development of our country and to solve the various problems that we are facing. The Competition Bill is mainly useful for the consumer. It is the consumer who is the boss for any company. Whether it is in the manufacturing sector or in any other sector. Of course, MRTPC is also taking care of part of it. But consumers require a lot of support against jacking up of prices by companies by various methods, like forming cartel or by various other ways of forming group of companies for dictating prices and escalating the prices. One of the hon. Members has already suggested a number of points, which require to be studied by the hon. Finance Minister. But look at what has happened in the case of telecommunications. The competition is really helping in this sector. Prices are coming down day by day. The services are increasing in a number of ways. That is what we require today from the consumers' points of view and from the point of view of public interest. It should have more accessibility to all sections of people. If the prices are too high, it will serve only a few sections of the people. The Competition Bill will serve its purpose today, with increasing utilisation and requirements of the common men, because of the various levels of prices maintained by them and also because of the increasing

[Shri B.B. Ramaiah]

competition. I fully support this. On the one side we have MRTPC and on the other side SEBI is also taking care of part of it. With the limit of Rs. 3,000 crore or Rs. 4,000 crore of turnover for the companies, it will cover only the bigger companies, where this competition is very important for us. Look at the Budget requirements. The Budget requirements are so little. For the first year, it requires, including recurring and non-recurring, only Rs. 140 lakh. In the second year, it goes up to Rs. 474 lakh and by the time the third year comes, it is only Rs. 586 lakh. The penalties levied should be substantial so that it can contribute to the Exchequer also. This is one of the items on which we should be able to take more careful studies. The condition they have put in for the Chairman and also the regulation, we have to take up these things only initially. The Standing Committee has also gone into various aspects of it. They have also called for a substantial amount of support. Of course, It is not final. This Parliament can also pass any amendments or changes or formulations year after year depending upon the circumstances of the country and various other considerations. Our friends has talked about the United States and the Microsoft and that they are able to see that the monopoly is reduced and restricted. Probably, we have not come to that level. Only in a few cases, we might have come to that level.

But even in spite of that, the service and the competition are very important. People, who have to operate this also, require a lot of experience and knowledge in different fields, in different aspects. I am happy that they are taking experienced people not only from judiciary, but also from the fields of economics, accountancy and various other fields. They are taking ten such experienced and knowledgeable people as members of the CCI. I am sure the hon. Minister will take into consideration any other suggestion that is made to the Competition Bill at an appropriate time.

So, with these words, I strongly support this Bill. I hope that we should be able to go in the right direction with this measure. I appreciate this.

Sir, I thank you once again for having given me this opportunity

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Finance has brought forward Competition Bill.

It has been claimed in this Bill that it become inevitable to bring this bill to protect the interests of the consumers in the wake of globalisation. It has been claimed in the Bill that the new Act would replace the old MRTP Act. The main objective of this Bill was to liberalise the market which ultimately will increase competition in the market that will finally benefit the consumers. MRTP Act was enacted in 1969 whereas the Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 1984 under which the consumer should be given rights. But the major companies reduced the supply in the markets as a result thereof the prices went high and the consumer was the end loser. The consumers may have their own requirements. Some companies may resort to less competition and by getting into some agreements, they may reduce the supply in the market or excess the supply and dump sub-standard quality goods in the market. All these things are taking place.

They claim that they would enact competition Act and make it applicable for the domestic consumers as well as consumers at abroad. In this manner consumer's interests could be saved at every level. The hindrances coming in the way of stalling the process of competition would be removed and Competition Commission of India will replace the monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. It has been stated therein that the person who is to be appointed as a Chairperson of Commission should have the qualifications equivalent of a judge. In its amendment, the Committee wanted to know whether institution would be a quasi-judicial or judicial body. Just now Shri Rupchandpal ji has also raised the same point. What objection he has in reinstating of a judge either it is done through the Supreme Court Judge, High Court Judge or sitting judge. But it seems that he would not reinstate a judge, but the person who is having capabilities of a judge. Many amendments are to be carried out therein. What type of amendments they want to carry out. That should be a judicial body so that it give out a signal of being an independent body. What is the need of setting up a committee if the hon. Minister is going to be a member

thereon? What is the requirement of a Committee. If the hon. Minister is himself empowered to reinstate. Secondly, the Government can reject the action taken by the Commission. There used to be a poets of the masses in Indian named 'Bhikari' who somewhere said that the Government has the dual policy that what is obvious is not always the ultimate truth. In this manner, double standard is followed by the Government. So, many doubts have been raised in this regard. But, we had adopted the fair-price policy of Dr. Lohia ji.

"Anna-dam ka ghatna-badna
Anaser ke ander ho,
Bharkar Khania mal ki kimat,
lagat se ded guni ho."

16.15 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

We were taught the policy that the prices of the eatables should not exceed the one and half times the cost of its price. Everything is being sold at the prices ten times more than their actual cost either it is cement or medicine. Five to seven times more charges are taken for the things of their original cost? How you would be able to save the interests of the consumer? It is being stated that there would be competition and it would be an open market competition and small industries of our country would compete with the MNCs whose turnover and net-assets are more than our annual budget. Sir, either it is the question of qualification or the competition is always organised among the equals be it related to qualification or capabilities. What would be the fate of the competition if held between the unequal. Thus, many doubts have been raised regarding this bill and this is incomplete also. In as much as the protection is there for public sectors and small scale industries, how it would be possible to instill the spirit of competition among them? We cannot call it an open market competition. Therefore, this question arise as to whether this new Bill would be able to increase the competition, adopt open market policy and can protect the interest of the consumers. With the introduction of new Competition Act, it has been expressed that all these efforts would stall the competitive activities in the open market and CCI or the Fund proposed to be set up are likely to

be proved futile and the end result would be exploitation of the consumer.

Similarly, what to take of bidding. The prevailing rates of the quotations submitted in response to a tender are manipulated by some influential persons. This is not a fair competition. What action on part of the Government and the hon. Minister is expected, when three or four persons on the top form a group? Suppose, the estimate is of one crore rupees, they may increase the amount to two crores. In this manner, three or four people on the top manipulate with the quotations and reach into some agreement to share the benefits among themselves later on. Thus, assets are being auctioned in the name of disinvestment and fair competition. The capitalists intend to usurp these assets. At the outset, it seems to be a good bill and we are hopeful that it would be the spirit of competition but the strong apprehension came along that it is an incomplete bill. It is being replaced by MRTP and that is aimed at protecting the interests of the consumers. So, grave concerns have been raised and I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the situation because we are against it.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Competition Bill. But, I think that there is some scope for improvement therein. It has been brought in place of MRTP Act. I think that there is no need to bring the Competition Bill, because it is the natural tendency of the commerce and industry sectors to complete with other players and try to maximise their access to the consumers. The situation is like that we are thrusting upon our willingness on the companies. They would compete among themselves as per their requirements. We cannot force them into competition. On the basis of the natural law, the spirit of competition has been treated as a hurdle in way of Social-Development Process. The theory of Darwin is based on the principle of 'Survival of the fittest'. This principle goes against the progress of the society. Those who are weak, are not allowed to survive by their competitors. Survival means a living beyond the life of another. These competitors who play foul of others always try to survive at the cost of other life. It has been stated in the Bill that protection would be provided to the consumers. They would be provided quality products that too at cheaper prices. No businessman

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

would like to reduce his capital cost. Instead he would always opt for reduction in the wages of the labour class. Thus, this bill reflects that the interests of the consumer have been neglected. There is a scope for improvement therein. Provision has not been made to penalise the big industrial houses which form cartels.

In the same manner, CCI is likely to be formed. But it has not been empowered to take decision on its own. Instead the Government of India has kept the sole right with themselves. The CCI would take directions from the Government, so the administrative powers have not been delegated to it. Patent and intellectual property Right would create hurdles for the competitors. This is contradictory and should be noted. There should be limit to the competition. Same rule book our guidelines should be there to regulate it. It is being said that the Bill is aimed at protecting the interests of the consumers. But consumerism is the root of all evils. This consumerism is not going to benefit the common man who is weak and innocent. The companies whose motto is profit maximisation do not produce essential commodities. A shoe factory would produce the various designs of shoes. But they are beyond the reach of the general public. There is dearth of cheaper shoes and slippers. Some companies advertise three types of shoes in a day for some exclusive people. They are advised to wear one type of shoe in the morning while another in the evening. This way they promote competition. They ignore the interests of the general public. But it has become necessary for us to embrace this law in the wake of globalisation. We are hopeful of some improvements in this Act in future despite some of the lacunae therein. I hope that hon. Minister of Finance would take steps to improve it and make it more beneficial in the interests of the common man and labour class.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, this is a Bill which is really inviting a lot of opinions both in favour and against. On behalf of the Congress Party, we are committed to this Bill to the extent that it really

encourages competition within the ambit of the law of the land. But our Deputy Leader did highlight a few more things.

I will begin with the Constitution first. Whatever we do in this country or whatever we profess in Parliament, we do it in the holy name of the Constitution of India. As a student of politics, I have been thinking for the last two years to address this issue of the most fundamental thing, both to our Party and to the Government, and of course, today in Parliament. Time has changed in the world economic scenario. The global economic situation has various directions in respective part of the world supported by the WTO Declaration, in which, now the People's Republic of China is also a Member. I was, therefore, addressing this issue to myself, to my Party colleagues and today, through the Parliament, to the Government whether the time has come for the Government of the day (a) to understand the WTO implications in our country (b) to evaluate the World Bank prescription to the respective nations, especially, to the least developed and developing nations, (c) the understanding of their own protectionism among the G-7 nations and their documents (d) further elaboration and accommodation of the G-77 and, at last, (e) the NAM countries. Taking all these things into account, will the Government sit sincerely with the representatives of all the political parties of the country to first consider a comprehensive White Paper or a document which requires to be made ready and placed before the nation through the Parliament? This is to understand whether whatever the guarantee that the Constitution of India has is inconsonant with the present day trend or in future, there can be a conflict.

I am not scoring any political point in this very sensitive Bill. Whosoever comes to the Indian politics, he begins to read first the Constitution of India, the Preamble of which rightly professes this as we are all bound by the very spirit. The Preamble says :

"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."

This is the Preamble. Then, I come to the Directive Principles of State Policy. There, I find article 39 which says :

"The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing

- (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;"

This is in the Directive Principles of State Policy. The right to property as a Fundamental Right is abolished from the Constitution of India.

Then, I come to articles 301 to 307.

Article 307 provides the strength to Parliament. It says :

"Parliament may by law appoint such authority as it considers appropriate for carrying out the purposes of articles 301, 302, 303 and 304. . . ."

My dear friend Shri Kharabela Swain who does good homework is absent now, Article 302 says :

"Parliament may by law impose such restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse between one State and other or within any part of the territory of India as may be required in the public interest."

Article 303 says :

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in article 302, neither Parliament nor the Legislature of a State shall have power to make any law giving, or authorising the giving of, any preference to one State over another, or making or authorising the making of, any discrimination between one State and another. . . .
- (2) Nothing in clause (1) shall prevent Parliament from making any law giving, or authorising the giving of, any preference or making or authorising

the making of, any discrimination if it is declared by such law that it is necessary to do so for the purpose of dealing with a situation arising from scarcity of goods in any part of the territory of India."

Article 304 (a) says :

"impose on goods imported from other States any tax to which similar goods manufactured or produced in that State are subject, so, however, as not to discriminate between goods so imported and goods so manufactured or produced. . . ."

These are all powers in the Constitution. Keeping the powers in the Constitution on the one hand and the WTO obligations and what I have stated to you on the other hand, you have to take into account the ground realities in India as to where do we stand to meet this challenge and to keep pace with this challenge.

The Competition Bill is before us. The first question is whether the new global environment and economic scenario from Beijing to Washington, London to new Delhi, Moscow to Bonn and Egypt to Tunisia are all similar to our markets and whether all of them are enjoying similar kind of infrastructure support, investment climate and labour policies as it is in their own respective nations. If you make a study, you would find that in the name of competition, the biggest protection is ensured by the United States to their industry and trade. The biggest protection is ensured in the entire Europe. To help them swallow their needs and to help them circumvent the pressure, we have to open up our doors. This is the reality.

We are not obstructing the passage of this Bill but would the Minister consider and convey to the hon. Prime Minister that this is the view whether the time has come to understand the proclamations and guarantees in our Constitution as well as the obligations under the WTO, the competition, the challenges and the hidden protectionism in the United States and Europe for their own trade and commerce vis-à-vis SAARC countries ? I am not even taking the whole of Asia into account here because ASEAN's clout within Asia and that of the SRRAC region are different. These are very important economic issues. It is not merely a question of passing a law but we have

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

to understand the meaning of it. I am not here to score points on political grounds. I do value the campaign being launched by several platforms, be it the Swadeshi Jagran Manch or the National Pride Forum. Their question is whether all that we have done right from 1948 is wrong. Is it that all the State monopolies that had been created in the name of public sector are to be thrown into the wastepaper basket?

I am surprised by the document presented by the Department of Company Affairs. In that document I find that they have tried to narrate the whole concept of this Bill. It is called *Competition Bill: Presentation by Department of Company Affairs, Government of India*. Under the heading, 'Changed Economic Scenario from Licence-Quota-Permit to liberalisation', they are trying to give us a message.

It is fine. It was decided to go from public sector to privatisation. When did our Government make a policy that the Government is considering that the public sector should all go in for privatisation? It is a Government document. It is a Ministry of Company Affairs document. They are trying to present it, asking the nation and the Parliament to understand what the objectives of the Competition Bill are. The objective is licence-quota-permit to liberalisation. It is all right. There will be no quota, no licence, no permit and there will be back door control of the bureaucracy, either sitting in the Commission or in the Desk. So, they have decided to go in from public sector to privatisation. When did you decide to go in for this policy of going from public sector to privatisation and closed economy to globalisation? What is closed economy? Will the Ministry of Company Affairs spell it out? I would request the hon. Minister to explain what is closed economy. When did India have a closed economy? What do you mean by closed economy? What is the investment in India? What have we inherited from the British *Raj*? What was our inner strength? Our inner strength was only our natural resources.

We have not infrastructurally inherited something very big by which we can claim that India could prosper. Brick by brick India had to be built – be it Bhakra Nangal, be

it Mailakhi Dam, be it Tungabhadra, be it the hydel power plant of NTPC. Brick by brick India had to be built. Now, the Ministry of Company Affairs officials have suddenly found that we have a closed economy, therefore, we are marching for globalisation. Globalisation is a coin. This is an English word, coined by Western world, that if you join WTO, that is globalisation, if you try to question the WTO, that is closed economy; these are not the definitions from Indian Parliament. Therefore, let the hon. Minister advise his Desk to properly use the words.

Now, I come to administrative prices and to price decontrol. Yes, price decontrol mechanism is the order of the day. We do agree. We do not say anything. But in this matter I would like to address the hon. Minister: Is the ground reality of India for an aggressive competition? If the answer is 'yes', then with whom?

The other day I narrated in this House that the Indian pressure cooker industry is in crisis, the Indian bulb industry is in crisis, the Indian medium-scale industry making machine tools is in crisis; the Indian textile industry is in crisis. Why? Why is this crisis there suddenly? Is it because of competition? The answer is 'no'. The manufacturer and the trader sometimes are the same and sometimes it is different. If the manufacturing components and raw materials are available at a cheaper price and the cost of labour is also cheap, then the ultimate cost of the finished goods will also be cheap. But if the cost of labour is a little higher and the raw material is reasonably higher, then the cost of the final product will not be sufficiently cheap. If that is to be countered with the cost of production of a raw material of a nation, when that particular raw material is in abundance, and when the cost of labour is cheap in that particular nation, and if that is allowed to be dumped without anti-dumping duties, without sufficient increase of the duties, then that competition is not a competition; rather it is killing. That is what is taking place in India.

I am glad that Dr. Chakraborty, while deposing before the Standing Committee, did say one very good thing that the investment policy of the country and the labour policy of the country also should be taken into account. Now, based on the investment policy, based on the agricultural projects of a particular monsoon or a climate, based on the demand and supply of the industrial raw material; and

based on the power generation, a country, as a whole, decides and plans for the ultimate GDP growth of the nation.

Now, Mr. Finance Minister, you kindly convince us on this. We would like to be educated about and we would like to understand from you because it is not a matter of the Congress Party or the NDA but it is a matter of the entire nation. While you make a particular, objective target of GDP growth of our nation, you take certain factors into account. If those factors – beyond the control of nature – are further interfered and invaded by other factors of the multi-nationals, then will you ensure that that particular growth is achieved?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi, you have taken 15 minutes. Do you want more time?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I think this is a Bill which requires to be discussed in great details.

MR. CHAIRMAN : By 5.30 p.m. it should be over. I think the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has addressed the House saying that it should be over by 5.30 p.m.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, Sir. We have been told by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that this Bill should be concluded today. We will try to do that. I have been told that way. This is a Bill which we cannot simply say – 'okey, you go ahead and pass it'. We have to give our ideas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At 5.30 p.m. we have to take up the Half-an-hour discussion on that question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It does not matter. This can be taken up again after 6 p.m. But, Sir, do you think that such an important Bill which is almost a repeal of the MRTP Act should be taken up this way?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Standing Committee has taken very good decision.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I will come to the Standing Committee. Since you reminded me, I will refer to the Standing Committee.

The name of the Standing Committee is being taken so loudly and with so much of pride for everybody

for which I also feel proud because our colleagues are on the Committee. The Standing Committee has made some recommendation. I will read one of the key recommendations :

"Broadly two different views emerged in the Committee on the basic philosophy of the Bill. A shade of opinion in the Committee contends that by enacting the Bill at this stage, India would lose its bargaining power at the WTO negotiations. In that context it is suggested that the Bill should not be enacted till 1st January, 2005 by which time decisions on issues like competition policy, trade and investment and related matters would be decided. Another point of view against the Bill was that Indian industry, both private and public sectors, need certain safeguards and protection for a certain period. The present Bill takes away all such safeguards and protection. This Bill would allow MNCs to capture Indian industry and services sector. Therefore, it is suggested that there is no hurry in passing the Bill and that MRTP Act may be suitably amended to meet the requirements of the present time."

This is what the Standing Committee has said. Since you mentioned, I am reading from it. This is what our Standing Committee has said.

Yes, I do not see that the Government is bound by what the Standing Committee says because the present day rule is not like that. The Government, by and large, accepts the recommendations and ignores them. Therefore, the Standing Committee decisions are not as if they are a great thing and you are making what a wonderful thing that you are doing, do it quickly and examine it quickly etc. No, the recommendation is otherwise different.

I will now come to the Bill. Take Section 9. I do not understand why the Government is so keen to pass this clause. I would like to know from the hon. Minister and I request the hon. Minister to kindly make a note and give a reply during his reply to the debate. It is about the S. Raghavan Committee. I know him. He was the Chairman of MMTC when I was the Minister of State for Commerce, the other day while I was travelling to Malaysia, he was with me up to Chennai. He was very upset. He said that many of his recommendations have not been honoured and he was not even summoned by

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

the Standing Committee also to give his views. It does not matter.

I am coming to that. What was the necessity of a Committee of the Union Minister incharge of Finance, Union Minister incharge of this Department, that is Department of Company Affairs, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Cabinet Secretary ? Instead of all these things, you could have simply put it that the entire Commission should be appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. It is finished with one stroke. The ACC will clear everything.

Is it a fact that the Raghvan Committee's recommendation was that the position of the Chairman of this Committee is a very important position ? He is no less than a retired judge of the High Court and he is enjoying a kind of judicial power. The Chairman of the Vigilance Commission is a very high profile authority to recommend the matters of the bureaucracy in charge of corruption and other things. How do we select the Vigilance Commission ? What is the criterion of selection of Vigilance Commission ? The criterion is that the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition decide. Is it a fact that the Raghvan Committee recommended a similar kind of a provision for selecting the Chairman and Members of this Competition Committee. If it is not a fact, I am not questioning. If it is a fact, why did the Government not endorse the view ? The Finance Minister, the Minister of Company Affairs, the Cabinet Secretary and the Governor of Reserve Bank of India are all the people of the Government. Why should there be this huge majority of the people of the Government before whom a nominee of the Chief Justice will be sitting ? Mr. Minister, never forget that it is a matter of competition, it is a matter of companies' rivalries, it is a matter of margin of the companies, it is a matter of manipulation and it is a matter of killing some others' trade and practice. In such a sensitive Committee, which you will treat as a judicial committee for all purposes, why do you drag the Ministers, the political entities in such a big number ? Government is a continuous process. I am not questioning the *bona fide* of this Minister. He is a good friend of ours. I am talking of the system. Why can you not revise this clause 9 ? Still,

time is there. Or, you say that you will bring further amendment. Why are you doing like this ? The entire clause does not justify the spirit for which the Bill is intended to be intended to be brought. Therefore, we have strong reservations from the Congress Party and the Congress Benches on this kind of composition of bringing two Ministers. Having the Cabinet Secretary is okay. Having the Governor, RBI is okay. It is certainly/welcome. But there is no point in bringing two Ministers. That is what is my view. You can think of other options. It is left to you, but this is not a very correct approach on this matter. Even the Standing Committee has said in paragraph 9.5.1. of its Report :

"The Committee is of the view that keeping the Minister in charge of Ministries in the Selection Committee may lead to Executive interference."

So, I have placed two opinions of the Standing Committee.

Sir, I am now coming to two or three small points. I will not embarrass you, Sir, for giving constant bell to me because I am not here in a competition with the Minister.

When the MRTP Act was conceived in 1969, it did say on 27th December, 1969 :

"This is an Act to provide that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of economic power to the common detriment, for the control of monopolies, for the prohibition of monopolistic and restrictive trade practices and for matters connected thereto or incidental thereto."

MRTP Act had a strong position on the very word 'dominance'. They are questioning dominance itself. Now, this Act is not questioning dominance. They have quietly diluted it in the name of abuse of dominance. Abuse of dominance is a matter not only of investigation but it has a lot of grey areas also. The Director-General of the Commission will have to find once with his own specs, then, with the specs of the Government and then with the specs of many individuals who have their interests. Then only, he will come to the conclusion what is abuse of dominance. It is not a straitjacket interpretation of what is abuse of dominance.

I would like to submit this to the hon. Minister. Did you consult the Labour Ministry in regard to their recent Labour Commission's observations and the National Commission on Labour's recommendations ?

16.50 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Did the hon. Minister decisively consult the captains of the Indian industries regarding the investment policy ? Only this morning, during the 'Zero Hour', I raised the issue about the threat to the retail trade from Foreign Direct Investment. Did the hon. Minister consult the manufacturing units, if not dominant today but aspiring to be dominant in future, in the key sectors of the economy ? Is it that under the garb of this Bill, the Government intends to lend its support – as per the interpretation of the Department of Company Affairs – to the disinvestment of the profit-making units ?

Sir, I am glad that the hon. Minister has inserted the word 'cartel' in the detailed explanation note that has been provided. But, does the hon. Minister feel the necessity of bringing in, if not today, some amendments for fixing up a time limit for the investigation and disposal of the cases ? There should not be any unlimited time for investigation and disposal of cases relating to abuse of dominance, fraudulent mergers and quoting of wrong balance sheets. A case of quoting wrong balance sheet to evaluated the turnover of a company was detected in the United States of America. The assets were shown as Rs. 3000 crore and the turnover was shown as something like Rs. 300 crore. Now, what safeguards do the Government propose for the investigating agency in order that they could properly detect and dispose of the case in a time-bound manner ?

Sir, with these words we offer our critical support to this Bill. We hope that in times to come – if not today, may be after the Budget Session – the hon. Finance Minister would again consult the hon. Prime Minister and the Cabinet about any new changes that need to be brought in in keeping with our constitutional obligations and declarations and also keeping in view the obligations of the WTO, our own GDP targets as envisaged in the Plan document and see if there is any area of conflict in the

entire system. If so, he should consider as to how to make a fool-proof documentation and should bring in necessary amendments not only to the Consumer Protection Act but also to this Act, when it becomes an Act, and other relevant Acts including the Labour Act, whichever is required. Otherwise, I am afraid, bringing in such piecemeal legislation would only result in other Department heads to bring in more amendments to such a legislation in future, resulting in a confusion not only amongst the Members of Parliament in particular but also to the whole nation in general.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the contribution that they have made to this discussion. The Government has benefited out of it.

Sir, let me very succinctly attempt to answer all the questions or as many questions as I can that have been raised by the hon. Members. I would first like to thank the initiator of this discussion, Shri Shivraj Patil. He, amongst various other things, has asked – this was an issue that was referred to by other speakers as well – as to why there is a need for this when there is in existence the MRTP Act. What is the difference between the MRTP Act and this Competition Bill ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I hate to get up within minutes of your having started to reply to his debate. But would that be a correct interpretation ? In MRTP also you wanted to curb monopoly and here also you are intending to curb dominance. It is, in a sense, the same thing with some differences. Times have changed but human beings have not changed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will proceed, Sir, to the other issues that the hon. Member had raised.

There was a query by other hon. Members also about delay in adjudication. They said that there should not be delay in adjudication. Clause 36(1) actually states that the Commission shall not be bound by CPC, that the Commission will regulate its own procedure and the CCI orders are appealable only to the Supreme Court. That is why the proceedings cannot be protracted in this regard.

About the Selection Committee in Clause 9 – it was an issue raised by the other hon. Members as well – it

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was the Parliamentary Standing Committee which wanted the Minister to be removed from the Selection Committee. The hon. Shri Shivraj Patil had said that there should be a representative of the legislature also involved. We will certainly take that into consideration in the details when we are framing the rules so that we make it as broad-based as possible.

The other point that was raised related to re-employment and the protection of those that are already with the MRTP Commission. The period of prohibition has already been raised to one year as desired by the Parliamentary Committee. However, I am, in fact, in agreement with what hon. Shri Shivraj Patil has said. He said that there should be another look at this whole question because one year in itself is not a sufficient prohibition. We will examine it, if I can do so at the stage of rules or if I can do so subsequently. This is a valid enough point and we will certainly take it seriously.

I will be covering the other issues also. An apprehension has been expressed about the consumer and the industry. In fact, as I cover the points that have been made by others, you will find that most of these apprehensions have been addressed here. In fact, even multinational corporations which operate here will be prohibited by this law to enter into unfair competition and takeover. The extent of this rule shall stretch back to the multinational corporations from the country of their origin. So, it is not as if the multinational companies will operate here and gobble up the Indian industry. This is, in fact, specifically prohibited in this.

There are other issues specific to prices with regard to textiles etc. It has been said that automobiles sector has improved in quality but the price benefit has not really come, which is fair. However, competition in certain areas, without the competition law of course, has brought about a price decline. The most outstanding example of this is the telecommunications today. It is the intention of the Government to extend that as far as possible.

Hon. Kharabela Swain spoke about division of enterprise. Clause 28 of the Bill provides the power to order division of enterprises.

Shri Shivraj Patil had spoken about the services of the employees also. I wish to give him an assurance that all employees of the Commission of MRTP are protected and will stand transferred to the Central Government, and the eligible amongst them – I cannot give a blanket assurance – shall certainly be absorbed in the CCI, subject, of course, to their satisfying some of the new rules and regulations. I will ensure that the maximum number of them – because they have served for so long in the MRTPC – are absorbed in the CCI.

17.00 hrs.

I had a query from Shri Rupchand Pal. He said that we had actually brought about this legislation under pressures of European Union or the WTO. I am disappointed that he should think so because the Parliament and the Government of India do not really act under the pressure of anybody. It is the sovereign function.

There was a query raised by several Members about collusion amongst multi-national corporations. Actually collusive behaviour is outlawed by clause 3 of this particular Bill and cartels are prohibited. So, the multi-national corporations or corporations here could not be engaging in collusive behaviour or creating cartels.

Shri Rupchand Pal also spoke, rather derogatory, of the size of the Indian corporations. But this law does not prevent them from becoming world class players. There is no restriction of this Bill on investment, on capacity expansion or capacity creation. Rather, threshold for combination is actually fairly high. Of the 6,00,000 companies in the country barely 100 are likely to have assets of turnover which should be beyond the threshold laid down by this. One of the factors CCI must concede is, of course, the relative advantage of combination by way of contribution of economic development. This Bill does not prevent anybody from becoming big. It actually curbs the anti-competitive activities of large sized companies, attempting to stifle competition.

What kind of a body is this CCI? One hon. Member wanted to know this. It is a regulatory body with quasi-judicial powers, similar to TRAI, IRDA etc. Ten per cent is the maximum penalty. It could be less, but CCI will decide that.

The other hon. Member wanted to know whether the Central Government could issue directions to the Competition Commission Under section 53, the Government can give directions on the question only of policy and the provisions of section 54 are to ensure that the Commission performs the duties reposed on it. Under the Act, the Government may have security concerns as a means of public interest on which it has been persuaded to act.

Another hon. Member wanted to know what has been done on the Committee's recommendation to bring harmony within the Consumer Protection Act. It is proposed to bring harmony between competition and Consumer Protection Act by this way. All the UTP cases, which fit within the definition of Consumer Protection Act, may be transferred to consumer forums immediately on the enactment of the Competition Act. Only a few cases of UTP are pending under MRTP and the MRTP should not accept any new cases after the enactment of this provision. MRTP should make efforts to dispose of the UTP cases within a year, the period for which the MRTP will function after the enactment of this Act.

The other point was about mergers and controls. It must be noted that the provisions of mergers and acquisitions apply equally to multi-national corporations operating in India who have actually much deeper pockets than some of our corporations. Another point was about small and cottage industries. Clause 52 of the enactment enables the Government to protect them by giving policy directions to the CCI.

The other point was that some countries like the United Kingdom and the USA do not have these provisions. Actually both of them have it. The United Kingdom has got a Competition Act of 1998 brought into force in 2000. USA has in fact got a much older Act, starting from the Sherman Act of 1890 and Clayton Act.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There has not been a single comprehensive Act.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : One need not necessarily emulate the Western countries in totality.

The other point which you had asked was, would this weaken our bargaining position in the WTO. On the

contrary, it is our conviction that our bargaining position will be strengthened.

Hon. Chauhan ji is not present here. What he wanted to ask is included in clause No. 27.

Hon. Member, Shri Dasmunsi has raised issues relating to substantial fundamental concerns about the Constitution and WTO. I would like to assure the hon. Member that the concerns that he has raised, I will certainly convey to the Minister of Commerce who deals with this particular aspect and certainly the Government will consider what he has said. In appropriate manner, the Minister will definitely react to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister assure the House that in application of clause 52 of this Act, special importance will be given to protect the *Khadi*, village cottage and handicraft industry, as has been sponsored by the respective State Governments.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Of course, Sir. *Khadi*, cottage and small industries are protected by other provisions. We have our long-standing commitments to these three. Certainly, under the powers that are inherent in this enactment, the Government should ensure that this Competition Act provides necessary safeguard.

The hon. Member wanted to know amongst the strongest players, about the MNCs. I have already answered the question because this Act also applies to the MNCs. It is alleged that the competition will prevent growth of Indian industry, much as the MRTP Act has done. We are not diluting any MRTP quietly. We are in fact removing the lid that has been put on the size of the Indian industry by providing for greater competition.

There was another point which. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What about investigation in case of dominance of abuse ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : In case, any abuse of dominance is, in fact, even suspected, certainly it will be a part of the function or the responsibility of the Competition Bill and it will take place.

The hon. Member also wanted to know about the Raghavan Committee. The Committee has suggested that

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the Selection Committee be headed by the Chief Justice and two Ministers apart from others. The Bill here is slightly modified, retaining some of the executives, which is in the fashion of Ministers, etc. You are right, Sir, that the Standing Committee objected to the Minister. Therefore, the Government has decided not to name the Committee in the Bill at all. The Bill now really only provides for appointment by the Central Government as per rules to be prescribed. As the hon. Member knows, when we formulate rules we will take serious note of this particular thing and in any case all rules will come to the Parliament.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, you have also raised this objection in connection with the judge.

Most of these issues insouciantly I have endeavoured to answer. I can assure the hon. Members that it was not the intention of the Government. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What was the recommendation of the Raghavan Committee? What exactly he prescribed?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : On the basis of the information I have at present with me, Raghavan Committee suggested that the Selection Committee be headed by the Chief Justice of India with two Ministers apart from others. The Bill is being modified. The hon. Member has quoted some portion from the Standing committee. I do not want to go into the full quotation of the Standing Committee because the Standing Committee's recommendations are unanimous.

They have said that there was a viewpoint expressed in the Committee – that has been slightly modified by the Standing Committee – about retaining the above three players. I have a note which has come from the officials regarding the selection of the Chairpersons and Members of CCI. The collegium for choosing the Chairperson and Members may consist of the Chief Justice of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister, the concerned Minister, and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. This has been modified with our experience because the objective of the hon. Member and the objective of the Government are the same. The process

should be, as far as possible, above prejudice. That being the central consideration, I think, this meets with the requirement.

I think, I have answered all the queries that were raised. But if there is anything that I can possibly even now answer, I will certainly attempt to do so.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I want to ask one question that relates to Clause 12, which says :

"The Chairperson and other Members shall not, for a period of six months from the date on which they cease to hold office, accept any employment in, or connected with the management or administration of, any enterprise which has been a party to a proceeding before the Commission under this Act."

Now, this is a very important provision and the drafting also has been done in a very intelligent manner. It is not providing for six months time alone but in a sense this clause is saying that after six months or if you provide for one year's time which you probably want to do, the Chairperson or the Members can accept employment in the enterprise adjudication of which was before the Commission. This is really not very fair. I think while framing the rules if you can make the changes or if it becomes absolutely necessary in the interest of justice, it should be done by amending the law itself. It is because the companies will be dealing with billions of dollars and the person who is appointed, can go to that company after six months' time. I think this is not fair.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, this is a fair point. I accept it. I accepted it at the beginning also because I see the rationale of it. You cannot have a judge – I do not mean a judge in the sense of Justice of the court – adjudicating a question and then seeking an employment with those at which he has adjudicated upon. It is entirely correct. I fully accept it. The Committee has said it to be one year that is why we are going for one year. I am personally of the view that it should be prohibited altogether. But I will ensure that in the rules I do so in such a fashion and if I am unable to do so in the rules, I will come back to you. It is because I believe that the Act is a useful provision to have. It must not only be done correctly but it must also appear to be done correctly. I think that is quite right.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, while I was speaking, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether this body is a *quasi* judicial body as stated in the Objects or it should be a judicial body as per the submission of the Department of Company Affairs before the Standing Committee or a corporate body as it is suggested in certain other provision. It is stated in the Report submitted to this House that in contradiction and distinction to the Statement of Objects and Reasons which described CCI as a *quasi* judicial body, the Department has submitted that it is a judicial body. Now, the hon. Finance Minister says that it is a regulatory body just like TRAI. This is the submission of the Department of Company Affairs that it should be a judicial body. It further says that the Committee wishes to point out that a judicial body never needs to sue anybody.

That it can issue orders for compliance. Suing means filing litigations against an opposition party before another judicial body to ventilate grievances. CCI, admittedly a judicial body, is not required to sue anyone because that is not possible in law. It is a contradiction.

Over the years in MRTP there are professionals who are regularly appointed or who have come on deputation. Some of the deputationists might have come through the selection process of UPSC. The Minister has assured that broadly all the personnel will be there. What I want to know is whether it is applicable in the case of deputationists also who have rendered valuable services and have acquired professionalism in this particular area.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, Sir, in answer to the second point. I had said so. Let there be no ambiguity about it. Nobody will be compelled to give up his job. We will absorb all – whether they are deputationists or others – the only criterion being they should be absorbable. It will be done with as broader a mind as possible.

On the first question whether it is a judicial body, we found some practical difficulty in having it as a judicial body. It has quasi-judicial powers. It will be a body similar to the TRAI or IRDA, etc. But it is a corporate body. We found that that will be functionally more efficient and better for suing as also for being sued should anybody have any objection.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : If it is another regulatory body, there is overlapping and underlapping. There is duplication of the jurisdiction.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I cannot answer this type of questions.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There is confusion. In the case of UK, the body is just like a super regulator. What will happen in the case of a dispute is on the take over. They have the take over power and SEBI is looking into that and RBI is looking into the financial services sector, whether there is a margin and all that. In the case of duplication of the roles in the financial sector or in other sectors, what will be the status of this regulating body? Will it be considered as equal? In that case how will a resolution be achieved in the case of a conflict of interpretation between the regulators?

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : In clause 47 there is a reference power given to this body. That means, the Government will ask for the opinion from this body. It also says in the note that the opinion shall not be binding upon the Central Government. Then, why should there be a reference power given to this body? What is the necessity for it? Does the Government need such options from a body which is quasi-judicial? This is working only with regard to the regulation of other things. Why is that opinion also not be a binding one?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There are two queries here. The first one is, should there be an overlap in functions, then who will decide? It would be the executive. Through a provision, the executive can decide. Otherwise if it becomes a policy issue, it shall issue certainly necessary guidelines. At the present moment we do not apprehend it. As we proceed down the line and along this route, should we experience any such difficulty, we will certainly exercise the executive authority to issue necessary guidelines. But I do want the hon. Members to understand that for example in the implementation of this, for the first year it is only the competition for education purposes; it will inform and it will educate. The MRTP is continuing in the second year also. It is only from year three that really it becomes fully functional. Other regulatory bodies, for example, as a matter of detail, will not make a reference

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to the CCI. The opinion of the CCI is not binding on the regulatory body. It is therefore not considered a regulator above other regulators as such.

You have asked whether we can make a reference. Yes, we can make a reference. But the Government has thought it fit to retain with itself the power to accept a reference or not to accept a reference. It is because for the first three years, we are really enabling a new organism to settle down and set its footing into the functioning systems of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interest of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 – Definitions

Amendments made :

Page 2, *after* line 6, *insert*–

'(ba) "Cartel" includes an association of producers, sellers, distributors, traders or service providers who, by agreement amongst themselves, limit, control or attempt to control the production, distribution, sale or price of, or, trade in goods or provision of service;'

(4)

Page 2, line 30, *omit* "or is proposed to be,". (5)

Page 2, *omit* lines 47 to 49. (6)

Page 3, *after* line 31, *insert*–

1 of 1956 '(oa) "public financial institution" means a public financial institution specified under

section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956 and includes a State Financial, industrial or Investment Corporation;'. (7)

Page 3, line 46, *omit* 'accounting;'. (8)

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MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 – Anti competitive agreements

Amendments made :

Page 4, *after* line 41, *insert*–

"Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to any agreement entered into by way of joint ventures if such agreement increases efficiency in production, supply, distribution, storage, acquisition or control of goods or provision of services;". (9)

Page 4, line 43, *omit* "(a)". (10)

Page 4, *omit* lines 47 to 50. (11)

Page 5, line 10, *for* "on competition", *substitute*–
"on competition in India". (12)

Page 5, *for* lines 27 to 37, *substitute*–

"(5) Nothing contained in this section shall restrict

(i) the right of any person to restrain any infringement of, or to impose reasonable conditions, as may be necessary for protecting any of his rights which have been or may be conferred upon him under–

14 of 1957. (a) the Copyright Act, 1957;

39 of 1970. (b) the Patents Act, 1970;

43 of 1958. (c) the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 or the Trade Marks Act, 1999;

48 of 1999. (d) the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999;

16 of 2000. (e) the Designs Act, 2000;

37 of 2000. (f) the Semi-conductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000;". (13)

Page 5, line 38, for "(g)" substitute "(ii)". (14)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 – Abuse of dominant position

Amendments made :

Page 5, for line 48, insert–

"Explanation. – For the purposes of this clause, the unfair or discriminatory condition in purchase or sale of goods or services referred to in sub-clause (i) and unfair or discriminatory price in purchase or sale of goods (including predatory price) or service referred to in sub-clause (ii) shall not include such discriminatory conditions or prices which may be adopted to meet the competition; or". (15)

Page 6, line 13, for "whether in India or outside India", substitute "in India". (16)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 – Combination

Page 6, for lines 35 to 37, substitute–

"(ii) the group, to which the enterprise whose control, shares, assets or voting rights have been acquired or are being acquired, would belong after the acquisition, jointly have or would jointly have,". (17)

Page 7, for lines 4 to 6, substitute–

"(ii) the group, to which enterprise whose control has been acquired, or is being acquired, would belong after the acquisition, jointly have or would jointly have, –" (18)

Page 7, for lines 20 and 21, substitute–

"(ii) the group, to which enterprise remaining after the merger or the enterprise created as a result of the amalgamation, would belong after the merger or the amalgamation, as the case may be, have or would have, –" (19)

Page 7, line 34 for "another" substitute "the other". (20)

Page 7, line 37 for "another" substitute "the other". (21)

Page 7, line 38 for "another" substitute "the other". (22)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8 – Composition of Commission

Amendments made :

Page 8, for lines 43 to 49 substitute–

"(2) The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who has been, or is qualified to be, a Judge of a High Court or has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than fifteen years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission". (23)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 9 – Appointment of Chairperson
and other Members**

Amendment made :

Page 9, for lines 1 to 25, *substitute—*

Selection of 9. The Chairperson and other Members
Chairperson shall be selected in the manner as may
and other be prescribed." (24)
Members.

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 10 – Term of Office of Chairperson
and other Members**

Amendment made :

Page 9, line 31, for "seventy years", *substitute* "sixty-
seven years". (25)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 11 – Resignation, removal and suspension
of Chairperson and other Members**

Amendments made :

Page 10, omit lines 1 to 9. (26)

Page 10, for line 10, *substitute—*

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section
(1), the". (27)

Page 10, for line 22, *substitute—*

"(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section
(2), no Member shall be". (28)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 12 – Restriction on employment of
Chairperson and other Members in
certain cases**

Amendment made :

Page 10, line 28, for "six months", *substitute* "one
year". (29)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Clause 13 – Financial and administrative powers
of Member Administration**

Amendment made :

Page 10, for lines 36, and 37, *substitute—*

"13. The Central Government shall designate any
Member as Member Administration who shall exercise
such financial and administrative powers as may be
vested in him under the rules made by the Central
Government :

Provided that the Member Administration shall
have authority to delegate such of his financial
and administrative powers as he may think fit to
any other officer of the Commission subject to the

condition that such officer shall, while exercising such delegated powers continue to act under the direction, superintendence and control of the Member Administration". (30)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 – Salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of Chairperson and other Members

Amendment made :

Page 10, for lines 38, and 42, *substitute*–

"14. (1) The salary, and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members including travelling expenses,". (31)

Page 10, line 45, for "(4)", *substitute* "(2)". (32)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 – Appointment of Director-General, etc.

Amendments made :

Page 11, line 4, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert* "or such other advisers, consultants or officers" (33)

Page 11, line 8, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert* "or such other advisers, consultants or officers" (34)

Page 11, line 12, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert* "or such other advisers, consultants or officers" (35)

Page 11, lines 14 and 15, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert* "or such other advisers, consultants or officers" (36)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 – Registrar and officers and other Employees of commission

Amendment made :

Page 11, for lines 22 to 24, *substitute*–

"(2) The salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Registrar and officers and other employees of the Commission and the number of such officers and employees shall be such as may be prescribed." (37)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 – Duties, of commission

Amendment made :

Page 11, *after* line 30, *insert*–

"Provided that the Commission may, for the purpose of discharging its duties or performing its functions under this Act, enter into any memorandum or arrangement with the prior approval of the Central Government, with any agency of any foreign country." (38)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 19 – Inquiry into certain agreements and Dominant position of enterprise

Amendments made :

Page 11, line 34, for "receipt of a complaint" substitute "receipt of a complaint, accompanied by such fee as may be determined by regulations." (39)

Page 12, omit lines 13 to 17. (40)

Page 12, line 18, for "(g)", substitute "(f)". (41)

Page 12, line 19, for "(h)", substitute "(g)". (42)

Page 12, line 21, for "(i)", substitute "(h)". (43)

Page 12, line 24, for "(j)", substitute "(i)". (44)

Page 12, line 25, for "(k)", substitute "(j)". (45)

Page 12, line 26, for "(l)", substitute "(k)". (46)

Page 12, after line 26, insert—

"(1) relative advantage, by way of the contribution to the economic development, by the enterprise enjoying a dominant position having a likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition;" (47)

Page 12, line 30, for "or", substitute "and". (48)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 20 – Inquiry into combination by Commission

Amendments made :

Page 13, after line 35, insert—

"(m) relative advantage, by way of the contribution to the economic development, by the combination having or likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition;" (49)

Page 13, line 36, for "(m)", substitute "(n)". (50)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 21 – Reference by statutory authority

Amendments made :

Page 13, line 41, for "shall make" substitute "may make". (51)

Page 13, after line 44, insert—

"Provided that the Commission shall give its opinion under this section within sixty days of receipt of such reference." (52)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 – Distribution of business amongst Commission and Benches

Amendments made :

Page 14, line 19, omit "with the prior approval of the Central Government,". (53)

Page 14, after line 22, insert—

"Provided that the Chairperson shall transfer, with the prior approval of the Central Government, a Member from one Bench situated in one city to another Bench situated in another city." (54)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 24 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27 – Orders by commission after inquiry into agreements or abuse of dominant position

Amendments made :

Page 15, line 32, for "any agreement or action, of an", substitute "any agreement referred to in section 3 or action of an". (55)

Page 15, after line 41, insert–

"Provided that in case any agreement referred to in section 3 has been entered into by any cartel, the Commission shall impose upon each producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in that cartel, a penalty equivalent to three times of the amount of profits made out of such agreement by the cartel or ten per cent of the average of the turnover of the cartel for the last preceding three financial years, whichever is higher." (56)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 27, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 28 to 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 32 – Acts taking place out side India but having an effect on competition in India

Amendments made :

Page 18, omit lines 14 and 15. (57)

Page 18, line 16, for "(d)", substitute "(c)". (58)

Page 18, line 17, for "(e)", substitute "(d)". (59)

Page 18, line 18, for "(f)", substitute "(e)". (60)

Page 18, line 19, for "(g)", substitute "(f)". (61)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 33 – Power to grant Interim relief

Amendments made :

Page 18, line 26, for "section 5" substitute "section 6". (62)

Page 18, line 27, for "Commission may grant" substitute "Commission may, by order, grant". (63)

Page 18, after line 30, insert–

"(2) Where during the inquiry before the Commission it is proved to the satisfaction of the Commission by affidavit or otherwise that import of any goods is likely to contravene sub-section (1) of section 3 or sub-section (1) of section 4 or section 6, it may, by order, grant a temporary injunction restraining any party from importing such goods, until the conclusion of such inquiry or until further orders, without giving notice to the opposite party, where it deems it necessary and a copy of such order granting temporary injunction shall be sent to the concerned authorities." (64)

Page 18, line 31, for "(2)" substitute "(3)". (65)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 34 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38 – Rectification of orders

Amendment made :

Page 20, after line 22, insert–

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

"Explanation. – For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the Commission shall not, while rectifying any mistake apparent from record, amend substantive part of its order passed under the provisions of this Act." (66)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 39 to 45 were added to the Bill.

New Clause 45A – Power to impose lesser penalty

Amendment made :

Page 21, after line 43, insert—

45A. The Commission may, if it is satisfied that any, producer, seller, distributor, trader or provider included in any cartel which is alleged to have violated section 3, has made a full and true disclosure in respect of the alleged violations and such disclosure is vital, impose upon such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider a lesser penalty as it may deem fit, than leviable under this Act or the rules or the regulations :

Provided that lesser penalty shall not be imposed by the Commission in cases where proceedings for the violation of any of, the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations has been instituted or any investigation has been directed to be made under section 26 before making of such disclosure :

Provided further that lesser penalty shall be imposed by the Commission only in respect of a producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in the cartel, who first made the full, true and vital disclosures under this section :

Provided also that the Commission may, if it is satisfied that such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in the cartel had in the course of

proceedings, – (a) not complied with the condition on which the lesser penalty was imposed by the Commission; or (b) had given false evidence; or (c) the disclosure made is not vital and thereupon such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider may be tried for the offence with respect to which the lesser penalty was imposed and shall also be liable to the imposition of penalty to which such person have been liable, had lesser penalty not been imposed. (67)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That new clause 45A, be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New clause 45A, was added to the Bill.

New Clause 45B – Crediting sums realised by way of penalties to Consolidated Fund of India

Amendment made :

Page 21, after line 43, insert—

45B. All sums realised by way of penalties under this Act shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India." (68)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That new clause 45B, be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New clause 45B, was added to the Bill.

Clause 46 was added to the Bill.

Clause 47 – Competition advocacy

Amendment made :

Page 22, line 18, for "policy on competition" substitute—

"policy on competition (including review of laws related to competition)" (69)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 47, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 48 to 51 were added to the Bill.

Clause 52 – Power to exempt

Amendment made :

Page 23, *after* line 44, *insert*–

"Provided that in case an enterprise is engaged in any activity including the activity relatable to the sovereign functions of the Government, the Central Government may grant exemption only in respect of activity relatable to the sovereign functions". (70)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 53 to 60 were added to the Bill.

Clause 61 – Power to make rules

Amendments made :

Page 25, *for* lines 18 and 19, *substitute*–

"(a) the manner in which the Chairperson and other Members shall be selected under section 9;

(b) the form and manner in which and the authority before whom the oath of office and secrecy shall be made and subscribed under sub-section (3) of section 10;"

(c) the financial and administrative powers which may be vested in the Member Administration under section 13; (71)

Page 25, line 20, *for* "(b) the other terms", *substitute*–

"(d) the salary and the other terms". (72)

Page 25, line 22, *for* "(3)", *substitute* "(1)". (73)

Page 25, line 23, *for* "(c)", *substitute* "(e)". (74)

Page 25, line 24, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert*–

"or such other advisers, consultants or officers". (75)

Page 25, line 26, *for* "(d)", *substitute* "(f)". (76)

Page 25, line 27, *after* "Assistant Directors General", *insert*–

"or such other advisers, consultants or officers". (77)

Page 25, line 28, *for* "(e)", *substitute* "(g)". (78)

Page 25, line 29, *for* "other employees payable" *substitute*–

"other employees payable, and the number of such officers and employees." (79)

Page 25, line 31, *for* "(f)", *substitute* "(h)". (80)

Page 25, line 34, *for* "(g)", *substitute* "(i)". (81)

Page 25, line 36, *for* "(h)", *substitute* "(j)". (82)

Page 25, line 38, *for* "(i)", *substitute* "(k)". (83)

Page 25, line 40, *for* "(j)", *substitute* "(l)". (84)

Page 25, line 43, *for* "(k)", *substitute* "(m)". (85)

Page 25, line 45, *for* "(l)", *substitute* "(n)". (86)

Page 25, line 47, *for* "(m)", *substitute* "(o)". (87)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 61, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 61, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 62 – Power to make regulations

Amendments made :

Page 26, *after* line 15, *insert*–

(d) the fee which may be determined under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19;" (88)

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Page 26, line 16, for "(d)", substitute "(e)". (89)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 62, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 62, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 63 was added to the Bill.

Clause 64 – Repeal and saving

Amendment made :

Page 27, after line 44, insert –

68 of "Provided that the National Commission may,
1986 if it considers appropriate, transfer any case
transferred to it under this sub-section, to the
concerned State Commission established under
section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
and that State Commission shall dispose
of such case as if it was filed under that
Act. (90)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 64, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 64, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 – Short title, extend and commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 4, for "Competition Act, 2001", substitute
"Competition Act, 2002". (3)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-second year", substitute "Fifty-
third year". (2)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Title

Amendment made :

Page 1, in the long title, for the words "to provide",
substitute

"to provide, keeping in view of the economic
development of the country". (1)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Title, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the
Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.42 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Development of Tourism

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker and the Minister, through you, who allowed me to raise half-an-hour discussion regarding S.Q. No. 263 asked by Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot in this House on 9th December, 2002. This is a very important issue relating to the growth of tourism in the country. So, I thank you also for providing me an opportunity to speak. Hon. Minister has accepted in his reply to part 'a' of the question that Rs. 324.50 crore were sanctioned for various projects of the States during the last four years. But this is the matter of concern that only Rs. 162.78 crore have been allocated out of that amount which is around 50% and only 399 schemes out of the total 1308 sanctioned schemes have been completed. In addition to that, the hon. Minister of this House, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi had also asked a supplementary question to it, in reply to which whatever the Hon. Minister has stated, is a matter of concern. I would like to quote it—

[English]

"I take you into confidence on the figures that I have got. These speak about the culture of governance in this country. Out of the 345 projects sanctioned in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, from 1987 to 1992, 70 still remain incomplete. The fate of such projects in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, from 1992 to 1997, was no different. As many as 538 projects out of the 595 sanctioned have not so far been implemented. The Ninth Five-Year Plan, from 1997 to 2002, has witnessed an equally dismal performance. Of the 1365 projects sanctioned, as many as 1160 projects have yet to be executed. This is the performance of the executing agencies in the State Governments."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to stress-upon here on one point that as long as the Hon. Minister's own

administrative experience and his special interest for the subject is concerned, the pace of the working of the Ministry has accelerated. But it would not be justified if the blame is put entirely on States. One point is clear from the reply given by the Hon. Minister that whether those are union territories or the States, 35 places are such among them, which could not receive the lump sum amount. So, what I want to say that at some level or the other red-tapism is there in the Ministry which needed to be removed. Sanction is not accorded on time in the Ministry.

Sir, as a result thereof, sometimes the sanction, is accorded at the fag end of the year. In some of the cases, the sanction is given on 31st March midnight which is the last day of the financial year and in this way, this sanctioned amount can not be incurred properly on approved schemes. So, I would like to request you that there is need to bring a change in the system.

Sir, you must agree with me that as long as the passing of budget is concerned, it is passed during March-April. Thus, I would like to suggest that the States should be apprised of the nature of schemes which could accrue benefits to them and they should be given a month's time to report back to the Centre about the scheme by the end of June so that the schemes approved by the States may get sanction by July 31 and construction work could be commenced on the schemes of the year paving the way for proper utilisation of the funds. Otherwise, the sanctioned funds are often misutilised due to the last minute sanction to the schemes.

Sir, I agree that among them some State Governments might have sent their delayed consent intentionally but I am aware of this fact also that several States look forward to the Centre with the hope and great anxiety that their projects would be approved at an early date and funds would be released to facilitate them to undertake work thereon. But thanks to the red-tapism of the officers of the Central Government, they are not able to get approval for years together.

Sir, with the kindness and countless efforts on part of hon. Minister, a Buddhist circuit has also been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh. I am grateful to him because that area is a scheduled tribe dominated area where

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

Buddhists live in large number. The hon. Minister has given this information while giving reply to question in this regard. I on the behalf of the people of Himachal Pradesh express my thanks to you. We also showed some interest and since then the Government of Himachal Pradesh has also been making efforts constantly to provide its consent to the scheme and seek funds for it. But approval has not been accorded so far.

Sir, I would like to tell in the House for information that the Finance-Commissioner to Himachal Pradesh Government and a Joint-Secretary level officer has been visiting the Ministry of Tourism for the last 4-5 months and requesting repeatedly to the Secretary to Department of Tourism of Government of India for approving it. He has brought with him several engineers and the concerned officers etc. from the State so that the objection raised, if any, may be sorted out here itself with the co-operation of the officers from Himachal Pradesh and it may be approved. But neither the approval has been accorded nor the funds have been allocated.

Sir, I would like to bring it to the kind notice of the hon. Minister and the House, through you, that the work which is to be undertaken here, would take place on the other side of Rohtang-Pass in Lahaul-Spiti district and thereafter the work is to be undertaken in certain part of the Jammu and Kashmir. The hon. Minister has been the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and he knows even the smallest parts of Jammu and Kashmir. He is very well aware of the geographical position of the state. The entire belt is a tribal dominated area. The entire area covering Rohtang-Pass, Kunjam-Pass and Baralacha-Pass is likely to come under snowfall at any moment and remain delinked from the remaining parts of the country from the month of December to May next year. If the sanction is accorded now itself, then the funds are likely to be utilised during the next financial year because of the heavy snowfall following by extreme cold, this Buddhists' circuit being located at the highest ranges of Himalaya is likely to remain cut-off from the other parts of the country and it would not be possible to undertake work there. If the sanction is accorded right now then it would become possible to undertake work in the low-lying areas such as Kullu, Manali and Mandi etc. I, therefore, request the hon.

Minister to accord timely sanction so that the funds could be utilised.

Sir, since when the hon. Minister has taken over the charge of the Ministry of Tourism, the functioning has somewhat shown changes and monitoring of the work is also being done through the Ministry. I not only hope, but fully trust that this task would get accelerated and the Ministry would take immediate steps for approval of these projects.

Sir, Kullu and Manali are among such beautiful spots wherein the tourists visit in large number not only from the country but also from abroad. They do not compromise on spending money but they want all facilities which we are unable to provide them. Our biggest problem is that there are only three airports in Himachal Pradesh but all these are small airports. Once upon a time, there used to be uncemented airport at Kullu and Dakota-Plane used to land there. After doing some improvements there Fokker-friendship plane was used there. After some progress took place there, Avero-plane was introduced and then I thought that we would make some progress but instead of going for some better arrangements, we preferred for comparatively a smaller plane of India Airlines, Dornier, which is a small plane and its capacity is very less. Somehow, we were managing with that.

Sir, on the occasion the Dussehra, I invited hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to Kullu this year. The spirit behind this move was that when the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation would visit Kullu, then some improvements would be made in that sector. He declared that we would soon get ATR-50. He made efforts in this regard and Rs. thirty crore were sanctioned with initiatives of the hon. Prime Minister for the expansion of Kullu airport, But I am sorry to say that not a single penny has been spent out of those thirty crore rupees till date due to the objection raised in this regard one after another. The State Government has provided site also but nothing could take place even after that. I know that hon. Minister is not in charge of this Ministry but it is necessary in view of the tourism I would therefore like to request the hon. Minister to at least talk to Civil-Aviation Minister in this regard.

Now, no air service is available for Kangra because formerly Dornier was grounded on the pretext of some

technical snag and it was stated that its services would be restored after conducting some repairs. We were hopeful that sooner or later it would come but nothing has been done. Flights of Indian Airlines have been totally withdrawn. I perceived these flights have been diverted to Jabalpur now. What I want to say is that it is not justified to deprive of the famous tourist spot like Himachal Pradesh of the services of these planes and divert it to Jabalpur? This is not justified. . . . *(Interruptions)* I am not aware about this but this had taken place earlier. Now, the hon. State Minister is also present there. He might be aware of it. I believe that it would be possible to undertake expansion work there with the relentless efforts of you.

I would like to conclude after raising one more point because other hon. Members have also to raise their points. I am watching that you are going to ring the bell. I would like to conclude before you ring the bell. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that it has been conveyed to Himachal Pradesh Rs. 5.70 crore would be provided for the projects during this year. Accordingly, the inauguration took place there and the work also commenced. But, I am sorry to say that it has been written in the reply given by you that Rs. 157.64 lakh would be provided and only Rs. 78.80 lakh has been provided. The Chief Minister of the State has written several letters to the hon. Minister in this regard.

My humble request to you is that the Government must release the funds which was sought and which was also assured by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. There are several other States which do not utilise the funds but Himachal Pradesh want to utilise the funds which has been sought by it. Therefore, the said funds must be released so that the developmental works can be taken up in the State.

I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak and I am also thankful to all the Members who gave a patient hearing, with these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one Member was allowed to speak on this subject. The other names came after the time limit was over. However, keeping in view the gravity of the matter, the hon. Speaker has allowed a few more Members to ask one or two questions in this regard as a special case.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : We thank the hon. Chairman for giving us this opportunity to participate in the debate because it is a very important matter, which is being discussed in the House.

After our hon. Minister has taken over the Ministry of Tourism, it has got a new vigour and dynamism. Actually, tourism is the most important portfolio for us to earn the foreign exchange.

On my private visit to Paris and London, I could find after the 11th September incident in the United States of America that people in the European countries want to come to India and South-East Asian countries. Especially they want to come to India. They have got only two problems. One is, always there is a threat of water. That threat of war is not so much publicised in Europe. So, people would like to come to India.

The second aspect is the flight facilities from Paris to Madurai. A lot of people are going to come there and they want to have a full visit of that area. Then they want to go to the Northern area. There is no direct flight even to Chennai from Paris. Therefore, they would like to have the flight from Paris to Madurai or London to Madurai. If that type of flight facility is provided in the Air India or in any private airlines, then a lot of tourism movement is possible. Moreover, a lot of people are going from South India to European countries.

Therefore, we can also earn a lot of foreign exchange through this aspect. Specially, I would like to draw the hon. Minister's attention to my area that is, Sivaganga parliamentary constituency where heritage of Chettinad culture is a growing culture. Even in the 5-star or 7-star hotels, previously, they were putting Chettinad chicken. Now, they want to put even chicken *avarakkai*. Through this type of marketing method, Chettinad dishes are going throughout the world because that particular merchant community is living throughout the world. Their culture is accepted also.

Moreover, in the areas of my constituency, there are a lot of huge houses just like the palaces in Rajasthan. That area is not a desert area, but it is a dry area. It has got very rich culture where the houses are very big, in which even 20 to 21 degree centigrade temperature is

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

maintained within the house, Burma teak is used, beautiful mosaic flooring is there and beautiful sofa-set is also there. Everything is very much facilitated and the foreigners will like it very much. In that way, we could get the market for this area in the European countries. People are coming to that area and they are staying there for one day or two days. They are enjoying that heritage. They are also going to bull-race which we call *manjivirattu*. During *Pongal* time, *Sankranti* period, it is very much available in all the villages of that area – Siravayal, Kandipatti, Eriyor, Mambatti and Singamprenari. A lot of areas are there. This act of valour can also be accepted by the foreign tourists.

In the same way, people are ready to come and have holidays in the coastal areas. Specially, we can bring Asian tourists there. Russian tourists, European tourists and American tourists are also ready to come there. The only thing is that we have to create the facility for the purpose.

Similarly, I had raised the question regarding heritage home in the morning also. Rani Velunachair was a queen in the ancient time. There was also one Marudhupandiar. These two were regarded as war heroes.

Forts are also there. In Thirumayam, there is a beautiful fort which has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India, but it has not improved. With these words, I request the hon. Minister that that area should be developed for the purpose of tourism and the hon. Minister should pay more attention to that area.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for allowing me to ask the question. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that every tourist coming from abroad wants to go to Rajasthan. Proper infrastructure etc. is required in Rajasthan. Of course, the hon. Minister is already giving attention to this side but I would like to bring it to his notice that there were 1308 projects for the State out of which the work on only 399 projects has been completed. Rs. 324.50 crore was sanctioned, but only Rs. 162.68 crore has been released. There is a no information as to how much money has actually been spent. Last time when the

Pushkar Mela was held, the newspapers in America and England reported that there could be terrorist attacks in the Mela. The foreigners were advised not to visit the festive fair; was there any conspiracy behind that? What action was taken in this regard by the Government of India? The hon. Minister has himself stated that a good amount of foreign exchange is earned through tourism. The Union Government must start some major project on its own to develop Pushkar and its ghats around and it must also ensure the development of Ajmer where lakhs of tourists visit. The Union Government should take this initiative because the State is hit by drought and there is also paucity of funds. Through you I would like to know if the Government would sympathetically consider to ensure completion of the projects of those States which are facing famine and resources crunch. I have a chart with me according to which only Rs. 5 lakh had to be sanctioned to Rajasthan during 2001-2002 as against which only Rs. 2 lakh have been sanctioned. Earlier an amount of Rs. 131 crore was sanctioned, thereafter Rs. 58 lakhs was sanctioned, then Rs. 203 lakhs were sanctioned and later on Rs. 61 lakh were sanctioned but this time only Rs. 5 lakh have been sanctioned, out of that only Rs. 2.5 lakh have been sanctioned. This is like a drop in the ocean. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to clarify the position in this regard.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my submission but before that I must thank the hon. Member Shri Maheshwar Singh ji for initiating a discussion on the subject concerning development of tourism.

Under my Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh the only *Project Tiger*. The bio-sphere reserve, is Dudhava national park. From tourism point of view the area has so much potential that more than five thousand tourist visit the place annually. 15 percent tourists out of them are foreigners. I would specially like to draw your attention towards the airport which is there and which is looked after by the State Government. If the Dhudhava is connected with flight services then the inflow of foreign tourists would definitely increase. Sometime back I had gone on the tour of European countries, there I found that the Dhudhava national park was very famous due to the experiment of

Arjun Singhji who was instrumental in rehabilitating a lioness names Tara in the Dhudhava National Park. Many people asked me there about that. I am hopeful that the flight connectivity to Dhudhava, if provided by the Central Government would make a lot of difference. Tourism is such a subject in regard to which there must be a very good coordination between the State and the Union Governments. However, as the hon. Member Shri Maheshwar Singhji was just referring here the schemes are formulated. .
.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask the question, and do not make a speech.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : There is a lack of coordination among the schemes which are launched and which ultimately cause the delay. Basically, it is infrastructure related issues, issues concerning roads, accommodation, there is an issue of establishing information bureau in regard to which nothing concrete has so far been done. Dudhava National Park is not there on the web site of the ITDC.

Through you, I would like to know as to what kind of scheme is proposed to be launched by the Central Government to promote tourism in the International tourist destination, the biosphere reserve, that is Dhudhava, by coordinating with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, tourism is a very silent but a successful industry. Fortunately, God has graced our country so much in this respect.

Sir, Kanyakumari is a part of my constituency in the State of Tamil Nadu. This place has got unique features. It is the southernmost end of India surrounded by sea on three sides. But in spite of its beautiful location, tourism in this area has not been encouraged. There is need for development of infrastructure in this place. As you would know, we have the Swami Vivekananda rock there. Also, history was created there by installing a statue of the Tamil Poet Thiruvalluvar by our Dr. Kalaignar on January 01, 2000. Further, it is not only a tourist centre but it also has attraction for pilgrims. People from all over the world visit this place. People from North India also come there. But this place lacks facilities for the tourists. The Department of Tourism has failed miserably to develop this place.

In order to develop tourism in that area, a ferry service should be introduced from Thiruvananthapuram to Kanyakumari; from Kanyakumari to Tuticorin and from Tuticorin to Rameshwaram. This would help fetch a lot of admiration from people from all over the world.

Secondly, we can have other facilities like having an aquarium, a planetarium and all such things to add to the attraction of the place. We can make this place a *Maha Kanyakumari* by having faith centres for very religion so that the spirit of communal harmony could get radiated from Kanyakumari.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (Karad) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to have my thoughts placed before the hon. Minister. I come from an area called Mahabaleswar. It is one of the best tourist centres in the country but it is located at an altitude that is less than 5000 feet from the sea level. There is a rule that if a place is located above 7,000 or 8,000 feet above the sea level, then certain concessions are given to that place. But it is not in human hands to increase the height of a place. Though Mahabaleswar is nearer to Mumbai and so many people come to visit this place, yet there are no facilities available to the tourists that are available in other tourist centres that are located at an altitude of more than 5,000 or 6,000 feet above the sea level.

The waters of the lake of Koyna dam are spread over a vast stretch. Vasota Fort is located in my Constituency. One of the best trekking places in the world can be seen there. However, the Forest Department has raised certain objections for the development of this area. I would request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the Forest Department. People would not be harming the forest, if camping facilities are allowed here. It is about a 30 kilometre long trek, which can be made use of by people who wish to go on long walks. This place is called the Switzerland of India. The hon. Minister can come and see the place for himself. Certain facilities like a helipad and naval boating facility can be provided at this place.

I will be highly obliged if somebody from the Department is sent to recce the area and, after the survey is done, certain facilities given to other places of tourism are provided at Mahabaleswar, Tapoda, Bamnauli and Koyna dam parisar.

[Dr. A.D.K. Jayaseelan]

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministers and officials of Maharashtra have made a lot of efforts to get the support from the Government of Japan for the development of the caves of Ajanta Ellora and Maharashtra's other forts where caves are situated. The first phase of this work was taken up during our regime. We also recommended the case for its second phase during the time when we were in the Government in Maharashtra. That work has now been taken up. There are two shortcomings therein. Though this has all been possible due to the hard work of the hon. Minister but the Chalisgaon-Nagod-Banauti-Soiyagaon-Fardspur road has not been included in the project. This road crosses through Ajanta, so it would have been better if this was included in the Project. It is very important to include that road in the project. I shall explain you when you visit there. It was earlier in the programme, but later on a PWD official told me that it is not there in the project.

Secondly, there is one Sant Knath Maharaj in Pethan. Pethan is a pilgrim centre. The Godavari river flow there, but there must be Ganga-ghat there. Of course, the big project of Gaikwadji is there, but the ghat should be constructed before that. People are demanding this for so many years. That is called "Dakshin Kashi". I would be thankful if that is also included. That would be a great attraction for the foreign tourists. Its period is only upto 2007-2008 as I have been told. It would be better if that work is completed during the existing period because it would be really good for ensuring development of tourism. Our Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State and other officials have really worked hard to make this project. If the hon. Prime Minister lays its foundation stone soon then the work on it can be completed in two years.,

When we go to have darshan of Mata Vaishnavi Deviji, everyone remembers there the then Governor of the State, currently, a Union Minister, who provided all sorts of facilities over there. Similarly, people go on a pilgrimage to Amarnathji every year but we have to face a lot of difficulties in reaching there and there is also a threat of terrorist attack. Moreover, the Hindu pilgrims would be thankful if some facilities are provided to start the journey from Baltal in Pahargoon to Amarnathji.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this question I would like to submit that Khajuraho, Kalinjer, Chitrakoot, Orcha, Bhadaghat, Kanha National Park, Panna fall within Budelkhand and Maha Kaushal track. I would like to request the hon. Minister to to give a package in this regard. Funds have been given to Khajuraho but the work has not been taken up there. While replying to the question, he was telling that some funds have been provided for the purpose. But the work has not been taken up. You have visited the National Park Panna which is a very beautiful site. If developed that can be made into a very attractive tourist spot. Bundelkhand is a very backward area where there is no infrastructural facilities. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any package would be announced for these places ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vaishali is the Karmbhooni of Lord Buddha and the birth place of Lord Mahavir. In the Buddhist circuits there is place named Kesariya where the tallest stupa of Boddh has been found. The Government have also acknowledged the Buddhist circuit. So, things should be clarified about Vaishali and Kesariya as to what has been done and what can be done.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : In the last

developed on an international standard. The hon. Minister had also identified those six circuits. But Orissa has not been included in them. I will appeal to the hon. Minister to consider including Orissa in the tourist circuits because we are having places like Chilika, Bhitarkanika where the world famous Olive Ridley turtles and tortoise are there, and also the place called Similipal. In my constituency, we have 'Chandipur-on-Sea', where there is this spectacular sight of the sea receding three kms. back into the sea, twice a day. I will appeal to him to consider this.

The second point is this. He had been to Orissa and he saw that there was a lot of encroachment inside Konark and Lingaraj Temple. He has also mentioned about all those things many times. May I know whether he is going to help the State Governments in any possible way to remove those encroachments ? If it is not done by the State Government, will the Central Government intervene ?

Lastly, in the Konark Temple, now the ASI has imposed a fee to enter the temple. Previously it was free. The local people have appealed that at least once in a week, entry should be free for the local people to go inside and have *darshan*. Will the hon. Minister consider this ?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak. I come from Madhya Pradesh. From Bandhavgarh in Rewa white lions have been sent to all the corners of the world which have been kept in the 2005 the world over. But Bandhavgarh is still a backward area approach wise. Very briefly I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should provide road facilities to enable the tourists to reach the above tourist place of international repute.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : Sir, a very large number of issues have been raised.

Firstly I will reply to Shri Maheshwar Singh. It is true – what I have been emphasising in Parliament in reply to various questions is that the implementation had earlier been in the hands of the State Governments. What I have mentioned is that there is no question of any delay in the Central Government so far as the cases, which have been sanctioned, are concerned; and the States have now been able to implement them in time. I have quoted those figures and he has also very kindly repeated those figures. So, it is the implementation machinery of the State Government that needs to be improved. That has been my emphasis.

The second point is, all those figures and releases that have been quoted, pertain to the previous Ninth Five Year Plan period. After I took over, we have now taken an entirely new initiative. In that initiative, as I have mentioned, we are trying to have certain hubs of culture, tourism, and civic life in every State. One big centre in every State is being developed in consultation with the State Government and the local authorities, considering the cultural importance of that place, considering the architectural importance of that place, the very heritage of that place, the potential part of development of that place, other connectivities, etc. Various other issues are also involved.

So, we are trying to give all facilities. Accompanying this, we have now a new style of functioning, a new style of governance in which I am coordinating the Central Government, the State Governments local authorities and various other institutions and trying to evolve a pattern which is result-oriented. I have personally been visiting practically all the sites which I have mentioned and we have executed a lot of projects.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, in this year particularly, there is no red tapism. If there had been red tapism, we would not have done what we have done either in Ajanta, Kurukshetra or Red Fort in eight months. There are many projects where the speed of implementation has been fantastic. It does not lie in my mouth to say so but that is that fact. You can come and see it. I can show you a film. On the 18th I am showing it to the Consultative Committee. Any Member who would like to see what has been done, he can come.

Chairman, Sir, you have yourself mentioned about Vaishali and other projects. It is true that a number of projects were sanctioned in the Ninth Five Year Plan to the State of Bihar but they were not able to be implemented. They may have had some problem. So far as this area is concerned, a strong initiative has been taken by us. As I have mentioned to you, Rs. 9 crore worth of projects have been sanctioned in Vaishali, Pawapuri and other areas. Hundred per cent money that has been released is with the Central Authority which is now executing those projects.

An hon. Member has mentioned that for Rajasthan only a few lakhs were given. That is not correct. Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the figures of the old period. I will give you the latest figures. I have given, for projects like Dilwara, Ranakpur and so on, Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned and it is being directly administered by us. We are doing these projects. You can go and see. I have seen practically all these areas. We have sanctioned Rs. 10 crore for Rajasthan for projects like Chittorgarh, Kumbalgarh and various other projects and we are doing them directly. For Jaisalmer also things have been sanctioned. Many more schemes are being granted for that area and we have implemented them also. Naturally we will have to depend on, besides the preference and suggestions of the State Government, many other factors.

[Shri Jag Mohan]

The hon. Member has mentioned about the area and I do concede the potential of that area. I will solicit his suggestions and will definitely consider them.

So far as air connectivity is concerned, it is not within my hand. I have always been pleading with the Civil Aviation Minister to increase the connectivity. He has his own limitations but we will definitely continue to put our best foot forward and achieve it. If the State Government writes to us and the same suggestion you also make, even if you write to me directly, I will try to accommodate you to the extent I can.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : What about Kanyakumari ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I have myself been to Kanyakumari twice. I have already drawn a plan for this. We have given some money also for the park but certain development has taken place along the sea shore. I would love to develop Kanyakumari. In fact, my visit in my capacity as the Tourism Minister was to Kanyakumari. I being a Vivekananda follower and a great admirer, having written so much on Vivekananda, first visited Kanyakumari in my capacity as the Tourism Minister. I wanted to do something for that area. I will explain to you my difficulty and would request you to help me in that regard. It is the location of a lot of shops at the wrong places which prevents me from giving a beautiful sea shore to Kanyakumari. All along the temple the route is covered.

My distinguished friend from Orissa has mentioned about Konark. What to do? Even the passages are encroached. Even there are shops inside the Lingaraj Temple. The just spoil everything. When you enter the gate, it is all full of dirt and sanitation. Therefore, these things require a very strong will and determination to do. We are imparting it but it will not come through if you do not cooperate.

I will make Kanyakumari one of the finest spots if you kindly help me.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : What about Bhubaneswar ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Your complaint is that your proposals are not included in whatever proposals are being sent by the State Government. You should persuade with the State Government.

If you kindly write to me directly, I will consider that also directly. But if it comes through them, it will help us.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Sir, we had made a request one year back regarding Nandi Hills which is an important place. It has 14th and 15th Century temples. We had requested for a tourism centre for this place. Another place which we mentioned was Kolar. The Government of Karnataka has also requested about it but till today nothing has come out.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, there are priorities. For example, for Karnataka, we have announced Rs. 5 crore for Hampi. Now, the entire Hampi project is being projected as a world heritage project. We are doing a large number of improvements because we think that this is the most appropriate hub that can attract a very large number of tourists. It would also give a very good image of India's culture and history. So, that is our priority. Even with regard to other monuments, I have a big figure of Karnataka where we have sanctioned for the Jain Temple. In fact, the maximum sanctions have been given to Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in view of the heritage importance of these areas. Whatever is your suggestion, your kindly write to me. But we have priorities to work on. In India, there are so many important places that we will naturally have to make some selection and go by procedure.

As regards Mahavir Bhagwan Vihar, we have sanctioned Rs. 9 crore. Now, we are not doing it but the State Government is doing it directly. Therefore, there is no worry on that.

As regards Mahabaleshwar, so far as I know, we have not fixed any limit. It must be the State Government. But if the State Government has done so, we will take it up with them or you write to us through them, I will definitely take it up. Probably, they must be considering it as a hill station which is at more than 5000 feet or something like that. But I will definitely consider this. There is no problem on that.

Sir, even in Orissa, we have sanctioned Rs. 2 crore worth of project. For Jain monuments and caves, about Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 5 crore have been sanctioned and they are being allotted. You will see that all those caves will be on the map. A lot of new work and some excavation

have also been done. I spent three days in Orissa for this purpose. I will send you the details. I do not want to take much of your time.

So far as the point of Shri Maheshwar Singh regarding officers that they have been sitting over certain proposals of Himachal Pradesh is concerned, unfortunately, I do not think he has been correctly informed. The circuits from Upchi Manali Road to Leh and also from all sides to Leh, these are the projects which I have myself handled. On 29th May, I called the officers and gave them all those works on which they should function. It is all along the route on both the sides. About Rs. 8 crore worth of schemes were sanctioned. I myself fixed that these are areas on which level-1 facilities are to be provided. These are the areas on which level-2 facilities are to be provided. These are the areas where you can stay in the night. These are the areas where level-3 facilities are required and so on. This is a very beautiful belt endowed with nature, with beautiful rivulets, and the Buddhist monasteries. There are large facilities available for those who want to enjoy tourism.

Now, after that the State Government was asked to work out the estimates and plans, and to give the correct details. They came in the month of July. The estimates were incomplete as the blueprint and the estimate did not tally. So, it was returned to them. The Secretary of their Department was called. He requested us to give it back to him. He said that will personally check it. He checked it and the project had come back only on 29th November. But we have cleared it already. I have told him that we have sanctioned Rs. 6.5 crore and it will be with the State Government anytime within a week or ten days.

So, the bureaucracy may have its own way but bureaucracy is common both to the State and the Central Governments. But in this case, the Central Government machinery is not at all at fault.

One hon. Member mentioned about ferries and flights to Kulu, to Puskhar festival, etc. The advisories came at that time. I am equally sour with these advisories. I think these are being issued without much thought being applied because if you issue an advisory not to travel to India, you are really serving the cause of terrorism because then the terrorists would feel that by exploding a bomb or

two or by killing a person or two here, they can undermine the economy of the place. If you issue such an advisory, the people will not travel out of fear and the purpose of terrorists would be served. So, we have strongly urged all the foreign Governments not to do so because if they are sincere in countering terrorism, then they should promote more people to come here. Do not bother about these things. They cannot stop us from promoting tourism. Therefore, we have done this sort of publicity with this homework.

You will be happy to note that in the month of October, apart from the domestic tourism, our foreign tourism has increased by 16 per cent in terms of number. It has increased by 22 per cent in terms of foreign exchange earning. Likewise, in the month of November there has been a similar 17 per cent increase and the corresponding increase in the foreign exchange. So, there we have been able to succeed.

The greatest achievement has been in the field of domestic tourism where you will see that the increase has been phenomenal. More than 50 lakh people were going to various places in one month, more than what we were having earlier. There were 234 millions of domestic tourists. Domestic tourists promote the economy as much as the foreign tourists do. We only spend a little more foreign exchange. So, the domestic tourism is also to be promoted and we have succeeded in that.

You have mentioned about Vaishnovdevi. One distinguished hon. Member has mentioned about Lingaraj Temple and Konark. I have written letters to all the Chief Ministers saying that this is what I did when I was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the law which I made and this is how it was done. I had suggested to them to kindly make similar legislation in their States also because this is a State subject on which I cannot make the legislation. I have given them the copies of those Acts. I have shown them that these are the benefits that would accrue. I have made it clear to all the State Governments that if they make this kind of law, we will give maximum help to them for improvement of places around temples and other religious places which are visited in large numbers by the people just like they go to Lingaraj Temple. It is no use wasting the Central Government money. I do not wish to give it to a few *pandas* and a few other people

[Shri Jag Mohan]:

who can misuse it and again keep the tradition as insanitary as they are at present. So, there is a method along which we are working.

This is a policy of reform and reorganisation and giving an absolute new dynamism and new dedication to the Department. We want to do it to the best of our ability to put the Indian tourism on the world map. You will be very happy to know that we have executed an agreement with China. I have myself gone to Japan also. We took a Mathura Art Exhibition. It was such a tremendous success that even the Emperor and the Empress came and saw that. One million people have already seen that exhibition. Through that exhibition we have also given them the material to show all that has been done in Ajanta and Yellora in which the Japanese maybe interested. There are places like Nalanda and Rajgiri also. We are on the job permanently.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : What about Khajuraho ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I have mentioned about Khajuraho a number of times. A lot of facilities have been given by me to Khajuraho. An expenditure of Rs. 2 crore has been sanctioned for a museum. The work is going to start. On the western side of the temple a new area has been acquired. You said that nothing has been done. It is not true. The land has been acquired and payment has been made. The State Government has given the land. We are doing the work on a big basis. Even those reserved forests that you mentioned have been visited by me personally. We are sanctioning the amounts. Khajuraho has got the maximum. The only difficulty is connectivity – air connectivity and rail connectivity – that we have mentioned this morning. We are trying to do our best.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, it is very well known that Thanjavur is culturally, monumentally and heritage-wise a very important place. Is there any proposal from the Central Government with 100 per cent funding for Thanjavur ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : We will definitely do something for it. But at present we have sanctioned a special hub

for Mahabalipuram and for that a project has been sanctioned, which is equivalent to Rs. 5 crore. We are linking it with ondicherry and other circuits also. It is not confined to only one place. Certainly, Thanjavur is a very important place. It is already in my agenda. I hope it will get some projects this year or next year.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, my question is about eco tourism. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has made any circuit for eco tourism for the country.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Yes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : It is because, due to eco tourism, a lot of countries have progressed and their tourism industry has also advanced to a great extent. So, is there any circuit or any tourist map for eco tourism ? What plans has the Government made for that ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Member for reminding me of a very important initiative that we have taken in the field of eco tourism. There is a project for the entire coastal from Maharashtra, Goa to Karnataka. That is being planned. I myself would be visiting these places on 10th January or so. We have drawn up a big scheme for the eco tourism. It is a project of a very high order. I have myself gone to Maldives and explained the meaning behind the eco tourism.. India is one country which is most suited to the eco tourism because it is in our culture and it is in our heritage. We are great admirers of nature, mountains, meadows and rivers. We consider them sacred.

There is another point. We have a project for Haridwar, Rishikesh, Char Dham and Hemkunt. Hemkunt is the valley of flowers. We have already worked on this. We have requested the UNDP to sponsor that project. We have worked on that. So, on eco tourism, two major projects are on hand.

18.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven Of the clock on Tuesday, December 17, 2002/
Agrahayana 26, 1924 (Saka)*

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