

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fourteenth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## CONTENTS

*[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXVII, Fourteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]*

**No. 5, Monday, December 8, 2003/Agrahayana 17, 1925 (Saka)**

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE .....	1—2
RE: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT .....	2—5
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 81, 83—85 .....	5—51
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 82 and 86—100 .....	51—82
Unstarred Question Nos. 815—1042 .....	83—330
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	330—336
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL .....	337
STATEMENT RE: PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE .....	337
NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL BILL .....	337—338
STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE .....	338
DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL .....	339—340
STATEMENT RE: DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE .....	340
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL .....	340
STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE .....	341
Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill .....	341—342
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 .....	347—351
(i) Need to declare a National Holiday on 18th December on the Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ghasidas	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale .....	348
(ii) Need to set up a heavy industry in Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	
Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy .....	348
(iii) Need to introduce additional Rajdhani Express train between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar on the Hirakud Express route	
Shri K.P. Singh Deo .....	349

\*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Need to provide four-lane connectivity to New Mangalore Port with the National Highway and Golden Quadrilateral	
Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake .....	349—350
(v) Need to provide compensation to the families of Defence personnel killed while defending the Borders at par with the compensation given to Kargil Martyrs	
Shri Mahendra Singh Pal .....	350
(vi) Need to increase the number of Notaries appointed for Kerala	
Shri T. Govindan .....	350—351
(vii) Need to set up industries in Naxalite-prone districts in Bihar	
Shri Ram Prasad Singh .....	351
(viii) Need to start mobile service of BSNL in Macchlishahar and Patti Tehsil in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri C.N. Singh .....	351
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL .....	351—416
Motion to consider .....	351
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi .....	352—360
Shri Rupchand Pal .....	360—366
Dr. Nitish Sengupta .....	366—370
Shri Kharabela Swain .....	370—372
Shri P.H. Pandian .....	372—373
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh .....	373—376
Shri Prabodh Panda .....	376—378
Shri Jaswant Singh .....	378—380
Shri Shivraj V. Patil .....	380—384
Clauses 2 to 15 and 1 .....	386—416
Motion to Pass .....	416
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL .....	417—426
Motion to consider .....	417
Shri Basu Deb Acharia .....	417—421
Shri Shivraj V. Patil .....	421—422
Shri A.C. Jos .....	422—424
Shri Jaswant Singh .....	424—426



## LOK SABHA

*Monday, December 8, 2003/Agrahayana 17, 1925 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

*[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ex-Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh hatched a conspiracy to break Bhartiya Janata Party....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have to take up obituary reference.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, there is an obituary reference. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): There is also the matter relating to Shri Judeo...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

## OBITUARY REFERENCE

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague, Shri A.N. Singh Deo.

Shri A.N. Singh Deo was a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991, representing the Aska parliamentary constituency of Orissa.

Earlier, Shri A.N. Singh Deo was a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1972 and 1977 to 1980. He served as a Deputy Minister, from 1967 to 1971; and later as a Cabinet Minister from 1971 to 1973 in the Government of Orissa. He also served as the Leader of Opposition in the Orissa Legislative Assembly in 1980.

Shri A.N. Singh Deo was an able parliamentarian. He was a Member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and also of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Shri Singh Deo was an active social and political worker. He was closely associated with social organisations and educational institutions like Brajeswari Dharakote Trust. He also served as the President, Nehru Seva Sangh, Ranpur and Balmikeshwar Anath Ashram.

Shri Singh Deo served various other organisations in different capacities. He was the President, Sugar Cooperative Industries, Aska; Trustee Utkal Sammilani Trust; Member, Board of Directors, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories.

Shri A.N. Singh Deo passed away on 1st December, 2003 at Bhubaneswar at the age of 74.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.03 hrs.

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

11.04 hrs.

## RE: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House ought to discuss the conspiracy hatched by the ex-Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh to break BJP...*(Interruptions)* The name of leader of the Opposition was also involved...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Leader of the Opposition should be called here because her name was also involved. They hatched a conspiracy to break BJP...*(Interruptions)* A conspiracy is being hatched against Indian democracy itself...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received a notice regarding the Report of CVC and alleged involvement of a former Union Minister in a bribery case from Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have also received a notice regarding the CVC Report on misuse of PSUs by Union Ministers from Shri Rupchand Pal.

Another notice is regarding alleged involvement of a former Union Minister in a bribery case from Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Regarding non-payment of remunerative price to paddy growers in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, there is a notice from Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. Regarding reported infringement of freedom of Press by Tamil Nadu Government, a notice has been received from Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Another notice has been received from Shri Prabhunath Singh about reported increase in corruption in the country.

I have also received a notice for suspension of Question Hour from Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. On the same subject, he has given a notice for Adjournment Motion.

I do not agree that the House should be suspended on this issue. There is some other way of raising this issue in the House. As regards the notices for Adjournment Motions also, I am inclined to disallow these notices.

Therefore, we first take up the Question Hour and thereafter the Members who are agitating on different issues will be allowed to speak on the issues they want to speak. But let me finish the Question Hour first. I would request the hon. Members to speak after the Question Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what sin has Mr. Ajit Jogi committed that inquiry has been ordered against him whereas what Shri Judev did is the height of corruption....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What the ex-Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh did...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, you have an important issue. I would allow you during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, I would allow you too during Zero Hour. Right now, I have to take up questions. I would permit you after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ajit Jogi tried to buy the MLAs of BJP in Chhattisgarh by using his financial resources. Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is involved in it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have also received a notice of privilege.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. Whatever you say will not go on record. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is report of Government of India, regarding those who are the agents of ISI...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I will allow you during Zero Hour, not now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to permit you. Prabhunath Singhji, you are a well behaved Member. Please sit down. I will allow you during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the DGP of Bihar has levelled a serious allegation against an hon'ble Member of this House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Without my permission, if a Member is saying anything I will not take it to record. I will straightway go to the Question Hour now.

...(Interruptions)\*

11.07 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Expansion of Air India/Indian Airlines

\*81. † SHRI Y.V. RAO:  
DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fleet expansion proposals of Air India and Indian Airlines have been finally cleared?

(b) if so, the details of aircraft to be procured by the two airlines stating the name of the company and country from which they are to be procured;

(c) the total cost of the said acquisition alongwith the date by which the acquisition plan is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the sectors on which these aircraft would be inducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 27.3.2002 approved the proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 from Airbus Industries during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 at a net cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report submitted by Indian Airlines is under Government's consideration.

The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for acquisition

of 10 medium capacity long-range (A340-300) and 18 small capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,589 crores. The project report relating to this proposal has not yet been received by the Government.

(d) Indian Airlines plans to deploy the proposed aircraft on its existing domestic and international network. Air India plans to deploy A-340-300 aircraft on Europe, USA and Saudi Arabia routes and B-737-800 aircraft on Gulf and South East Asia routes.

SHRI Y.V. RAO: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the procedure to ensure air worthiness of more than 25 years old aircraft, which are still in use. How do they ensure continued air worthiness of the aircraft till they are replaced by new aircraft.

Sir, I would also like to know the number of aircraft, at present, with the Indian Airlines and Air India and the number of aircraft proposed to be increased and the financial burden due to this increase.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, presently, we have to state the existing fleet strength of Indian Airlines and Air India. Indian Airlines, at the moment, has 56 aircraft, which includes 11 leased aircraft. Air India has 29 aircraft, which includes 10 leased aircraft. The average age of Indian Airlines aircraft is around 15 years and the average age of Air India aircraft is around 14.4 years. The last acquisition, which was made by Indian Airlines, was in the year 1996. So, the last induction in Indian Airlines took place in the year 1996. The last induction, which took place in Air India, was again between the period from 1993 and 1996.

Basically, the new proposal today is to acquire 43 new aircraft for Indian Airlines and to acquire 28 new aircraft for Air India. This is the break-up of these aircrafts. As far as Indian Airlines is concerned, the proposal, which is under consideration, today is 19 A-319 Aircraft, four A-320 aircraft with a capacity of 145 seats and 20 A-321 aircraft with a capacity of 172 seats. Similarly, there is a proposal for acquiring 28 aircraft for Air India, which includes ten medium capacity long-range aircraft of series of A-340/300 and at the same time 18 short-haul aircraft of Boeing 737 800 series.

Basically the purpose of this acquisition is that as far as Indian Airlines is concerned, the replacement component of the new acquisition is around 69.4 per cent and the capacity addition with this acquisition of 43 aircraft would be 30 per cent. Similarly, in the case of

\*Not recorded.

Air India, the percent of replacement would be 40 per cent and the capacity addition would be 70 per cent. So, these are the broad outlines as far as the proposal to consider acquisition of aircraft is concerned.

As far as the progress in these two cases is concerned, in the case of Indian Airlines, the Board had approved on 27th March, 2002 the said proposal. The first PIB meeting at the Ministry level was held on 27th April, 2003 and subsequently the second PIB meeting was held at the Ministry level for acquisition of Indian Airlines aircraft on 5th June, 2003. After that, PIB's draft proposal has been circulated to the Planning Commission and also to the Ministry of Finance. Once the proposal is cleared from there, once the PIB's note is cleared, it would be taken to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for final approval of the Government. As far as Air India is concerned, the Board, in its meeting on 8th November, has approved the above said proposal but it has not yet reached the Ministry.

SHRI Y.V. RAO: I would like to know the number of new small aircraft to be earmarked to improve the connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas like the North-Eastern Region, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands and Leh.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: As far as North-East or Lakshadweep or for that matter Port Blair is concerned, I would like to respond. We have a dedicated aircraft with ATR which has been inducted and that has been funded basically by the Department of North-Eastern Affairs, and to a great extent the North Eastern States stand connected. Lakshadweep also has some connectivity. Andaman and Nicobar Islands do have connectivity.

We still appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Members in the House that we require more of capacity addition in these sectors but that can only take place once we are able to acquire more aircraft.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reason for acquisition of more aircraft is necessary and it requires a tremendous expansion of the air services because people's demand is there.

As far as Air India is concerned, there is not a single Air India flight to, from or through Kolkata. It serves not only West Bengal but also the entire Eastern India and the North East India. There was one flight to Japan and that had been discontinued.

Sir, today somebody came to my house. Yesterday he arrived by the British Airways. There is no flight even to Kolkata and every flight is full. He wanted to go to Kolkata and he had to take a flight to Delhi.

Sir, there is a huge demand. New foreign airlines are coming. May I know from the Minister whether there is any definite proposal to utilise the Kolkata Airport for international flights by Air India? The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the hon. Minister and we have also written to him in this regard. He is a dynamic Minister and is coming from the Eastern India. I am not asking him to be provincially minded or chauvinist. When the whole Eastern area of the country is a tremendously developing sector, why is there no Air India flight directly to London or to other countries of the world? I would like to know this specifically from the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, there are two aspects in his question. One is connectivity of Kolkata by Air India flights and the other is the overall connectivity in this country. It is a big question which needs to be addressed in this country. Number one, whether we want to connect all the stations with Air India and whether we have a capacity for that. Sir, the House will appreciate that in the last ten years, we have come down from 33 per cent to 20 per cent in the year 2002 as far as capacity of Air India in the international market is concerned.

Sir, you will appreciate that we have opened up the sky for three months. If I have to mention the demand in this country, as far as international flights are concerned irrespective of the fact that whether they are Air India or they are international flights, in 2000-01 under the Open Sky Policy, we had 48,000 seats. In 2001-02, in just three months we opened up and 36,777 seats were occupied. Again in the year 2003, the figure was 52,000. This year we have permitted 1,20,000 seats. The question is absolutely perfect. We want Air India to grow and we want the traffic in this country to be catered to and that can only be possible in two options. The first option is that we improve the strength of our own airline which phenomenally has a capacity to improve and serve the world market, whether it is from Patna or whether it is from Kolkata, no one can deny this fact.

But the moot question arises, whether the present policy permits such connectivity or not. That is the basic question. I think the hon. Prime Minister has given a direction in this regard. Even the Minister of Tourism, who is here, would agree that the world tourism has

gone up to 698 million people. We have just 2.6 million people. So there are many issues. If you look for the requirements in the next three months, no aircraft would have virtually any space. So, it is just not the connectivity of Air India. People want to fly in this country but our policies do not permit more aircraft to be allowed. So, the hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee will have to decide on a policy level whether he wants to be centrally located only on Air India or would he want an overall policy in this country where we can have connectivity for the welfare of this country. I appreciate his sentiments. We would definitely like to include aircraft of Air India.

MR. SPEAKER: That can be discussed during the debate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You refer to Eastern India.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I got your point, but this requires a policy level initiative.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What policy do you require? The policy is to ignore the entire Eastern India. Is this the policy?

Sir, so far as I understand, they go by some sort of a bilateral service. But then I know that the Singapore Airlines came and met me. They said, they want some of the Delhi flights to London via Kolkata also. But you have not given permission to them. I know that. Thai Airlines wanted it. They came and told us but you are not granting them permission because you have no bilateral service. You cannot have extra flights to Bangkok. These are the problems. I am not in a mood of accusing him. I am trying to find out a direct approach in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee is agitating on this issue practically at every Session.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: No, Sir. I am completely in disagreement with the hon. Member that we do not permit flights to come in this country. The only question is, to what extent we should go and protect Air India to prevent international flights to come in the country? That is the moot question. If the House and Shri Somnath Chatterjee are able to address this question, then we would be able to solve that problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can discuss with him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is wonderful that change of policy is on me, and implementation is his duty. I have no authority to change the policy.

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss with him personally.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a long time Indian Airlines has been giving the plea that due to shortage of aircraft it is not able to launch air service to major cities of the country. Hon'ble Minister has assured us that Indian Airlines propose to buy 43 new aircraft. Proposal in this regard is likely to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration. It will be cleared as soon as it comes up for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand, Government talks of promoting investment and on the other hand there are a number of important industrial cities which are not linked by air service. Investment cannot be promoted without operationalising air service to the major cities and that is the reason, only a few cities of our country are able to attract investment. No one is ready to invest in other important industrial cities of the country.

Sir, Kanpur is the biggest industrial city of Uttar Pradesh. Kanpur contributes maximum to the income tax, excise duty and custom duty. In the last 16 years, neither Indian Airlines nor any private sector company has introduced any air service from Kanpur. My question to hon'ble Minister is whether he has any proposal to bring Kanpur on the air map of Indian Airlines. If the Government is pondering over it then by what time the said air service is likely to be launched? As the hon'ble Minister has said that 43 planes are expected to be added to the fleets of the Indian Airlines. It is a matter of future that 43 planes will be inducted. But meanwhile whether the Indian Airlines is going to make any alternative arrangement for Kanpur city. My question is straightforward. So I would like that the hon'ble Minister should reply clearly in yes or no terms.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give clear reply in this context that there is no restriction on any aviation company whether it is Indian Airlines or any other private aviation company to launch air service from any place in the country. It basically depends on the will of these aviation companies as to what places do they want to connect by air services. Unfortunately till now we have been pressuring the Indian Airlines under government compulsions to connect so and so places. It is on account of this that the cumulative

loss of the Indian Airlines have reached to Rs. 1100 crore. Will it be appropriate to connect those places by aviation services at the Government's cost where there is no profit?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I object to, the reply of the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Please let me complete my reply.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Such remarks can be made if the maximum number of air passengers of Uttar Pradesh are not from Kanpur...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The hon'ble Member used to meet me in this regard and his demand is genuine. It is not only his demand. During the last four months more than 50 Members of the country have made demand for introducing air links from their respective places and I feel that it is essential for the country. That is why we have discussed New Civil Aviation Policy. Along with that the Government are also feeling that it is unfortunate for the country that even in last 50 years Kanpur could not be linked with air service.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: No, not in 50 years, rather for 16 years. Earlier Indian Airlines had air service from Kanpur...*(Interruptions)* How can I listen to it? The hon'ble Minister is giving wrong information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It is a question of policy decision. It will be possible only when policy decision is taken by the Government and the present Government is ready to solve this problem by way of taking policy decision. As far your question is concerned, I have been informed but I am not confirmed in this regard. I have been informed that a certain private company wants to start air service from Kanpur. I would not like to give any assurance on my behalf in this regard however, if any private company wants to go there then I would certainly like to request them on your behalf.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You can atleast give an assurance that if no company is willing to go there then Indian Airlines may provide airlink to that place...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister please be generous.

MR. SPEAKER: How the hon'ble Minister can give assurance for private company?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Can he not give assurance about Indian Airlines? In Uttar Pradesh air service will get maximum air passengers from there even then Indian Airlines does not want to start its service from there.

*[English]*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am coming to a fundamental question. From the statement given by the hon. Minister I am able to see...*(Interruptions)* I want to ask a specific and fundamental question with reference to the statement that he has made.

Taking into consideration of the potentiality of the traffic and the demand of the traffic, you have given a proposal that you are going to acquire 43 aircraft and 28 aircraft. It is all right. That is well taken. I would like to know whether this is the short-term solution or the long-term solution or a crisis management. This is my first question.

Secondly, along with the acquisition of the aircraft...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask two questions. Is it your second part of the question?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my supplementary to this question is that along with the acquisition of the aircraft, your expansion of the airports also should go side by side. One cannot go without the other. In that case, have you got any proposal to improve and expand the airport of Madurai, if so when can it be done?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The question of airport development can be answered in the fourth question. So airports development can be answered separately.

MR. SPEAKER: Then keep the question pending.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am coming only to the question concerning to this main question.

As far as the Report of the Planning Commission goes, it says the growth of international traffic from India and outside is six per cent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are a slave. You have no freedom.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Let him answer please...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, what will happen to this industry with your cooperation would be phenomenal which has not happened in 50 years and we will do it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I want to help him. He is not taking help...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: As far as the international growth rate is concerned, it is 4.4 per cent. Naturally, there is a great potential of growth of traffic in this country and it is not a matter of short term or long term. There was a delay in the whole process of increasing the fleet capacity because of the elections and because of the disinvestment process. So, that process got stalled, but that is not restricting other airlines or private scheduled domestic operators to expand their capacity. We have enough capacity in this country to get traffic connectivity as far as aviation is concerned and, at the same time, generate huge employment potential in this country through aviation sector, which is going to be a turn around for the sector.

#### **Seeds Business**

\*83. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seeds business in the country is gradually being controlled by Multi-National Companies;

(b) if so, the percentage of seeds business under the control of Multi-National Companies and the Indian seed companies, separately;

(c) the shares of the Monsanto and Pro Agro in the business; and

(d) the efforts made by ICAR to develop pure varieties that would have the advantages of hybrid but which could be produced and used by farmers themselves?

[*Translation*]

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) the organised sector accounts for only about 15% of the total seeds requirement of the country. The balance

requirement is met by the unorganised sector and the seeds saved by the farmers. It is estimated that the share of multinational companies in the organised seeds business in India is less than 10%.

(c) the combined share of M/s. Monsanto India Ltd. & Proagro in the organised seed business in India is estimated to be about 2.5%.

(d) ICAR has developed many high yielding varieties of seeds in a large number of crops. Even in cross-pollinated crops like maize, ICAR has developed synthetic and composites, which can be produced and used by farmers as seeds.

[*English*]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very regrettable that the Treasury Benches have not fielded their main Ministers today and that is an insult to Parliament. Maybe, it is time for them to celebrate the victory. It is also very sad that the main leaders of the principle Opposition Party are not here. Nobody is interested...(*Interruptions*) The Opposition is drowning in sorrows...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is not correct. Our Deputy Leader is here. ...(*Interruptions*) We are all here.

MR. SPEAKER: Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann, you are aware that the Speaker is here and he will do every job. Shri Srinivasulu, you can ask your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: They are drowning their sorrows. I wonder whether the House should be allowed to carry on in this sorrow and gloom...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, during Question Hour at least, the Cabinet Ministers should be present...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Wherever the Minister is not here, he has taken my permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Shri T.R. Baalu is here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am not minimising his importance...(*Interruptions*) But the concerned Cabinet Minister should be present.

MR. SPEAKER: They have taken my permission to remain absent.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, slowly the seed business in the country is going into the hands of MNCs. If you take genetically modified varieties into consideration, the whole market has been gifted to the MNCs. This happened just because of the failure of our Departments like Department of Biotechnology (DBT) which was set up in 1983 and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). In China the Centre of Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) initiated a research programme to develop Bt cotton varieties only in 1991. In just one-and-a-half years' time, CAAS could develop and patent a Bt gene. The gene was inserted into commercial cotton varieties using a process developed by Chinese scientists. Though China did allow Monsanto, Delta and Pineland companies, they never permitted monopoly to MNCs in seed business.

In this context, I would like to ask what our own DBT and ICAR have been doing to develop commercial genetic engineering technology in India soon.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far the seeds business is concerned, seeds being produced by our organised sector or the complete information regarding the excess production of seeds by foreign companies has been provided to the hon'ble Member through the papers laid on the Table of the House. Efforts are made to upgrade seeds by ICAR and our agricultural universities. Research are being done to develop high breed seeds and efforts are being made to give full information to Indian farmers. Emphasis are made to develop our seeds through Indian system and through indigenous technique. There are some foreign companies which possess special technique. Efforts are being made by us in collaboration with foreign companies to upgrade our seeds. Ample efforts are being made in this regard by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

*[English]*

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Sir, I asked a specific question regarding genetically modified varieties. The hon. Minister has not answered that. The efficacy of the Bt cotton seed produced by Monsanto is disputed. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh have suffered a lot two years ago. Still we are encouraging to use Bt cotton seeds at the cost of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which was successfully developed and tested for cotton long back.

The IPM has not been used as extensively as it should have been. We have not encouraged natural cotton varieties which are less susceptible to pests.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Sir, the question is—why our agencies like ICAR and DBT have allowed MNCs unhindered entry into the country whereas in China, the MNCs have been made minor partners in joint ventures with governmental agencies like CAAS. What are the reasons?

*[Translation]*

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, as far Bt Cotton is concerned it has three varieties that have been released by Mehaiko company in India namely—Mack 12, 162 and 184. The Indian Company has released it in collaboration with a foreign company. Several other varieties are being developed through research in Indian Council of Agriculture Research and until they are certified, no reply in regard thereto can be given.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have informed the House that the seeds are supplied in the country by multinational companies that produce them. The seed is produced mostly through the persons working in the unorganised sector and the farmers. I would like to know from the Government as to how can the farmers of our country providing good quality seeds compete with the multinationals whose share of trade in seed production is continuously increasing and also rely a lot on publicity campaign. e.g. the best variety cornflower is produced in Hazipur whose taste and aroma is unmatched in the world. In this regard I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the farmers producing good quality traditional fruits, vegetable and cereals seeds like the Hazipur variety of cauliflower in this age of growing publicity campaign by multinational companies. You might be aware of the plight of the maize farmer of Samastipur where the crop failed to bear any fruit. It is unlikely that the inquiring officers will blame the multinational companies for this condition. I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government to provide protection and disseminate scientific information to the farmers producing good variety of seeds in the country.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, as has been told by hon. Raghuvanshiji about the superior taste and aroma of good variety of cauliflower being produced in Hazipur, I would like to say that had he made any effort



to popularise it certainly it would have been in demand even abroad. I would only like to say in this regard that the Government of India provide the breeder seed (foundation seed) to the State Governments as per their demand. The seed corporations of 13 States are producing seeds. Besides, there are 21 State seed farm corporations and 30 agriculture universities. The companies like Mehaiko, Ankwa and Bio-seeds etc. are also producing seeds. Whether the seeds are produced by ICAR, National seed Corporation or private sector companies, farmers are the ultimate beneficiaries. The Government also propose to encourage the farmers to grow the seeds themselves so that they may get maximum benefits. The Government also make the farmers to produce seeds by getting them trained in National Seed Corporation and also in other sectors. However, the State Government share the major responsibility in this regard because the Union Government provide the breeder seeds to the State Government which is further provided by it as certified seed to the farmer. Moreover, the ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the agriculture universities of the Government of India provide technical know-how to the farmers to produce the maximum quantity of seeds.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the BT Cotton seed. The mack 162, Mack 184 and Mak 12 varieties of BT Cotton produced by Mayanko Monsanto were given approval by the Genetic Engineering approval Committee and the seeds were sold throughout the State including my constituency. I hope that the hon. Minister would reply me about the claim being made by the company. The company claims that the seed is resistant to pests especially the green and pink varieties thereof. Besides the company also claims that ball worm does not affect this variety of BT Cotton. However, when the seeds were grown by the farmers as per the specification mentioned in the brochure of its know-how for sowing published in Gujarati, the farmers kept 2-3 rows idle as provided in literature and still all the crops were affected with worms. The worms did not die even after the crop having been treated with very costly (Rs. 11000 per kg) pesticide that is known as Thresher and the entire BT cotton crop was devastated. I wrote a letter to the concerned Ministry in this regard and also to the Department of Science and Technology asking it to send a team of scientists. The team visited the area.

[English]

and to my dismay, I found a report of the scientists saying

[Translation]

that it was good, very good and excellent crop

[English]

without defining what according to them is good, very good and excellent.

[Translation]

I also came to know,

[English]

It is so unfortunate that in this country.

[Translation]

the Monsanto company was accorded the permission to sell the seeds throughout the country by virtue of it having been conducting the experiments in 400 farms out of which the funding were sent to the GEAC for 40 farms only. Thousands of farmers had to suffer losses due to it. This variety was cultivated in one lakh acre land in my constituency and all the farmers who grew this seed are ruing over this decision? I would like to know whether the Government would compel the company to pay compensation to the farmers and also ask it to reconduct the experiment on that seed? Whether the Government would also try to analyse the season as to why GEAC gave this approval to the company? If the company fail to provide full compensation to the farmers, whether or not the Government would ask the company to pack up and leave the country?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAIN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member has also found space in newspapers and has also been raised by several farmer unions and the matter is being looked into. The Ministry of Environment had permitted the BT Cotton seeds mentioned by him to be grown on experimental basis for three years and on one hand farmers said that the seed was not beneficial for the farmers, on the other, the scientists maintains that the production of the seed...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Farmers have suffered financial losses. I want to know whether the Government propose to direct the company to compensate the farmers who have sown the crops after a gap of 4 years and have suffered financial losses? I do not have anything to do with environment.

[English]

Whether they polluted the environment or not.

[Translation]

I would like to know whether he would make the company pay compensation to the farmer or not?

[English]

Sir, there is something fishy going on between this company and the officials in the Biotechnology Department. This is my allegation on them. On the basis of 40 farms, how can they give permission to such an international company to sell seeds in the entire country at the cost of the farmers? It is only in the name of the farmer and their experiment on the farmer that this company is benefiting.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What will happen to the farmers who have already been destroyed because of this? They are experimenting on them.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAIN YADAV: Sir, I have told that this cotton seed was released only after seven years of its trial in Indian Council of Agriculture Research or anywhere else...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No I want to say that it was not tested. Company has claimed that trial were done in 40 farms only and on that basis only the seeds were approved for the entire country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not interrupt hon. Minister is replying, you will have to listen his reply.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAIN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if any hon. Member has any objection over the official information I have, he can write to me providing full factual details. I am ready to hold probe into it.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I have already given in writing to all the concerned Ministries. I have sent several letters to all of them.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAIN YADAV: As per the official information I have, the seeds have been released on the basis of the tests conducted on them. However,

the farmers have suffered losses due to it and we are taking stock of the situation from that point of view.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA: The Speaker, Sir, genetically organised seeds such as Monsanto's round up ready seeds intensify the use of farmers. A fact that nobody realises about these seeds is that these seeds are patented.

In the famous Monsanto versus Persey schemeises care, in Canada it was decreased that the farmers who use these seeds—knowingly or unknowingly had to pay royalty to the company. They could neither use the crop nor could they sell the crop.

Has India, like most other countries, declared a moratorium on the import of genetically modified foods and genetically modified seeds? All imported seeds have to go through a quarantine process. However, is it true that India has no testing facility either at the ports or at airports to test the genetically modified seeds?

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAIN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the officers of the plant quarantine department have been deployed at each airport and seaport to check and test any plant or seeds arriving in the country from abroad. We distribute these seeds only after conducting experiment on it. It is true that there is a lack of technical know how and state-of-the-art technology required to follow for the cultivation of hybrid and better yielding varieties. The farmers purchase the seeds in the name of better yield and productivity. The technical know-how in this regard is being imported by NGO's or by State Governments and the farmers are imparted training through them.

[English]

#### Privatisation of Airports

<sup>+</sup>  
\*84. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision regarding restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports through private participation has been taken by the Government;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the nature and extent of equity participation of private partners;
- (d) the names of the firms which have come forward in this regard;
- (e) the details of terms and conditions fixed with the firms;
- (f) the implication of privatisation on management;
- (g) whether some other airports would also be developed in similar fashion; and
- (h) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) The proposal of restructuring of airports at New Delhi and Mumbai of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Joint Venture (JV) route was approved on 11th September 2003 to upgrade them to world class international airports. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been constituted to decide the detailed modalities including the design parameters, bid evaluation criteria etc. based on which joint venture partner will be selected.

(c) The successful bidder will form Joint Venture Company with Airports Authority of India (AAI) through a Shareholders' Agreement. After completion of mandated modalities, Delhi and Mumbai airports will be handed over to the Joint Venture Companies for operation and management/maintenance. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Government of India/Public Sector entities would together hold 26% equity; and the remaining 74% equity will be contributed by private sector partner(s).

(d) and (e) The names of the firms will be known after selection of Joint Venture Partners through Global tendering process and terms and conditions are yet to be finalised for incorporation in the Concession Agreement.

(f) On completion of restructuring process of Delhi and Mumbai airports, the JV company will manage these airports with international standards. However, functions

relating to Air Traffic Services and Civil Aviation Security shall continue to be performed by AAI.

(g) There is no proposal at present to restructure other airports through Joint Venture route.

(h) Does not arise.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, today the incoming traffic and the outgoing traffic at the airports have really increased. But we still have the same old aircraft and the same old airports, that is, without any modernisation facilities there. It is true that our airports have to be modernised and it is very much essential. Today India is moving ahead in this area and we have got a new India.

I would just like to ask a simple question from the Minister. Do we require Joint Ventures (JV) from foreign sectors? Why do we require Joint Ventures from outside when we have got good consultants; good architects; and good financial institutions? That is my question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the hon. Member Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy has raised a very valid question. A debate for having Joint Venture (JV) route was taken up in this country when we had an amendment of the Airports Authority Act, 1994. In that we permitted Joint Venture (JV) route for development of modern airports and to achieve certain world class airport facilities.

Sir, you will appreciate the fact that the country for long-again I would repeat for the past 50 years—has been hearing about a world class infrastructure that it has not achieved. This time the Government did achieve...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: You are yourself shocked and surprised.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This time the Government did approve the modernisation of two airports, namely Mumbai and Delhi. These are the most premier airports for the country where majority of the traffic flow takes place...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is done because you have more traffic of flights there.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I think, it is in the interest of the country to have an infrastructure growth through Joint Venture (JV) partnerships.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: At that time, India was not moving ahead. As the Minister said, 50 years back, we did not have proper infrastructure, financial resources, architects and consultants. Today, as Shri Arun Shourie mentioned in his articles in the *Indian Express*, we have got a totally new India. When others are coming to India or are looking forward to come to India, why are you again going to other countries, be it for investment, architects and consultants? That is one part of the question.

I shall now come to the second part of my supplementary. The earlier Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, and our present Minister, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy have chosen bright and intelligent Members of Parliament, and that includes myself, as Members of the Consultative Committee of his Ministry.

What I would like to ask him is whether he is going to send these Members of Parliament abroad to find out how good the airports in other countries are and how they have developed them. When we come back, we can give our suggestions to the Ministry as well as to the architects and consultants, and our airports can be modernised in that way.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you give the reply in an affirmative way, then no further questions will be asked.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I do not understand the question because first, the hon. Member of Parliament says as to why the international consultants should come to this country and, second, he says that he should be sent abroad to look for such consultants. However, I can assure the House that the hon. Member of Parliament need not go abroad to see how such infrastructure projects are coming up. We will create a world class airport in the country which the hon. Member can use. That is our assurance to him.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have a very young and dynamic Civil Aviation Minister, but I am very sorry to say that he is trying to play politics with the Civil Aviation Ministry when he says that for 50 years nothing has happened to the civil aviation. It is a wrong information that he has given on the floor of the House. You should understand that International Airports Authority is one of the public sector undertakings which is earning more than Rs. 150 crores as net profit. You should understand that the Indian Airlines was the airlines which was earning nearly Rs. 300 crore as net profit. You should understand that Air India was one of the public sector undertakings which was earning Rs. 75 crores as net

profit. After you came, this profit has gone down, and you are standing on the floor of the House and saying that this is going in losses. How do we run it?

You have stopped flying Vayudoot aircraft; you have closed down the National Airports Authority and you are not looking after the Indira Gandhi Udaan Academy. You do not have a policy. You said on the floor of the House that you do not have a policy as to how to enhance the fleet, as to how to reach the districts, as to how to reach the capitals in the States of the country, and as to how to reach other nations.

Here, you are trying to play politics saying that for the last 50 years nothing has happened. By privatising and by giving it to others, you are showing that you are inefficient to develop the Airports. How can you really help this future civil aviation activity of such a big size, which is spread throughout the length and breadth of the country?

I would like to know whether you have any policy as to the development of the district airports, the State airports and the international airports. I would like to know whether you have any policy with respect to the kind of aircraft you will need to connect other countries, you will need to connect other States and you will need to connect the districts also. What kind of policy do you have to find the pilots and other officers, who will be required for the activity? Do not please play politics. You have a promising future. If you play politics, you will get it in the same coin.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, that was a very good expression. However, you will appreciate that he is talking of a time when all these institutions—whether it is Indian Airlines, whether it is Air India, whether it is Airports Authority of India—were sole agencies in our country having a complete monopoly. That resulted in...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are not talking about the profits, you are talking about only the losses.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I will explain that. It was not we who were in the Government when A-320 aircraft was grounded; it was not we who allowed Vayudoot to incur a loss of Rs. 183 crore.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It was not the Congress Government either.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: In order to take over that liability we had to merge it with the Indian Airlines.

Those losses were not incurred during our tenure. For your kind information, Vayudoot incurred massive losses, of more than Rs. 250 crore, during your tenure. It was to underwrite those losses that it was merged with the Indian Airlines...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It did not happen in the Congress Government. The Minister has to be correct in his facts. It was not done when the Congress Government was in power. It was done during the JD Government's tenure...(Interruptions) The Minister is playing politics.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What they have done is, that they have frittered away the system so badly that it is taking us time to stitch and mend it. The country now believes in this Government because we have set right what has not been set right in the last 50 years...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is nothing but politics. This is plain electioneering. We do not want to hear such election speeches here. This is not a public rally...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: They never had a civil aviation policy. This Government initiated the process of formulating a civil aviation policy...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is totally wrong. We can raise a privilege motion against him. He will be answerable for breach of privilege for giving wrong information in the House.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, accusations supported by facts are welcome. Accusations without the support of facts are not welcome. That is what I want to submit. They should come with facts. They should know how much loss Vayudoot was incurring before it was merged with Indian Airlines. These issues have to be taken into account when they talk about the civil aviation...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Ours is a welfare country. We have to discharge our social responsibilities also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not interrupt the Minister.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: WE constituted the Naresh Chandra Committee to formulate a civil aviation policy in the last three months. We are going to get the draft recommendations of that Committee today. I would like to inform the House that they will be considered by the Government. We are hopeful of giving this country a civil aviation policy, set the ground rules for aviation in the country for the future.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khairaji, the very little time is left. You directly ask the question.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Through you, I would like to know from the Government that more than three thousand employees from Maharashtra and more than three and a half thousand employees many of whom are working on contract basis, several as casual labourer and several as permanent employees, have been working at Mumbai and Delhi Airports. I would like to know as to what are the modalities of their restructuring proposed to be done by the Government.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: As far as Mumbai and Delhi airports are concerned, I associate myself with the concern of the hon. Member and I would like to assure them that the interests of the employees of the Airport Authority of India will be fully taken care of and the Government would provide all possible help to them. Some of the proposals in regard to the modalities for restructuring are pending for consideration with the Government and the Government would take the decision that will be in their favour.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Several times agitation have taken place at Mumbai Airport. There are three and a half thousand employees...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khairaji hon. Minister has listened and he will pay attention to it.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I have got two parts in my supplementary—one is relating to my Constituency and the other is relating to my State as a whole.

An airport at Tuticorin was established about 10 years back. One Vayudoot was flying earlier but that was stopped later. That district is a heavy income tax and excise duty payer in the State. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would utilise the established airport at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu. It is lying vacant.

First, there was an airport established in Kayathar. They were not satisfied. Then, they established another one at Tuticorin. But now, that is also closed. So, whenever the hon. President of India has to visit there, he goes by special flight; whenever the hon. Prime Minister has to visit there, he goes by special flight and not by any other flight.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.H. Pandian, please put your supplementary.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: So, the people there, want to fly from Tuticorin to all the places.

Sir, as regards the State of Tamil Nadu, I am surprised to find that Chennai Airport is not in the list of the development of airports. The reason given by the Ministry of Civil Aviation is that there is a less traffic being conducted or engineered. If there are more flights, naturally that Airport is bound to develop. But there is no direct flight from Chennai to Tuticorin.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take steps to develop the Chennai Airport to international standards.

In regard to the development of the Madurai Airport, which is a long-felt need, I wrote to the hon. Minister. In his reply, the hon. Minister had said that he would develop the airport after the acquisition proceeding was over.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, do you want to get the reply from the hon. Minister or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, now, the land has been acquired for the Madurai Airport to raise it to the international standard. So, at least now, will the hon. Minister take steps to bring the Madurai Airport as also the Chennai Airport to the standard of international airport?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the Airports Authority of India, at the moment, has 124 airports out of

which around 42 airports are non-operational airports which are loss-making. There are 72 airports which are operational and which are again loss-making. Out of these 124 airports, only 11 are profit-making ones. At the same time, there are many airports maintained by the State Governments.

Sir, the moot question which the hon. Member is asking is about making these airports operational. You would appreciate that whenever there are more passengers, it becomes more profitable for the airports. Money is to be spent and utilised. That is why we say that we require more connectivity to the stations. So, to provide more connectivity, relevant decisions are being taken in the Government which would be tried with due consultations. Therefore, we are addressing the issue of the aviation turbine fuel as also the issue of Inland Aviation Travel Tax so that the aviation becomes cheap and affordable for the common man.

Sir, it is the vision of the hon. Prime Minister to give affordability of aviation to this country which would result in more passengers flying, and there will be affordability and viabilities of the airports.

Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that about all the airports including the international airports, there is a proposal to upgrade them, to look into their up-keeps and make them look better in the present situation, and bring appropriate investment wherever required.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Don't privatise Mumbai Airport...(Interruptions)

[English]

#### Criteria for Selection of Monuments

\*85. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from various States for declaring some monuments as centrally protected monuments during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government or ASI have called for any additional information in this regard;

(d) if so, the current status of the proposals;

(e) the details of the structures declared centrally protected in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for proper conservation of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) Central Government receives proposals from various quarters including State Governments for central protection of monuments. A list of monuments protected during the last 3 years is at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) As soon as the proposals are approved by the Central Government, a preliminary notification is issued inviting objections from the public, State Governments etc. A list of monuments for which preliminary notifications have been issued and their current status is at Annexure-II.

(e) No monument has been declared as of national importance in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, a list of monuments already protected by the Central Government in the State of Andhra Pradesh is at Annexure-III.

(f) The centrally protected monuments including those situated in Andhra Pradesh are conserved and preserved, and adequate measures such as day-to-day maintenance, structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development are adopted as per archaeological principles.

**Annexure I**

*List of monuments protected during the year 2000 to 2003 up to 30th November 2003*

Sl. No.	Name of the Monument	Locality	District	State	Year of Protection
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Apathasahaswaraswamy Temple and Gateways and Horses	Sendaman-galam	Sendaman-galam	Tamil Nadu	2000
2.	Swarneshwara Temple	Halsi	Belgam	Karnataka	2000
3.	Ramalingeswara Temple	Halsi	Belgam	Karnataka	2000
4.	Narasimha Temple	Halsi	Belgam	Karnataka	2000
5.	Kamaleshwar Temple	Halsi	Belgam	Karnataka	2000
6.	Mazar of Mohd. Zauq	Central	Dariya Ganj	Delhi	2000
7.	Fortification Wall, Chhatta Bazar, Gates, Baoli and Moat of Red Fort, Delhi	Red Fort	Central	Delhi	2002
8.	City wall of Shahjahanabad (Near Darya Ganj) from Link Road connecting Ansari Road and Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg to Samta Sthal (Intact Portion)	Ansari Road, Darya Ganj	North	Delhi	2002
9.	Salimgarh Fort comprising the main gate on north ancient structure and the entire fortification wall	Bela Road	North	Delhi	2002
10.	Currency Building	Dalhousie Square	Kolkata	West Bengal	2002
11.	Asiatic Society Building	Park Street	Kolkata	West Bengal	2002

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Maghen David Synagogue	Ward No. 45,	Calcuta	West Bengal	2003
13.	Institute de Chandannagar, Dupleix Palace	Chandan Nagar	Hooghly	West Bengal	2003
14.	Beth-el-Synagogue	Pollock Street	Kolkata	West Bengal	2003
15.	Patal Bhubaneswar Cave Temple	Bhubaneswar	Didihat, Pithoragarh	Uttaranchal	2003
16.	Aga Khan Palace Building	Pune	Pune	Maharashtra	2003
17.	Group of monuments at Jhajjar	Jhajjar		Haryana	2003
18.	Ancient excavated site containing remains of Buddhist Stupa	Kanganhalli	Gulbarga	Karnataka	2003
19.	South Gate, Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad	West Bengal	2003
20.	Immambara Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad	West Bengal	2003
21.	White Mosque Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad	West Bengal	2003
22.	Yellow Mosque Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad	West Bengal	2003
23.	Tripolia Gate Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad	West Bengal	2003
24.	Town Hall	Shivpuri	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh	2003
25.	Excavated Remains of Buddhist Vihara and Temple at Pallavaneswaram	Melaiyur, Kaveripattinam	Sirkazhi, Nagapattinam	Tamil Nadu	2003
26.	Nabha House	Dara Kalan (KKR)	Kurukshetra	Haryana	2003
27.	Haldighati	Dara, Rajsamand, Nathdwara	Khemner	Rajasthan	2003
28.	Badshahi Bagh	Dara, Rajsamand, Nathdwara	Khemner	Rajasthan	2003
29.	Chetak Samadhi	Dara, Rajsamand, Nathdwara	Khemner	Rajasthan	2003
30.	Vivekanand Rock Memorial	Kanya Kumari	Kanya-kumari	Tamil Nadu	2003
31.	Rakta Talai	Nathdwara	Rajsamand	Rajasthan	2003
32.	Ancient Site (Kotada)	Dholavira, Bhachau	Bhuj	Gujarat	2003
33.	Virupaksha Temple and Bazar	Hampi, Kamalapur	Bellary	Karnataka	2003
34.	Sat Narain Bhawan	Delhi Sadhora Khurd, Dina Nath Marg, Roshanara Road	New Delhi	Delhi	2003



*Abstract of the Protected Monuments*

Year	No. of Monuments Protected
1	2
2000	06 nos.
2001	Nil

1	2
2002	05 nos.
2003	23 nos.
Total	34 Nos.

*Annexure II**Status of monuments where Preliminary Gazette Notification to declare them as of National Importance issued during the year 2002-2003*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of the Monuments	Status of Protection		Remarks
			Gazette Preliminary Notification No. & Date	Date due for final Notification	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kolkata Circle	Tamluk Rajbati Padumbasan, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal	S.O.No. 1213(E) Dated 20.11.02	Due for 20.01.2003	Objection received against protection of preliminary notification have been forwarded to S.A. Kolkata Circle for detailed comments. The matter is being examined by the field officer.
2.	Chennai Circle	Arunachaleswara Temple Tiruvanamalai, Tamil Nadu	S.O.No. 1024(E) Dated 21.9.2002	Due for 21.11.2002	Matter is subjudice.
3.	Bhopal Circle	Gwalior Fort with all archaeological structure and remains within and the fortification wall, Anukhana Kalan, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	S.O.No. 1139(E) Dated 29.10.2002	Due for 29.12.2002	Objections received against protection of preliminary notification have been forwarded to S.A. Bhopal Circle for detailed comments. The matter is being examined by the field officer.
4.	Srinagar Circle	Bhimgarh Fort Reasi, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir  Notification cancelled	S.O.No. 1189(E) Dated 9.11.02	Due for 9.1.2003	Corrigendum regarding withdrawal of preliminary notification issued on 9.11.2002 on the directions of the Hon'ble Minister of T&C has been published in the official Gazette of India vide S.O. No. 875(E) dated. 31.07.2003.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chandigarh Circle	Temple of Champavati Chamba, Himachal Pradesh	S.O. No. 257 (E) Dated 4.3.2003	Due for 04.5.2003	Objections received against protection of preliminary notification have been forwarded to S.A. Chandigarh Circle for detailed comments. The matter is being examined by the field officer.
6.	Bhopal Circle	Pre-historic Painted Rock Shelters at Sita Khadi, Bhopura, M.P.	S.O. No. 515(E) Dated 8.5.2003	Due for 8.7.2003	In Govt. of India Press for issuance of Final Gazette Notification.
7.	Bhopal Circle	Pre-historic Painted Rock Shelters at Chaturbuj Nala, Bhopura, M.P.	S.O. No. 516(E) Dated 8.5.2003	Due for 8.7.2003	In Govt. of India Press for issuance of Final Gazette Notification.
8.	Delhi Circle	Mata Kalka Devi Temple	S.O. No. 551(E) Dated 14.5.2003	Due for 14.7.2003	Objections received against protection of preliminary notification have been forward to S.A. Delhi Circle for detailed comments. The matter is sub-judice.
9.	Delhi Circle	Hanuman Temple Connaught Place	S.O. No. 601(E) Dated 26.5.2003	Due for 26.7.2003	Objections received against protection of preliminary notification have been forwarded to S.A. Delhi Circle for detailed comments. The matter is subjudice.
10.	Jaipur Circle	Pushkar Ghats Pushkar, Ajmer, Rajasthan	S.O. No. 874(E) Dated 31.7.2003	Due for 30.9.2003	Objections received against protection of preliminary notification have been forwarded to S.A. Jaipur Circle for detailed comments. The matter is subjudice.
11.	Bhopal Circle	Temple remains and mounds at Bijamandal, Dist. Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh	S.O. No. 872(E) Dated 31.7.2003	Due for 30.9.2003	Clearance regarding no objection received from concerned party is under examination by the field officer.
12.	Bhubaneswar Circle	Ancient Buddhist site, Langudi Hill, Locality-Langudi, Tehsil-Dharmshala, Distt. Jaipur, Orissa	S.O. No. 983(E) Dated 27.8.2003	Due for 27.10.2003	Clearance regarding no objection received from concerned party is under examination by the field officer.

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Jaipur Circle	Pratap Smerak at Chavand, Distt. Udaipur	S.O. No. 1053(E) Dated 15.9.2003	Due for 16.11.2003	In Govt. of India Press for issuance of Final Gazette Notification.
14.	Jaipur Circle	Hawa Mahal known as Roothi Rani ka Mahal, at Veerpura Jaisamand, Distt. Udaipur	S.O. No. 1005(E) Dated 15.9.2003	Due for 16.11.2003	Ministry of Law for vetting final draft gazette notification.
15.	Jaipur Circle	Mahal known as Hawa Mahal at Veerpura Jaisamand, Distt. Udaipur	S.O. No. 1056 Dated 15.9.2003	Due for 16.11.2003	Ministry of Law for vetting final draft gazette notification.
16.	Bhubaneswar Circle	Kapileswar Mahadev Temple Vill. Hatuari, Tehsil- Kamakhyanager, Distt. Dhenkanal, Orissa	S.O. No. 1261(E) Dated 31.10.2003	Due for 31.12.2003	
17.	Chandigarh Circle	Maharaja Ranjeet Singh Summer Palace Complex, Ram Bagh (Company Bagh) Amritsar, Punjab,	S.O. No. 1351(E) Dated 24.11.2003	Due for 24.1.2004	
18.	Srinagar Circle	Gonpas & other historical remains adjoining to Leh Palace, Leh-Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir.	S.O. No. 1348(E) Dated 24.11.2003	Due for 24.1.2004	
19.	Bangalore	Prehistoric Anthro- morphic Figure, Vill. Kumati, Taluk Kudligi, Distt. Bellary, Kamataka.	S.O. No. 1349(E) Dated 24.11.2003	Due for 24.1.2004	
20.	Kolkata Circle	Clive's House known as Barakothi, Dum Dum, P.O. Nagar Bazar Distt. 24 Pargana (North) West Bengal	S.O. No. 1350(E) Dated 24.11.2003	Due for 24.1.2004	

**Annexure III***List of centrally protected monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh*

Sl.No.	Name of Monumenta/Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Hill Fort and buildings therein and the fortifications at the foot of the hill.	Gooty	Anantapur
2.	Madhavaraya temple (old Vishnu temple)	Gorantla	-do-
3.	Outer wall of the Mahalakshmi temple	Goripalli	-do-

1	2	3	4
4.	Group of sculptures	Hemavati	Anantapur
5.	Group of old temples together with adjacent land	Hemavati	-do-
6.	Large dolmen on a rocky hillock	Kalayndurg	-do-
7.	Mallikarjuna (Siva) temple	Kambanduru	-do-
8.	Virabhadra temple	Lepakashi	-do-
9.	Basavannah temple	Lepakashi	-do-
10.	Hill fort	Madakasira	-do-
11.	Large bastion and an old gateway	Madakasira	-do-
12.	Extensive hill-fortress with outlying fortification excluding the fort gate	Rayadurg	-do-
13.	Palace and two temples of Rama and Krishna	-do-	-do-
14.	Chintalarayaswami temple	Tadpatri	-do-
15.	Rameswaraswami temple	-do-	-do-
16.	Sitatirtham steeped well with entrance in the form of a bull	Penukonda	-do-
17.	The Hill fort and northern gateway with inscriptions	-do-	-do-
18.	The citadel and ruined buildings on the hill	-do-	-do-
19.	Watch tower known as Rama's bastion	-do-	-do-
20.	Small pavillion	-do-	-do-
21.	Old gapuram	-do-	-do-
22.	Old stamba or lamp pillar in the sub collector's office compound	-do-	-do-
23.	Extensive Hill Fortress without lying fortification	Rayadurg	-do-
24.	Hill fort and a large wall		-do-
25.	Lower Fort and structure	Chandragiri	Chittoor
26.	Upper Fort	-do-	-do-
27.	Venkateswara Vishnu temple	Mangapuram (hamlet of Mittapalem)	-do-
28.	Chennakeswaraswami temple	Sompalle	-do-
29.	Fort	Gurramkonda	-do-
30.	Lower Fort, Center Fort wall, moat, old fort gateway, old hanuman temple, old mandapam	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
31.	Pattiswara Mudaiya Madeya temple	Kalakada	Chittoor
32.	Parasuramesvara temple	Gudimalam	-do-
33.	Mahal	Gurramkonda	-do-
34.	Bhimeshwara swamy temple	Pushpagiri, (hamlet of Kotluru)	Cuddapah
35.	Indranadheswara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
36.	Kamalasambnashwara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
37.	Raghaveswara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
38.	Sivakesavaswamy temple	-do-	-do-
39.	Trikoteswara swamy temple	-do-	-do-
40.	Vaidhyanadha swamy temple	-do-	-do-
41.	Ancient Village sites	Paddamudiyam	-do-
42.	Kondarama temple	-do-	-do-
43.	Mukundesvara temple with inscriptions	-do-	-do-
44.	Narasimha temple	-do-	-do-
45.	Vigneswara swamy temple	Chilamakuru	-do-
46.	Remains of the buried Jain temple	Danabalapadu	
47.	Fort with enclosed ancient buildings, Madhavaperumal temple	Gandikota	-do-
48.	Visvanatha swamy temple	Sivalpallu	-do-
49.	Saumyanatha temple	Nandalur	
50.	Athirala Parasurama temple	Poli	
51.	Sri Kodandarma swamy temple and adjoining buildings	Vontimitta	-do-
52.	Fort, Moat and buildings	Siddhout	-do-
53.	Old Vishnu temples with inscriptions	Peddanudiyam	-do-
54.	Ruined Buddhist stupa and other remains	Amaravati	Guntur
55.	Inscribed rock to the west of Dharanikota	Amaravati	-do-
56.	Fort in ruins	Dharanikota	-do-
57.	Ancient Siva temple with inscription	Ayyangaripalem	-do-
58.	Bhavanarayana temple	Bepetta	-do-
59.	Ruined Buddhist stupa	Bhattiprolu	-do-

1	2	3	4
60.	Kapoteswara temple with the inscriptional monumnets within the temple site (slabs in the temple site)	Chejerla	Guntur
61.	Mounds with ancient remains	Grandhesiri	-do-
62.	Inscribed marble pillar near the Gopala temple	Ipuru	-do-
63.	Ancient Buddhist remains and Brahmi inscriptions on the mound.	Manchikallu	-do-
64.	Mounds with ancient remains	Velpur	-do-
65.	Fort-storeyed rock-cut Hindu temple	Undavalli	-do-
66.	The Sculptures, carvings, images or other like objects discovered within the revenue limit	Buddam	-do-
67.	Mound	Nagulavaram	-do-
68.	Hill of Nagarjunakonda with the ancient remains	Pullareddigudem (Agarharam)	-do-
69.	The Sculptures, carvings, images on the ancient mount	Pullareddigudem	-do-
70.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains such as stupas	Adurru	East Godavari
71.	Rock-cut caves and cisterns and remains of Buddhist Stupas, Chatyas and Viharas (monasteries) on the hill pandavula or pandavakonda	Kapavaram	-do-
72.	Buddhist remains at Kodavali	Kodavali	-do-
73.	Bhimeswara temple	Samalkot, Bhimavaram	-do-
74.	Bhimeswara temple	Draksharama	-do-
75.	Gollingeswara group of temples	Biccavolu	East Godavari
76.	Monolithic Ganesh Image	-do-	-do-
77.	Charminar	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
78.	Golkonda Fort, Fortifications	-do-	-do-
79.	Pre-historic site	Janapet	Khammam
80.	Ancient site and remains comprised in survey plot No. 37	Munagacherla	Krishna
81.	Ancient site with the mound marking the Buddhist Stupas in it.	Aliuru	-do-

1	2	3	4
82.	Buddhist remains in a mound	Ghantasala	-do-
83.	Mound containing Buddhist remains and ancient village site.	Gudivada	-do-
84.	Hillock containing the mound marking the ancient remains of Buddhist stupas situated on it	Gummadiduru	-do-
85.	Bandar Fort (1) Armoury known as Fort and customs office, Bandar Fort customs office, (2) Belfry	Masulipathnam	-do-
86.	Dutch cemetery	-do-	-do-
87.	buddhist remains of a Stupa on the hill	Jaggayyapeta	-do-
88.	Four pillars in the ruined mandapam in Jammidoddi	Vijayawada	-do-
89.	Two rock-cut cave temples on the Indrakila hill known as Akkanna caves Kiratarjuna pillar and slab the Indrakila hill inscribed pillar and slab in Malleswarami temple	-do-	-do-
90.	Rock cut cave temples on the Hill	Mogalrajapuram	-do-
91.	Sculptures, carvings, images other like objects found in the vicinity of the old Mosque	Gudur	-do-
92.	Inscribed Pillar and slab in Mallesvaravami temple	Vijayawada	-do-
93.	Kiratharjuna Pillar on the Indrakilla Hill	Vijayawada	-do-
94.	Ruined fort and buildings therein except Ramazan masjid	Adoni	Kumool
95.	Inscribed stone lying to the east of siva temple	Rayachoti	-do-
96.	Inscribed boulder bearing Andhra Pradesh records of 150 A.D.	Chinnakadaburu	-do-
97.	A prominent granite hillock bearing Asokan inscriptions.	Jannagiri	-do-
98.	The One Asokan inscription, Two early Chaulukya inscriptions and One late Chalukya inscriptions	Rajulamandagiri	-do-
99.	Mausaleum known as Abdul Wahab Khan's Tomb and adjoining buildings	Kumool	-do-
100.	Gateways and the bastions of the old fort, viz. (1) Bastion No. 1 Beach Ghantki Buruzu (2) Bastion No. 2 Lal Bangalow Buruzu (3) Gateway to Gopala Darwaja (4) Gateway to Paniloddi	Kumool	-do-

1	2	3	4
101.	Nandavaram Temple including the sculpture of Subrahmanya	Nandavaram	Kumool
102.	Old Cave Temple	Yaganti	-do-
103.	Uma-Mahesvaraswami Temple	Yaganti	-dp-
104.	Ancient Mound	Kondapur	Medak
105.	Alampur Temples	Alampur	Mehaboobnagar
106.	Mound known as 'Bodipati Dibba'	Ramatirtham (Hamlet of Varini)	Nellore
107.	Ancient Mound	Ramatirtham	Nellore
108.	Hill Fort with Ancient buildings therein	Udayagiri	Nellore
109.	Krishna Temple in a part of Donka with Gopuram, Kalyanamandapam and Masonry built Tank	Udayagiri	Nellore
110.	Ranganayakula Temple	Udayagiri	Nellore
111.	Ancient Mounds	Kanuparti	Prakasam
112.	A group of eight rock-cut temples in Bhairavakonda hill	Kottapalli	Prakasam
113.	Chola Temple	Motupalle	Prakasam
114.	Ancient Mound	Pedaganjam	Prakasam
115.	Pitikeswara group of temples including Approach road	Pittikayagulla	Prakasam
116.	Ancient Site	Pusalapadu	Prakasam
117.	Remalingeswara group of temples	Satival	Prakasam
118.	Ancient Buddhist site	Kalingapatnam	Srikakulam
119.	Sri Someswara temple	Mukhalingam	Srikakulam
120.	Bhimeswara temple, Mukhalingeswara temple	Mukhalingeswara	Srikakulam
121.	Buddhist remains: (1) Six images (2) Three images and some more images on the hill (3) One image (4) Three images	Salihundam	Srikakulam
122.	Eastern portion of Salihundam hill containing Buddhist remains (A Chaitya and four stupas)	Salihundam	Srikakulam
123.	Ancient Buddhist Mounds locally known as 'Dhana Dibba'	Kotturu (near Gokiwada forest)	Vishakhapatnam



1	2	3	4
124.	Buddhist rock-cut stupas, Dagabas and caves and the ruins of a structural Chaitya with its outbuilding and other Ancient remains on two adjoining hills known as Bojianna Konda.	Sankaram	Vishakhapatnam
125.	(Durga Bhairavakonda) having an ancient monument called Durga	Nilavati	Vizianagaram
126.	Ruined Buddhist Monastery at Gurubhaktulakonda	Ramatirthalu Ramatirtham	Vizianagaram
127.	The old, Dibbesvaarasvamipur temple	Sarapalli (Saarapalle)	Vizianagaram
128.	Thousand Pilared temple	Hanamkonda	Warangal
129.	Ramapaa temple	Palampet	Warangal
130.	Warangal Fort, Defences and gateways	Warangal	Warangal
131.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains	Arugolanu	West Godavari
132.	Mounds locally known as Bhimalingadibba	Denduluru	West Godavari
133.	Buddhist monuments (1) Rock-cut temple (2) Large Monastery (3) Small Monastery (4) Brick Chaitya (5) Ruined Mandapa (6) Stone built Stupa, and Large group of stupas.	Gunlupalle	
134.	The caves and structural stupa of Archaeological interest on Dharmalingesvarami hill	Jilakarragudem (Hamlet of Gutupalle)	West Godavari
135.	The mounds of Pedavegi: Dibba No. 1 Dibba No. 2, Dibba No. 3, Dibba No. 4, Dibba No. 5.	Pedavegi	West Godavari
136.	Ancient Mounds	Pedavegi	West Godavari

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahmaniah, please ask your Supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of important monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh. We have the monuments like Golkunda Fort, Char Minar, Bandar Port, and Buddha Stoop at Vijayawada. But the hon. Minister in his reply has said that 'no monument has been declared as of national importance in the State of Andhra Pradesh.'

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the norms or criteria to declare a monument as of national importance.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, I think, the hon. Member is referring about the monuments to be declared as of national importance during the last three years. His question was—During the last three years, how many monuments have been declared as the protected monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

No monuments has been declared as of national importance during the last three years. But Sir, 34 monuments have already been declared as of national importance and protected monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Golkunda is one of them, for example.

The second question was about the criteria. The criteria are that a monument must be of at least 100 years old; it must have some distinct architectural and historical feature which need to be preserved. This principle is valid in all cases and the protection has been going on for several years.

At present, the total number of monuments which have been protected is 3633. These are all being reviewed every time and wherever any new thing is noticed, that also needs to be protected; and we do protect it.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Farmer Insurance Income Scheme

\*82. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch Farmer Insurance Income Scheme (FIIS) as a pilot project for two crops viz., wheat and rice from Kharif 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main features of the scheme;

(c) whether State Agriculture Secretaries in a meeting with Union Agriculture Minister in the first week of November, 2003 requested to extend the scheme for other crops also;

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

(e) the States where this scheme has been introduced in the first phase;

(f) the manner in which it is likely to be different from existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS); and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to settle all the pending claims under NAIS as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):  
(a) to (g) The Government of India has decided to

implement a Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) during Rabi 2003-04 season for wheat and rabi rice. The main features of the Pilot Project are as follows:—

- A farmer's production and price risk for the crop produced by him, would be protected by ensuring minimum guaranteed income. If the actual income as a product of yield recorded during the season multiplied by prevailing market price falls short of the guaranteed income per hectare (Average yield of past 7 years x indemnity level x MSP of current year), the farmer would be eligible for compensation to the extent of the difference between the guaranteed income and the actual income.
- The Pilot Project would cover Wheat and Rabi rice only in selected districts.
- Procurement at MSP will be withdrawn in these districts in respect of the selected crops.
- As under the NAIS, the FIIS would be compulsory for farmers availing seasonal agricultural operations loans from financial institutions and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- A premium subsidy of 75% is proposed to be given in case of small and marginal farmers and 50% for other farmers.
- The pilot project will be implemented by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), New Delhi.

In a meeting with the Union Agriculture Minister in the first week of November, 2003, some State Agriculture Secretaries requested for extension of the scheme to other crops also. Government has conveyed to the State Governments that the Pilot Project is limited to two crops only, namely wheat and rabi-rice.

The list of States/districts identified for implementation of the Pilot Project subject to receipt of consent of the concerned State Government is as follows:—

Crop	State	District
1	2	3
Wheat	Bihar	Buxar, Madhubani
	Gujarat	Banaskantha
	Haryana	Rewari
	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur

1	2	3
	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
	Maharashtra	Parbhani
	Punjab	Sangrur
	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur, Mathura, Etawah, Kannauj
	Uttaranchal	Udham Singh Nagar
Paddy (Rice)	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal
	Assam	Kumrup
	Karnataka	Mysore
	Orissa	Cuttack
	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
	West Bengal	Bardwan

The FIIS covers both yield related risks and the risks due to price variation of the agricultural produce, while NAIS covers yield related risks only.

The Government has taken necessary steps for provision of additional funds for the settlement of admissible claims.

#### Production of Foodgrains

\*86. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the production of foodgrains during the recent past have declined considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have recently launched a special drive to increase the production of foodgrains during Rabi season;

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

(e) whether the State Governments have been asked to boost production of foodgrains;

(f) if so, the reaction of State Government in this regard;

(g) whether a number of countries including Egypt have offered to buy wheat; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The production of foodgrains shows a long term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations arising mainly from unfavourable weather. The trends in production of foodgrains during the last ten years may be seen from the Annexure. The figures in the Statement enclosed show that the foodgrains production rose to about 210 million tonnes in 1999-2000 while it reached a record level of 212 million tonnes in 2001-02.

(c) and (d) Although the Government have not launched a special drive, the Ministry of Agriculture regularly organizes National Conference on Kharif Campaign before the commencement of Kharif Season and Rabi Campaign before the commencement of Rabi Season with a view to assessing the emerging agriculture scenario in different States and identifying measures/action points to boost agricultural production and productivity.

(e) and (f) The Rabi Conference held on 29th and 30th September, 2003 underlined the need for States to formulate and include the Action Plan for doubling Agriculture Production in the Work Plans. It was indicated in the Conference that the funds for this purpose would be provided under Macro Management of Agriculture. Further, in order to increase production of foodgrains, all the State Governments were requested to prepare perspective seed plans which should be updated every season/year taking into account the development of new varieties/hybrids and status of lifting of breeder seeds and their subsequent multiplication into foundation and then certified seeds. All the State Governments were requested to prepare district-wise maps indicating the name of the varieties of major crops suitable for planting in the district. In view of the importance given to organic farming in a number of States, emphasis was laid on the need for notifying indigenous certification agency, who can certify the organic produce of the farmer at a lower cost.

A number of States like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, who attended the National Conference on Rabi Campaign, have spelled out steps taken/proposed to be taken to grow more pulses, oilseeds and horticulture crops with a view to shifting area from more water intensive to less water intensive crops. This is also expected to contribute significantly to the efforts aimed at doubling food production and farmers' income. In this context, the representatives from Bihar indicated the need

for reclamation of wasteland to bring more area under cultivation while the representative from Assam outlined the steps aimed at utilizing ground water through shallow tubewells. The representatives of States also laid emphasis on marketing, organic farming, etc. with a view to raising farm income.

(g) and (h) The Department of Food & Public Distribution offer surplus stock of wheat in the Central

Pool, over and above the buffer norm of 14.3 million tonnes, to the exporters at the Open Market Sale Price (Domestic) fixed by the Government from time to time. Certain World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible expenses are, however, reimbursable to the exporters. It is for the exporters to decide the destination of the exports. So far 14.2 million tonnes of wheat has been lifted from the Central Pool for Export from 2000-01 onward.

### Statement

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Season	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003\$ IVth Advance Estimates	2003-2004 Targets	2004-05 1st Advance Estimates
Rice	Kharif	66.37	65.24	70.72	72.60	67.88	71.32	72.53	72.72	77.48	72.78	79.76	66.51	78.63	75.05
	Rabi	8.31	7.62	9.58	9.21	9.10	10.41	10.01	13.36	12.20	12.20	13.32	9.21	14.37	
	Total	74.68	72.86	80.30	81.81	76.98	81.73	82.54	86.08	89.68	84.98	93.08	75.72	93.00	
Wheat	Rabi	55.69	57.21	59.84	65.77	62.10	69.35	66.35	71.29	76.37	69.68	71.81	69.32	78.00	
Coarse Cereals	Kharif	20.80	30.60	24.30	23.81	22.66	27.11	24.76	25.05	23.22	24.86	26.92	20.13	27.05	2796
	Rabi	5.19	5.99	6.51	6.07	6.37	7.00	5.64	6.28	7.12	6.22	7.02	6.09	6.95	
	Total	25.99	36.59	30.81	29.88	29.03	34.11	30.40	31.33	30.34	31.08	33.94	26.22	34.00	
Total Pulses	Kharif	4.42	5.63	5.38	4.66	4.58	5.49	4.29	5.14	4.81	4.45	4.87	3.84	6.00	5.44
	Rabi	7.60	7.19	7.93	9.38	7.73	8.76	8.68	9.77	8.60	6.62	8.32	7.47	9.00	
	Total	12.02	12.82	13.31	14.04	12.31	14.25	12.97	14.91	13.41	11.07	13.19	11.31	15.00	
Total Food-grains	Kharif	91.59	101.47	100.40	101.07	95.12	103.92	101.58	102.91	105.51	102.09	111.55	90.48	111.68	108.45
	Rabi	76.79	78.01	83.86	90.43	85.30	95.52	90.68	100.70	104.29	94.72	100.47	92.09	108.32	
	Total	168.38	179.48	184.26	191.50	180.42	199.44	192.26	203.61	209.80	196.81	212.02	182.57	220.00	

\$ As on 1.7.2003.

● As on 30.9.2003.

### River-Linking Projects

\*87. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of River-Linking Projects;

(b) whether the Supreme court has sought details from the Union Government with regard to progress made under the Second Action Plan in respect of linking of rivers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government had made it clear that States have to participate and agree for river linking projects;

(e) if so, the States which have opposed the proposal;

(f) whether the Task Force on inter-linking of rivers has submitted its interim report to the Union Government; and

(g) if so, the salient features thereof and by when the final report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Based on various water balance and prefeasibility studies carried out by National Water Development Agency (NWDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Water Resources, 30 links (14 under Himalayan Component and 16 under Peninsular Component) have been identified for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of the 30 identified links, NWDA has completed FRs of 8 links. The Union Government has set-up a Task Force in December, 2002 with a view to bring about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for funding etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers project.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing Writ Petition (Civil) No. 512/2002 on 'Networking of Rivers' passed an order on 10th November, 2003 directing Union of India to file an affidavit placing on record up to date progress in the matter within a period of six weeks.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Task Force has been asked to suggest modalities for arriving at the speedy consensus among the States.

(f) and (g) The Task Force is expected to submit its final report during 2004.

#### **Amendment in Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946**

\*88. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 in

order to allow the industrial units to recruit manpower on fixed term contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all Central Trade Unions have objected the above proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 to include "Fixed Term Employment Workman" in the Schedule of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Model Standing Orders annexed to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 is under consideration of the Government at present.

A fixed term employment workman will be engaged on the basis of contract of employment for a fixed period. However, his working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits shall not be less than that of a permanent workman. He shall also be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even though his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment.

(c) and (d) The Central Trade Union Organisations have opposed the draft amendment proposal and stated that the present classification of workman is adequate and there is no need to introduce a new classification as fixed term employment workman. The matter is under consideration of the Government at present.

#### **Ban on Use and Import of Mercury**

\*89. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the mercury pollutions is spreading and the country is becoming a dumping ground;

(b) if so, whether developed countries have imposed ban on use of mercury whereas India is importing and using mercury on a large scale;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the findings of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the emissions from mercury could cause damage to the human body such as memory loss, impaired coordination, vision disturbance and cardio vascular problems;

(g) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is finding a way to phase out mercury; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no such scientific study/ finding to suggest that mercury pollution is spreading and the country is becoming a dumping ground.

(b) and (c) In developed countries including countries within Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Community, legislations have been made to only ban or limit the use of identified products containing mercury. Mercury is imported in India for use in industries like Chlor-alkali, dental amalgam, batteries, clinical thermometers, barometers, pesticides and drugs, electrical and electronic appliances etc. The total import of mercury in 2002-2003 is 531.20 Metric tonnes.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has expressed concern over India becoming a major consumer of mercury and other related issues.

(f) The potential toxicity of mercury for human varies widely depending on the chemical form, the pathways of exposure, the amount and vulnerability of the person exposed.

(g) and (h) Various legislative measures and initiatives have been taken to with mercury pollution problems. These include the following:

- Import of mercury bearing waste has been totally banned under the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 2003.
- Stringent effluent and emissions standards have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with respect to concentration of mercury

for Mercury-Cell Process based Chlor-alkali industries.

- Comprehensive guidelines have been prepared and issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for effluent treatment from Chlor-alkali industry.
- No new plant and/or expansion of mercury-cell process based Chlor-alkali plants have been granted environmental clearance since 1994 under the provisions of EIA Notification, 1994. As per the available data, mercury cell based plant capacity in India is currently at 29%.
- Generators of mercury bearing wastes are covered under the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989/2003 requiring Authorization from State Pollution Control Boards.
- Identified hazardous mercury compounds including Mercuric chloride and Mercury methyl chloride have been covered under the Manufacture Storage, Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 necessitating safe handling procedure.
- A Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) for Chlor-alkali industry sector has been formulated, under which a number of action plans including switch-over to membrane cell technology and reduction of mercury consumption at <50 gm/t of product have been initiated.

#### **Indo-Israeli Agreement in Agriculture Sector**

\*90. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreements have been signed recently between India and Israel in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grounds on the basis of which mutual understanding was arrived at between the two countries in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No agreement has been signed recently between India and Israel in the agriculture sector pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Development of Fisheries**

\*91. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for the development of fisheries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the works undertaken during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Major schemes implemented by the Government in the fishery sector during the last two years include Motorization of traditional craft, Reimbursement of Central excise duty on high speed diesel (HSD) oil, Development of freshwater and brackish water aquaculture, pilot projects for Development of cold water fisheries, Water logged areas into aquaculture estates, Reservoir fisheries and Utilization of saline soils for aquaculture in selected states, Establishment of fishing harbour facilities at major and minor ports & fish landing centres, Fisheries training and extension and welfare programme for fishermen.

State-wise and scheme-wise details of amount sanctioned and activities/works approved under the scheme for the development of fisheries and welfare of fishermen during the last two years are given in Statements-I and II.

**Statement I**

*Details of activities/works approved for development of fisheries in States/UTs under the major schemes during 2001-02 and 2002-03*

S.No.	States/UTs	2001-02							2002-03									
		FFDAs	BFDAs	FY	NWF (No. of beneficiaries)			FY	FY(M)**			FFDAs	BFDAs	FY(H/C)	NWF (No. of beneficiaries)			FY
		Area Covered	(ha.)	(H/C)	Insurance	Saving cum Relief	D MF Villages House	(T&E) (HRD)	Re. HSD Oil	Motor. of Trd. Craft	Area Covered	(ha.)	(H/C)	Insurance	Saving Cum Relief	D MF Villages House	(T&E) (HRD)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil*	Nil	Nil	130000	0	0	—	Nil	400	Nil	Nil	11	130000	2666	0	—	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	—	—	—	—	—	100	
3.	Assam	68	—	—	0	0	33	—	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4.	Bihar	259	—	—	40000	0	260	—	—	—	18	—	—	40000	0	156	—	
5.	Goa	Nil**	6	—	900	0	0	—	536	170	Nil	32	—	900	0	0	—	
6.	Gujarat	28.78	381	—	80000	0	0	—	8106	30	3412	177	—	42000	0	0	—	
7.	Haryana	1107	—	—	—	—	—	800	—	—	1008	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50	—	—	6000	2139	0	—	—	—	51	—	—	6000	1726	0	125	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	862	—	—	13350	0	0	230	—	—	NA	—	—	14000	0	220	250	
10.	Karnataka	5811	1162	—	60000	0	0	—	2292	100	1843	NA	—	60000	13707	5000	—	
11.	Kerala	634	Nil	1	226000	0	0	Nil	—	400	NA	NA	—	0	0	1500	—	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1319	—	—	49975	0	0	—	—	—	1296	—	—	51000	5000	212	98	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13.	Maharashtra	1447	36	—	0	0	0	—	6153	40	1448	108	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	400	—	—	2629	0	0	—	—	—	Nil	—	—	2629	0	0	—
15.	Meghalaya	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	191	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	114	—	—	0	0	500	230	—	—	149	—	—	—	—	—	400
18.	Orissa	927	119	—	120000	0	228	—	Nil	Nil	1065	248	1	120000	1000	0	—
19.	Punjab	842	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	885	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	586	—	—	3431	0	160	—	—	—	1915	—	—	3431	1000	0	—
21.	Sikkim	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	109	—	—	—	—	—	100
22.	Tamil Nadu	2058	Nil	—	301773	197604	2000	1000	2032	1400	451	NA	—	301773	195996	0	—
23.	Tripura	4690	—	—	100000	0	0	—	—	—	349	—	—	10000	0	0	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4339	—	—	38000	0	2000	—	—	—	4504	—	—	38000	0	60	—
25.	West Bengal	2326	460	—	160000	0	1640	—	Nil	—	2110	NA	—	16000	5000	0	—
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	Nil	—	2524	187	0	—	Nil	137	—	Nil	1	2807	374	0	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	14500	0	—	—	591	—	—	—	—	14500	0	0	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	1100	0	0	—	235	—	—	—	—	1530	0	0	—
32.	Pondicherry	11	—	—	21500	12135	0	—	16	Nil	Nil	—	—	21500	18000	0	—
33.	Chhattisgarh	1384	—	—	20000	0	0	180	—	—	1621	—	—	22500	0	0	—
34.	Uttaranchal	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Jharkhand	96	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	—	112	—	—	0	0	0	—
36.	FISHCOPFED	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		32543	2164	1	1301682	212085	6821	2674	19961	2677	23032	563	13	1042570	244469	7148	1113

FFDAs	-	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture	*	Scheme had been discontinued from 1997-98 onwards by the state
BFDAs	-	Integrated Coastal Aquaculture	**	Scheme is not operational in the state
FY (H)	-	Fishing Harbour facilities at Major & Minor Ports/Fish Landing Centres		NA—Not available
NWF	-	National Welfare of Fishermen		FLCs—Fish Landing Centers
FY (T&E)	-	Fisheries Training & Extension	***	Not in operation in 2002-03
FY (M)	-	Development of Marine Fisheries		
DMF Villages:	-	Development of Modern Fishermen Villages		



**Statement II***Funds Released to States/UTs under major schemes for development of fisheries during 2001-02 and 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No. States/UTs		2001-02							2002-03					
		FFDAs	BFDAs	FY(H)	NWF	FY(T&E)	FY(M)	Total	FFDAs	BFDAs	FY(H)	NWF	FY(T&E)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	0.00	35.44	0.00	3.16	20.00	58.60	0.00	—	254.43	113.00	0.00	367.7.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.00	—	—	—	—	—	35.00	28.00	—	—	0.00	1.72	29.72
3.	Assam	—	—	—	6.60	—	—	6.60	0.00	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	47.54	—	—	47.54	0.00	—	—	32.10	0.00	32.10
5.	Goa	—	2.50	14.66	0.00	—	15.45	32.61	0.00	—	14.60	—	0.00	14.60
6.	Gujarat	—	28.46	—	68.42	—	306.51	403.39	0.00	8.26	0.00	—	0.00	8.26
7.	Haryana	61.55	—	—	—	8.00	—	69.55	103.29	—	—	0.00	0.00	103.29
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.00	—	—	4.81	—	—	9.81	25.00	—	—	3.88	21.33	50.21
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.50	—	—	26.25	6.96	—	45.71	0.00	—	—	44.75	3.93	48.68
10.	Karnataka	—	7.84	—	259.01	12.50	133.00	412.35	40.00	—	55.59	211.77	12.00	319.36
11.	Kerala	—	45.00	453.25	63.40	—	20.00	581.65	0.00	—	271.49	200.00	10.00	481.49
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	18.45	—	—	18.45	0.00	—	—	36.00	1.27	37.27
13.	Maharashtra	—	12.18	71.78	0.00	—	169.94	253.90	0.00	20.00	57.51	0.00	14.16	91.67
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	45.00	—	—	—	—	—	45.00	0.00	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	35.00	—	—	—	—	—	35.00	63.00	—	—	0.00	0.00	63.00
17.	Nagaland	109.95	—	—	74.63	19.19	—	203.77	90.00	—	—	0.00	12.00	102.00
18.	Orissa	—	35.88	173.93	73.55	—	16.00	299.36	181.71	30.00	67.75	2.67	0.00	282.13
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	16.00	—	16.00	60.00	—	—	0.00	0.00	60.00
20.	Rajasthan	17.26	—	—	36.10	—	—	53.36	0.00	—	—	2.25	0.00	2.25
21.	Sikkim	3.64	—	—	—	—	—	3.64	6.00	—	—	0.00	4.00	10.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	62.32	837.45	20.00	114.34	1034.11	25.42	—	93.48	719.09	34.21	872.20
23.	Tripura	71.68	—	—	9.60	9.00	—	90.28	40.59	—	—	12.52	19.28	72.39
24.	Uttar Pradesh	337.77	—	—	104.00	—	—	441.77	0.00	—	—	103.50	25.66	129.16
25.	West Bengal	358.96	77.68	176.74	150.00	—	0.00	783.38	291.83	80.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	431.63
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	2.24	—	13.45	15.69	0.00	—	168.00	2.24	0.00	170.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	40.00	43.25	—	19.00	102.25	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	0.00	—	2.50	2.50	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	10.00	112.99	—	0.00	122.99	3.64	—	0.00	134.85	0.00	138.49
33.	Chhattisgarh	21.48	—	—	—	27.28	—	48.76	15.17	—	—	—	0.00	15.17
34.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
35.	Jharkhand	51.97	—	—	31.00	10.58	—	93.53	0.00	—	—	20.00	0.00	20.00
36.	FISHCOPFED	—	—	—	68.65	—	—	68.65	—	—	—	72.78	—	72.78
Total		1166.76	209.54	1038.12	2037.94	132.65	830.19	5415.20	973.45	138.26	982.85	1771.40	159.56	4025.52

FFDAs	-	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture
BFDAs	-	Integrated Coastal Aquaculture
FY (H)	-	Fishing Harbour facilities at Major & Minor Ports
NWF	-	National Welfare of Fishermen
FY (T&E)	-	Fisheries Training & Extension
FY (M)	-	Development of Marine Fisheries

### Impact of Labour Reforms

\*92. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact of labour reforms on the labourers working in the Units having 1000 or less workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the workers working in the units having less than 1000 workers have been rendered jobless by the owners of these units;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate these workers;

(e) whether the Trade Unions have made any suggestions regarding rehabilitation of such workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (f) No survey to assess the impact of labour reforms on the workers has been conducted so far. The changes in labour laws are always made keeping in view primarily the interest of workers. The information regarding workers employed in units having less than 1000 workers, who have been rendered jobless, is not maintained separately. However, according to information furnished by Labour Bureau the number of units effecting retrenchment and workers retrenched as well as number of closure and workers affected both in the Central and State Spheres during the period 1985-2003 are given in Statement I & II respectively.

Keeping in view the consensus arrived at various tripartite fora through inter-active discussions, the Government is putting special emphasis on skill development, skill upgradation and training of all workers including retrenched workers. A scheme for counselling, retraining and redeployment of retrenched employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings has been initiated by the Government with an objective to reorient these workers through short duration training programmes and to encourage them to avail opportunities of self-employment/re-employment.

**Statement I***Number of units effecting retrenchment and workers retrenched therein during 1985-2003 by spheres*

Year	Central sphere		State sphere		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1985	49	5098	404	6182	453	11280
1986	19	3194	461	6010	480	9204
1987	18	1020	338	4182	356	5202
1988	14	475	365	4539	379	5014
1989	3	73	171	3185	174	3258
1990	1	8	267	3029	268	3037
1991	2	54	233	4342	235	4396
1992	2	85	220	3751	222	3836
1993	3	178	186	2713	189	2891
1994	—	—	135	2192	135	2192
1995	—	—	94	1792	94	1792
1996	4	285	75	2087	79	2372
1997	10	526	151	2716	161	3242
1998	4	23	131	2007	135	2030
1999(P)	17	860	159	1643	176	2503
2000(P)	11	600	98	2363	109	2963
2001(P)	12	822	121	2846	133	3668
2002(P)	7	1596	88	2247	95	3843
2003 (Jan.-May)(P)	1	1	18	891	19	892

A=Number of Units

B=Workers Retrenched

(P)=Provisional

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

**Statement II***Number of closures and workers affected therein during 1985-2003 by spheres***Closures**

Year	Central sphere		State sphere		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1985	4	821	180	19638	184	20459
1986	2	21	234	28008	236	28027

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1987	3	3400	195	15749	198	19149
1988	4	1568	255	12518	259	14086
1989	—	—	239	6921	239	6921
1990	—	—	154	4967	154	4967
1991	3	537	247	24553	250	25090
1992	—	—	187	12422	187	12422
1993	3	79	490	25579	493	25658
1994	—	—	228	21394	228	21394
1995	—	—	183	14495	183	14495
1996	1	102	203	11288	204	11390
1997	2	150	152	12794	154	12944
1998	—	—	175	13386	175	13386
1999(P)	1	21	158	15686	159	15707
2000(P)	2	333	136	11571	138	11904
2001(P)	6	826	145	10773	151	11599
2002(P)	2	32	119	5374	121	5406
2003 (Jan.-May)(P)	0	0	17	1731	17	1731

A=Number of Units

B=Workers Affected

— = Nil

(P)=Provisional

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

**35th Meeting of Joint Rivers Commission**

\*93. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:  
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has expressed its apprehensions on India's project of inter-linking of rivers during the 35th meeting of Joint Rivers Commission held recently;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations held alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether Bangladesh has been assured by India that international laws on water sharing would be adhered to in the river-linking project;

(d) if so, whether Bangladesh Government are considering to appeal to the United Nations to redraft international laws on water sharing by the concerned countries;

(e) if so, whether it is consequent to India's proposed river-linking project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue

of India's proposed river-linking project was raised by Bangladesh at the last meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission held at New Delhi from 28th September—1st October, 2003, in reply to which the Indian side had stated that the proposal was only at a conceptual stage. As regards the international dimensions of the project, the Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers is required to consider these issues and give recommendations. Further action will depend on the recommendations of the Task Force and the existing international treaties and laws.

(d) No formal information in this regard has been received by the Government.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Standard of Industrial Training Institute**

\*94. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late there has been fast increase in the requirement of industrial trainees in the voluntary and job oriented sectors;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to raise the standard and increase the number of the industrial training institutes; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Due to globalization and economic liberalization importance to equip the labour force with skills required in the labour market, has increased not only to meet the requirement of the organized industry but also for the unorganized sectors. Keeping this in view, Government is taking various steps to equip the new entrants to the labour force with employable skills as well as to update/upgrade the skills of the existing workforce. For this purpose, various actions like increasing the network of Industrial Training Institutes, skill training for new emerging areas, revision of existing curriculum, short-term courses for upgradation of skills of the existing workers, training to the instructors etc. have been taken.

The intake capacity of the existing ITIs have also been increased by way of starting additional shifts.

#### **Reduction of H-1B Visa**

\*95. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has limited issue of H-1B visa to a maximum of 65000;

(b) if so, whether the above said reduction is likely to affect the employment opportunities in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have assessed the impact thereof on job market; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 progressively increased the H-1B quota for U.S. fiscal years 1999 to 2003. According to that Act, the annual quota was to revert from 195,000 in U.S. fiscal year 2003 to the original level of 65,000 from U.S. fiscal year 2004.

(b) to (d) The annual ceiling of H-1B visas in the United States is one of the several factors that have a bearing on the India's Information Technology industry. Improved digital connectivity, technological and economic competitiveness of Indian firms, continuing access to the U.S.A. and other international markets, and growth in domestic demand, is expected to sustain the rapid growth of the Indian Information Technology industry and employment therein.

*[English]*

#### **Annual Death Rate of Workers in Industrial Sector**

\*96. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of annual unnatural death rate of workers in the industrial sector in the country;

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

(c) the major reasons identified by the Government for the workers' deaths and also for serious injuries; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure safety of the industrial workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Mines Safety compiles annually the figures relating to occurrence of deaths in the mining sector. The details of the deaths due to accidents in the factory premises are also compiled by the Directorate General of Factory Advice Services and Labour Institutes on the basis of reports received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories of respective States/ Union Territories. These details for the last two years are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) The analysis of the causes of accidents indicates that major causes of fatal accidents are due to fall of roof in coal mines and through the involvement of Dumpers, Trucks etc. in non-coal mines. The fall of persons and fall of objects are also responsible for a number of serious accidents in coal and non-coal mines respectively. In the manufacturing sector, the following have been identified as the major reasons for the workers' deaths and serious injuries:—

- (i) Fall from height (non-use of safety harness).
- (ii) Run over by transport equipment.
- (iii) Exposure to toxic chemicals.
- (iv) Burn injury due to Fire.
- (v) Explosion.
- (vi) Working in confined space having oxygen deficiency, and due to the presence of other obnoxious gases.
- (vii) Limbs getting between moving parts on unguarded machines.
- (viii) Struck by and striking against objects. Fall of objects also are causes of accidents frequently.
- (ix) Improper maintenance of plant and machinery.
- (x) Accidents caused due to fall on slippery surfaces.

(d) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines from time

to time in the form of circulars to the managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine management. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Similarly the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder provide for the safety and health provisions for workers employed in manufacturing sector. The State Governments through their Inspectorate of Factories enforce these provisions and also investigate into the fatal accidents. Periodic inspections are carried out by Inspectors, particularly of the hazardous units, to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied by them. In case of defaults, penal action is taken as per the provisions of the Act.

Besides the legislative measures, Government also promotes the concept of safety and health among the workers through a number of other initiatives, such as:—

- (i) Self-regulation by managements through Safety Audit.
- (ii) Workers' participation in safety management through Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns.
- (iii) Training of work persons through Workshops and Seminars.
- (iv) National Safety Awards.
- (v) Tri-partite and Bi-partite reviews at various levels.

#### **Statement**

##### *Fatal injuries in respect of Factories and Mines*

State	No. of Fatalities in Factories		No. of Fatalities in Mines	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NA	4	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	118	99	36	28
Assam	15	09	06	0
Bihar & Jharkhand	31	NA	59	39
Chandigarh	0	0	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	08	08
Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	NA	—	—
Goa	4	13	03	01
Gujarat	169	228	03	02
Haryana	38	34	04	02
Himachal Pradesh	NA	NA	02	05
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	0	0
Karnataka	NA	47	07	02
Kerala	16	NA	01	0
Madhya Pradesh	31	NA	19	19
Maharashtra	177	156	12	15
Manipur	NA	NA	—	—
Meghalaya	0	NA	0	0
National Capital Territory of Delhi	02	NA	—	—
Orissa	20	33	13	11
Pondicherry	04	05	—	—
Punjab	05	23	—	—
Rajasthan	33	55	17	16
Tamil Nadu	37	36	09	01
Tripura	0	02	0	01
Uttar Pradesh	70	NA	01	0
Uttaranchal	01	09	01	01
West Bengal	50	NA	20	10
Total	825	753	222	161

#### **Courier Companies using Airlines' Cargo Service**

\*97. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private courier companies use airlines' cargo service;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Post Office Act prohibit private courier companies to use the airlines' cargo service;

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

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Private Courier Companies are not covered by the Indian Post Office Act.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Customer Satisfaction at Airports**

\*98. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted recently at the behest of the Airports Authority of India, has revealed that the customer satisfaction level at Delhi and Mumbai Airports, is much below the international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken during the past three years to improve the facilities at these airports; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to further improve the services at these airports to bring them at par with international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As per the study commissioned by Airports Authority of India, the Customer Satisfaction Index for Mumbai and Delhi Airports on the basis of 13 common parameters with IATA Global Monitoring Survey are 3.7 and 3.5 as against world average of IATA Global monitoring Survey of 3.7. However, as per IATA Global Monitoring Survey on the basis of 18 parameters, Mumbai and Delhi airports are rated at 2.3 and 2.6 respectively.

(c) During the last three years, several steps like provision of CAT-IIIa landing system, Expansion of Arrival Hall at Terminal-II, Snack Bar on the city side flyover, Restaurant in East Wing, Additional space for queuing

up in check-in-area, additional Aircraft parking stands, New Flight Information Display boards, magazine vending machines, Cyber Cafe at Terminal-IA and premium car parking area at Terminal-II have been provided at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

During the last three years, several steps like provision of Plasma Flight Information Display Boards, Canopy on city-side, expansion of departure concourse, provision of snack bar counters/coffee shops, internet phone for credit card holders, installation of ATM machines, extended security hold area with three new aero-bridges commissioned at Terminal-1A, provision of new X-ray machines and Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) in all the terminals, commissioning of Cyber Cafe in departure level of Terminal-2C have also been taken at Mumbai Airport.

Besides several other airport facilities in the form of airport improvement initiatives have also been taken up since July 2002.

(d) In August 2003 an Airport Upkeep Initiative has been launched in respect of 24 identified airports. Several schemes for short term improvement at Delhi and Mumbai airports are at hand to improve the ambience of the airports and to improve passenger facilities. Besides, Government has also decided to restructure airports of Delhi and Mumbai through Joint Venture Route with Private Participation to make them world Class airports, in a time-bound manner.

#### **Import of Hazardous Waste**

\*99. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to prepare a national policy document on hazardous waste imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several companies are importing chemical wastes from affluent countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans formulated to check the import of such chemical wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules (HW Rules) notified in 1989 and further amended in 2000 and 2003, is the key legal instrument which deals comprehensively with the management of hazardous wastes in the country, including import of such wastes. Under these Rules, import of hazardous wastes for dumping or disposal purposes is not permitted. Import of certain hazardous wastes is allowed for recycling/reuse purposes. These wastes are specified under List A and List B of Schedule 3 of the HW Rules. The import of such wastes is being permitted in the country by the Government in accordance with Rules 12, 13 and 14 of the HW Rules and by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) through the EXIM Policy. Twenty-nine highly hazardous wastes are totally prohibited for import, even for recycling/re-use.

(c) to (e) No permissions/licenses have been granted by the MOEF or DGFT for import of hazardous chemical wastes during the past two years.

Twenty two non-ferrous metal wastes, including wastes of metals such as brass, copper, zinc, nickel etc., specified under Schedule 4 of the HW Rules, can be imported by actual users registered with the Ministry of Environment and Forests/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Registration Scheme as units having environmentally sound management facilities to reprocess/re-refine such wastes. The Registration Scheme, being implemented by the CPCB, ensures that hazardous wastes are imported only by actual users and are reprocessed/recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Tourism**

\*100. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for the development of tourism and protection of cultural heritage in the country;

(b) the funds allocated to the States under these schemes from 1998 to June 2003, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals pending with the Government under the said schemes, State-wise stating the amount involved in each of these projects; and



(d) the details of the income earned by the States from tourism during 1998 to June 2003, State-wise and Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism is presently implementing the following schemes for development of tourism infrastructure in the country including places of cultural heritage.

(i) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(ii) Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits.

The Archaeological Survey of India looks after the work of conservation and maintenance of monuments under central protection.

(b) Details of project State-wise and amount sanctioned under the scheme for development of tourism infrastructure from April, 1998 onwards are given in the statement.

(c) Identification and sanction of tourism projects is an ongoing process and is done based on field visits and in consultation with the State Governments.

(d) This information is not compiled by the Department of Tourism.

**Statement**

*State-wise List of tourism Projects Sanctioned from 1998-99 to 2003-04 (As on 29.11.2003)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45	2021.15
2.	Assam	61	2474.74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	1012.44
4.	Bihar	41	1183.61
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	520.28
6.	Goa	45	792.33
7.	Gujarat	61	1758.03

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	47	1725.97
9.	Himachal Pradesh	90	2406.54
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	42	1909.09
11.	Jharkhand	9	679.49
12.	Karnataka	86	3238.73
13.	Kerala	68	3764.52
14.	Madhya Pradesh	82	2385.94
15.	Maharashtra	80	4231.32
16.	Manipur	38	1239.94
17.	Meghalaya	25	466.51
18.	Mizoram	50	1232.02
19.	Nagaland	46	1526.61
20.	Orissa	39	1131.07
21.	Punjab	27	680.29
22.	Rajasthan	80	3603.97
23.	Sikkim	83	1675.97
24.	Tamil Nadu	78	2897.20
25.	Tripura	41	1215.94
26.	Uttaranchal	14	686.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97	2814.50
28.	West Bengal	70	1839.90
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	6	196.65
30.	Chandigarh	18	163.61
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7	69.77
32.	Delhi	45	1552.16
33.	Daman & Diu	5	319.57
34.	Lakshadweep	2	46.00
35.	Pondicherry	21	536.72
Total		1611	53978.58

*[English]***Photography at Airports**

815. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to repeal the law preventing photography both inside the airport complexes on apron areas and even inside the aircraft; and

(b) if so, the reasons necessitating the repeal of this provision particularly when the threat perception is very high?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The restriction on photography in the terminal buildings of civil aerodromes has been removed. A proposal for removal of restrictions on photography in all areas of civil aerodromes and inside on aircraft is under consideration.

(b) The restrictions on photography at airports as well as inside aircraft have lost their rationale and become outdated following advancements in technology, including satellite-imaging etc. there would be no compromise on civil aviation security measures while removing the restrictions on photography.

**Adulteration in Packed Milk**

816. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent adulteration in packaged milk; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Adulteration in any food item including milk is checked under the Provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The standards for milk have been prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955, along with specifications for packaging materials.

The Food (Health) Authorities in the States/U.Ts have been requested, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, from time to time to take necessary action to

keep a vigil on the quality of milk sold as they are responsible for implementation of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules 1955.

**Fluctuating Rates of Onions**

817. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price monitoring cell has come across the fluctuating rates of onions in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether there was an attempt to create artificial shortage of onions in the market by a group of merchants in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The prices of onion increased from the last week of September, 2003 till mid-October, 2003. After the arrival of new crop in large quantities, the prices started declining from the third week of October, 2003. Prices of onion are regularly monitored on a daily basis and the Government is keeping a close watch on its availability.

(c) and (d) The spurt in the prices of onion was due to shortage caused by unseasonal rains in the main onion growing areas of Maharashtra. The situation improved after arrivals of new crop in large quantities in the market.

**Funds to Forest Development Agencies**

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

(a) whether the Government has provided funds for seven forest development agencies, as part of the joint forest management programme, for improvement of forest cover in Assam and revival of the Manas National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds demanded and provided for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the other forest development demands made by the State Government pending with the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Funds have been provided to thirteen Forest Development agencies in the current financial year under the National Afforestation Programme for improvement of forest cover in Assam, and for Manas Tiger Reserve in Manas National Park under the Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme.

(b) For the thirteen Forest Development Agencies, an amount of Rs. 4.81 crore has been released during 2003-04 till date and under the Project Tiger Scheme, an amount of Rs. 0.50 crore has been released during 2003-04 till date.

(c) The relevant details are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Number of proposals
1.	National Afforestation Programme	15
2.	Integrated Forest Protection	1
3.	National Parks & Sanctuaries	2

[*Translation*]

#### Financial Assistance to FPI

819. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is providing any financial assistance to the Food Processing Industries in various States;

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

(c) whether some food processing projects are pending with the Government for their clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far by the Government thereon;

(e) the number of the food processing industries set up in the country, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up more food processing units in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) State-wise details of financial assistance provided by the Ministry for major schemes during the last five years is given at enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Proposals for financial assistance under Plan Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are considered expeditiously provided they are technically feasible and economically viable. The number of proposals for consideration, thus, depends upon the feasibility.

(e) Food Processing Industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors and as such, information regarding number of food processing industries set up in the country, is not maintained centrally. However, as per FPO (Fruits Products Order, 1955) administered by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, there are 5875 Licensees in the country as on 1.1.2003. State-wise break-up of the units are at enclosed Statement-II.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up food processing industries on its own. The Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries in the country. The schemes are project oriented and not State specific.

#### Statement I

State-wise details of financial assistance for major schemes during the period from 1998-99 to 2002-03

						(Rs. in lakhs)
S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	40.50	241.39	320.55	35.99	155.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	217.00	247.56	278.79	87.54	218.46
4.	Bihar	19.00	9.78	23.77	1.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	2.22
6.	Goa	0.00	1.25	0.00	5.13	0.00
7.	Gujarat	35.00	218.58	92.50	32.40	126.34
8.	Haryana	0.00	57.50	65.00	265.40	402.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	41.15	15.75	0.00	0.00	111.36
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.50	82.57	200.00	190.15	513.21
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
12.	Karnataka	77.70	204.10	68.49	578.30	47.95
13.	Kerala	297.88	334.10	233.10	344.50	389.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	73.00	44.57	243.00	615.00	609.74
15.	Maharashtra	180.67	264.65	327.23	178.16	833.28
16.	Manipur	34.41	59.68	334.39	232.42	342.89
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	44.30	0.00	0.00	58.10
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	217.10	12.24
19.	Nagaland	99.00	104.72	97.25	36.60	0.00
20.	Orissa	140.40	94.61	42.50	245.16	21.58
21.	Punjab	173.15	25.00	352.32	132.25	182.59
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	336.24
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20
24.	Tamil Nadu	127.93	182.45	111.60	670.05	365.79
25.	Tripura	9.05	0.00	231.05	0.00	82.75
26.	Uttar Pradesh	130.98	204.73	560.13	221.62	178.77
27.	Uttaranchal	1.59	0.00	0.00	17.35	2.53
28.	West Bengal	493.95	252.96	236.00	127.35	367.54
<b>Union Territories</b>						
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	6.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	8.00	1.07	1.00	0.00	12.00
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00

**Statement II**

*Number of Food Processing Industries licensed under FPO, 1955 till 1.1.03*

State	Number of units
1	2
Maharashtra	1120
Goa	184
Madhya Pradesh	107
Chhattisgarh	28
Gujarat	381
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	8
Andhra Pradesh	392
Tamil Nadu	300
Kerala	479
Karnataka	353
Pondicherry	15
Orissa	60
West Bengal	365
Assam	30
Jharkhand	30
Manipur	10
Meghalaya	18
Tripura	05
Mizoram	04
Nagaland	06
Arunachal Pradesh	04
Sikkim	05
Bihar	45
Delhi	340
U.P.	454
Uttaranchal	70
Chandigarh	59
Haryana	210

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	115
Punjab	401
Rajasthan	180
Jammu & Kashmir	93
Andaman & Nicobar Island	04
Total	5875

[English]

**Beach Tourism**

820. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Beach tourism in Karnataka is expected to get a huge boost with the Union Government asking the World Tourism Organisation to conduct a feasibility study on utilising the West Coast for cruise tourism;

(b) if so, whether WTO will study the infrastructure and carrying capacity of five ports which have been identified along the West Coast;

(c) if so, whether any report has been submitted by WTO to the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has not asked World Tourism Organization to conduct a feasibility study on utilizing the West Coast for cruise tourism by the World Tourism Organization. However, on request of Department of Tourism World Tourism Organization had deputed two experts in the month of October 2003 to present papers about various aspects of cruise tourism in a seminar held in Mumbai.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Tourism Projects**

821. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) the names of Tourism projects sanctioned in States during the Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith amount allocated for the purpose;

(b) the places at which these projects were proposed to be undertaken alongwith target set for their completion;

(c) the names of project completed and the expenditure incurred on each project, State-wise; and

(d) by when the remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) State-wise details of tourism projects sanctioned during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 to date are given in Statement-I and II.

(d) Depending upon the size of the projects, a time limit is fixed in consultation with the Executing Agencies/ State Governments.

**Statement I**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50
2.	Assam	9	768.13
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30
4.	Bihar	8	505.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00
6.	Goa	1	0.50
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12
8.	Haryana	8	332.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	94.38
11.	Jharkhand	0	0
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49
13.	Kerala	11	861.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18

1	2	3	4
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46
16.	Manipur	2	5.24
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50
20.	Orissa	2	47.50
21.	Punjab	3	23.00
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00
25.	Tripura	5	216.13
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07
32.	Delhi	14	504.00
33.	Daman & Diu	3	49.50
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87
Total		212	11121.10

**Statement II**

State-wise tourism projects sanctioned during the year 2003-04, to date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	550.00
2.	Assam	2	155.46

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	157.54
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	57.00
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	2	19.00
8.	Haryana	6	558.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	65.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	770.00
11.	Jharkhand	1	393.00
12.	Karnataka	3	304.00
13.	Kerala	2	65.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6	236.20
15.	Maharashtra	4	679.30
16.	Manipur	1	82.44
17.	Meghalaya	1	1.50
18.	Mizoram	3	205.85
19.	Nagaland	2	456.00
20.	Orissa	3	404.55
21.	Punjab	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	9	1477.81
23.	Sikkim	4	550.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	6	833.55
25.	Tripura	3	42.21
26.	Uttaranchal	1	2.30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	500.80
28.	West Bengal	8	578.32
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	1	5.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
32.	Delhi	7	727.07
33.	Daman & Diu	1	265.07

1	2	3	4
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	245.17
Total		91	10388.13

#### **New Research Works at Agriculture Universities**

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

(a) the details of new research works undergoing at various Agriculture Universities in the country;

(b) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose during the current year;

(c) whether research work in said Agriculture Universities is being adversely affected because of lack of funds; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):  
(a) The new research works undergoing at various agricultural universities are bio-systematics, transgenics, impact of climate change and organic farming.

(b) The Planning Commission has directed to include these new research works to be a part of existing institutions and funds to be utilized for these activities are inclusive of allocations of Rs. 775.00 crore to entire National Agricultural Research System allocated during the current financial year (2003-04).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Pollution by Delhi Metro Rail Project**

823. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the average air and sound pollution in Delhi now and before the start of construction work of Delhi Metro Rail Project;

(b) whether any notice has been served to the metro authority to contain the air and sound pollution created by them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No such study has been undertaken.

(b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of a complaint received from the Life Insurance Corporation of India against the use of generator sets by the Delhi Metro at Connaught Place area, a notice under section 31(a) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has been issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### **Institutions for Training to Construction Workers**

824. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth rate in the construction sector of India is currently estimated to be 9.2% annually as against the world average of 5%;

(b) if so, whether this sector still remains to be unorganised owing to lack of training to the construction workers;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up institutions for imparting training to the construction workers on the pattern of such institutions as are functioning in USA, UK, Australia etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the labour force survey conducted by NSSO during 1999-2000, estimated growth rate of employment in the construction sector was of the order of 7.09% during 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) Since construction sector is highly labour intensive, mobile, seasonal, intermittent and inter-connected, it is considered to be an unorganised sector. As such, out of the total work force of around 1.76 crore in construction sector around 1.65 crore are in

unorganised sector. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, training and skill development has been identified as one of the priority areas. In order to develop the skill of the construction workers, Skill training is provided by various organisations like Construction Industry Development Centre (CIDC) for construction workers besides Central and State Government as per their capacity.

#### **Denial of Membership to Mumbai National History Society**

825. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai national History Society has been denied a Chair on the newly organised National Board for Wildlife alongwith the World Wildlife Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any other organisation has been adjusted in its place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The National Board for Wild Life has been constituted for the first time under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The question of adjusting any organisation against another does not arise. As per section 5A of the Act, five representatives of non-governmental organisations and ten persons from amongst eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists are to be nominated by the Central Government. Accordingly, the heads of the following non-governmental organisations have been nominated.

- (i) Bandhavgarh Foundation Trust, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh;
- (ii) Prakrity Samsad, Kolkata, West Bengal;
- (iii) Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- (iv) C.P. Ramaswamy Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu; and
- (v) Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The Vice-President of the Bombay Natural History Society, Ms. Dilnawaz Variawa and the Secretary General of the World Wide Fund for Nature, Shri Ravi Singh, are also on the Board as eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists.



**Sunflower Cultivation**

826. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 3334 dated August 18, 2003 state:

(a) the number of farmers in KBK districts who are cultivating sunflower since 2001-02, year-wise;

(b) the assistance extended by the Government to farmers to promote sunflower cultivation during the said period; and

(c) the extent of success achieved during the said period?

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

(a) The information on number of sunflower growers in the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa since 2001-02 is not available as informed by the State Government.

(b) The assistance provided to the State of Orissa including the KBK districts for promoting oilseed production including sunflower cultivation under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the period 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (allocation) is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-02	131.25
2002-03	25.00
2003-04	165.00 (allocation)

One third of the above amount is earmarked for KBK districts.

(c) The production of sunflower in KBK districts during 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given below:

Year	Production (in thousand MT)
2001-02	2.79
2002-03	2.46

**Sexual Harassment of Women**

827. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee constituted to ascertain the extent to which the Government have been able to remove discrimination at work place, particularly sexual harassment of women, have submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Assistance for Lexicographic Institute**

828. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cultural and Lexicographic Research Institute, Trivandrum have requested the Government for financial assistance for their project; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The proposal does not confirm to any of the existing schemes of the Department of Culture.

**Misutilization of Funds Meant for Pollution Control**

829. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available and actually utilised for control of pollution during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the said funds are being grossly misused by various States particularly Delhi;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of the funds provided for control of pollution during the last 3 years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement. The Utilization Certificates are

obtained from the concerned States before release of further instalments to ensure that the funds are utilized for the purpose for which they are sanctioned.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Financial Assistance Provided to States/Union Territories*

(In Rupees)				
States/Union Territories	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	516680	11804525	4401124	96803
Arunachal Pradesh	0	1000000	0	0
Assam	101757	386613	545567	99277
Bihar	39912073	2711625	2956032	938168
Chandigarh	27778	5556	151111	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	330290	495833
Delhi	8150000	725892000	922036000	3562400
Goa	5500000	1811120	25561544	32368
Gujarat	51457830	110406460	90028094	124731622
Haryana	69798285	230016667	24049366	946112
Himachal Pradesh	1217818	208127	1659598	324689
Jammu & Kashmir	0	500000	3186000	0
Jharkhand	0	0	575000	1641180
Karnataka	3241785	3159265	99714340	25568627
Kerala	1217110	1590287	10861745	5179337
Lakshadweep	8940	9290	0	229600
Madhya Pradesh	71902587	815995	73010343	62624962
Maharashtra	122024031	300420000	26416031078	117748159
Manipur	520440	31850	117600	850000
Meghalaya	2502500	3499583	4133110	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	897400	0	0	15103
Orissa	9117337	30698194	18698931	17258116
Punjab	66703610	157136435	263400412	137290417

1	2	3	4	5
Pondicherry	791675	38568	26926	260237
Rajasthan	1075893	979677	61740829	60882950
Sikkim	860400	0	84780	897651
Tamil Nadu	291055438	745469745	417831752	330650974
Tripura	59020	13880	144972	1295674
Uttar Pradesh	591791624	825253675	383133382	210216235
Uttaranchal	0	0	36748000	76000000
West Bengal	15000000	50094820	233603950	171776766

### Problem at Bagdogra Airport

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

(a) whether the Bagdogra airport has been shifted to civilian area;

(b) if so, whether the entrance to the airport is still from the defence area;

(c) if so, whether the new approach road to the entrance is obstructed by a wall;

(d) if so, whether the ministry has taken up this issue with the Ministry of Defence; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Bagdogra airport belongs to Ministry of Defence and Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave to which entry is from the Defence area.

(c) to (e) The new approach road to the Civil Enclave is obstructed by the Indian Air Force boundary wall. Necessary clearances have already been obtained for connecting new approach road with Civil Enclave in September, 2003 with certain conditions. The action has been initiated in this regard.

### Development of Konark

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government during the Ninth Plan Period for development of Konark as a world heritage site to attract both domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) the details of steps being taken to develop Phalnakhara (at N.H. no. 5)-Niali Madhab-Chanichhak-Gop-Konark-Puri (at N.H. No. 203) road and S.H. No. 60 according to National Highway Standard in order to facilitate more flow of domestic tourists from eastern India to Konark;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare S.H. No. 60 National Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which a declaration to this effect is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Government sanctioned the following projects at Konark during the Ninth Plan:—

S.No.	Name of project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99		
1.	Development of Chandrabhaga Beach, Konark and landscape	41.00
1999-2000		
2.	Additional accommodation at Yatri Niwas, Konark	48.00

The Sun Temple at Konark is under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India and they have been taking necessary steps for its conservation and maintenance.

(b) Development of State roads is the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Pending Insurance Claims of Farmers under NAIS**

832. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment to farmers under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is yet to be made to all districts in Gujarat and Bihar for the last two years;

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

(c) by when the dues are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the payments made against insurance claims during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan, separately, year-wise?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Claims amounting to Rs. 679.39 crores for Kharif 2002 and Rabi 2002-03 are pending in Gujarat for want of State share of the funds. Claims amounting to Rs. 1.71 crores for Rabi 2002-03 are pending in Bihar also for want of State share. Besides, claims in respect of Darbhanga district for Kharif 2001 and Rabi 2001-02 and Purnea for Kharif 2002 are pending as these districts were identified for the Small Area Crop Estimation Method (SACEM), wherein the finalisation of the yield data has been delayed. Payment of pending claims is contingent upon receipt of the State share of funds. Necessary instructions have been issued for settlement of the claims in respect of the districts identified under SACEM.

(d) The year-wise Statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Eighth Five Year Plan		Ninth Five Year Plan	
Year	Claims	Year	Claims
1992-93	5095.50	1997-98	18507.68
1993-94	18861.73	1998-99	12785.20
1994-95	5799.23	1999-2000	46937.94
1995-96	14893.49	2000-01	128173.33
1996-97	17316.89	2001-02	55680.10

[English]

**Recommendations of ESIC Review Committee**

\*833. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since examined the recommendation of ESIC Review Committee;

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

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be examined and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The recommendation of the ESIC Review Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma are under consideration of the Government in consultation with ESI Corporation. Keeping in view the nature of recommendations it would not be possible to give any timeframe for their implementation.

**Relaxation in CRZ Guidelines**

834. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from the Government of Maharashtra for relaxation in CRZ guidelines in the name of Slum Rehabilitation Scheme of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also received any representations from the local public representatives against this move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has received proposals for amending Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 to increase the floor space index for the purpose of developing projects relating to Slum Rehabilitation Scheme to be undertaken in Coastal Regulation Zone area of Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The NGOs have represented against any relaxation of floor space index for the proposed Slum Rehabilitation Projects.

Government is not contemplating any amendment in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 for changing floor space index permissible in the Coastal Regulation Zone area.

#### **Use of Endosulfan**

835. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Endosulfan and Roundup Pesticide" is being used for agriculture purpose despite being harmful to human population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any report in this regard from the Government of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Endosulfan is being used for agricultural purposes whereas Roundup pesticide is mainly being used in team plantations and non cropped areas for control of certain weeds. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers

pesticides after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and the environment. The instructions regarding the doses, time intervals and the crops are printed on their labels and leaflets. If applied in the manner stipulated by the Registration Committee as per recommended dosage, they do not cause health hazards to human beings.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Acchuthan to enquire into the press reports regarding ill-effects in Padre village of Kasaragod district in Kerala allegedly caused by aerial spraying of endosulfan. The Government of Kerala later provided a copy of the said report to the Government of India in April, 2002, based on which the Government of Kerala had, on 18.2.02 withdrawn the suspension earlier imposed by it on the use of endosulfan in the State. The Expert Committee, had in its report, suggested that aerial spraying of Endosulfan should be prohibited for all crops in Kerala and that Peria Division of Plantation Corporation of Kerala Limited (PCK) should observe a pesticide holiday for period of five years and should undertake only ground based spraying of endosulfan as per practices recommended by the Kerala Agricultural University. These recommendations were accepted by the Kerala Government.

The Government of India also constituted an Expert Committee and based on its recommendations decided that the use of endosulfan be continued as per provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 as there is no link established between the use of endosulfan in PCK Plantations and health problems reported in Padre village.

#### **Lease for Mining Operations**

836. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently given environment clearance to any mining company, both domestic and foreign, to carry on operations in the forest areas of the country including Chhattisgarh and Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals for environmental clearance particularly from

Orissa and Chhattisgarh for such lease in their respective areas;

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

(e) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Environmental clearance was accorded to 2 mining projects in the country involving forestland during 2003, namely Bhubaneshwari Opencast Coal Mine Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. in Angul District, Orissa, and Mandadi (Forest Block) Limestone Mining Project of M/s KCP Ltd. in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has during the year 2003 received applications for environmental clearance for 15 mining projects from Chhattisgarh and 7 mining projects from Orissa involving forestland.

(e) Final decision has not been taken by the Government in this regard.

#### **User's Fee at Airports in Kerala**

837. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether User's Fee is being charged from the air passengers travelling from the Airports in Kerala particularly Cochin and Calicut;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the amount collected from International passengers at Cochin and Calicut airports;

(c) whether any complaints has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 375 per embarking passenger were being charged as User's fee from the passengers travelling from Calicut airport till August 8, 2003. On Government's direction, collection of the same has been

withdrawn w.e.f. August 9, 2003. At Cochin International airport, an amount of Rs. 500 as User's fee is being charged only from international passengers travelling from this airport for the purpose of meeting the expenses in providing facilities for the passengers.

(c) and (d) No complaint has been received in this regard in respect of Calicut airport after withdrawal of User's fee. A writ petition has been filed by Indo-Gulf Welfare & Charitable Forum before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala seeking withdrawal of User's fee at Cochin airport. The case is pending with the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

[Translation]

#### **Employees of Media Organisation under EPFS**

838. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of Media Organisations in the country who have been covered under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them contributing regularly towards Employees Provident Fund, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action for recovery of money against those organisations which have not contributed towards the Provident Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Besides regular penal actions provided in the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the following steps have also been taken for recovery of outstanding dues;

(i) Representations in courts have been strengthened to get stay orders vacated and counter writ-petitions.

(ii) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund has approved setting up of a separate directorate of Recovery to monitor and coordinate recovery work including closer coordination with BIFR, Standing Counsels of the Organisations etc.

*Statement*

Sl.	Name of the Region	Number of employees of Media Organisation Covered under EPF Scheme	No. of members contributing regularly in EPF Scheme (State-wise)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6017	5453
2.	Bihar	912	907
3.	Chhattisgarh	570	570
4.	Delhi	11909	7869
5.	Goa	633	633
6.	Gujarat	3465	3465
7.	Haryana	182	182
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28	28
9.	Jharkhand	282	282
10.	Karnataka	5796	5796
11.	Kerala	5980	5207
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1086	1031
13.	Maharashtra	16202	14883
14.	North East Region	1266	1212
15.	Orissa	1705	1460
16.	Punjab	2949	2839
17.	Rajasthan	2188	2121
18.	Tamil Nadu	12814	10378
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1934	1854
20.	Uttaranchal	225	176
21.	West Bengal	2255	2255
Total		78398	68401

*[English]***Production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses**

839. SHRI ALAKESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per hectare production of rice, wheat and pulses in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of the measures taken by the Government to match the agricultural growth rate particularly the pulses with the rate of population increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):  
(a) The required information may be seen from the enclosed statement-I and II.

(b) The demand projections for foodgrains (normative approach), made by the Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural inputs for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), are based on the assumption that the population would rise by 1.9% per annum during the Tenth Plan. During 2002-03 agricultural growth turned out to be negative due to the severe drought which affected agricultural production and productivity in several parts of the country. However, the favourable rainfall during the current year has brightened the prospects of agricultural growth during 2003-04. The Mid-Year Review released by the Ministry of Finance in November, 2003 has indicated a growth of more than 8 per cent in agriculture and allied sectors during 2003-04. Government of India have been implementing a number of schemes/programmes for improving irrigation facilities and rural infrastructure. These include Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, etc. which are being continued during the 10th Plan. Besides, with a view to pass on the benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, public sector banks have reduced their lending rates for agriculture to a maximum of 9 percent per annum on crop loans up to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000. These schemes/programmes are expected to go a long way in improving agricultural production and productivity during the 10th Plan.

For increasing the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in 30 States/UTs in 356 districts on 75:25 pattern between Government of India and the States. Under NPDP Scheme incentives are being provided to the farmers for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikit, Rhizobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implement, Plant Protection equipments, so as to motivate them to take up the cultivation of pulses on large scale. Besides this, for effective transfer of improved pulse production technology, field demonstrations on farmers' fields and farmers' trainings are also being organized.

**Statement I**

*State-wise and Year-wise per hectare production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses during  
1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02*

(Kg/Hectare)

State/UT	Rice			Wheat			Total Pulses		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	2650	2936	2978	667	571	714	486	554	595
Arunachal Pradesh	1099	1119	1126	1308	1409	1395	1000	1115	1059
Assam	1459	1511	1524	1289	1219	1181	552	559	558
Bihar	1450	1489	1480	2186	2146	2056	863	865	802
Chhattisgarh	—	629	1374	—	1022	1024	—	400	514
Goa	3684	2484	2561	—	—	—	882	889	894
Gujarat	1482	810	1549	2116	2268	2435	579	300	525
Haryana	2385	2557	2652	4165	4106	4103	571	622	796
Himachal Pradesh	1501	1533	1705	1574	693	1609	470	629	416
Jammu & Kashmir	1561	1700	1689	1768	529	1325	490	471	472
Jharkhand	—	1111	1111	—	1626	1626	—	825	807
Karnataka	2564	2593	2236	833	917	754	442	467	399
Kerala	2204	2162	2218	—	—	—	796	797	795
Madhya Pradesh	1191	575	948	1863	1471	1642	766	640	789
Maharashtra	1684	1276	1751	1369	1257	1388	613	460	555
Manipur	2323	2431	2382	—	—	—	—	525	517
Meghalaya	1604	1679	1697	1628	1643	1643	742	745	745
Mizoram	1779	1998	1893	—	—	—	1780	1625	1560
Nagaland	892	1533	1516	2500	2000	2500	794	827	849
Orissa	1127	1041	1589	1305	1466	1514	387	352	379
Punjab	3347	3506	3545	4696	4563	4532	688	740	670
Rajasthan	1262	936	1247	2540	2402	2793	360	308	425
Sikkim	1472	1408	1420	1580	1403	1273	910	852	862
Tamil Nadu	3481	3541	3263	—	1000	—	431	455	426
Tripura	2178	2129	2477	1846	2000	2000	587	584	604



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttar Pradesh	2176	1977	2120	2764	2724	2755	968	803	884
Uttaranchal	—	1988	2056	—	1885	1933	—	765	635
West Bengal	2237	2287	2514	2336	2485	2215	768	800	703
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2679	2954	2786	—	—	—	333	571	500
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1674	1471	1430	1500	1600	2000	763	877	848
Delhi	827	820	819	919	3522	919	333	571	250
Daman & Diu	3733	1600	2222	—	—	—	1000	1000	846
Pondicherry	2339	2433	2420	—	—	—	672	600	538
All India	1986	1901	2086	2778	2708	2770	635	544	609

**Statement II**

*State-wise and Year-wise per hectare production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses during 2002-03 (4th Advance Estimates)*

(Kg./Hectare)

State/UT	Rice	Wheat	Pulses
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2699	583	472
Assam	1508	1197	134
Bihar	1407	2107	865
Chhattisgarh	710	1010	477
Gujarat	1156	1769	463
Haryana	2724	4056	660
Himachal Pradesh	1036	1515	667
Jammu & Kashmir	2098	1410	491
Jharkhand	1430	1625	978
Karnataka	2034	714	300
Kerala	2184	—	727
Madhya Pradesh	1167	1649	606
Maharashtra	1236	1307	506
Orissa	786	1333	366

1	2	3	4
Punjab	3538	4511	896
Rajasthan	810	2412	345
Tamil Nadu	3380	—	422
Uttar Pradesh	1836	2844	861
Uttaranchal	1707	1825	674
West Bengal	2777	2211	831
Others	1515	1208	868
All India	1874	2747	536

*[Translation]***Monkey Menace in Delhi**

840. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from public representatives during the last six months regarding monkey menace in Delhi especially at Firozeshah Road; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of representations were received from public representatives from all over Delhi including Ferozshah Road mostly on

phone and through media reports about monkey menace for immediate action. Only one written complaint regarding monkey menace was received by NDMC from 29, Ferozshah Road. In order to reduce the monkey menace in Delhi, civic agencies have taken steps to catch monkeys and translocating them in their natural habitat outside Delhi. A monkey shelter has been constructed at Rajokari situated at southern ridge, New Delhi for giving temporary shelter to the captured monkeys and for their medical treatment till they are translocated. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 12.74 lakhs for construction of Rajokari Shelter to the Office of Conservator of Forests, Government of NCT of Delhi. Presently, 256 monkeys are kept in Rajokari Shelter for translocating. The MoEF has also taken up the matter with the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh for translocating these monkeys in their natural habitat.

[English]

#### **Conservation of 'Dal Lake'**

841. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dal Lake in Srinagar is part of our cultural heritage; and

(b) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to declare it as a heritage site and oversee its proper conservation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Dal Lake in Srinagar has not been declared as a site of national importance under the provisions of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) There is no such proposal with the Government.

#### **Technology Mission to Promote Animal Husbandry**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a technology mission to promote animal husbandry in tribal region of the country;

(b) if so, the number of districts in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal proposed to be covered therein, State-wise; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

#### **Foot and Mouth Disease Control Scheme in Kerala**

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

(a) whether the Union Government has launched a new Scheme for control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta Districts in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring the entire State under the said scheme so as to make it a disease free zone;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is implementing an intensive Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) in selected 54 districts of the country, including thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta Districts of Kerala. An amount of Rs. 41.00 lakhs has been provided to the Government of Kerala during the current financial year. Further, FMD vaccines, 3 cold cabinets and 6 ice liners are being supplied to the State by the Central Government.

(c) to (e) There is another Programme called 'Assistance to State for Control of Animal Diseases' (ASCAD) where there is a provision for immunization of animals against various diseases. States are at liberty to prioritize the diseases including FMD as per the need of the state. The states have already been intimated for undertaking the programme.

#### **Lease of Jet from Korea**

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to purchase or acquire on dry lease Boeing 747-400 jets from South Korea Boeing Aircraft Company on higher rates than other companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Software Business of Boeing**

845. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seattle based aircraft manufacturer Boeing is coming to India through its software arm;

(b) if so, whether Boeing has been working closely with a number of Indian IT firms, including infosys; and

(c) if so, the details regarding approach and ventures of Boeing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

#### **OBC, SC and ST Employees**

846. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working in the departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Water Resources, category-wise; and

(b) the number of employees belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, separately, out of them, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The total number of employees working in the Ministry of Water Resources, its various departments and undertakings, category-wise are as under:—

Category	Total no. of employees working as on 21.7.2003
Group A	2068
Group B	2490
Group C	7324
Group D	4246
Total	16128

(b) Out of the above, the number of employees category-wise belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, are as under:—

Category	Employees as on 21.7.2003 belonging to			
	OBC	SC	ST	Total
Group A	61	207	39	307
Group B	71	343	75	489
Group C	443	1066	297	1806
Group D	390	1002	240	1632
Total	965	2618	651	4234

#### **World Bank Loan for Ponds in Bihar**

847. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sought loan from the World Bank for reconstruction of ponds for irrigation;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought;

(c) whether the Union Government has also approached the world Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of the world Bank thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Steel Development Fund**

848. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scrap "Steel Development Fund";

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received representations from Steel Industry in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Collections to the Steel Development Fund (SDF) have already ceased. No specific request from Steel Industry to scrap SDF has been received.

#### **Mine Accidents**

849. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the causes of frequent accidents in coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any new guidelines for the PSUs coal mines to undertaken safety measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of workers in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The cause of accidents in coal mines are analysed and published by the Directorate General of Mines Safety periodically. On the basis of the

study, mine managements are directed to take necessary corrective actions. The number of accidents (cause-wise) which occurred in coal mines during the last five years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Mines Safety issues guidelines in the form of circulars regularly. Recently a meeting with the Chairman and Managing Directors of all the coal companies in the Public Sector, Scientific Bodies and Educational Institutions was held on 7.11.2003 at Kolkata and guidelines to prevent accidents due to fall of roof were issued.

(e) The provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and regulations framed thereunder regulate safety of persons employed in mines. The safety laws are kept under constant review and are amended from time to time according to requirements. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. The various safety provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines regularly to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default. Besides legislative measures, the Government takes initiatives for promoting safety awareness amongst the workers as well as mine managements through the following measures:—

- (a) Organizing Conferences on safety in mines.
- (b) Encouraging self regulation by managements.
- (c) Promoting Workers' participations in safety management.
- (d) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels on the safety measures.
- (e) Training of workers on safety in mines.
- (f) Observance of safety week and safety campaign.
- (g) National Safety Awards.

#### **Statement**

Causes	Number of Fatal Accidents					Number of Serious Accidents				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Fall of Roof	35	33	27	30	23	48	55	43	35	45
Fall of Sides	15	11	14	9	11	29	23	45	43	38
Other Ground Movements	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Winding in Shafts	3	3	3	2	0	1	3	3	6	4
Rope Haulage	18	12	8	15	6	109	117	101	116	85
Dumpers Trucks, etc.	20	20	30	19	14	30	49	42	32	27
Other Transportation Machinery	3	7	3	1	2	13	13	16	23	20
Non-Transportation Machinery	11	6	9	10	9	36	30	47	34	39
Explosive	4	5	1	2	4	6	6	4	7	9
Electricity	5	7	3	4	4	7	5	4	5	7
Gas, Dust, Fire, etc.	2	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Fall of Persons	7	10	9	7	4	142	142	161	191	150
Fall of Objects	2	2	2	2	2	59	70	88	83	98
Other Causes	3	6	2	4	1	42	80	106	91	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>625</b>

Note: Data for 2002 are provisional.

#### **Workers Killed and Injured in Coal Mine**

850. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers killed and injured due to the collapse of the roof of a coal mine in the Ramagundam area;

(b) the reasons for the occurrence of the accident; and

(c) the steps taken to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) In the accident which occurred in Godavari Khani No. 8A incline mine on 17.10.2003 situated in Ramagundam Area, 10 persons were killed and two persons suffered serious injuries.

(b) The preliminary inquiry has pointed out that 11 workers were engaged under the supervision of a Sirdar in a slice of a depillaring district where reduction of the rib against goaf was under progress. Suddenly a massive fall occurred in the goaf which, after over riding remnant

rib covered the entire workplace, inflicting fatal/serious injuries.

(c) The Directorate General of Mines Safety has withdrawn the permission for depillaring in that mine and the management have been advised to propose modified method of extraction in consultation with a scientific organization.

A meeting of Chairman and Managing Directors of Coal Companies and Heads of Scientific & Educational Institutions was convened by the DGMS on 7.11.2003 where the matter was discussed in detail and it was decided that number of persons engaged in the working face will be reduced to minimum by dispensing with manual loading in a time bound manner. It was also decided that while doing so, the following should also be looked into:—

- (i) Introduction of mechanized roof bolting machines.
- (ii) Use of Resin capsules in place of cement capsules.
- (iii) Upgrade the skills of First line supervisors by suitable training.

- (iv) Upgrading Supervisors level in the back-shifts.
- (v) Co-ordination with scientific institutions for alternate method of mining.

#### **Special Plan for Youth of Jammu & Kashmir**

851. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Inter-State Council meeting held in Srinagar in August 2003 a special plan for employment of the youth of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to divert them from taking to militancy by providing atleast 1,00,000 jobs for them per year was announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan for providing one crore job opportunities per year for the country's youth was reviewed therein; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A Task Force under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was set up with a view to provide atleast one lakh jobs over a period of two years for the unemployed youth in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Task Force has identified potential of creation of 1.5 lakh employment/self employment opportunities during August 2003—August 2005 which will ensure creation of atleast one lakh jobs. Agriculture, Handloom & Handicrafts, Industry, Tourism & Travel, Education & Health, Large infrastructure projects (roads & railways), Information Technology & Telecommunication and Central sector/Centrally sponsored schemes are among the important sectors identified for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Creation of one crore employment opportunities per year is being monitored by the Task Force under the chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission.

[Translation]

#### **Middlemen in Vegetable Markets**

852. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether middlemen working in wholesale vegetable markets purchase vegetables at lower prices from the farmers and sell them to consumers at the double rate thus creating havoc for the vegetable growers; and

(b) if so, the remedial action taken by the Government to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and the consumers also get vegetables at reasonable prices?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Organized marketing of agricultural commodities has been promoted in the country through a network of regulated markets by the State Governments. Most of the State Governments and Union Territories have enacted their own legislations to provide for regulation of agricultural produce markets. Regulated markets help in mitigating the market handicaps of producer-sellers. It was envisaged that physical markets with facilities and services will attract the farmers and the buyers, creating competitive trade environment thereby offering the best price to the producers and consumers.

As on 31.3.2003, 7177 markets have been covered under the respective State Marketing Regulation Acts. There are 7360 wholesale markets and 27,294 rural primary markets, about 20% of which function under the ambit of market regulation. Studies indicate that the institution of regulated markets has achieved only a limited success in providing need based amenities and services conducive to efficient marketing. Many of the regulated market yards lack requisite facilities for handling the produce arriving there. Rural periodic markets in general, and tribal markets in particular, have remained out of the ambit or regulation and development.

Recently some of the State Governments like Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka have promoted farmers' markets to enable the farmers to directly sell their produce to the consumers. This has helped in realising remunerative prices for their produce.

An inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by this Department on agricultural marketing reforms has in its report of 28.6.2002 *inter-alia* recommended that all the State Governments should amend the State Agriculture Produce Marketing Regulation (APMC Act) to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce in order to

minimize distribution losses and to enable farmers to take advantage of favourable prices and improve their net margin. The recommendations of the Task Force were discussed with the State Governments in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27.9.2002 later by the Standing Committee meeting of State Ministers held on 29.1.2003, wherein this Ministry was requested to formulate a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing in order to guide the States in implementing the reforms. Accordingly, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing. The Model Law has been sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations for taking further necessary action as the subject matter falls within the purview of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

[English]

#### Gujarat Integrated Forestry Development Project-II

853. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat's proposal on "Integrated Forestry Development Project-II" has been included in the list of projects being posed to JBIC for consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time likely to be taken for its clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. Gujarat's proposal on Integrated Forestry Development Project-II has been included in the list of projects which were posed to Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for seeking external assistance during the year 2003.

(b) The Gujarat Integrated Forestry Development Project-II aims at maintenance of environmental stability, checking soil erosion, technological upgradation and increasing the forest cover and its productivity through active participation of the people. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2673 crores over a period of eight years. The JBIC has completed 'Fact Finding' of this project during June 2003.

#### Protection of Monuments

854. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forts of Sindhudurg, Raigad and Shivner are centrally protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Maharashtra for removing these monuments from the list of centrally protected monuments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. They have been declared as monuments of national importance *vide* Government of India Notification No. 2907 dated 21.6.1910, 1234 dated 4.3.1909 and 1230 dated 4.3.1909 respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra *vide* their letter dated 17 May, 1999, addressed to the Aurangabad Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have requested to de protect Sindhudurg Fort and hand-over the same to the Government of Maharashtra. However, the ASI has not decided to de protect these monuments.

#### Conservation of Sevagram Ashram

855. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi's most enduring memory the 'Sevagram Ashram' is gradually fading into oblivion;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to protect and conserve the 'Ashram';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) The 'Sevagram Ashram' is not managed/maintained by the Government. The Central Government has not received any proposal from the 'Sevagram Ashram' for any assistance.

**Airport in Bhatinda**

856. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of passengers from Bhatinda in Punjab are unable to avail the facility of air journey due to the lack of civil airport at Bhatinda though infrastructural facilities are available;

(b) if so, whether the Government has undertaken any survey to ascertain the viability of opening a civil airport at Bhatinda; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Bhatinda Air Force Station belongs to Ministry of Defence. Due to lack of demand from airlines to operate through Bhatinda, a Civil Enclave has not been established.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Farmers Benefited under NAIS in Maharashtra**

857. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of farmers benefited under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in Maharashtra during the last three years and thereafter, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): A statement indicating district-wise and season-wise number of farmers covered and benefited in Maharashtra during last three years under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is enclosed.

**Statement***No. of farmers covered and benefited under NAIS in Maharashtra from Kharif 2000 to Rabi 2002 Season*

District	Kharif 2000 Farmers		Rabi 2000 Farmers		Kharif 2001 Farmers		Rabi 2001 Farmers		Kharif 2002 Farmers		Rabi 2002 Farmers		Cumulative Total Farmers	
	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited	Covered	Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Ahmednagar	180237	109867	103187	71723	264932	130002	8703	2273	83259	17778	97610	25694	737928	357337
Akola	98942	16639	13635	10663	86757	7649	12	—	102186	—	41	—	301573	34951
Amravati	62419	17733	2911	953	51163	1835	3001	205	57153	5513	1523	362	223203	26601
Aurangabad	156990	108353	2410	1505	168238	33772	45390	4719	39032	2261	1588	325	431769	150935
Beed	111704	7480	14473	320	137365	17558	37	6	44363	81	3773	1032	306384	26457
Bhandara	21474	13180	304	99	20779	673	408	—	25609	133	266	—	87594	14085
Buldhana	192385	154651	30743	15456	151367	4242	416	152	170270	3664	360	—	401080	178165
Chandrapur	49585	32474	1	—	45329	8690	3	—	55383	26589	—	—	265188	67753
Dhule	58001	54889	1653	61	68288	—	79	43	114202	28604	33	—	183437	83597
Gadchiroli	7865	4796	—	—	7246	1587	8	—	12443	7375	13	—	129334	13758
Gondia	19295	12643	41	1	16229	468	759	—	25540	3619	304	—	49071	16731
Hingoli	54610	17	91	—	89477	—	32	—	48226	—	42	—	169792	17
Jaigaon	68199	54951	2666	35	170120	35543	16	—	115438	4855	5	—	289232	95384



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Jalna	55943	15723	1806	32	55270	14	180	—	35747	—	21	—	228458	15769
Kolhapur	1873	371	1196	192	1822	324	—	—	25	—	—	—	40638	687
Latur	118126	15314	28061	8841	20576	102823	20	—	65250	3026	232	6	358040	1300101
Nagpur	47662	12610	1004	138	47034	2207	491	48	36593	919	582	121	162023	160431
Nanded	201937	132319	7634	3224	126944	1911	6	—	50491	2694	—	—	373114	140148
Nandurbar	28398	13383	2984	2382	25849	3649	—	—	41700	1918	205	—	107927	21332
Nasik	93896	48988	21927	6492	110409	36000	21437	12313	65257	16932	9523	761	298892	121486
Osmanabad	87435	1118	14477	—	188573	102511	128	—	29531	1615	1876	78	357746	105322
Parbhani	170164	35621	16340	2271	147105	13	19	—	64345	—	—	—	363159	37905
Pune	50070	9925	34833	6296	27735	3398	1129	120	44075	11157	21588	10579	199680	41475
Raigarh	9406	5546	777	326	5247	471	545	—	6577	121	379	—	60429	6464
Ratnagiri	40268	30033	—	—	37079	1328	—	—	41825	5725	—	—	83924	37086
Sangli	95899	14522	17358	824	33695	30878	—	—	26762	16237	3188	2462	192065	64823
Satara	121076	26933	68095	34551	68127	14027	2289	63	108806	35211	88979	72273	375328	183058
Sindhudurg	17347	5825	122	—	18060	1010	215	11	19148	—	224	71	144774	6917
Solapur	5553	882	22784	5909	4985	1011	13	1	1670	34	15255	7667	67738	15504
Thane	25537	23906	40	—	25560	4443	46	19	42147	32276	10	—	52863	60644
Wardha	65100	3379	1714	3	61459	349	64	—	49770	—	50	3	170534	3734
Washim	94415	47747	3106	1885	89227	1945	68	—	91378	2	15	—	236801	51579
Yavatmal	117513	26339	4804	3	106400	1616	21	—	78862	—	12	—	320126	27958
Total	2529322	1058137	420977	174185	2667446	551947	85535	19973	179363	228339	247677	121434	7767644	21540151

[English]

**Environmental clearance for building Construction**

858. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:  
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:  
SHRI T.M. SELVANGANPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to bring all major urban projects under the purview of the Environmental Impact Assessment thereby making

environmental clearance mandatory for building construction;

(b) if so, the details of order issued in this regard during the last six months;

(c) the reasons for the issuance of such orders;

(d) whether Sates were consulted before issuing these orders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government have issued

a draft amendment on 27th October, 2003 to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 which proposes to bring construction of new townships, industrial townships, settlement colonies, commercial complexes, hotel complexes, hospitals, office complexes for 1,000 persons and above or discharging sewage of 50,000 litres/day and above or with an investment of Rs. 50 crores and above and new industrial estates having an area of 50 hectares and above and the industrial estates irrespective of area, if their pollution potential is high, under the purview of Environmental Impact Assessment.

(c) The above draft notification was issued keeping in view the continuing pollution and deterioration of water quality of lakes, rivers and coastal waters caused due to discharge of untreated domestic sewage and effluents from industrial estates.

(d) and (e) The above draft notification invites objection or suggestions from people including the State Governments within a period of 60 days from the date of its issue.

#### **Illegal Immigration**

859. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the immigration racket operating with the connivance of the employees of Air India;

(b) if so, whether an FIR was registered at Mumbai for illegal traffic of people without valid papers and tickets; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the Government's inaction despite the FIR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) No immigration racket as such has come to the notice of the Government. However, four inadmissible passengers were intercepted by Immigration Service of the United Kingdom at the London Heathrow Airport after they arrived on Air India flight AI-111 of 20th October, 2001. Two out of the four passengers suspected to be Afghan nationals had checked in as domestic passengers for Delhi but travelled onwards to London on the same flight whereas, the other two passengers had boarded the flight at New Delhi and travelled to London on forged documents. A High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat to enquire into

the incident, found involvement of two travel agents and four employees of air India Limited. The two agents were arrested by Mumbai police and a chargesheet has been filed against them which is pending trial before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Mumbai. Out of the four employees in Air India, the services of one Assistant Manager has been terminated for his alleged involvement in the stowaway case and the remaining three officials have been transferred from Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport to the Air India Headquarters, Mumbai for their suspected involvement in abetting illegal activities.

#### **Tourism Development In Andaman and Nicobar**

860. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plots have been allotted to private sector for tourism development at Neil and Havlock Island in Andaman and Nicobar; and

(b) if so, the details of parties to whom the lands have been allotted alongwith terms and conditions prescribed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

#### **Privatisation of Airports**

861. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to privatise the major airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government have approved the proposal of restructuring of airports at New Delhi and Mumbai of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Joint Venture (JV) route. Government have also approved the constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) consisting of Minister of Finance, Minister of Law and

Justice, Minister of Dis-investment and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Civil Aviation to decide the detailed modalities including the design parameters, bid evaluation criteria etc. based on which joint venture partner(s) will be selected.

#### **Ban on Performance of Animals**

862. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had banned the performance of Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Bears and Monkeys during 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have any data of these animals which are still with the circus owners in pitiable conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have expressed their inability to accept these animals thereby forcing their movement around in cages in unhygienic conditions;

(f) if so, the facts thereof; and

(g) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government, vide Notification dated 14th October, 1998, banned training and exhibition of five species of animals viz., tigers, panthers, lions, bears and monkeys whereby extracting performance from these five species by anyone including circuses became illegal and punishable under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The reason for issuing this Order was to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering which is inflicted on these animals during their training and exhibition.

(c) and (d) The statement giving number of banned animals still in possession with the circuses is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Some of the circus companies have challenged the legality of the directive issued by the Central Government asking States to take possession of animals of these specified species whose performance has been banned and rehabilitate them at Rescue Centres established by the Central Zoo Authority. The matter is *sub judice*.

(g) The Central Zoo Authority would take necessary action for rescue and rehabilitation of the animals still in possession of the circuses as per the Court's directive.

#### **Statement**

*Number of Banned Animals in Possession with Circuses*

S. No.	Circus Name	Lion	Tiger	Leopard/ Panther	Bear	Monkey	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Amar Circus	8	—	—	1	—	9
2.	Apollo Circus	11	—	—	—	—	11
3.	Asian Circus	7	—	—	—	—	7
4.	Gemini Circus	16	3	2	4	3	28
5.	Great Bombay Circus	27	—	—	—	—	27
6.	Great Golden	11	—	—	2	—	13
7.	Great Royal Circus	9	—	—	—	—	9
8.	Jumbo Circus	31	15	4	2	—	52
9.	Kohinoor Circus	2	—	—	1	3	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Moonlight Circus	14	—	—	1	4	19
11.	Natraj Circus	9	10	—	—	—	19
12.	New Great Circus	15	—	—	2	—	17
13.	Olympic Circus	3	11	—	2	2	18
14.	Raja Circus	5	—	—	—	—	5
15.	Rajmahal Circus	1	—	1	—	—	2
16.	Samrat Circus	12	4	2	1	—	19
17.	The Great Royal Circus	11	6	—	—	—	17
Total		192	49	9	16	12	278

#### **Implementation of AP Livestock Development Agency Activities**

863. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved scheme for implementation of A.P. Livestock Development Agency activities for the Andhra Pradesh under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the scheme for the first five years i.e. from 2000-01 to 2004-05;

(c) the amount released under the scheme till date;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for an expeditious release of funds in order to pull on with the scheme smoothly and without any hurdle; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 4003.00 lakh has been approved for implementation of National project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding through AP Livestock Development Agency for 5 year.

(c) to (e) A sum of Rs. 2733.50 lakh has been released so far, subject to the condition that further release will be subject to the achievement of financial and the physical targets. AP Livestock Development Agency has proposed to release the balance amount of

Rs. 1269.50 lakh during the current year. The progress of the project is being reviewed accordingly in consultation with the State Government.

#### **Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

864. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Apart from the proposal for installation of IVth Coke Oven Battery at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), there is no proposal with the Government for expansion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The proposal for installation of the IVth Coke Oven Battery has been approved by the Government. Details of the proposal are as under:

- The Proposed 4th Coke Oven Battery is to meet the short fall in Blast Furnace (BF) Coke in view of the increased production of hot metal and the shortfall that will arise when the rebuilding programme of the three existing coke oven batteries is taken up.
- The installation of 4th Coke Oven Battery is a technical necessity for sustaining plant operations at higher efficiency.
- The 4th Coke Oven Battery will act as a replacement battery when the existing batteries

are taken up for repair/rebuilding. After the rebuilding is completed this battery will function as an additional battery, with some additional investments.

- The 4th Coke Oven Battery will be 7 meters tall and will consist of 67 ovens and will be based on Russian technology. It will thus be similar to the existing three batteries.
- There is a provision in the plant lay-out hence the proposed new battery will be installed in the existing coke oven battery complex adjacent to coke oven battery No. 3.
- The 4th Coke Oven Battery is estimated to cost Rs. 303 crores.
- The entire cost will be borne by the company from its internal resources.
- The estimated time for completion of the 4th Coke Oven Battery is 36 months.

#### **IV Mumbai (Middle Vaitarna) Water Supply Project**

865. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for environmental clearance of IV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarna) Water Supply Project;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have expressed their inability to approve the proposal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Maharashtra has since clarified or removed the objections and World Bank has indicated willingness to provide assistance for this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the original estimated cost of the project as per original report of the Tata Consulting Engineers of 1992 and the cost escalation suffered thereby so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal for Forestry clearance has been rejected on the grounds that the area is part of

ecologically fragile and sensitive area of Western Ghats, which supports very rich bio-diversity and many endangered medicinal plants and the reservoir will fragment the habitat of the wild animals. Moreover, felling of more than 2.50 lakh trees will cause ecological disturbances and loss of precious bio-diversity. However, further discussions have been held between the officials of the Ministry and State Government/Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. A site visit has also been done. In case of Environmental clearance, some information has been sought from the user agency.

(d) and (e) Action taken report/additional information/modified proposal has not been received from the State Government/user agency. There is no information about any willingness indicated by the World Bank to provide assistance on this project.

(f) According to the information given in the proposal submitted by the user agency for forestry clearance, total cost of the project was Rs. 285 crores at 1996 price level. The anticipated cost as per the year 2002 is about Rs. 12.50 crores.

#### **Sugarcane Support Price**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the sugarcane support price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received from Sugarcane growers to this effect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The matter concerning fixation of the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 2003-04 crushing season is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The SMP of sugarcane is fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and after consultations with the State Governments and such other organisations/authorities as may be considered appropriate by the Central Government.

[Translation]

**Sino-Indo Cooperation to Promote Tourism**

867. DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:  
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether India and China have agreed to cooperate in tourism sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed recently; and

(c) if so, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned per annum as a result thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Tourism of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China on the Implementation Plan for organized group travel by Chinese citizens to India was signed in New Delhi on 8th December, 2002. This was in pursuance of the bilateral tourism cooperation agreement signed on 14th January, 2002 between the two countries. With the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding, China has accorded 'Approved Destination Status' to India since China operates its outbound tourism through such a system only. This MOU will enable Chinese travel agencies to organize the outbound travel of groups of Chinese citizens to India and publicise such tour packages.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism is a function of various parameters such as total number of foreign tourist arrivals in a particular year, the per capita expenditure of foreign tourists estimated from the figures available from the RBI, the effect of price change on the per capita expenditure and exchange rate of dollar, it is difficult for this Department to forecast the expenditure of the foreign tourists in future years and consequently the foreign exchange earnings.

**Promotion of Horticulture Industry**

868. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a special package to promote horticulture industry of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) and (b) The Prime Minister, in his address on Independence Day 2003 to the nation, announced inter alia launching of a National Horticulture Mission to give impetus in cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, etc. whose main target will be doubling horticulture production in the country by 2010.

(c) The modalities for implementing the National Horticulture Mission are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments. The Government is implementing programmes for development of horticulture in a mission mode under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim" and the same has been extended to the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh during 2003-04.

[English]

**Package for Sugarcane Growers**

869. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding arrears of sugarcane growers in the country as on April 1, 2003 and September 1, 2003 separately;

(b) whether the Government has announced any assistance package and allocated fund to the States for clearance of the said arrears during current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds made available for the purpose, State-wise;

(d) whether some States have opposed the package;

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

(f) whether some States have not yet been provided with the assistance despite reminders from them thereby causing delay in payments to the affected growers;

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

(h) the efforts made by the Government to ensure timely clearance of the dues to affected parties?

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

(a) The outstanding arrears of sugarcane growers in the country stood at Rs. 304689.18 lakhs as on 31st March, 2003 and Rs. 233183.80 lakhs as on 31st August, 2003.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to provide Rs. 678.06 crores as on time assistance to State Governments to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane farmers who have not been paid cane arrears for 2002-03 season by private sector sugar factories in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana. The State-wise allocation of funds out of Rs. 678.06 crores as under:

States	Allocation (Rs. in crores)
Uttar Pradesh	490.21
Uttaranchal	32.25
Haryana	84.73
Punjab	30.96
Bihar	39.91
Total	678.06

The assistance will be in the nature of soft loan to the State Governments at a concessional rate of interest of 4% with an initial moratorium of three years and repayable within three years thereafter, to clear the sugarcane arrears for 2002-03 season arising out of the difference between the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) and the State Advised Prices (SAP) with regard to private sugar mills only in these States.

(d) and (e) The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Haryana are unwilling to avail assistance in the present form. The State Government of Bihar has requested to release a sum of Rs. 4954.90 lakhs to clear the dues of sugarcane arrears of the

farmers. However, this amount includes arrears of the previous years also. Moreover, the State Government did not provide required information regarding the amount eligible for assistance as a difference of State Advised Price (SAP) and Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for 2002-03 in respect of private sugar mills which is essential for release of funds. In view of this, the State Government has been requested to provide the aforesaid information so that funds are released. The response from the State Government of Bihar is still awaited.

(f) and (g) The Government has also decided to offer assistance to the State Governments by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season. The main features of the provision of this assistance are stated hereunder:—

(i) The State Governments would be extended financial support to meet the interest liability to the extent of difference between the Coupon Rate on the Bonds raised through additional market borrowings and 4% (the rate at which loan is being extended to the sugar mills).

(ii) The State Governments would, in turn, extend 10 years loan to the sugar mills with a ceiling interest rate of 4% per annum, this loan will have moratorium on repayment of principal and interest for a period of five years and would, thereafter, be repaid in five equal instalments.

(iii) The above would be available to all sugar mills in non-SAP States and to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the SAP States.

(iv) The extent of open market borrowings would be determined on the basis of sugarcane price arrears in a given State.

(v) Any additional benefit, which a State Government may wish to provide, would be to the charge of the State Government concerned.

(vi) The State Governments would make specific proposals to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission for access to additional open market borrowings.

(h) For the past one year, the Central Government has initiated steps to assist the sugar industry in improving its viability and thereby facilitating clearance of sugarcane price arrears. These include creation of buffer stocks of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar (in December, 2002) for a period of one year, reimbursement of internal transport charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on exports of sugar as also the handling and marketing charges on account of export of sugar.

*[Translation]***Suggestions of Amicus Curiae**

870. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to strictly implement the 8 out of 10 suggestions of the Amicus Curiae which is extending help to the Court; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In CWP No. 72 of 1998 regarding Noise Pollution, the Amicus Curiae has made a number of suggestions for the consideration of the Apex Court for controlling Noise Pollution. These relate to awareness building, use of loudspeakers, vehicular noise and use of fire crackers. For Awareness building, 10 (ten) specific suggestions were made by the Amicus Curiae. Government have considered all these suggestions and have apprised its stand on these suggestions to the Court through an affidavit. 2 (two) of the ten suggestions have been found to be impractical. The Hon'ble Court has directed the Government to continue to monitor the implementation of the accepted suggestions, which is being complied with.

*[English]***Improvement in Quality of Groundnuts**

871. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India produces the maximum amount of groundnuts in the world;

(b) if so, whether inspite of this India's exports of groundnuts are negligible; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the quality and promote export of groundnuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) India is the second largest groundnuts

producing country in the World, but the export of groundnuts is negligible.

(c) Effort have been made to ameliorate aflatoxin contamination so that it does not become hindrance in export trade, Integrated aflatoxin contamination management packages have been developed and are evaluated under farmers conditions for their worthiness and adaptability.

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance for the promotion of export of groundnuts under the following activities:

- Conducting feasibility studies, surveys etc.
- Infrastructure development.
- Promotion of quality control.
- Organisation building & Human Resources Development
- Participation in important trade fairs to promote the products.
- Publicity and information dissemination.
- Organising of Buyer-Seller Meet to promote export.

**Expert Committee to Assess Water Flow at Billigundlu and Mettur**

872. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted a committee of experts in January 1994 to assess the water flow measured by Central Water Commission at Billigundlu in Karnataka and at Mettur Dam reservoir in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the number of meetings held since its inception, year-wise;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Union Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by when it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) A Standing Committee of Experts



under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Coimbatore and Chief Engineers/Principal Engineer of the four basin States as Members, was constituted on 21st January, 1994 to assess and reconcile the inflows at Biligundlu as well as inflows into Mettur reservoir.

(b) The Committee held three meetings in 1994, two meetings in 1995 and one meeting in 2002.

(c) and (d) The Committee could not submit its report due to non-cooperation and non-participation by the State of Tamil Nadu after 5th Meeting held in 1995.

#### **Facilities for Conservation of Monuments**

873. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the existing facilities are adequate for proper conservation of heritage (monuments) sites in the country, both in terms of budgetary allocation and trained manpower;

(b) if so, whether the Government are taking steps to create an effective synergy between the Government, voluntary organisations and people who are to be suitably sensitised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Now that the budgetary allocation has been increased during the last two years, and three more Circles made functional during this year, the existing facilities for proper conservation of heritage have improved.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken several measures to create an effective synergy between the Government, voluntary organisations and people and suitably sensitize them. Measures taken include publicity and cultural awareness programmes, observation of World Heritage Day, etc. Government have also set up the National Culture Fund to invite participation from the private sector, voluntary organizations and people in the task of promotion and preservation of Indian culture. 100% tax rebate is admissible on donations made to this Fund.

#### **Violation of Security Rules**

874. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether on November 11, 2003 CISF vehicles violated security rules by venturing on to the runway of the Palam Airport just after the Prime Minister left for Russia;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to avoid such security breach at sensitive places in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The vehicle in question which was allotted to the Quick Reaction Team (QRT) of CISF entered the operational area. Since the vehicle was driven without a proper pass issued by Airports Authority of India (AAI), the driver was fined and to ensure that such incidents do not recur, CISF was advised to obtain passes for all its vehicles used in operational areas of the airport.

[Translation]

#### **Cotton Production Area**

875. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under cotton crop in the country;

(b) the yield of cotton per hectare in the country; and

(c) the average yield of cotton in the World?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The total area and yield under cotton crop in the country for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given below:—

Year	Area (Million Hectares)	Yield (Kg./Hectare)
2000-01	8.53	190
2001-02	9.10	189
2002-03*	7.48	212

\*As per Fourth Advance Estimates as on 1.7.2003.

(c) As per the figures given in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Year Book, 2000, the world average yield of cotton is as under:

Year	Yield (Kg per Hectare)
1998	539
1999	554
2000	572

[English]

#### **Worms in Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate**

876. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether recently worms were found in a Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has seized the product manufactured by Cadbury India Limited in Maharashtra;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Eco-Tourism**

877. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a country-wide programme to promote Eco-tourism;

(b) if so, by when the programme would be implemented;

(c) whether any State Government has taken initiative with the assistance of Union Government to implement the programme; and

(d) if so, the achievements made by the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Department of Tourism, Government of India formulated a National Eco-Tourism Policy and circulated to all States and Tourism Trade, Greater emphasis has been laid down on promotion of Eco-Tourism in National Tourism Policy 2002. The Government has also set up a National Committee on Eco-Tourism and Mountains to work out details for managing the fragile eco-system and to consider projects/programmes for development of eco-tourism in the country. An amount of Rs. 494.35 lakhs has been sanctioned for setting up of Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism at Chemchey in South Sikkim.

#### **Arrival of Tourists**

878. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas where arrival of tourists has declined during the last two years;

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

(c) whether the Government have also identified the areas arrival of the tourists has been increased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to develop tourism sector to attract more tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) On the basis of the information provided by the State Governments/UT Administrations regarding the flow of tourists, majority of States/Union Territories have registered a positive growth except the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka. The decline in these States may be due to the preference of tourists to one destination over the other.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has initiated the following short-term and long-term plans to provide a major impetus to tourism and thereby attracting foreign tourists to the country:

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

In addition the Government is also implementing the following measures to attract tourists to India:

- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "incredible India" Campaign.
- Creation of World Class Collaterals.
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign.
- Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas.
- Greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia.
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions.
- Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity.
- Use of Internet and web marketing.
- Generating Tourism Publications.
- Re-enforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

#### **Encroachment Near Madakarinayakana Fort**

879. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to clear the encroachments near and around Madakarinayakana Fort in Chitradurga, Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned 170 lakhs of rupees to restore the glory of this fort; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Encroachments in the form of 118 houses have been identified during a recent survey of the area around the northern part of the centrally protected fort at Chitradurga and the district administration has prepared an estimate for Rs. 30 lakhs for relocating the houses. An estimate for Rs. 1.40 crore has been sanctioned for construction of a protection wall to be executed by the CPWD.

#### **Sand Mining on River Beds in Rivers**

880. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large scale sand mining on the river beds of inter-State and State rivers are causing serious ecological and environmental problems;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive study has been conducted to ascertain the impact of such sand mining;

(c) if so, whether there is any mechanism to assess the level at which the sand mining on river beds could be carried out;

(d) whether the Government propose to evolve any national policy on the issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Government is aware of sand mining in the river beds of inter-State and State rivers. However, so far no adverse report on ecological & environmental problem resulting from sand mining in river beds has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

#### **Fixed Term Contractual Employment Policy**

881. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce fixed term contractual employment in place of permanent jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey among employers and workers about this scheme before its introduction;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure all the statutory benefits to workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 to include "Fixed Term Employment Workman" in the Schedule of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Model Standing Orders annexed to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) to (e) There is no need for a survey as the Government propose to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 by way of notification.

(f) Fixed term employment workman's working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits shall not be less than that of a permanent workman. He shall also be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even though his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment.

#### **Visit of Foreign Tourists**

882. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:  
SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether the number of foreign tourists visiting India has increased;

(b) if so, the number of foreign tourists visited India during each of the last three years, month-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists in the country particularly in Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Estimated number of foreign tourists who visited India during the period January-November 2003 are 23,92,275 as compared to 20,87,890 during the same period of previous year showing a growth rate of 14.6 per cent.

(b) The month-wise number of foreign tourists visited India during the last three years are as follows:—

Month	Foreign Tourist Arrivals		
	2000	2001	2002
January	253666	283750	228150
February	257403	262306	241133
March	234606	248965	216839
April	188132	185338	159789
May	139575	151098	144571
June	161613	176716	134566
July	212949	224432	178231
August	186843	196517	162594
September	180070	162326	163089
October	230978	181605	213267
November	290201	209685	245661
December	313342	254544	296474

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has initiated the following short-term and long-term Plans

to provide a major impetus to tourism and thereby attracting foreign tourists to the country including in Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands:—

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

In addition the Government is also implementing the following measures to attract tourists to India:

- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "incredible India" Campaign.
- Creation of World Class Collaterals.
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign.
- Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas.
- Greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia.
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions.
- Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity.
- Use of Internet and web marketing.
- Generating Tourism Publications.
- Re-enforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

[Translation]

#### **Upgradation of ITIs**

883. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 553 crores with the World Bank assistance for upgradation of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said amount would be provided to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Planning Commission has given "in principle" clearance to this Ministry for negotiating with the World Bank through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Development of Fisheries in Kerala**

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the development of fisheries and the welfare of fishermen community in the state;

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

(c) the quantity of marine food exported from Kerala during the last three years; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period, year-wise?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On receipt of proposals, Central assistance of Rs. 1657.06 lakh has been released to the Government of Kerala for the development of fisheries and welfare of fishermen community in the State during the last three years (1999-2000 to 2002-03).

(c) and (d) The quantity and value earned from the export of marine products effected through ports located in Kerala State for the last 3 years are:

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. crore)
2000-01	88852	1046.47
2001-02	72756	950.55
2002-03	81393	1045.82

[Translation]

#### **Affairs of Gandhi Ashram**

885. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of Gandhi Ashram situated at Kingsway Camp, Pilani;

(b) whether the Ashram is under illegal occupation;

(c) whether the Government prepare to take over the Ashram; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The Gandhi Ashram at Pilani has neither been declared as a monument of national importance nor is there any proposal with the Archaeological Survey of India to protect and conserve the Ashram.

#### **Offices of EPF in Delhi**

886. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of Provident Fund Offices in Delhi and the places where they are operating as on November 30, 2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): The details of the number of EPF Offices in Delhi and where they are situated are as under:—

Sl. No.	Offices	Address
1	2	3
1.	Head Office	Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, 14, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

1	2	3
2.	Regional Office, Delhi	9th Floor, Mayur Bhavan, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001
3.	Sub-Accounts Office, Nehru Place	5th-7th Floor, 60, Skylark Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
4.	Sub-Accounts Office, Inderlok	IInd and IIInd Floor, Gupta Complex, Inderlok, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-110035
5.	Sub-Accounts Office, Janakpuri	7th & 8th Floor, T.C. Jaina Tower-II, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
6.	Sub-Accounts Office, Laxmi Nagar	F-117-118, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092
7.	National Academy for Training & Research in Social Security (NATRSS)	30-31, Institutional Area, (Opp. D-Block), Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

[English]

#### **Creation of Additional Employment**

887. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects launched by the government to create additional employment during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the target set under these projects/schemes, state-wise;

(c) whether any monitoring agency has been set up to review the problems of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) According to the Report of the Special Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, out of the proposed 5 crores job opportunities to be generated over the Tenth Five Year Plan period, nearly 2 crores should come from specific Employment Generation Programmes and 3 crores

from growth buoyancy. The estimates of potential job opportunities in different sectors are given in the enclosed statement. The State-wise targets are not compiled.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has set up a Task Force on Employment Strategies and Employment Monitoring at State-level which will monitor the State-wise employment generation.

**Statement**

Sectors/Programmes	Total Additional job opportunities created over the Tenth Plan (in lakhs)		Total (in lakhs)
	Growth based	Programme based	
Agriculture including National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NSDRPA), Farm Management Programme, Agro Clinics, Greening India Programme, Watershed and Wasteland Development, Medicinal Plant, Bamboo Development and Energy Plantation like Ethanol, etc.	4.1	90.6	94.7
Mining & Minerals	-2.0	-0.21	-2.0
Manufacturing (Excl. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) & Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP))	14.2 (large manufacture) 60.0 (SSI)		14.2  60.0
Electricity, Gas & Water	-2.1		-2.1
Construction	63.0		63.0
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	112.3		112.3
Transport, Storage & Communications	55.1		55.1
Financial Sector	19.3		19.3
Community Sector	-27.1	32.0	4.9
<b>Special Programme</b>			
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) (SSI) & REGP (KIVC)		22.0 20.0	22.0 20.0
Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)		12.9	12.9
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)		7.7	7.7
Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)		8.0	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>296.8</b>	<b>193.2</b>	<b>490.0</b>

Note: Total may not tally due to rounding off

**Joint Venture of IA**

888. SHRI A. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has signed an agreement with Singapore Airlines for maintenance, repair and overhauling of aircraft with a view to earn more profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would adversely affect the prospects of employees of engineering department who opted to remain in Short Haul Department;

(d) whether the Government propose to attach the employees of Short Haul Operations Department with the new joint venture; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps proposed for rehabilitation of the said employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Airlines and Singapore Airlines Terminal Services (SATS), a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, have decided to carry out a feasibility study to consider the possibility of setting up a Joint Venture company for ground handling services at Indian airports.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Agreement between India and Malaysia to develop Tourism**

889. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed in the recent past between India and Malaysia to develop tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to bring improvement in the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Production of Vegetable Oil**

890. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetable oil production is expected to make a smart recovery by the end of this fiscal year particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the estimated production of vegetable oil as compared to the last year, State-wise;

(c) whether the production of Soyabean is also likely to jump this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) As per the first advance estimate, the oilseeds production in Kharif 2003-04 has been estimated to be 150.8 lakh MT as compared to the production of 92.2 lakh MT during 2002-03. The oilseed production prospects during Rabi 2003-04 also appears to be much better. The increase in oilseeds production will result in an increase in the vegetable oil production in the major oilseed growing States including Gujarat. State-wise records of production of vegetable oil are not maintained as there is no inter-state restriction on movement of vegetable oil/oilseeds. However, the state-wise production of oilseeds during 2002-03 (Fourth advance estimates) is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) As per the first advance estimates, the production of soyabean has been estimated to be 71.0 lakh tonnes during the current year as compared to the production of 45.2 lakh tonnes during 2002-03.

#### **Statement**

##### *State-wise Production of Oilseeds during 2002-2003 (Fourth Advance Estimates)*

States	Production ('000 tonnes)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1319
Assam	180
Bihar	219
Chhattisgarh	107
Gujarat	1612
Haryana	752
Himachal Pradesh	6
Jammu & Kashmir	96
Jharkhand	43
Karnataka	911
Kerala	6
Madhya Pradesh	2997
Maharashtra	2593



1	2
Orissa	150
Punjab	148
Rajasthan	1457
Tamil Nadu	1378
Uttar Pradesh	998
Uttaranchal	23
West Bengal	664
Others	88
All India	15747

#### **Alternate Crop Strategy**

891. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternate crop strategy has been chalked out for States which have been affected due to delayed monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other method proposed for augmenting the income of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed date bound alternative crop strategy to cope up with drought situations in different agro ecological regions of the country. State Governments have been requested to prepare the contingency plan to mitigate the effect of delayed monsoon.

(c) For augmenting the income of the farmers various schemes like Price Support Scheme, Market Intervention Scheme, Crop Insurance Scheme, Macro Management mode of Agriculture, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, Technology Mission on Cotton, Watershed Development Programmes, Horticulture Development Programme, Rural Godown and Storage Scheme, etc. are being implemented by the Government.

#### **Discount for Senior Citizens**

892. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued guidelines stipulating that a senior citizen would be given discount of 50% in air fare, if booking for the return journey is done seven days in advance and that one-way journey will not be considered eligible for the same;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since reviewed this decision and have issued fresh guidelines in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any objections have been received by the Government about the fresh guidelines also;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether the Government propose to extend this concession to students particularly from Southern and North Eastern States; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of representations were received from Senior Citizens to reduce the stipulated period of stay of 7 days. The matter was reviewed and w.e.f. 1.10.2003, the condition of minimum seven days stay has been reduced to minimum two nights stay at destination in case of Round Trip journey and at each intermediate point in case of Circle Trip journey.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received but it has been decided not to make any further changes.

(g) and (h) With effect from 7th July, 2003, Indian Airlines has been offering student concession for travel between Home town and place of study only. Part travel upto Kolkata was not permitted for students travelling on student concession on flights operating between points in North East and Kolkata.

Subsequently, w.e.f. 1.10.2003, students have been permitted to travel on flights operating between points in North East and Kolkata when the sectors form a part of journey i.e. from place of study to Home Town.

#### **Investment by Steel Authority of India Limited**

893. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has decided to invest Rs. 800-1000 crores every year to upgrade the existing facilities;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) whether any new improvement plan has been made to improve the techno-economics of loss making steel plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL intends to invest Rs. 800-1000 crore every year to upgrade the existing facilities during 10th Plan period (2002-07). The investments depending on techno-economics and availability of funds, would be made in the areas of Iron & Steel making and Rolling Mills.

Some of the major projects presently being undertaken are as follows:

- Long Rail Facilities in Rail & Structural Mill at Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Upgradation of Pipe Plants of RSP and Rebuilding of Coke Oven Battery No. 1 at Rourkela Steel Plant.

Further, a new Bloom Caster with Reheating Furnace at Durgapur Steel Plant and Rebuilding of Coke Oven Battery No. 5 at Bokaro Steel Plant are being considered. Besides, the above, the other major projects envisaged during 10th Plan period are Upgradation of Cold Rolling Mills at Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants, a new Finishing Mill at Durgapur Steel Plant, Upgradation of Blast Furnaces at Bhilai Steel Plant and Casters at Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants.

(c) and (d) Continuous efforts are being made by SAIL to improve the techno-economic performance of all plants, including the loss making plants. This includes improvement in blast furnace productivity, lower coke rate

& higher volumes of production for optimal utilisation of resources.

#### **Drought Prone Areas in Karnataka**

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

(a) the total drought prone areas in Karnataka;

(b) the steps taken to provide adequate relief to the farmers to combat the drought situation;

(c) whether any rehabilitation scheme is undertaken for the drought affected farmers in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) According to the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development which is implementing the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) in the country, at present, 15 districts in Karnataka covering a total area of 84,332 sq kms. have been identified as drought prone.

(b) to (d) The primary responsibility for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought is that of the State Governments concerned. The Government of India only supplements the efforts of the State in addition to release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 64.74 crores for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, assistance of Rs. 115.86 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 1.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains for relief employment have been provided to Karnataka for drought declared during Kharif 2003.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Adilbadri**

895. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Adilbadri in Ambala, Haryana as place of origin of Maa Saraswati;

(b) if so, whether the Government have provided any assistance to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Central financial assistance of Rs. 72.00 lakhs for construction of Archaeological Complex at Adibadri.

[*English*]

#### **Workers' Participation in Management**

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision about worker's participation in management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A view is yet to be taken in the matter. In such circumstances, it is not possible to precisely indicate any specific time frame.

#### **Development of Tourist Spots**

897. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to identify, renovate and publicise such tourist places which are not able to attract tourists due to Government's apathy;

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

(c) the details of assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years alongwith expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Development of Tourism places is primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism sanctions development works at tourist places of national and international importance in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	299.50	228.50	6	167.85	129.76	2	507.50	195.00
2.	Assam	12	338.35	140.12	7	397.50	195.68	9	768.13	618.85
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	49.75	19.74	14	321.90	210.88	5	41.30	32.50
4.	Bihar	13	324.48	148.52	1	1.35	1.35	8	505.00	505.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	120.28	37.25	3	35.00	23.50	9	308.00	98.50
6.	Goa	10	93.30	29.90	9	93.73	49.85	1	0.50	0.50
7.	Gujarat	18	469.20	155.62	11	305.50	120.30	2	197.12	59.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Haryana	6	123.31	74.75	7	125.44	82.89	8	332.25	311.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	19	397.29	246.25	12	157.64	78.95	30	779.32	760.38
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	474.93	328.63	3	65.50	60.95	3	94.38	89.47
11.	Jharkhand	6	206.49	115.14	2	80.00	24.00	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	19	489.30	348.70	8	254.76	168.77	6	902.49	625.49
13.	Kerala	14	717.60	471.44	11	680.08	356.60	11	861.36	829.86
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	262.33	91.14	11	256.37	105.44	18	711.18	574.79
15.	Maharashtra	10	282.69	97.40	10	1128.20	965.91	8	623.46	546.25
16.	Manipur	18	782.77	232.92	0	0.00	0.00	2	5.24	2.62
17.	Meghalaya	5	105.59	46.10	5	87.87	36.95	3	70.35	21.20
18.	Mizoram	14	311.19	265.73	6	73.25	44.20	6	141.16	48.46
19.	Nagaland	8	156.53	95.95	5	41.54	22.70	5	360.50	323.43
20.	Orissa	4	156.94	65.52	4	38.05	28.82	2	47.50	15.75
21.	Punjab	6	203.50	61.33	3	17.50	12.34	3	23.00	14.60
22.	Rajasthan	22	454.96	253.71	2	5.00	2.50	13	1098.70	1096.20
23.	Sikkim	32	395.62	306.67	5	108.83	69.43	13	346.24	269.76
24.	Tamil Nadu	9	122.83	48.82	20	533.67	167.26	5	559.00	316.10
25.	Tripura	12	333.23	207.32	5	114.40	64.87	5	216.13	67.78
26.	Uttaranchal	7	70.19	33.53	3	65.51	40.70	3	548.00	418.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	18	423.74	182.66	5	55.74	46.87	3	295.00	295.00
28.	West Bengal	22	425.49	307.28	17	229.85	98.63	5	201.10	60.00
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	1.78	0.89	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	5	22.13	16.14	2	8.00	7.12	3	7.75	6.63
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	8.00	2.40	1	3.70	1.85	2	8.07	6.46
32.	Delhi	2	17.70	9.99	6	55.01	37.30	14	504.00	449.02
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0.00	1	5.00	1.50	3	49.50	16.90
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00	1	17.00	5.10	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	26.18	9.09	3	78.61	55.98	2	7.87	6.30
Total		363	8667.17	4681.15	209	5609.35	3318.95	212	11121.10	8680.93

**Dues of IA**

898. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount outstanding against the clients who hired aircraft for commercial purposes from Indian Airlines as on date;

(b) the details of the defaulters against whom dues are outstanding; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government till date to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The total outstanding against hiring of aircraft as on 31st March, 2003 for Indian Airlines was as Rs. 10.05 crores as per the details given below:

Particulars	(Rs. in crores)
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) (For VIP Charters)	7.48
Ministry of Defence (MOD) (Charter for movement of Defence personnel)	2.33
Others	0.24
	10.05

Out of the dues of Rs. 10.05 crores as on 31st March, 2003, Rs. 9.93 crores have already been realized.

(c) The hiring of aircraft barring Government parties is generally against advance payment. For credit parties, the amount is realized in the normal course of business as per the agreed terms.

**Complaints Redressal Centre**

899. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Complaint Redressal Centre so as to redress the grievances of the labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the said centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) To redress the grievances of workers/labourers, a Public Grievance Cell is already functioning in the Ministry of Labour.

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

[English]

**Bhilai Steel Plant**

900. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) has taken any step for the peripheral development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(d) whether BSP has been paying regular dividend;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the profit earned by BSP during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following steps are taken up by Bhilai Steel Plant for peripheral development in the neighbouring villages:—

(i) Building additional classrooms to existing school buildings, compound walls, cultural halls and cultural stages.

(ii) Augmentation of water supply through hand pumps, tanks canals etc.

(iii) Construction of bridges/culverts and roads.

(iv) Organisation of health & hygiene camps

(v) Other socio-cultural activities.

(c) The amount spent under peripheral development during the last three years is as under:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	29.40 lakhs
2001-02	23.98 lakhs
2002-03	23.00 lakhs

(d) and (e) No, Sir. BSP is a unit of Steel Authority of India Limited and the payment of dividend is applicable at company level and not at the unit level.

(f) Year-wise net profit (Rounded off) of BSP for the last three years is as under:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
2000-01	342
2001-02	477
2002-03	735

[Translation]

#### **Production of Foodgrains in Tribal Areas of M.P.**

901. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains production in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh has declined as the irrigation in these areas depends on rain;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government;

(c) whether the Union Government are providing adequate quantity of foodgrains to the affected tribals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

#### **Conservation of Artefacts**

902. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Century artefacts discovered at Qutab Complex in Delhi were abandoned by the ASI; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for conservation of the said artefacts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the significant sculptures and architectural fragments, which were found during debris clearance in connection with conservation at the Qutab heritage complex, are kept in the Sub-Circle office in the Qutab area and seven selected ones out of those were shifted to Purana Qila in 1998 for display in the archaeological museum.

#### **Construction of Dam at Lalpur in Gujarat**

903. SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat and the Union Government have taken any initiatives to construct the Dam at Lalpur in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and by when the Dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has informed that after obtaining clearance from the Union Government, works on Lalpur project were taken up by the State Government in September, 1979. However, the project affected persons opposed to the proposed project approached the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat. As per the judgement of the Hon'ble Court of Gujarat, consensus with the project affected persons is required for implementing the project. Due to lack of consensus, the State Government has not been able to restart the project work.

#### **Reservation for OBCs**

904. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in various Departments, Autonomous Officers, Subsidiary and attached officers of the Ministry of Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in a number of instances the OBC staff strength is far less than the required strength particularly in Group A and B; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The job opportunities for persons belonging to OBC classes in Ministry of Agriculture are based on the instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel & Training. The salient features of these instructions, at present, are:—

- (1) 27% of civil posts/services under Government of India is to be filled through direct recruitment from persons belonging to OBCs.
- (2) Candidates belonging to OBCs recruited on the basis of merit in an open competition on the same standards prescribed for general candidates shall not be adjusted against the reservation quota of 27%.
- (3) The reservation orders apply also to Scientific and Technical posts upto and including the lowest grade of Group 'A' in respective services.
- (4) Orders for reservation for OBCs are applicable to Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous bodies/Attached and Subordinate officers/Statutory and Semi-Government bodies.

(c) and (d) The shortfall in OBC staff strength is mainly on account of initial operation of the post based roster w.e.f. 2.7.97 due to which the existing appointments have been plotted against each point of roster starting with earliest appointee. In post based roster, the points at which reservation for different categories applies are fixed and the same are to be filled up when the reserved post/vacancy becomes available. Accordingly, the posts earmarked for OBCs as per the reservation roster are being filled up.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Airstrips in Uttaranchal**

905. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airstrips proposed to be expanded in Uttaranchal;
- (b) whether the Government propose to develop Pithoragarh and Jollygrant airstrips through private sector participation in view of their tourists potential;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop airstrip near Pant Nagar University in Uttaranchal to "A" grade status; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Airport at Dehradun of Airports Authority of India (AAI) is proposed to be developed for operation of AB-320 type of aircraft.

(b) There is no proposal at present to develop these airports through private sector participation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **International Convention Centre at Kovalam in Kerala**

906. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to set up an International Convention Centre at Kovalam in Kerala to conduct meetings, exhibitions, seminars and conventions of international level to attract domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala as Heritage city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Garbage Threat for Nesting Turtles**

907. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that garbages deposited near Rushikulya river mouth in Orissa has posed serious threat to mass nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley Sea Turtles scheduled to commence next month; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government well in advance to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden of Orissa, no garbage has been deposited in the beach strip near Rushikulya river mouth which could cause threat to mass nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley Sea Turtles scheduled to commence next month.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Setting up of FPI with Foreign Collaboration**

908. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether there is adequate scope for setting up of Food Processing Industries specially based on Mango and other fruits in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up such industries with foreign collaboration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total number of Food Processing Industries set up during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any industry on its own. However, the Ministry provide assistance under the Plan Scheme for setting

up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Industries which may have foreign collaboration also.

(d) Food Processing Industries are both in Organised and Un-organised sector. As such, the information of total number of Food Processing Industries is not available centrally. However, as per FPO (Fruits Products Order, 1955) administered by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, there are 5875 Licensees in the country as on 1.1.2003. State-wise break up of the units are given in enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Number of Food Processing Industries licensed under FPO, 1955 till 1.1.2003*

States	Number of units
1	2
Maharashtra	1120
Goa	184
Madhya Pradesh	107
Chhattisgarh	28
Gujarat	381
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	8
Andhra Pradesh	392
Tamil Nadu	300
Kerala	479
Karnataka	353
Pondicherry	15
Orissa	60
West Bengal	365
Assam	30
Jharkhand	30
Manipur	10
Meghalaya	18
Tripura	05
Mizoram	04
Nagaland	06
Arunachal Pradesh	04



1	2
Sikkim	05
Bihar	45
Delhi	340
U.P.	454
Uttaranchal	70
Chandigarh	59
Haryana	210
Himachal Pradesh	115
Punjab	401
Rajasthan	180
Jammu & Kashmir	93
Andaman & Nicobar Island	04
Total	5875

[English]

#### **Inclusion of Mayong and Pobitora as Tourism Circuits**

909. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Mayong and Pobitora Wild Life Sanctuary as tourism circuits for domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated cost involved and the amount allocated therefor during the current year; and

(c) the steps initiated in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified North-East Circuit covering following places namely, Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalukpong-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima, during 2002-2003. At present, the Government does not propose to include Mayong and Pobitora in this Circuit.

#### **Regulation for Helicopter Operation**

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

(a) whether no regulations existed earlier to regulate operation of helicopters in the domestic aviation sector both the Government and the private operators;

(b) whether the Government have appointed a committee to draft regulations for helicopter operations in the country;

(c) whether the report of the committee has been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations made by this committee; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure in and around the airports particularly for the places of tourist interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Regulatory framework in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for maintenance and operations of commercial as well as general aviation helicopters already exists.

(b) to (d) A Group of Officers has been formed in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to review the existing regulatory framework for helicopters and introduce necessary amendments in consultation with helicopter operators in the country. The Group would also look into issues relating to maintenance, training and operations of helicopters/helicopters pilots.

(e) There is a plan to introduce helicopter services between Sahar Airport to City Centre near Nariman Point in Mumbai. A location for heliport at Mumbai airport has already been identified. Airports Authority of India has been asked to identify areas in and around other airports in the country.

#### **Waiving of Interest on Crop Loans**

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

(a) whether the proposal for waiving interest on crop loans was submitted by the Government of Karnataka to the Union Government on September 19, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to take up relief measure for agricultural rehabilitation by way of waiving 100% of the interest burden on crop loans falling due between July 2002 and March 2003 for the purpose of repayment;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to stand guarantee to the extent of 60% in favour of NABARD;

(d) whether the Union Government has been requested to share the 50% of the interest burden on crop amounting to Rs. 63.50 crore;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have not so far released the money;

(f) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(g) by when the said money is likely to be released to the State Government?

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

(e) to (g) On the basis of decision taken by the Government of India, the guidelines covering the interest waiver scheme including the modalities for reimbursement of the waived amount of interest have already been issued by Reserve Bank of India/NABARD to the banks in the drought affected states including Karnataka. Main features of the scheme are as follows:—

- (i) Deferment of the interest due in the current financial year (2002-03) on Kharif crop loans by the banks in such a way that the first installment of interest repayment is 20% of the deferred interest.
- (ii) Waiver of first year's deferred interest (i.e. 20%) by the banks as a one time measure; and
- (iii) Reimbursement of this amount to the banks by the Government of India.

#### **Low Cost Airlines**

912. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some applications for providing point-to-point airlines services by private operators are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Airport Security by CISF**

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

(a) the State-wise location of Airports where security has since been handed over to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF); and

(b) by when the remaining Airports are likely to be provided with CISF security cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) CISF is to be deployed at all operational airports in a phased manner. So far CISF has been deployed in 47 airports and the state-wise location of the airports is given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Induction of CISF at AAI Airports Till date*

Sl. No.	State	Name of Airport
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati
2.	Assam	Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat
3.	Bihar	Patna, Gaya
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
5.	Goa	Goa
6.	Gujarat	Vadodara, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Bhuj
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Bhuntar
8.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
9.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Mangalore,
10.	Kerala	Cochin, Calicut Trivandrum
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Gwalior, Khajuraho
12.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai
13.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar

1	2	3
14. Punjab	Amritsar	
15. Rajasthan	Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur	
16. Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Madurai	
17. Tripura	Agartala	
18. U.T.	Port Blair, Chandigarh, Delhi	
19. Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi	
20. West Bengal	Bagdogra, Kolkata	

**Rehabilitation Scheme for Encroachers of Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan**

914. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai High Court has once again issued directives in October/November, 2003 regarding rehabilitation proposal of encroachers of Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of encroachers and their response to the Rehabilitation Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Mumbai High Court by their order dated 15th September 2003 in Writ Petition No. 305/95 has issued directives regarding rehabilitation proposal of encroachers of Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udyan.

(b) The directives of the High Court are mentioned below:

(1) that the eligible encroachers with respect to the voters list of 1st January 1995, who have not yet deposited the amount of Rs. 7000/-, to avail the benefit of rehabilitation, should deposit the amount before 15th December 2003.

(2) that all the encroachments in Sanjay Gandhi National Park should be removed before 15th March 2004.

(c) The total number of eligible encroachers is around 33000. So far, upto 2-12-2003, only 11092 encroachers have deposited the amount, out of which 7281 have been allotted plots in village Shirdhon and 619 in Badlapur and Ambarnath. There is no response regarding shifting

from encroachers from the present site as the new site, according to them, is far away from Mumbai.

**Bonded Children**

915. SHRI ALAKESH DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of bonded children brought to the notice of the Government during the past three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any discrimination amongst child bondage and adult bondage. No separate data on child bondage is maintained. However, the number of bonded labourers including child-bonded labourers identified and released by the State Governments during the last three years—year-wise and state-wise is given in enclosed statement.

(b) Adequate rehabilitation packages are provided to released bonded labourers including child bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and other poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in States. In addition, two schemes exclusively for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations have been launched. Under the Scheme of NCLPs, 100 National Child Labour Projects have been started in 13 child labour endemic states to provide formal/non-formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health care etc. for the children withdrawn from work.

**Statement**

*Number of Bonded Labourers including child bonded labourers released from bondage during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given below*

Year	State	No. of bonded labourers (including bonded child labourers) released
1	2	3
2000-01	Arunachal Pradesh	1576
	Rajasthan	24
	Tamil Nadu	3656
2001-02	Bihar	28
	Haryana	7
	Maharashtra	14
	Karnataka	36

1	2	3
	Tamil Nadu	3844
2002-03	Bihar	125
	Chhattisgarh	124
	Haryana	21
	Karnataka	1854
	Maharashtra	5
	Punjab	69

#### **Modernisation of Tungabhadra Canal**

916. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any assistance to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of Tungabhadra Canal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No proposal for providing assistance for modernisation of Tungabhadra Canal has been received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

#### **Sex Tourism**

917. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has urged the Government to prevent the so-called "Sex Tourism", the practice by foreign tourists, taking short-term bridges; and

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

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

(b) The Government has suitably advised Indian Missions in the Gulf region to exercise due care, wherever possible, while issuing visas.

[Translation]

#### **Vacancy in Reserved Category**

918. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 4448 and 941 on April 21, 2003 and July 28, 2003 respectively and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite information in respect of both the Unstarred Question Nos. 4448 and 941 was collected and final reply in respect to both the assurances were forwarded to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs vide this Department's Office Memorandum No. H-11016/8/2003-Admn. I dated 8.10.2003 and Office Memorandum No. H-11016/10/2003-Admn. I dated 29.9.2003 respectively. Copies of these references are given in the Statement-I and II enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Statement I**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Transport Bhavan  
Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110001

No. H-11016/8/2003-Admn. I Dated: 8.10.2003

#### **OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Assurance given during the 12th Session, 2003 of XIII of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4448 dated 21.4.2003

The undersigned is directed to refer to OM No. F.XIII-XII/Tourism (10) 4448-LS/2003 dated 20.5.2003 on the above mentioned subject and to send 15 copies (English and Hindi version) of the implementation statement for the fulfillment of the assurance.

This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Culture.

Sd/-

(Kuldeep Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government to India

The Under Secretary,  
Ministry of Parliament Affairs,  
86, Parliament House,  
New Delhi.

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch), 227, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.
2. Parliament Assistant, Department of Tourism, New Delhi for information.

Sd/-

(Kuldeep Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government to India

Ministry of Tourism and Culture		Department of Tourism		Date of Fulfilment	
Q.No. Date & Name of M.P.(s)	Subject	Promise made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for delay	
1	2	3	4	5	
USQ No. 4448 dated 21.4.2003 by Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan	(a) the total number of employees belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) under category A, B, C, and D in the departments and undertakings under his Ministry at present, category- wise;	(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h): Information is being collected and would be placed on the table of the House.	(a) Group A 14 Group B 11 Group C 60 Group D 57	It took some time to collect accurate information.	
	(b) the percentage of reservation provided to the OBCs in the Union Government services;		(b) 27%		
	(c) whether the reservation quota of OBCs has been completely filled up in the departments and undertakings under his Ministry;		(c) No, Sir.		
	(d) if not, the reasons therefor;		(d) For OBCs reservation is available only in direct recruitment. This requires clearance from Screening Committee. Once direct recruit vacancies are cleared by Screening Committee, vacancies kept for OBCs will be reported to SSC for recruitment. In certain cases nominations are awaited from SSC. As regards ITDC, there is		

1	2	3	4	5
				complete ban on fresh recruitment due to ongoing disinvestment.
	(e) by when the reservation quota for the said classes is likely to be filled up;		(e)	After getting clearance from Screening Committee and as soon as nominations received from SSC.
	(f) whether there is a provision of reservation for the OBCs at the time of their promotion also;		(f)	No, Sir.
	(g) if so, whether the posts reserved for OBCs are filled up by general category candidates in case the candidates belonging to OBC are not available; and		(g)	Does not arise.
	(h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?		(h)	Does not arise.

**Statement II**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Transport Bhavan  
Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110001

Dated: 29.9.2003

No. H-11016/10/2003-Admn. I

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** Assurance given during the XIII Session, 2003 of XIII of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 941 dated 28.7.2003

The undersigned is directed to refer to OM No. XIII-XIII/Tourism (1) USQ 941-LS/2003 dated 7.8.2003 on the above subject and to send 15 copies (English and Hindi version) of the implementation Statements for the fulfillment of the assurance.

This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Tourism.

Sd/-

(Kuldeep Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government to India

Ministry of Parliament Affairs,  
(Shri Vijay Khanna, Under Secretary),  
86, Parliament House,  
New Delhi.

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch), 322, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.
2. Parliament Assistant, Department of Tourism, New Delhi for information.

Sd/-

(Kuldeep Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government to India

*Date of fulfilment*

Q.No. Date & Name of M.P.(s)	Subject	Promise made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for delay
USQ No. 941 dated 28.7.2003 by Shri	OBCs, SCs and STs employees Asking for:— (a) the total number of employees working in the departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture category- wise; and	(a) & (b) Information is being collected and would be placed on the table of the House.	(a) The total number of employees working in the Departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture category-wise are as follows:—  Group      Sanctioned strength  A              538  B              383  C              2161  D              1404  (b) The number of employees belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs separately out of them category-wise are as follows:—  Group    SC    ST    OBC  A        63    13    13  B        60    12    08  C        432   47    71  D        542   53    62	It took some time in collection of accurate information.

**Assistance for Agriculture Sector**

919. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from the Members of Parliament and farmers etc. from Bihar seeking assistance for agriculture sector during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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.

[English]

**Discovery of a Stupa**

920. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three thousand year old stupa was discovered at Mahiedal in Sopai basin of Birbhum district of West Bengal during digging for a railway line;

(b) if so, whether this was destroyed due to careless digging;

(c) whether, earlier, the Research Department of the Archaeological Survey of India had discovered the evidence of an agricultural community at the same site; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for proper excavation of India, antiquity?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No three thousand years old stupa was discovered at Mahisdal in Kopai Basin of Birbhum district, West Bengal during digging for a railway line. However, the Archaeological Survey of India excavated the site in 1963-64 and found there two cultural periods, viz. Period-I, representing a Chalcolithic culture (agricultural community) characterized by the finds of plain as well as painted pottery of black-and-red as well as red and black wares; microlithic tools; a flat copper celt; terracottas; bone objects; beads of semi-precious stones and steatite; bangles; and remains of huts and floors; and Period-II containing iron implements; iron slag, new buff and gray wares in addition to the continuation of the preceding traits.

(d) Since the sequence of archaeological cultures at Mahisdal has been established there is no proposal for further excavation at the site.

#### **Opening of Science Museums**

921. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some new Science Museums in the country;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an apex body of Science Museums/Centres runs 28 Science Museums/Centres in different part of the country. This year the NCSM has set up the following Science Centres which are run by the respective State/U.T. Governments:—

1. Science Centre, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. Science Centre, Aizwal, Mizoram

Further, the NCSM is developing the following Science Museums/Centres, which will be run by the respective State Governments:

1. Sub-Regional Science Centre, Dimapur, Nagaland
2. Sub-Regional Science Centre, Imphal, Manipur
3. Sub-Regional Science Centre, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
4. Sub-Regional Science Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya
5. Sub-Regional Science Centre, Gangtok, Sikkim
6. Maharashtra Ranjit Singh Panorama, Amritsar, Punjab
7. Kalpana Chawla Planetarium, Kurukshetra, Haryana

The NCSM has also taken up the construction of Regional Science City, Lucknow, which will be run by the NCSM itself.

The cost of each of the Sub-Regional Science Centre projects in the North-East region is Rs. 2.00 crores, to be shared by Government of India and the respective State Government in the ratio of 90:10. The cost of the Regional Science City, Lucknow would be Rs. 19.70 crores, which is to be shared by the Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh State Government. The Maharaja Ranjit Singh Panorma, Amritsar would cost Rs. 5.00 crores and the entire cost will be borne by the Government of India. The Kalpana Chawla Planetarium would cost Rs. 6.50 crores to be equally shared by the Government of India and State Government.

#### **Committee on Air Space Management**

922. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI E.M. SUDARSHANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to strength the Air Space Management in the Indian skies;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of the committee members and the terms of reference;

(c) whether the proposed Air Space Management will be on the lines of the International standard;



(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the countries where it is presently followed;

(e) whether the Airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore have already been identified where are space would be opened for civil flights; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat to discuss various issues pertaining to management and security of Indian airspace. Shri Arvind Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Shri L.C. Goyal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Joint Secretary Ministry of Civil Aviation. Shri Satendra Singh, Director General of Civil Aviation, Shri T.K. Mitra, Commissioner, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Shri K. Ramalingam, Member (Planning), Airports Authority of India and AVM PP Rajkumar, ACAS, Indian Air Force are the coordination and cooperation in managing airspace and airspace security in India; (b) Suggesting measures for flexible use of airspace while keeping in view the international changes and commitments; (c) Integration of civil-military radars and related infrastructure; (d) Optimum human resource utilization for effective airspace management; (e) Creation of Joint Control & Analysis Centre at all airports in India and (f) Any other issue vital to airspace management and security in India.

(c) and (d) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) have laid down international standards and recommended practices for airspace management. India and other contracting states with ICAO are required to follow these recommended practices and international standards.

(e) and (f) The airspace for the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore is already open for civil flights and the airspace for the new airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore would also be open for civil flights.

#### **Revival of IISCO**

923. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal for revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO);

(b) the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the present financial position of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Implementation of rehabilitation proposal as approved by the Government has been initiated as follows:

(i) Grant of Rs. 186 crores for financing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Kulti Works as a prelude to its closure has been given. Kulti Works is now closed and 2544 employees have been separated through VRS.

(ii) Govt. Guarantees of Rs. 431 crores (Rs. 341 crores for Capital Expenditure+Rs. 90 crores for VRS) have been provided for raising money for financing VRS in Bumpur Works and Collieries & Mines as well as for Capital Expenditure in these units. Funds amounting to Rs. 64 crores have been raised against the Govt. Guarantee provided so far.

(iii) Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan of Rs. 44.68 crores (including interest) and Joint Plant Committee (JPC) dues of Rs. 18.49 crores have been waived.

(c) During April-September' 2003, Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO) has incurred a net loss of Rs. 43 crores as compared to Rs. 100 crores during the same period of last year.

#### **Water Conservation in Himalayas**

924. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for water conservation in the Himalayas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, a water resources projects including schemes for water conservation are planned, executed and maintained by the concerned State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. However, the Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development. The Himalayan Rivers Development component of the Perspective Plan envisages construction of storages on

the principal tributaries of Ganga and the Brahmaputra in India and Nepal, along with interlinking canal systems to transfer surplus flows of the eastern tributaries of the Ganga to the West, apart from linking of the main Brahmaputra and its tributaries with the Ganga and Ganga with Mahanadi with additional irrigation benefits of about 22 million ha and hydel power generation of about 30 million Kilowatt besides providing flood control etc.

#### **New Pension Scheme**

925. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a New Pension Scheme has been evolved to replace the existing pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many trade unions have been opposing this scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government approved on 23rd August, 2003 the proposal to implement the budget announcement of 2003-04 relating to introduction of a new restructured defined contribution pension system. The new pension scheme will apply only to new entrants to Government service except to the Armed Forces personnel and offer a basket of pension choices. It will also be available, on a voluntary basis to all persons including self employed professionals and others in the unorganised sector. This new pension scheme is to be based on defined contribution, shared equally in the case of contribution from the Government in respect of individuals who are not Government employees. the new pension scheme will be portable, allowing transfer of the benefits in case of change of employment and will go into 'individuals pension account' with pension funds. The mandatory programmes under the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and other special Provident Funds would continue to operate as per the existing system under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and other special Acts governing these funds.

(c) and (d) Government has received no representation from Trade Unions.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Poor Flooring at Hyderabad Airport**

926. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flooring at Hyderabad airport has been totally revamped;

(b) if so, whether the use of sub-standard, unsuitable material and poor finishing have made the flooring at arrival lounge slippery and dangerous;

(c) if so, the reason for use of such a poor quality material;

(d) whether huge costs were incurred in revamping the flooring; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such wasteful expenditure in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. Only the Domestic Arrival, International Departure and Arrival areas have been replaced with vitrified tile flooring.

(b) Vitrified tiles at arrival hall is in use for more than a year now. Visitors and passengers have recorded their appreciation on the type of flooring provided. No complaint whatsoever, has so far been received neither on the material used nor on the finishing.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1.60 crore only has been spent for change of flooring for ground and first floor of Rajiv Gandhi Terminal Building at Hyderabad.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of National Seeds Grid**

927. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Seeds Grid by linking all National and State

seed producing agencies to ensure that seeds are available on demand by States or farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said grid is likely to be set up and start functioning;

(d) whether there are also plans to produce seeds at State and district level and to create seed villages for seeds replacement; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Seeds Grid would provide information of the requirement, production and distribution of seeds on a district-wise basis through a computerized network.

(c) By the end of 10th Plan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Seed Village Programme is being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) for the production of certified seeds of oilseeds and pulse crops. For which assistance of Rs. 500 per qtl. is provided to the seed producing farmers.

#### **Prices of Steel**

928. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of steel have gone up during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government for lowering the prices of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) There has been no general increase in the domestic prices of steel during the last three months as compared to the prices prevailing in August, 2003.

(c) In a deregulated environment, prices are determined by the free interplay of forces of demand and

supply. Government does not intervene in the market to influence prices.

#### **Damage to Konark Temple**

929. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to check the damage caused to Konark Temple by the sea breeze and sand?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): The green belt along the sea coast and the garden around the temple have considerably checked the damage caused to Konark Temple by the sea breeze and sand. Besides, the Archaeological Survey of India periodically undertakes conservation measures to remove injurious salts from the stone fabric of the temple and coats it with preservative to minimize the damage.

#### **Setting up of National Kisan Commission**

930. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Kisan Commission to encourage experiments in farming, promoting agricultural investments and study peasant problems at macro level;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken final decision in this regard;

(c) if so, by when the National Kisan Commission is likely to come into existence; and

(d) if not, 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 (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement during his Independence day's speech this year Government is contemplating to constitute a National Kisan Commission at the earliest to encourage experiments in farming, promoting agricultural investment and study and mitigate various problems of Indian farmers. Government is currently engaged in working out the modalities.

**Discrimination against Women Workers**

931. DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether women workers in textile and food processing industries are being discriminated with stagnant wages rates and unhealthy working conditions; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to impart training to women to upgrade their skills to enable them adapt to changing technology to avoid gender discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation of minimum wages for different categories of workers, and their periodical revision by the respective State Governments. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration for men and women workers. The Acts do not make any distinction on the basis of sex. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers.

(b) The training programmes for textile workers meant for upgradation of skill are provided according to the specific area/sector where skill upgradation can lead to higher income making ability and the training programmes do not discriminate on gender basis.

Women are encouraged to get training in Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTCs) with a view to upgrading skills and instil confidence in them to engage themselves profitably in food processing industries.

[Translation]

**Mumbai-Shanghai Flight**

932. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with China in October 2003 to introduce Air India flight service from Mumbai to Shanghai in order to strengthen the trade and tourist relations;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed in this regard;

(c) the details of the benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(d) the number of flights likely to be operated monthly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Although no agreement with China was signed in October, 2003; the existing air services arrangements between India and China, arrived at in 1997, provides that designated airlines of both sides can operate two services each per week in each direction. China Eastern Airlines is presently operating twice weekly services to Delhi. Air India will also commence operations to Shanghai effective 11 December, 2003, with twice weekly services.

**Sutluj Yamuna Link Canal Project**

933. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to complete Sutluj Yamuna Link Canal Project by completing the remaining work on the project in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount required for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 15th January, 2002 regarding the completion of the Sutluj Yamuna Link Canal in Punjab territory, are binding on the parties, which include the Union Government.

(b) It involves finalizing an agency for execution of the works as well as seeking the full cooperation of the Government of Punjab for timely completion of the works.

(c) The Government of Punjab has indicated the rough estimated cost of completion of the canal is about Rs. 715 crore, excluding past liabilities of about Rs. 85 crore.

*[English]***Expansion of IA**

934. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the fleet acquisition plan of Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the Boeing has offered a reduction in the prices quoted earlier which was higher than the bid of Airbus Industries Consortium;

(c) whether the guidelines issued by Central Vigilance Commission on tenders floated by public sector companies permit negotiations only with the lowest bidder;

(d) if so, whether Indian Airlines has already cleared the proposal of Airbus; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not accepting the revised offer of the Boeing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Project Report of Indian Airlines for acquisition of 43 new aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 is under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The aircraft evaluation and the recommendations for the acquisition of 43 new Airbus aircraft are based on the revised financial bids received from all aircraft and engine manufactures.

**Categorisation of Pilots as "Workmen"**

935. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second National Labour Commission in its report recommended that the better off sections of

employees like the airline pilots cannot be categorised as ordinary "workmen";

(b) if so, whether the Indian Airlines and Air India pilots continue to seek protection as "workmen" when on strike;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the recommendation made by the Second National Labour Commission; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to change the relative law to remove better off employees such as pilots from "workmen" category thereby making their strike illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration of Government in consultation with concerned agencies.

**Air Ticket Booking Facilities In Districts**

936. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the district headquarters having booking facilities of one or more airlines, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide such booking facilities in the major cities of States where air services are minimum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) State-wise list of On-line/Off-line booking offices of Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines Ltd. is given in the statement enclosed.

In addition to these booking offices locations, facility for effecting reservations/bookings is also provided through a number of Passenger Sales Agency/Travel agency locations available in various Cities/Towns through Computerised Reservations System Connectivity.

(b) and (c) Opening of booking offices of airlines in any district/place is subject to the commercial requirements of the airlines. It is, therefore, not essential that airlines have their booking offices in each district or every State.

**Statement*****State-wise list of On-Line/Off-Line Booking Offices of Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines Ltd.***

Name of the State	On-Line/Off-Line Offices of Air India	Booking Offices of Indian Airlines
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	Port Blair
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Hyderabad, Vizag, Tirupati, Vijayawada
Assam	Guwahati	Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari
Bihar	—	Patna, Gaya
Chhattisgarh	—	Raipur, Bhilai
Delhi	Delhi	Delhi
Goa	Goa	Goa
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Baroda, Anand Rajkot, Surat	Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Rajkot
Jammu & Kashmir	—	Jammu, Srinagar, Leh
Jharkhand	—	Ranchi
Karnataka	Bangalore, Mangalore	Mangalore, Hubli, Bangalore, Mysore
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Calicut, Mallapuram, Kannur, Trichur, Tiruvalla	Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Cochin, Calicut
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore
Meghalaya	—	Shillong
Maharashtra	Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur	Mumbai, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune
Manipur	—	Imphal
Mizoram	—	Aizwal
Nagaland	—	Dimapur
Orissa	—	Bhubaneswar
Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar	Amritsar
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur
Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore	Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Madurai, Trichy
Tripura	—	Agartala
Chandigarh (U.T.)	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur	Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi
West Bengal	Kolkata	Kolkata, Siliguri, Darjiling, Bagdogra

**International Flights by Sahara Airlines**

937. SHRI AMBAREESHA:  
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted permission to Sahara Airlines to start its international flights;

(b) if so, the date on which the said permission was granted;

(c) whether some other domestic airlines have also requested the Government for permission to operate international flights;

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

(e) whether Air Sahara has announced flights to Sri Lanka;

(f) if so, the points of origin and termination of these flights;

(g) whether Air Sahara flights to Colombo on November 8, 2003 was not cleared by DGCA; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) No private airlines, including Airlines, have so far been granted permission to start international flights. However action is at hand to give effect to the Joint Statement issued during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, which provides for operations of private domestic airlines to Sri Lanka.

(g) and (h) The non-revenue chartered flight proposed by Sahara Airlines on 8.11.2003 was not cleared as it did not meet the required advance notice period of seven working days for operation of such flights. However, Sahara Airlines were allowed to operate this flight on 14.11.2003.

**Agricultural Policy**

938. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been actively considering to bring about major changes in its agricultural policy and also propose more private sector involvement;

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

(c) whether the views of the State Governments have been sought before introducing the new agricultural policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Government had announced the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) recently i.e. in the year 2000, after having consultations with the State Governments and other stake holders. NAP is very comprehensive which inter-alia seeks to promote private sector participation to allow accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets for crop production.

**Information Boards at Monuments**

939. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is undertaking a project in Delhi to install information boards at heritage buildings explaining their historical and architectural significance;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether monuments in other parts of the country are also proposed to be covered under the said project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The INTACH Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd. (DTTDC) has undertaken a project in Delhi to install signages (information boards) in some of the Heritage Buildings explaining their historical and architectural significance. Subsequent to the successful completion of installing signages in the selected Heritage buildings in Chandni Chowk, the INTACH Delhi Chapter collaborated with the DTTDC to install signages in 167 Heritages Buildings all over Delhi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

### **Harnessing of Surplus Water**

940. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have opposed harnessing of surplus water in river basins for linking of rivers in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To overcome the apprehension of the States opposing harnessing of surplus water in river basins for linking of rivers in the country, the Union Government has set-up a Task Force in December 2002 with a view to bring about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers.

[Translation]

### **Development of Badrinath**

941. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop the Badrinath pilgrimage centre on the lines of Vaishno Devi shrine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said project and by when it is likely to be completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Based on the field visits and discussions with the State Government, the following items have been identified for development of Badrinath:—

1. The entire area in front of the temple to be cleaned up and landscaped.

2. Elegant lighting arrangement to be made in the temple complex as well as on the bridges and the landscaped portion.

3. Another bridge to be constructed for which financial sanction has been issued separately by the State Government out of the funds made available by the XI Finance Commission. With the construction of the second bridge, a proper circulation plan to be drawn up and all the shops which are currently located on the road in front of the temple could be relocated in the nearby area on Ajanta pattern.

4. A well planned parking space would be created for the buses as well as for the vehicles at point a little ahead of Badrish Ekta Van.

5. In the building which is being wrongly constructed along the main temple and which cannot now be demolished, a proper Information-cum-Interpretation Centre, incorporating the concept of March of Indian Civilization, to be set up.

6. The hot water kunds to be re-planned and effectively cleaned and made more elegant.

7. A by-pass road to be constructed connecting it with the Mana village.

[English]

### **New Directives for Job Seekers**

942. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties of the job seekers going abroad due to the new directive stating that any individual going abroad after obtaining an individual job visa should deposit an amount equivalent to single economy class full fare in advance for the return journey;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation seeking withdrawal of the new directive;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.



(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Representations received have, inter-alia, pointed out that the requirement of depositing one way economy class airfare imposes a burden on the emigrants and affects their employment opportunities abroad.

(d) The relevant administrative instructions have been reviewed and it has been decided to withdraw this requirement w.e.f. 25.12.2003, i.e., the date from which the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2003, becomes operational.

**Distribution of Forest Land amongst  
Landless Adivasis**

943. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from Kerala to release forest land for distribution amongst the landless adivasis of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting has been held recently between the Chief Minister of Kerala and the Minister of Environment & Forests regarding the disbursement of Central forest land to the Government of Kerala;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have consented to hand over 25,000 hectares of forest land to the government of Kerala for distributing to the landless adivasis of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A proposal for diversion of 7693 ha. of vested forest land for resettlement of landless tribals in Kasargod, Kannur, Wayanad, Palakkad and Malappuram districts was received from Kerala Government in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c) Yes, Sir. In this connection, a meeting was held between the Chief Minister of Kerala and the Minister of Environment & Forests on 20.10.2003.

(d) and (e) Government have approved the proposal for diversion of 7693 ha. of vested forest land for resettlement of landless tribals in the State of Kerala.

[Translation]

**Committee for Agricultural Marketing**

944. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee was set up for strengthening and development of agricultural marketing;

(b) if so, the date on which the said committee was constituted and the date on which it submitted its report;

(c) the salient features of the report of the said committee and the benefits accrued after implementation of its report;

(d) whether the Government propose to take assistance from the private companies in this task; 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 Expert Committee on strengthening and developing of Agricultural Marketing was set up by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation on 19.12.2000. The Expert Committee submitted its report on 29.06.2001.

(c) The Committee in its Report has suggested several reforms measures for the development and strengthening of the agricultural marketing in country. Important recommendations made are as follows:—

(i) Government needs to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in country.

(ii) Government needs to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.

- (iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and future trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.
- (iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to improve price risk management.
- (v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with facility of concessional re-finance.
- (vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information, (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

The recommendations made by the Expert Committee were examined by an Inter-Ministerial Task Force Constituted by this Ministry on 4.7.2001. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force in its report on 28.6.2002 has inter alia recommended that all the State Governments should amend the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulations Act (APMC Act) to provide specifically for the following:—

- (i) Enabling private and cooperative sectors to establish and operate (including levy of service charge) agriculture marketing infrastructure and supporting services.
- (ii) District marketing of agricultural commodities from producing area's and farmer's fields, without the necessity of going through licensed traders and regulated markets.
- (iii) Permitting "Contract farming" programs by processing or marketing firms. The APMC within whose jurisdiction the area covered by contract farming agreement lies, should record the contract farming agreements and act as a protector of producer's and processor's interests with due legal support in its jurisdiction.
- (iv) Rationalization of levy of market fee by introducing single point levy of market fee in the entire process of marketing in the State.

Levy of market fee should be more in the nature of service charge based on the quality of services provided.

The report of the inter-Ministerial Task Force was circulated to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for taking further necessary action in the matter as the subject matter falls within the purview of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The recommendations of the Task Force were also discussed with the State Governments in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27.9.2002 and later by the Standing Committee of State Ministers on 29.1.2003, wherein this Ministry was requested to formulate a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing in order to guide the States in implementing the reforms. Accordingly, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing. The Model law has been sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations for follow up action.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Housing of Nizam's Jewels**

945. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh made a request to the Union Government for permanent display/exhibit of famed Nizam's collection of jewels at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, when was the request received by the Union Government;

(c) the present status of the request; and

(d) the space earmarked in Hyderabad for exhibition of the collections?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh vide his letter dated 8.3.2001 had requested the

Prime Minister of India for the permanent display of the Nizam's jewels at Khilawat Mahal at Chow Mohalla Palace in Hyderabad. However, from the point of view of security, a site adjacent to the Salarjung Museum was found more suitable. Subsequently the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh vide his letter dated 3rd July, 2003 has suggested that the Jewels may be displayed permanently at a new site at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, where a Gems and Jewellery Park is being set up.

A final decision on permanent display of these jewels and its probable location can be taken only after safety and security aspects of the jewels as also the expenditure involved are thoroughly examined in consultation with all authorities concerned.

#### **Conference of Labour Ministers**

946. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day conference of Labour Ministers was held recently;

(b) if so, the main observations and decisions made at the Conference;

(c) whether various State Governments including Maharashtra Government have made any recommendation for promotion of interests of the unorganised sector of labour including the farm labour; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) The 39th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held on 16th to 18th October, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The representatives of Central Trade Unions, Employers Organisations and State Governments including Maharashtra participated in the Conference. Some of the State Governments were represented by their Labour Ministers. Amongst various issues, the issue of enactment of a comprehensive legislation for the unorganised sector workers and their social security needs was also discussed. The Conference recommended enactment of the legislation for the unorganised sector workers for providing them social security and labour protection.

#### **Supply of Levy Rice to A.P.**

947. 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 to increase the quality of levy rice to be taken by the rice mills in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested that the percentage for delivery of levy rice by millers/dealers to the Central Pool under the State Levy Order may be increased from the existing 50% to 75%.

(c) The request of the State Government has not been accepted by the Central Government. However, the State Government has been allowed to deliver an additional quantity of 1.5 lakh M.T. of levy rice in excess of 50% levy during the current Kharif marketing season 2003-04.

[Translation]

#### **Interest Relief to Farmers**

948. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced interest relief to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith nature of loans covered therein;

(c) whether this relief measures only covers the short-term loans;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received proposals from the farmers who have availed long-term loans to be covered under this scheme;

(e) if so, whether the Government have reconsidered their proposal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

Government of India has announced interest relief to the farmers by deciding to waive the first year's deferred liability of interest on Kharif 2002 crop loans as a one time measure in the drought affected states. Accordingly, the Reserve bank of India/NABARD has issued guidelines to the banks regarding the interest waiver scheme in the drought affected states. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) Banks shall provide relief by way of partial interest waiver to eligible borrowers of Kharif (2002) loan and defer the interest due in the current financial year (2002-03) on Kharif crop loans in such a way that the first installment of interest repayment would be 20% of the deferred interest. This installment of deferred interest shall be completed waived as a one time measure. The deferred interest which is to be waived by banks as per government announcement, will be reimbursement by the Government of India.
- (ii) All farmers in a drought affected area notified by the state government and eligible for conversion/rescheduling of Kharif 2002 crop loans would be eligible for aforesaid interest waiver.
- (iii) The banks should finalize the cases of rescheduling of Kharif 2002 crop loans into term loans as per the standard guidelines. Then the amount of first year's interest liability, to be waived, is to be computed out of the deferred amount. The farmers who are not eligible for rescheduling of their Kharif 2002 loans will not be eligible for interest waiver.

#### **Unpaid Amount under EPF**

949. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total unpaid amount as on date in the country under Employees Provident Fund in absence of complete address of beneficiaries or non-receipt of application from them for the claim thereof;

(b) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to pay the amount deposited under EPF to labourers at the place of work itself at the time of leaving the job; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Under the head 'Unclaimed Deposit Account (i.e. the Accounts in which there has been no transaction during the last three years), the total amount of deposits as on 31.03.2003 was Rs. 6,34,56,67,218.85.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Hospitals under Steel Authority of India Limited**

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

(a) the number of hospitals functioning under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the location thereof;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate treatment facilities in the hospitals under SAIL;

(c) whether essential medicines are not always available in these hospitals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure better treatment for the steel plant employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Plant/Unit-wise number of hospitals under SAIL and location thereof are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The treatment facilities available in hospitals under SAIL are adequate and provide primary, secondary as well as tertiary level patient care. Continuous efforts are being made to upgrade the facilities.

(c) and (d) Essential medicines, including life saving medicines are available in the plant/unit hospitals. Whenever the same are not available, the employees are allowed to purchase these medicines from outside and claim reimbursement.

**Statement***Details of Hospitals under SAIL*

Plant	Name & Address of Hospitals	No. of Hospitals
Bhilai Steel Plant	Located at Plant—	
	— JLN Hospital & Research Centre, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh)	1
	Located at Mines—	
	— Rajhara	3
	— Nandini } (Chhattisgarh)	
	— Hirri }	
Bokaro Steel Plant	Bokaro General Hospital, Bokaro (Jharkhand)	1
Durgapur Steel Plant	Durgapur Hospital, Durgapur (W. Bengal)	1
Rourkela Steel Plant	Ispat General Hospital, Rourkela (Orissa)	1
Salem Steel Plant	SSP Hospital, Salem (Tamil Nadu)	1
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	VISL Hospital, Bhadravati (Karnataka)	1
Raw Material Division	Located at Mines—	
	— Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines, Kiriburu (Jharkhand)	7
	— Bolani Ore Mines, Bolani (Orissa)	
	— Barsua Iron Mines, Barsua (Orissa)	
	— Kalta Iron Mines, Kalta (Orissa)	
	— Pumapani Limestone & Dolomite Quarry, Pumapani (Orissa)	
	— Kuteshwar Limestone Mines, Kuteshwar (Madhya Pradesh)	
	— Bhawanathpur Limestone Mines, Bhawanathpur (Chhattisgarh)	

**Suicide by Farmers**

951. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who have committed suicides in different parts of the country, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year till date, State-wise;

(b) whether efforts have been made to find out the cause of these suicides;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount of compensation paid to the families of the deceased farmers during the said period; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

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

**Farmers Benefited under NAIS**

952. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of farmers benefited under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme all over the country during the current financial year as on November 30, 2003, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): The amount of admissible claims and the number of farmers benefited are calculated on the basis of yield data made available by the concerned State Government at the end of the each crop season. Since the yield data for the current crop season (i.e. Kharif 2003) has not been submitted by the implementing states, therefore, the number of farmers benefited in the current financial year has not been assessed.

**Protected Monuments**

953. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) the amount spent for the protection and maintenance of monuments being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to develop these monuments as tourist spots;

(c) whether some monuments are on the verge of collapses;

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

(e) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) In addition to regular upkeep and maintenance of the centrally protected monuments and conservation works, the Government have been undertaking the works of area development, environmental upgradation, public amenities and tourist complexes, besides creating site/period museums at selected monuments of tourist attraction.

**Statement****State-wise & Year-wise Expenditure for the last three years**

S. No.	State/Union Territory	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.29	114.39	417.16
2.	Assam	120.18	99.58	89.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	1.80	0.39
4.	Bihar	134.00	86.48	112.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	16.70	5.75
6.	Delhi	219.96	277.14	996.75

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Daman and Diu	15.00	23.61	15.69
8.	Goa	39.77	50.61	82.57
9.	Gujarat	100.67	99.59	35.36
10.	Haryana	60.00	91.85	141.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	80.00	91.11	44.45
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	112.60	145.03	121.23
13.	Jharkhand	—	4.33	8.07
14.	Karnataka	248.13	476.19	1143.68
15.	Kerala	79.50	75.12	18.26
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64	250.51	317.31
17.	Maharashtra	153.00	828.49	308.05
18.	Manipur	0.50	1.42	0.27
19.	Meghalaya	2.00	4.94	4.44
20.	Nagaland	3.00	5.67	12.92
21.	Orissa	56.03	114.73	1021.69
22.	Pondicherry (UT)	15.00	3.30	1.63
23.	Punjab	23.00	57.92	40.14
24.	Rajasthan	174.69	235.00	240.22
25.	Sikkim	20.00	27.60	32.99
26.	Tamil Nadu	110.80	187.79	233.20
27.	Tripura	5.00	17.05	20.05
28.	Uttar Pradesh	297.11	385.13	710.64
29.	Uttaranchal	—	36.52	64.13
30.	West Bengal	80.70	146.13	260.18

[Translation]

#### Welfare of Women Labourers

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the report of the Centre for Social Research, Delhi which States development and welfare

of the labourers especially the women labourers is yet to gain momentum despite the increase in the export by Textiles and Food Processing Industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The provisional figures of Census, 2001 on Work Participation Rate viz-a-viz Census, 1991 indicated in the statement enclosed suggest that there has been a significant momentum in the development and welfare of work force, especially women workforce in the country.

#### Statement

##### Work Participation Rate in India (1971-2001)

Year	Total Rural Urban	Persons	Males	Females
1971	Total	34.17	52.75	14.22
	Rural	35.33	53.78	15.92
	Urban	29.61	48.88	7.18
1981	Total	36.70	52.62	19.67
	Rural	38.79	53.77	23.06
	Urban	29.99	49.06	8.31
1991	Total	37.68	51.56	22.73
	Rural	40.24	52.50	27.20
	Urban	30.44	48.95	9.74
2001	Total	39.26	51.93	25.68
(Provisional)	Rural	41.97	52.36	30.98
	Urban	32.23	50.85	11.55

Notes: 1. Excludes Assam where the 1981 Census could not be held and Jammu & Kashmir where the 1991 Census has not been held.

2. The 1971 Census figures include workers and non-workers with secondary work. The 1981 and 1991 Census figures include main workers and marginal workers.

Source: Registrar General of Census.

#### Investment on Research and Development

955. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made in public sector regarding Research and Development (R&D) works on steel during the last three years and the results thereof;

(b) whether the Government have taken decision to promote more investment on R&D works for improvement in quality of steel keeping a view of trends of its quality and economic prices in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the latest status of the ongoing R&D projects and the projects which are lying consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The investment made by Public Sector undertakings under Ministry of Steel on Research and Development during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Investment (in Rs. crore)
2000-01	65.94
2001-02	66.91
2002-03 (upto September, 2003)	35.56

The research projects have yielded benefits in terms of process optimization, increase in productivity, improvement in quality, development of improved steel products, reduction in cost of production, energy consumption & refractory consumption and utilization of solid waste etc.

(b) and (c) To supplement Research & Development activities in the iron & steel sector, Government of India have decided to spend upto Rs. 150 crore per annum from the interest proceeds of Steel Development Fund (SDF). Accordingly, an Empowered Committee (EC) has been set up in the Ministry of Steel to approve and monitor Research and Development projects in Iron and Steel Sector. So far 29 research projects have been approved with total cost of Rs. 185.6 crore. Out of these, SDF contribution will be Rs. 88.64 crore. The research areas covered by these projects include improvement in productivity & quality and reduction in cost of production of steel.

(d) There are 15 ongoing R&D projects funded partially from SDF. Details of these are given in the Statement-I enclosed. In addition, there are 7 R&D projects under consideration for being funded from SDF. Details given in the Statement-II enclosed.

### **Statement I**

#### *List of the Ongoing R&D Projects Assisted by Steel Development Fund (SDF)*

S.No.	Name of the project
1	2
1.	Introduction of new mining methods and techniques for grounds control to enable mining of rich Manganese ore under very poor to fair grounds Conditions: by National Institute of Rock Mechanics and Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. MOIL.
2.	To study various tolerable Indian non-coking coal sources with the aim of maximizing the usage of domestic non-coking coal in the COREX process: by Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd.
3.	Production of CC Billet/Bloom of quality suitable for single-stage conversion into special Bars: by Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and Regional Development Center for Iron & Steel (RDCIS), Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Ranchi.
4.	Maximisation of blast furnace productivity with Indian iron ore: by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and RDCIS, Steel Authority of India Ltd.
5.	Improved leak proof design of door in coke oven battery at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam: by MECON Ltd.
6.	Design and development of TRIP aided ferrite-bainite steel for structural application: by B.E. College (Deemed University), Shibpur.
7.	Cold Briquetting of Iron Oxide: by Ispat Metallica India Ltd.
8.	Development of ultra high strength steel in as rolled condition through thermo mechanical controlled processing: by B.E. College, P.O. Howrah.
9.	Damage assessment and integrity of welded components: by Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
10.	Mixing and mass transfer in steel making ladles stirred with dual porous plug; a physical and mathematical model investigation: by IIT, Kanpur.



1	2
11.	Setting up of a semi pilot demonstration plant (30kg/Hr capacity) for production of synthetic rutile, pig iron & high pure ferric oxide from east coast illuminate using thermal plasma technology: by National Mineral Development Cooperation (NMDC), Hyderabad.
12.	Development of process for advanced hot dip coated products: by RDCIS, SAIL.
13.	Smelting reduction of chromite for ferro chrome/charge chrome making: by Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar.
14.	On-line implementation of Indigenously developed expert system for continuously cast products in billet caster of Modern Steel, Mandi Gobindgarh: by MECON Limited.
15.	Setting up a Mini Sinter Plant to utilize waste generated out of present pig iron plant: by Tata Metallicks, Kharagpur.

**Statement II**

*List of Pending Applications for Financial Assistance  
for R&D Work (As on 30.11.2003)*

S.No.	Name of the project
1.	Ferritic Rolling: By Ispat Industries Ltd., Mumbai.
2.	Development of a new sponge iron technology by combining shaft furnace has cyclone firing of coal: by Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar.
3.	Microbial removal of phosphorus from LD slag: by RRL, Bhubaneswar.
4.	A Center for Sheet Steel working: by Tata Iron Steel Company Ltd., Jamshedpur.
5.	Development & Characterization of Spot Welding Techniques for Coated Steel Sheets: by Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
6.	Optimized route of making sponge iron from iron ore fines and coal middlings: by Indus Electricity Ltd., Raipur, Chhattispur.
7.	Development of value added refractory products from Indian Bauxite: by Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institution in association with Indian Refractory Makers' Association, Kolkata.

[English]

**Cleaning of River Ganga and Yamuna**

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

(a) the extent of pollution in river Ganga and Yamuna at the time of launching Ganga and Yamuna Action Plan, at major cities along these rivers;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these plans so far and funds earmarked for the current fiscal year;

(c) the extent to which pollution of both these rivers have been controlled and level of pollution as on November, 10, 2003; and

(d) by when both these rivers will become pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The extent of pollution in river Ganga and Yamuna at the tie of launch of river cleaning programme and their present status as of 2003 (summer average figures) in terms of two critical parameters to assess river water quality i.e. dissolved oxygen (DO) and bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) at major cities along these rivers as per the water quality monitoring reports carried out through different reputed institutions is given in the statement enclosed. From these figures, it is observed that on completion of 294 pollution abatement schemes of Ganga river, the water quality has shown improvement over the pre-Ganga Action Plan period water quality. It is observed that in 1986, the bio-chemical oxygen demand, which is an indicator of pollution of river water quality, was ranging from 5.5 to 15.5 mg/1 (as against the standard of less than 3 mg/1) in the critical stretch of Ganga from Kannauj to Varanasi. As against this, the values of BOD in 2003 in the stretch of Kannauj to Kanpur and Allahabad to Varanasi are (1.2 to 6.1 mg/1) and (2.5 to 5.4 mg/1) respectively. Similarly, dissolved oxygen levels which indicate the health of the river were in the range of 5.6 to 6.6 mg/1 (as against the standard of greater than 5 mg/1) in 1986 in the Allahabad to Varanasi stretch and in 2003 the range improved to 7.2 to 10.0 mg/. Regarding Yamuna river, although the BOD and DO levels in Haryana are generally satisfactory in 2003, these levels are still beyond permissible limits in the States of Delhi & Uttar Pradesh. This has happened due to significant increase in the quantum of waste water generated in Delhi and other

towns of Uttar Pradesh. Also many schemes of sewage treatment plants in these States are still to be completed.

The total expenditure incurred on Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans (GAP & YAP) so far is Rs. 1189.20 crore (GAP-Rs. 597.70 crore & YAP-591.50 crore). The Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans fall under the umbrella scheme of National River Conservation Plan for which an amount of Rs. 244 crore has been earmarked for the current fiscal year.

(d) So far 294 schemes of pollution abatement for Ganga river and 254 schemes of pollution abatement for Yamuna river have been completed. The full impact of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans on the abatement of river pollution will be visible only after all the approved and planned works under the action plans are completed. The progress of these works would also depend upon matching. Plan outlay and timely availability of funds.

### **Statement**

#### *Water Quality Data for River Ganga*

(Summer Average i.e. March-June)

S. No.	State/Location	1996		2003	
		DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rishikesh	8.1	1.7	9.2	0.5
2.	Hardwar D/s	8.1	1.8	9.0	0.8
3.	Garhmukteshwar	7.8	2.2	8.2	1.2
4.	Kannauj U/S	7.2	5.5	7.9	1.2
5.	Kannauj D/S	NA	NA	6.2	3.3
6.	Kanpur U/S	7.2	7.2	6.7	3.7
7.	Kanpur D/S	6.7	8.6	4.4	6.1
8.	Allahabad U/S	6.4	11.4	10.0	4.8
9.	Allahabad D/S	6.8	15.5	7.3	3.2
10.	Varanasi U/S	5.6	10.1	7.2	2.5
11.	Varanasi D/S	5.9	10.6	8.1	5.4
12.	Palta U/S	8.4	2.0	7.5	2.0
13.	Patna D/S	8.1	2.2	7.8	2.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Rajmahal	7.8	1.8	7.5	2.2
15.	Palta	NA	NA	7.2	2.2
16.	Uluberia	NA	NA	5.6	1.9

Bathing Water Quality Criteria: DO equal to or more than 5.0 mg/l  
BOD equal to or less than 3.0 mg/l

#### *Summer Average (March-June) 1996-2003 Yamuna Action Plan*

Site		1996		2003	
		DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)
1	2	3	4	5	6

#### **A. Haryana**

1.	Tajewala	11.70	1.20	4.90	1.30
2.	Kalanaur	10.40	1.05	4.70	1.30
3.	Sonepat	9.75	3.00	7.40	1.80
4.	Palla	13.95	6.00	7.50	1.50

#### **B. Delhi**

5.	Nizamudin Bridge	0.30	25.00	—	28.80
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#### **C. Uttar Pradesh**

6.	Agra Canal	0.35	26.50	0.30	18.00
7.	Majhwali	0.50	22.00	3.90	15.80
8.	Mathura	8.10	4.00	6.90	13.30
9.	Mathura D/S	8.50	2.50	6.90	9.30
10.	Agra U/S	10.65	4.50	4.70	18.30
11.	Agra D/S	1.65	9.00	5.40	29.50
12.	Batteshwar	13.90	11.00	4.70	10.30
13.	Etawah	11.16	7.00	5.80	10.80
14.	UDI	9.71	2.00	4.30	2.80
15.	Auraiya Juhika	8.14	5.00	6.10	4.80

\*Summer average (March+April)

### **Survey of Sanctuaries and Wildlife Parks**

957. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any mechanism to conduct surveys of sanctuaries and wildlife parks for the actual presence of wildlife and their density and numbers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any requests have been received from various sections/societies/quarters for conducting census surveys of sanctuaries/wildlife parks;

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

(e) the steps proposed to assist wildlife enthusiasts and concerned people in their efforts to preserve wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments conduct census of major species of fauna in National Parks and Sanctuaries. Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments for this purpose based on the Annual Plans submitted by them. Also, Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India conduct surveys over larger landscapes including National Parks and Sanctuaries periodically.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Wildlife enthusiasts and concerned people are encouraged to carry out research projects, wildlife awareness creation and educational programmes, etc., and thus to contribute to the efforts being made to conserve wildlife.

### **Legal Ownership Certificate for People with Captive Animals**

958. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have collected country-wise data of people having captive animals or birds or any item made from them for issuing legal ownership certificates;

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

(c) by when legalised possession certificates are likely to be issued to them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the recent amendment in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Union Government have issued a Gazette Notification No. S.O. 445(E) dated 18th April, 2003 requiring any person to declare possession of captive animal, animal article, trophy or uncurled trophy derived from animals specific in Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II in his control, custody or possession, in respect of which no declaration has been made under sub section(1) or (4) of section 40. The declaration has to be made to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorized officer of the concerned State/ UT Government. The Central Government does not maintain the record of such declarations.

(c) In accordance with the above mentioned notification, the certificate of legal possession shall, as far as possible, be given within six months from the date of submission of application by the applicant.

### **Implementation of Agricultural Reforms**

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

(a) whether any meeting of Standing Committee of Union Ministers/Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports was held recently to sort out the hurt out the hurdle being faced in implementing of agricultural reforms; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) While concluding the deliberations at the conference of Chief Ministers held on 21.5.2001, the Prime Minister announced the constitution of a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agricultural Exports to consider following issues:

- (i) Enhancing the efficiency of procurement and reducing the cost of distribution under PDS through decentralized system of procurement of Foodgrains with active involvement of States.
- (ii) Implementation of food for work programme, and Grain Bank Scheme.
- (iii) Strategy for diversification in agriculture.

- (iv) Risk Management in agriculture through an effective crop insurance scheme.
- (v) Review of the list of essential commodities and control orders to ensure free movement of agricultural products.
- (vi) WTO Agreement on agriculture-Promotion of Exports of agricultural products.

The Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management on Agriculture Exports has held four meetings i.e. 1st meeting on 6.7.2001, the 2nd meeting on 5.9.2001, the 3rd meeting on 31.10.2001 and the 4th meeting on 23.3.02 respectively and has considered the above issues. Based on the recommendation of the Committee the following action has been taken:

- (1) Sampooma Grameen Rojgar Yojana has been launched since September, 1, 2001.
- (2) Eleven items in full and one in half have been deleted from the list of essential commodities under Essential Commodities act.
- (3) Various control orders have been removed to facilitate free movement of agriculture commodities.
- (4) Grain Bank Scheme has been expanded.
- (5) Controls on exports of almost all agricultural commodities excepting some commodities have been removed.
- (6) Agri-export zones are being established to boost exports of agricultural commodities.
- (7) The matter of amendment of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation & Controls) Act has been taken up with the States to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure.

#### **Implementation of Lahoti Commission's Recommendations**

960. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Justice Lahoti Commission's recommendations have been implemented by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations which have been implemented fully;

(c) the details of recommendations which have been implemented partially or which have not been implemented at all;

(d) the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the recommendations of the Justice Lahoti Commission in toto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The recommendations of Justice Lahoti Commission relating to requirement of proficiency in English language, meaningful Crew Resource Management Program (CRM), acquisition of effective CRM skill and qualities of leadership by Pilot-in-Command, governing of air-ground communications with the ATC, commissioning of ATC automated systems by Airports Authority of India (AAI), bifurcation of ATS Route G-452 by AAI, looking after the work relating to ATC matters by a Member in AAI, examining the feasibility of delinking ATS from normal organisational setup and introduction of Sectorisation controlling in approach control as well as reorganising working space in Delhi airport have been implemented. The concerned aviation agencies are already seized of the task of implementing the remaining recommendations.

#### **Gender Discrimination in IA-AI**

961. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether different parameters like difference in retirement age, embargo on marriage, medical check ups etc. are followed for male and female crew on board AI/ IA flights;

(b) if so, the retirement age of Air Hostesses in AI and IA as on date and the date since when this is in vogue;

(c) whether the embargo on marriage by Air Hostesses has been reduced to 3 years;

(d) if so, the date since when this reduction was made effective;

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be reduced or completely removed;

(f) whether the case regarding retirement age and embargo on marriage has since been decided by the court; and

(g) if so, the details there about and the salient features of the decision/observation/interim order given by the court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Retirement age of airhostesses in both Airlines is 58 years since 1989.

(c) There is no embargo on marriage for the airhostesses in Air India & Indian Airlines.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

#### **Disinvestment Process of SSP**

962. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Jindal Strips Limited and M/s Vijaynagar Steel Limited are co-related;

(b) if so, whether the said M/s. Vijaynagar Steel Limited was found involved in Demat Share Scam;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to debar M/s. Jindal Strips Limited from disinvestment process of Salem Steel Plant (SSP); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) As per available information M/s. Jindal Strips Ltd. and M/s. Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Limited are two different listed companies.

(b) M/s. Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Limited appeared in the list of "excess demat" or alleged "demat scam" but subsequently regularised the difference between the listed and demat capital.

(c) No, Sir. Government has not decided to debar M/s. Jindal Strips Ltd. from the disinvestment process of Salem Steel Plant (SSP).

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

#### **Identification of Water Rich and Poor Basins**

963. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to identify water rich and poor basins in view of linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details of such basins identified, State-wise;

(c) whether the suggestions of the Government of Kerala are sought in regard to said basins; and

(d) if so, the details including the report submitted by the Government of Kerala to the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has conducted water balance studies and has identified 23 water surplus & 11 water deficit basins. Most of these are inter-State.

(c) and (d) The Pamba & Achankovil basins/sub-basins have been identified as water surplus basins. The Kerala Government has informed that Pamba & Achankovil rivers will be water short at the ultimate stage of development as per the study carried out by Centre for Water Resource Development and Management (CWRDM), Kozhikode, Kerala.

#### **Import of Sugar in E.U.**

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

(a) whether the Government are negotiating with European Union (E.U.) to allow import of atleast one lakh tonnes of sugar into its member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the E.U. has agreed to suggestions made by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The WTO Agreement on Agriculture is presently under negotiations. One of the objectives of India during these negotiations is to seek greater market access for export of Indian agricultural products. As part of the negotiating process India is also making bilateral/plurilateral efforts with various countries/groups of countries to attain its objective of greater market access. India is having

discussions with different countries including European Union (EU) on various aspects of agricultural trade. India has sought greater market access for its agricultural products in the international market. The negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture are continuing.

#### **Development of New Seeds in Research Laboratories**

965. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase the production and quality of various varieties of wheat, cotton, sugarcane, paddy, pulses and oils seeds, new varieties of seeds have been developed in research Laboratories during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the seeds developed grain-wise;

(c) the productivity and quality thereof and their use in Agriculture sector; and

(d) the efforts made to popularise these developed seeds among the farmers?

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

(b) In the last three years more than six varieties of wheat, five of cotton, eight of sugarcane, thirteen of paddy, nineteen of pulses and twenty eight of oilseeds have been developed. Crop-wise some prominent varieties are as follows:

Wheat: HD-2733, Malviya wheat-510, Kaushambi, Aditya, GW-322. Cotton: Sumangala, Pratima, Bunny, ADCH-1. Sugarcane: Shyama, Gandak, Rashbhari, Rashmi, Jalpari, Rachana. Paddy: Vivek Dhan 62, HR1-120, Anjali, Pusa Sugandh-2, KRH-2. Pulses: Chickpea: SAK 9516, GCP 105; Pigeonpea: Pusa 992; Moongbean: PMB2, Vishal, Ganga-8. Oilseeds: Rapeseed-Mustard: Aravali, Swarnjyoti, Vasundhara; Soybean: Ahliya, Parbhani Sona, MPUS 61; Groundnut: VR1 Gn 6.

(c) The productivity of new varieties is 10-15% higher than the existing varieties. Productivity of wheat varieties range from 4 to 5t/ha, rice 5 to 6t/ha, pulses and oilseeds 2.5 to 3t/ha, cotton 2.5 to 3t/ha and sugarcane 70 to 75

t/ha. Some varieties have better quality of grain. For example the rice hybrid HR1-120 has superior grain quality and cotton hybrid Sumangala has better quality of fibre.

(d) For popularization of new varieties Frontline Demonstrations are conducted by ICAR in farmers' field. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation also conducts the minikit trials in the farmers' field for popularization of new varieties.

#### **Damage In States Due to Floods**

966. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the preliminary estimate of damage caused due to floods during the current year in various States; and

(b) the measures contemplated by the Government to control flood menace in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per the information received from State Revenue Authorities on the damage caused due to floods during the current year in various States, an area of 35.874 lakh ha. and a population of 306.36 lakhs were affected due to floods in 2003. 1334 human lives and 8671 cattles were lost. Damage to crops, house and public utilities amounted to Rs. 972.919 crore.

(b) Flood Management being a State subject the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments, themselves as per own priorities. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Ganga and Brahmaputra basins are the severely flood affected regions in the country. The Ganga Flood Control Commission constituted by the Central Government in 1972 has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board constituted in 1982 under an act of Parliament has also prepared Master Plans for the Brahmaputra and Barak Basins. These reports/Master Plans were forwarded to the concerned States for formulating schemes for implementation after detailed investigations.

Further, the Government of India constituted a number of Committees/Task Force/Expert Groups including the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in 1976 to study the various issues

relating to Flood Management, the recommendations of which have been sent to the State Governments for taking follows up action.

The Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources has established a network of 166 flood forecasting stations on major inter-state rivers which are providing timely flood forecasting services enabling the local administration in arranging rescue and relief operations.

The Central Government is also providing financial assistance to various States for carrying out critical flood management works.

#### **Research on Heavy Metal Content in Plant Samples**

967. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the research conducted in 2001 on heavy metal content in plant samples of sewage irrigated area of coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Experiments on various crops viz. Molakeerai, Palak, Fenugreek and Arakeerai have revealed accumulation of heavy metals namely chromium, cadmium, nickel and lead in plant parts due to sewage water irrigation.

(c) The details on extent of contamination, methodology adopted for the study and effect of treatment, if any, have been solicited from TNAU, Coimbatore to have better appraisal of the problem.

#### **Air Space Management**

968. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make air space management more flexible which will lead to ten to fifteen percent expansion in the Indian Air space;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) the percentage of air space available to military and civilian aircraft;

(d) whether the civil aviation and Indian Air Force authorities have discussed air safety measures; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the flexible use of airspace is only to permit civil aircraft to use of airspace exclusively reserved for military purposes for optimum utilization of the Indian airspace but not for expansion of the existing Indian airspace.

(c) Airspace available to military and civilian aircraft are 35% and 65% of the total Indian airspace respectively.

(d) and (e) Discussion with Indian Air Force on air safety measures have taken place from time to time including flexible use of airspace.

#### **Employment to Handicapped Persons**

969. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicapped persons are not getting employment despite reservation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of handicapped persons registered in different employment exchanges as on October 31, 2003, State-wise;

(d) the number of handicapped persons who have been provided employment during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up reserve quota of the handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The provisions of reservation contained in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1955 are being implemented by the Central Government Establishments and PSUs as a continuing process. The reservation of posts is confined to Government departments and public sector, where there is limited scope for employment growth.

(c) and (d) State-wise number of handicapped job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on December 31st, 2002 (latest available) and the placement

made for them during 2000, 2001 & 2002 are live in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Apart from the legislative provisions, the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote employment of persons with disabilities:—

- Special Recruitment Drives for persons with disabilities from time to time;
- Identification of more posts suitable for persons with disabilities.
- Prompt reporting of vacancies of Staff Selection Commission/Union Public Service Commission/Central Employment Exchange etc. by Central Government Ministries/Department;

- A conference of Public Sector undertakings and concerned Ministries was held on 15.11.2000 in which the process of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was reviewed and the Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to launch vigorous drive to identify vacancies and recruit persons with disabilities against them; and
- Provision of financial assistance to State Government for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges/Upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

### **Statement**

*Number of Handicapped job seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.2002 and their number placed in employment each year during the period 2000-2002*

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Number of Live Register as on 31.12.2002 (in thousands)	Number placed in employment during (in actual number)		
			2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>(A) States</b>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84.1	39	25	224
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.1	—	—	—
3.	Assam	4.7	4	18	—
4.	Bihar	16.0	1	7	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.9	+	—	—
6.	Delhi	7.8	9	5	11
7.	Goa	0.8	1	3	—
8.	Gujarat	21.6	399	473	447
9.	Haryana	11.4	10	11	7
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9.8	49	52	17
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.9	—	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	7.4	**	1	—
13.	Karantaka	30.4	260	89	140



1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Kerala	42.1	1030	1223	1049
15.	Madhya Pradesh	23.1	20	7	12
16.	Maharashtra	43.0	175	158	153
17.	Manipur	1.7	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	0.1	4	1	5
19.	Mizoram	0.3	—	—	—
20.	Nagaland	1.1	—	—	—
21.	Orissa	10.6	19	25	27
22.	Punjab	10.7	62	41	17
23.	Rajasthan	24.5	99	149	91
24.	Sikkim*	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	70.3	911	1057	970
26.	Tripura	2.1	28	7	—
27.	Uttaranchal	3.5	\$	1	7
28.	Uttar Pradesh	24.9	32	15	22
29.	West Bengal	67.1	110	110	131
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.5	—	—	1
31.	Chandigarh	1.1	6	13	20
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	—	—	6
33.	Daman & Diu	0.1	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	0.1	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	1.7	—	—	1
Total		532.7	3268	3491	3367

Note:

\* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

• Figures less than 50.

Figures may not add upto to total due to rounding off.

- Nil

+ Information included in Madhya Pradesh

\*\* Information included in Bihar.

§ Information included in Uttar Pradesh.

**Flyways Packages**

970. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to introduce flyways packages on the golden triangle circuit, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Indian Airlines has already introduced packages on the Golden Triangle Circuit i.e. Delhi, Agra and Jaipur and Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) The details of the packages are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Details of Flyways packages on the Golden Triangle Circuit, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Sector*

**Gold Triangle Package**

Validity: 13th October, 2003 till 31st March, 2004

Duration of Stay: 4 Night/5 Days

Package Available from: Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kochi, Kozikode, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam.

**Andhra Pradesh Package**

Validity: 15th October, 2003 till 31st March, 2004

Duration of Stay: Ranging from 2 Night/3 Days to 6 Nights/7 Days

Package Available from: Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Nagpur.

**Karnataka Package**

Validity: 8th October, 2003 till 31st March 2004

Duration of Stay: Ranging from 4 Night/5 Days to 6 Nights/7 Days

Package Available from: Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Trivandrum and Visakhapatnam.

Package Inclusions: Return Economy class airfare, Airport transfer, Sightseeing, Hotel accommodation, Meals as per plan and all taxes.

**Contaminated Vegetables**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the highly contaminated vegetables being sold in the city's vegetable market;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scientific study of the vegetables being sold at the city's prominent markets to assess the extent of contamination;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to tackle the problem;

(e) whether there is any Government agency to monitor the quality of fresh vegetables; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The monitoring study carried out by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residue conducted by ICAR has recorded that out of 4100 samples of 31 vegetables taken, 55 samples were found contaminated with pesticide residues, but in only 9% of the samples, the residues exceeded the maximum residue limits.

Some samples of vegetables collected from Peri-urban areas around Delhi have shown presence of lead, zinc and cadmium above the safe limits. This contamination has been found especially from areas where crops has been irrigated with sewage water on industrial effluents. Areas with higher vehicular exhaust pollution such as market places have also shown heavy contamination.

A study has been conducted by Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Imperial College of London to find out the contamination of metals in vegetables ground in and around Delhi. In this Study, several vegetable samples of spinach, okra and cauliflower were collected from the Peri-urban areas of Delhi viz., Yamuna Pusta, Okhla, Ballabhgarh, Najafgarh and Alipur and their nearby markets during 2001 and 2002. These were analysed for the presence of heavy metals. The

study has shown that in some of the samples collected from Yamunapusta, Najafgarh and Okhla, the level of contamination with zinc, lead and cadmium was higher than the prescribed tolerance limit. None of the samples had copper above the permissible limit. The main reasons for heavy metals accumulation in vegetables are irrigation with sewage water and industrial effluents. Aerial deposition from thermal plants and vehicular exhaust are other major sources of heavy metals.

During the period 1979-2001 the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conducted five surveys for presence of pesticide residues of different pesticides in food commodities including vegetables. The residues of pesticides were found to be within the prescribed maximum residue limits.

(d) The Government of India is encouraging the judicious approach in the use of pesticides through constant training of the farmers for observance of recommended pre-harvest waiting periods, proper method of spraying, use of quality pesticides with proper dose and application technology and safe disposal of left over pesticides. Government of India is also promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which inter alia includes cultural, mechanical, biological pest control methods to reduce the consumption of pesticides.

(e) and (f) The State Department of Health are the implementing agencies to monitor the quality of fresh vegetables under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder.

#### **Ropeway Accident at Darjeeling**

972. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ropeway accident has occurred at Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith action taken against the management;

(c) whether any steps have been initiated to prevent such accidents in the country in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the accident took place on 19.10.2003 on Darjeeling-Rangest Valley Ropeway. The reason was possible displacement of

alignment for Trestle 44A. An Enquiry Committee was set up on 20.10.2003 and the police have registered the case. The ropeway was suspended after the accident.

(c) and (d) Safety/precautionary measures to prevent such incidents are under the purview of the state Governments.

[Translation]

#### **Social Security Scheme for Retrenched Workers**

973. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for the workers retrenched in various sectors till alternate employment is provided to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prepare Social Security Scheme for the retrenched workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### **Reservation of OBCs**

974. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in various Departments; Autonomous Offices, subsidiary and attached offices of the Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in a number of instances the OBC staff strength is far less than the required strength particularly in Group A and B; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has made provision for 27% reservation in Direct Recruitment for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) w.e.f. 8th September, 1993. Orders/instructions on the subject, issued by the Government from time to time are being strictly followed while making recruitment to the posts in which the Ministry, its Attached/Subordinate/Autonomous Offices and PSUs are the appointing authority.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The shortfall is due to variety of reasons like the reservation for OBCs was introduced w.e.f. September, 1993 only; ban/freeze in recruitment except posts of operational nature in the PSUs under the Ministry; highly technical nature of certain categories of Group A & B posts; non-availability of candidates belonging to OBCs; filling up of certain posts of operational nature on deputation/absorption basis where reservation is not applicable; regularisation of casual employees consequent to Court orders; appointments of compassionate grounds; sports quota etc.

The vacancies reserved for OBCs in direct recruitment quota are reviewed every year. As and when recruitment is being made, efforts are made to recruit required number of OBCs.

#### **Establishment of River Basin Organisations**

975. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold regular meetings with all the State Governments with a view to impress upon the States the need for establishment of River Basin Organisations (RBOs);

(b) if so, whether any blue-print on the subject on which discussions have already been held or are proposed to be held prepared by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to deliberate upon various models(s) of River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and to recommend the most suitable one(s) for meeting the objectives of sustainable and optimal development of water resources of the

country. The members of the Committee are: Water Resources/Irrigation Secretaries of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Commissioner (Policy & Planning), Ministry of Water Resources is its Member Secretary. Three meetings of the Committee have been held so far. The recommendations of the Committee on the model structure for River Basin Organisations have to be considered by the National Water Board of which Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union Territories are members.

#### **Approval of Forestry Projects of Karnataka**

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

(a) whether the Government has approved any forestry projects in Karnataka which were pending since 1970;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost of each project; and

(c) by when these are likely to start indicating the extent of benefits to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. No forestry projects pertaining to Karnataka state have been pending with Government for approval since 1970.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Foot and Mouth Diseases amongst Animals**

977. SHRI KALAYA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of dreaded animal disease Foot and Mouth have been reported from periphery of reserve forest of Corbett National Park;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to control the disease?

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

(b) As per information provided by the Government of Uttaranchal 10 (Ten) cases have been reported.

(c) Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease has been done in the affected and adjoining areas to control the disease.

**International Flights from Bagdogra**

978. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2941 dated December 9, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any International flights operate from Bagdogra Airport;

(b) if so, the name of countries connected with this Airport by air; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not operating International flights from here for even Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No foreign airlines have evinced interest to operate international services to/from Bagdogra. Moreover, the

traffic potential from Bagdogra is not sufficient to sustain direct operations even to neighbouring country like Nepal.

[*Translation*]

**Staff Strength in Agricultural Ministry**

979. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The information has since been collected and the implementation report in respect of the Assurance given in reply to unstarred question No. 102 dated 21.7.03 has been sent to Ministry of Parliament Affairs on 20.10.2003. A copy of the reply furnishing the details is given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

Q.No., Date & Name of M.P.	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for delay
USQ No. 102 Dated 21.7.2003 by Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan	Staff Strength in Agriculture Ministry Asking for: (a) the total number of employees working in undertakings under Agriculture Ministry, category-wise; and  			

**Procurement of Crops under NAFED**

980. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the various crops procured by the Union Government in Bihar under NAFED during the last three years, crop-wise; and

(b) the quantity and value of the various crops proposed to be procured during the next year, crop-wise?

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

(a) During 2002-03 NAFED procured 1311 MTs of urad valuing Rs. 185.00 lakh at the MSP of Rs. 1335 per Qtl. There was no procurement by NAFED in Bihar in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

(b) The quantity and value of procurement depends upon the ruling market prices and cannot be predetermined.

[English]

**Assistance to West Bengal for Flood Control**

981. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of wide-spread flooding by rivers due to heavy rainfall in East Midnapore District of West Bengal particularly in Dugda Basin areas of Ramnagar and Egra PSs;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government for financial assistance;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government for completion of Dugda Basin Rain Scheme by re-excavating the Kudi Canal and connecting it to the sea; and

(e) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the Government of West Bengal, the State Government is aware of drainage congestion encountered in the district of Purba Medinipur (East Midnapore) particularly in the

Dubda Basin area in P.S. Ramnagar and Egra, caused by Kudi-Negua Channel System, due to heavy downpour during the period from 5.10.2003 to 9.10.2003 caused by formation of a deep depression, in the Bay of Bengal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Helicopter Service in Delhi and Mumbai**

982. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce helicopter services for connecting certain places and city centres in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to evolve a regulatory framework for chopper operations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) At present, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Government of India, has a plan to introduce helicopter services between Sahar Airport to City Centre near Nariman Point in Mumbai.

(c) Regulatory framework in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements for maintenance and operations of commercial as well as general aviation helicopters already exists.

**Protection to Minimum Support Price**

983. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a scheme for giving protection to Minimum Support Price for wheat and review the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said scheme will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat is already being protected through procurement by Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.) and designated agencies in the wheat growing States.

#### **Shortage of Iron Ore**

984. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sponge iron units are facing shortage of iron ore resulting in adverse impact on industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government have recently decided to formulate a steel policy to make available iron ore for sponge and iron units in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) As per available information there is no reported shortage of iron ore in the country. However, the industry association for sponge iron units has been representing to the Ministry of Steel with respect to various problems faced by them including problems relating to both supply and price of sponge iron grade iron ore. To look into iron ore related issues pertaining to sponge iron industry, the Government has constituted a Committee comprising of representatives from the industry association. Ministry of Mines, Governments of Orissa & Jharkhand and public sector iron ore mining companies.

#### **Import of Coal by SAIL**

985. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) imports about 6-7 million tonnes of coking coal annually, mainly from Australian companies like BHP and Glencore;

(b) if so, whether SAIL has made long term coal import contracts with Hail Creek, a newly Commissioned Coking Coal Mine in Australia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the speciality of the said coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. SAIL is importing about 7-8 million tonnes of coking coal annually, mainly from Australian companies like M/s. BHP, M/s. Anglo, M/s. MIM etc.

(b) No, Sir.

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

#### **Facelift of Non-metro Airports**

986. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised any proposal to facelift some airports and add new terminals at ten non-metro airports; and

(b) if so, the details of the Plan alongwith the funds earmarked therefor Airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Development and expansion or addition of new terminal buildings are on-going process and are dependent upon the growth of traffic and requirements. Various facilities are added to the terminals every year depending upon the demand. The face lifting of Airports is an annual continuous programme.

#### **World Bank Aid for Ground Water Level in Orissa**

987. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank aided project has been envisaged in Orissa to replenish ground water level in 30 districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, by when the work on the project is likely to commence alongwith the target set for the same?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Package for Tourism Industry**

988. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism industry has incurred a loss of 20% of its revenue in comparison to the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to announce any special package to boost tourism industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In order to give a boost to tourism industry, following concessions, among others have been announced:

- 10% Expenditure Tax levied on hotels withdrawn from June 2003.
- Extension granted to hotel industry for exemption of Service Tax where a substantial meal is served during conferences and banquets held in hotels.
- 40% of the profits derived by hotels, travel agents and tour operators in foreign exchange exempted from Income Tax.
- Expenditure Tax waived off in respect of hotels located in hilly/rural areas and at pilgrimage places.
- Export House Status accorded to the tourism industry.

[Translation]

**Employment to Women Labourers**

989. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of women labourers are being rendered unemployed in the country on account of globalisation; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to provide employment to the women thus rendered unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the information available from the employment and unemployment surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated number of women workers on usual status basis has gone up from 121.63 million in 1993-94 to 123.24 million in 1999-2000.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Standard Bench Mark for Airports**

990. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard bench-mark set by IATA for major Asian airports is a minimum 3.5 out of total 5;

(b) whether major airports all over the World score over 4 out of 5 as standard bench-mark;

(c) if so, whether the Government of India has set a minimum 3 out of 5 as standard bench-mark for its Bangalore International Airport Project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As per IATA Airport Monitoring Survey, average Bench Mark for Asian airports is 3.5 and world average is 3.7 in a scale of 5.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not finalised standard benchmark for the Bangalore International Airport Project (BIAP).

**Crash of Helicopters**

991. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a helicopter belonging to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) recently crashed off Mumbai High resulting in the death of a number of persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of choppers that have crashed since 2000 alongwith the names of the operators of these choppers;



(d) whether the post of Flight Operations Inspector supposed to monitor all helicopter operations in the country has been kept vacant for over two years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A Mi-172 helicopter VT-MAF belonging to M/s. Mesco Airlines, engaged by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) crashed off Mumbai High on 11.8.2003 resulting in fatalities to 27 persons.

(c) A total of 14 helicopters have crashed since 2000 in the country. These helicopters were owned by M/s. India International Airways, M/s. Span Air, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Himalayan Heliservices Private Limited, Government of Madhya Pradesh, M/s. Deccan Aviation Limited, M/s. Million Air, M/s. Azal India, M/s. Tata Tea Private Limited and M/s. Mesco Airlines Limited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Duty Free Shops at Airports**

992. SHRI AMBAREESHA:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) propose to call tenders for running Duty Free Shops at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AAI have decided to ban India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) from bidding for these shops;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to review this decision; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these shops are not dominated by Multi-National Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has invited tenders for development and running of Additional Duty Free shops at Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Calicut, Goa and Trichy Airports.

(c) and (d) As per Commercial Policy of AAI, the tender is not to be issued to a party having outstanding dues. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is having outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 19.05 crores and as such they are not entitled to participate in the tender bids.

(e) and (f) At present there is no proposal to review since the proposed tenders for additional Duty Free Shops are based on global competitive bidding basis. ITDC, however, will be continuing with the existing Duty Free Shops allotted to them.

#### **VRS in AI**

993. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to extend its ongoing VRS to operational areas including pilots and engineers;

(b) if so, the total strength of Air India staff and the target fixed for VRS during the current year;

(c) the number of employees relieved under VRS so far; and

(d) the total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total staff strength of Air India as on 31.10.2003 is 15727. The target fixed for VRS as per the Air-India Board Memorandum in its 85th meeting held on 11.1.2003 was 1000 employees.

(c) and (d) As on 30.11.2003, 248 employees have been relieved under VRS. An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 11,06,40,429.00 has been paid to 202 employees who have availed VRS. The ex-gratia payment to the remaining 46 employees works out to Rs. 2 crores approximately.

**Modification in NAIS**

994. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

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

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The modifications pertain to rationalization of premium rates, limiting the sum insured, continuation of premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers, state-wise maintenance of Corpus Fund and coverage of perennial crops. The review process has been initiated pursuant to the provision in para 18 of the scheme. The implementation of the modified scheme has been recommended from Kharif 2004 season.

**Higher Air Fare for Gulf Sector**

995. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gulf bound passengers are made to pay more in terms of air fare in comparison with the air fares to other destinations;

(b) if so, the details of the fares charged by Air India and Indian Airlines to different destinations;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for rationalising the fares; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Air fares for operation on international sectors are decided at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Tariff Coordination Conferences, which are attended by representative airlines. These fares are unanimously agreed to by all airlines operating on the concerned route. However market dynamics and product features like frequency, timing, direct/indirect operation, nature of traffic and seasonality etc. also influence airfares. The fares being charged by Air India and Indian Airlines on India-Gulf sectors are therefore very competitive. Government of Kerala has also been apprised of the position.

**Ecological Disaster in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

996. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the likely disaster to be faced by Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to indiscriminate dumping of plastic and other wastes by ships plying in the Bay of Bengal and the improper handling of solid wastes in some countries in the region;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the immediate remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the islands and its inhabitants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Chennai based National Institute of Ocean Technology in their recent coastal observation survey in Great Nicobar island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has reported the accumulation of plastic and other waste along the coast. The study, as such, has not covered the effect of these accumulations on marine wealth of the islands.

(c) The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has been advised to ascertain and report the factual position and to take required mitigative measures, if any.

**Assistance to Sugar Industry**

997. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had this year offered special assistance to sugar industry to bail them out of the critical situation of the accumulated dues of sugarcane growers in different States;

(b) if so, the States where such assistance was offered and the extent thereof;

(c) whether such assistance was denied to some States, including Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore indicating the contribution of Maharashtra and other States in the total sugar production in the country?

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

(a) and (b) The Government has decided to provide Rs. 678.06 crores as one time assistance to State Governments to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane farmers who have not been paid cane arrears for 2002-03 season by private sector sugar factories in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana. The State-wise allocation of funds out of Rs. 678.06 crores is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)	
States	Allocation
Uttar Pradesh	490.21
Uttaranchal	32.25
Haryana	84.73
Punjab	30.96
Bihar	39.91
Total	678.06

The assistance will be in the nature of soft loan to the State Governments at a concessional rate of interest of 4% with an initial moratorium of three years and repayable within three years thereafter, to clear the sugarcane arrears for 2002-03 season arising out of the difference between the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) and the State Advised Prices (SAP) with regard to private sugar mills only in these States.

(c) and (d) The Government has also decided to offer assistance to the State Governments (including that of Maharashtra) by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar

season. the main features of the provision of this assistance are stated hereunder:—

- (i) The State Governments would be extended financial support to meet the interest liability to the extent of difference between the Coupon Rate on the Bonds raised through market borrowings and 4% (the rate at which loan may be extended by them to sugar mills).
- (ii) The State Governments would, in turn, extended 10 years loan to the sugar mills with a ceiling interest rate of 4% per annum, this loan will have moratorium on repayment of principal and interest for a period of five years and would, thereafter, be repaid in 5 equal instalments.
- (iii) The above would be available to all sugar mills in non-SAP States and to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the SAP States.
- (iv) The extent of open market borrowings would be determined on the basis of sugarcane price arrears for 2002-03 sugar season in a given State.
- (v) Any additional benefit, which a State Government may wish to provide, would be to the charge of the State Government concerned.
- (vi) The State Governments would make specific proposals to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission for access to additional open market borrowings.

A statement showing the contribution of the various States to the production of sugar during the sugar season 2002-03 is enclosed.

#### *Statement*

*The Contribution of various states to the production of sugar during the sugar season 2002-03*

(Figures in tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Production
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1188319 (5.91)
2.	Assam	0(0.00)
3.	Bihar	421273 (2.10)

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	1215 (0.01)
5.	Goa	12723 (0.06)
6.	Gujarat	1228248 (6.11)
7.	Haryana	598873 (2.98)
8.	Karnataka	1797845 (8.94)
9.	Kerala	5044 (0.03)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	85293 (0.42)
11.	Maharashtra	6153194 (30.61)
12.	Nagaland	0 (0.00)
13.	Orissa	37433 (0.19)
14.	Punjab	510635 (2.54)
15.	Rajasthan	0 (0.00)
16.	Tamil Nadu	1703641 (8.48)
17.	Uttar Pradesh	5864134 (29.18)
18.	Uttaranchal	455871 (2.27)
19.	West Bengal	2790 (0.01)
20.	Pondicherry	32398 (0.16)
All India Total		20098939 (100.00)

Figure in bracket indicate contribution of States in percentage to the total.

[Translation]

#### **Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in Jharkhand**

998. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes being implemented by the Government for cultivation of medicinal plants and setting up of associated industries in Jharkhand;

(b) the areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made under this programme so far?

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

(a) to (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan under which development of medicinal and aromatic plants is one of the activities. Under this programme one herbal garden and one nursery have been established at Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also implementing promotional and commercial schemes for the development of medicinal plants in the country including Jharkhand. The NMPB has sanctioned three projects during 2001-02 for (a) establishing 20 demonstration plots (b) establishing 20 nurseries and (c) conducting study-cum-survey in Ranchi District.

#### **Special Central Assistance**

999. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for grant of Rs. Two crores as support price/transportation subsidy to Lahaul Potato Growers Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society, Manali district Kullu, Himachal Pradesh under the Special Central assistance programme for purchase of potato grown by farmers of the Scheduled Tribe area;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have released the desired amount to the said Co-operative Society;

(c) if so, when and if not, the reason therefor; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Promotion of Tissue Culture**

1000. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote tissue culture;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the States where tissue culture promoted in the plan period;

(d) the allocation of fund made to various States for the purpose; and

(e) the achievement made by various States?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting development of Horticulture Sector by employment of Technologies, which also includes tissue culture.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through work plans. Under the scheme states have greater flexibility to promote the issue culture as per their needs.

Besides, a Centrally Sponsored on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture" in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal is being implemented. This scheme includes a program for promotion of tissue culture.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also initiated research in tissue culture propagation of various crops at different institutes.

The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology is also supporting programs in the area of plant tissue culture since 1989 with thrust on developing complete regeneration protocols.

National Horticulture Board (NHB) under its scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest Management also provides back ended capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the project cost for undertaking projects on tissue culture. The maximum limit is Rs. 30 lakhs for N.E./tribal/hilly areas and Rs. 25 lakhs for all other areas.

(c) to (e) The States are free to promote tissue culture under Macro-Management Scheme.

#### **Steel Authority of India Limited**

1001. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have produced well above capacity,

operating at an average 102% of capacity during the first six months of the current year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details of production and productivity, plant-wise during the above period;

(c) the details of productivity of the SAIL plants as compared with Japan, Germany and other major steel producing countries; and

(d) the details of the capacity expansion plants of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Plant-wise details of saleable steel production and labour productivity of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the first six months (in the current year 2003-04) are as follows:

Plant	Saleable Steel Production '000 T	% Capacity Utilization
Bhilai Steel Plant	2015	128
Durgapur Steel Plant	743	94
Rourkela Steel Plant	796	95
Bokaro Steel Plant	1672	88
SAIL 4 Plants	5226	103
Alloy Steels Plant	53	57
Salem Steel Plant	35	40
Visvesvarya Iron & Steel Plant	48	124
<b>SAIL Total</b>	<b>5362</b>	<b>101</b>

Labour Productivity of 4 Integrated Steel Plants of SAIL during first half of the year 2003-04 is as follows:

Crude Steel/tonne/man/year	
Plants	April—Sep.'03
Bhilai Steel Plant	174
Durgapur Steel Plant	121
Rourkela Steel Plant	82
Bokaro Steel Plant	130
SAIL 4 Plants	132

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

(d) At present, SAIL has no plans to expand its capacity.

#### **Issuance of Tickets on Exchange Orders**

1002. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the organisations that are issued air tickets by Indian Airlines on the receipt of exchange orders duly signed by the competent authority;

(b) the amount outstanding against each of these organisation as on March 31, 2003;

(c) the steps taken to recover the dues from the defaulters during the last three years; and

(d) the amount recovered from each of these defaulters so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Indian Airlines issues tickets against Exchange Orders to the Central/State Ministries/Departments, other Government offices and PSUs.

(b) An amount of Rs. 45.76 crores is due from parties for sale against Government Exchange orders. A list of amount due (Rs. 5 lakhs & above) from various offices against sales on Exchange orders as on 31st March, 2003 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The dues are realized in the normal course of business as per the credit terms. There is a regular follow procedure for overdue invoices. The delay in settlement of invoices in many cases is due to the internal procedures of the Govt. Departments like provision of funds, correlation of invoices with TA/DA claim of concerned officials, non submission of TA/DA claim by concerned officials, pre-audit clearance etc. the suspension of credit facility/legal action is normally considered only in exceptional circumstances. The delayed payments are for the reasons explained above, as such none of these parties can be categorised as a defaulter.

#### **Statement**

*List of Amount due (over Rs. 5 lacs & above) against sales on exchange orders as on 31st March' 2003*

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Name of the Party	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Lok Sabha Sectt. (MP)	844.96
2.	Lok Sabha, Chennai	64.48
3.	Lok Sabha (New Delhi)	41.91
4.	Lok Sabha Sectt. (Staff)	14.33
5.	Lok Sabha Secretariat	10.39
6.	Under Secretary, "Lok Sabha" Secretariat, New Delhi	54.37
7.	Rajya Sabha Sectt., New Delhi	664.42
8.	Rajya Sabha, Chennai	45.64
9.	Rajya Sabha (New Delhi)	26.57
10.	Under Secretary, "Rajya Sabha" Secretariat, New Delhi	29.41
11.	Indian Oil Corporation	86.91
12.	M/o Civil Aviation & Tourism, New Delhi,	70.46
13.	S.P.G. (Cab. Sectt.) New Delhi	58.29
14.	Nayveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd., Madras	56.18
15.	M/o Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan	51.06
16.	D/o Science & Technology, New Delhi	50.41
17.	National Airport Authority of India	47.77
18.	Under Secy to Govt. (Pers), Madras	44.64
19.	Air-India, IGI Airport, Termi-II, New Delhi	42.42
20.	General Public Works Dept. Madras	39.22
21.	Airport Authority of India, New Delhi	36.81
22.	D.G. Civil Aviation, New Delhi	35.48
23.	B.S.F. Srinagar	34.71
24.	Planning Comm., Yojna Bhawan	33.14
25.	Director General of Police, Madras	32.12

1	2	3
26.	M/o Water Resources, N. Delhi.	30.79
27.	DIG, CRPF, Guwahati	28.27
28.	Document Scouts Service	28.13
29.	Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi	28.07
30.	C.B.I. New Delhi	27.22
31.	NSG, New Delhi	25.94
32.	M/o Food and Civil Supplies, Krishi Bhawan, N. Delhi	25.74
33.	Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi	25.28
34.	Indian Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan	24.74
35.	Deptt. of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, N. Delhi	24.18
36.	Intelligence Bureau, North Block	24.18
37.	M/o External Affairs, New Delhi	22.73
38.	BSF Jammu	22.39
39.	M/o Works, Hosing & Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan	20.57
40.	M/o Home Affairs, North Block	19.56
41.	Supdt. of Police, CBI, Spl. Divn., Kolkata	19.43
42.	Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal	19.40
43.	POBC Ltd.	17.71
44.	B.R.I.T.	17.48
45.	Western Coalfields Nagpur	17.41
46.	Central Water Comm. N. Delhi	16.76
47.	Dy. Director (Admn), Geological Survey of India, Kolkata	15.93
48.	Comn for SC & ST, Lok Nayak Bhawan	15.86
49.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	15.34
50.	Secretary to Govt. Madras	15.13
51.	Deptt. of Education, Shashtri Bhawan	15.06
52.	M/o Rural Development, Nirman Bhawan	14.94
53.	ITBP, Leh	14.91
54.	IG, BSF, North Bengal, Darjeeling	13.95

1	2	3
55.	M/o Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan	13.89
56.	D/o Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan	13.80
57.	M/o Finance Defence, South Block, New Delhi	13.65
58.	IG, CRPF, Kolkata	13.62
59.	Health Services, Nirman Bhawan	13.55
60.	Chief Finance Manager, MECON, Ranchi	12.47
61.	High Commission of India, Dhaka	12.33
62.	B.S.F. Takenpur, Gwalior	12.13
63.	Secy. to the G.M., NR Railway, Guwahati	12.11
64.	Asst. Director (Prov), Hqrs., AMM&N Frontier, BSF, Guwahati	12.10
65.	Ex. Diretor, HPCL, Cachar Paper Mills, Hailakandi	12.07
66.	Central Reserve Police Force	11.81
67.	Airports Authority of India, Chennai	11.26
68.	U.P.S.C. New Delhi	10.84
69.	P.O.B.C. Palam	10.35
70.	M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan	10.35
71.	H.Z. Ltd. Udaipur	10.08
72.	M/o Finance, Lok Nayak Bhawan	9.98
73.	CISF, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	9.81
74.	Cabinet Secy. South Block, New Delhi	9.79
75.	Secretary Public (OPI) Dept., Chennai	9.34
76.	D/o Telecommunications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi	9.18
77.	C.B.I., Mumbai	8.99
78.	Observatory Upper Air Instruments, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	8.95
79.	Central Reserve Police Force	8.78
80.	G.S.I., Jaipur	8.78
81.	IG, Border Security Force, Agartala	8.56

1	2	3
82.	Madras Telephones, Chennai	8.44
83.	Central Bureau of Investigation	8.37
84.	Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited, Trichy	7.98
85.	Deptt. of Ocean Development, N. Delhi	7.81
86.	Deptt. of Stat., M/o Planning, Parliament Street, N.Delhi	7.76
87.	A&IR Sec. Ltd., Bilaspur	7.76
88.	Central Silk Board, Bangalore	7.72
89.	Secretary to the Governor, Hyderabad	7.43
90.	Directorate of Agriculture, Chennai	7.30
91.	DDK, Mandi House New Delhi	7.29
92.	State Bank of India (Gold Scheme)	7.27
93.	BPRD, M/o Home Affairs, N. Delhi	7.23
94.	Textile Commissioner	7.01
95.	Enforcement Directorate, New Delhi	6.98
96.	BSF Jodhpur, Rajasthan	6.98
97.	Special Duty AIIMS, New Delhi	6.82
98.	M/o Shipping, Sansad Marg	6.78
99.	National Airport Authority, Chennai	6.76
100.	Indian Embassy in Kathmandu	6.66
101.	Prime Minister Sectt. New Delhi	6.62
102.	Deptt. of Culture, Shastri Bhawan	6.55
103.	M/o Labour, New Delhi	6.38
104.	Southern Railway, Chennai	6.25
105.	Embassy of United States, New Delhi	6.23
106.	A.I.C.T. Education, I.P. Estate	6.19
107.	Telecommunications, Hyderabad	6.18
108.	IG, BSF, Eastern Frontier, Kolkata	6.10
109.	Telephones, Hyderabad	6.01
110.	Deptt. of Post, Dak Bhawan, New Delhi	5.97
111.	IG of Police, Bihar Sector CRPF, Patna	5.94
112.	D/o Post, Malcha Marg	5.91

1	2	3
113.	Director Investigation	5.84
114.	National Comm. for Safai Karamchari's New Delhi	5.66
115.	Civil Aviation, Chennai	5.65
116.	P.H. Ltd. S'Jung Airport, New Delhi	5.58
117.	ITBP, Srinagar,	5.53
118.	DIG, BSF, HQ Nagaland & Manipur Sector, Imphal	5.53
119.	ONWA Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	5.42
120.	Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi	5.33
121.	The Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata	5.26
122.	M/o Food & Pub. Distt. & Consumers Affairs, Krishi Bhawan	5.25
123.	Bureau of Civil Aviation	5.22
124.	M/o Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, N. Delhi	5.21
125.	Secy to the G.M., South Eastern Railway, Kolkata	5.18
126.	CPWD, Nirman Bhawan	5.13
127.	Asst. Commissioner Special Bureau of Govt. of India Kolkata	5.10
128.	Small Scale Industries, New Delhi	5.09
129.	HAL Services Division Bangalore	5.05

[Translation]

#### Utilization of Waste Forest Land

1003. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to utilize the waste forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of forest land and the area of waste forest land at present, State-wise?



THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing the National Afforestation Programme during the 10th Five Year Plan for improvement of forests with people's participation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Forest Survey of India estimates the forest and tree cover of the country. As per their State of Forest Report 2001, the recorded forest area of the country is 768436 square kilometers. The report estimates the forest cover of the country at 675538 square kilometers. Of this, 258729 square kilometers is Open Forests. In addition, 47318 square kilometers has been put under the category of Scrub area. Statement of state-wise details is enclosed.

**Statement**

					Area in SQ. KM
S.No.	Name of State/UT	Recorded Forest Area	Total Forest Cover	Open Forest Cover	Scrub Area
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63814	44637	18810	9907
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51540	68045	14113	141
3.	Assam	27018	27714	11884	224
4.	Bihar	6078	5720	2348	122
5.	Chhattisgarh	59285	56448	18568	200
6.	Delhi	85	111	73	4
7.	Goa	1224	2095	310	0
8.	Gujarat	18999	15152	6479	2408
9.	Haryana	1551	1754	615	88
10.	Himachal Pradesh	37033	14360	3931	566
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	20230	21237	9389	3087
12.	Jharkhand	23605	22637	10850	976
13.	Karnataka	38724	36991	10835	3245
14.	Kerala	11221	15560	3788	71
15.	Madhya Pradesh	95221	77265	32881	3452
16.	Maharashtra	61939	47482	16588	6137
17.	Manipur	17418	16926	11216	190
18.	Meghalaya	9496	15584	9903	259
19.	Mizoram	15935	17494	8558	467
20.	Nagaland	8629	13345	7952	47
21.	Orissa	58135	48838	20866	5782

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Punjab	3059	2432	883	30
23.	Rajasthan	32494	16367	10045	4925
24.	Sikkim	5765	3193	802	341
25.	Tamil Nadu	22871	21482	8983	3180
26.	Tripura	6293	7065	3602	44
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16826	13746	4781	678
28.	Uttaranchal	34662	23938	4915	598
29.	West Bengal	11879	10693	4347	149
30.	A&N Islands	7171	6930	337	0
31.	Chandigarh	32	9	4	0
32.	D&N Haveli	203	219	68	0
33.	Daman & Diu	1	6	4	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	27	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	36	1	0
Total		768436	675538	258729	47318

[English]

**Purchase of Foreign Fishing Vessels by FSI**

1004. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the deep sea fishing vessels owned by Fishery Survey of India (FSI);

(b) whether the FSI are purchasing a number of foreign fishing vessels;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to be useful;

(d) whether the Union Government have given approval to FSI to acquire more vessels for its use;

(e) if so, the details of acquisition done by the FSI during 2002-2003 and proposed to be done during 2003-04;

(f) the amount spent thereon; and

(g) the reasons for purchasing of said vessels?

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

(a) The details of Deep Sea fishing vessels presently owned by Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is given in the Annexure.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of acquiring two Monofilament Long liners at an estimated cost of US\$ 6689,000 (Rs. 32,27,44,250) for harvesting of the tuna resources along with the by-catch by Fishery Survey of India. The Monofilament Longline system is considered more suitable in the Indian context.

(d) and (e) Only 2 vessels are being acquired as mentioned at (c) above. These vessels are likely to be delivered in 2004-2005.

(f) An expenditure of Rs. 2,89,50,178/- has been incurred in connection with acquisition of these Two vessels so far.

(g) To replace two of the old and obsolete vessels of the fleet, carry out survey of tuna, bill fish etc. and also to demonstrate the latest technology to the fishermen and industry.

**Gomti River Front Project**

1005. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether ASI has refused to grant permission to Gomti River Front Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an amount of five crore rupees have already been spent on the project even without a detailed project report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The ASI has refused to grant permission on the application given by the Secretary, Lucknow Development Authority for construction of structure falling at a distance of 25 mtr of the Residency Building, Lucknow which is a centrally protected monument, since the proposed construction fell within the prohibited area.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism and Culture has not incurred any expenditure on this project.

**Upgradation of Airports**

1006. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a time bound short term plan to develop 24 regional airports in order to upgrade facilities there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this upgradation plan is to be executed with the participation of private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether non-aeronautical activities are also planned in and around these airports to increase revenue;

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when the

developmental plan is likely to be executed;

(g) whether the Government have conducted a survey to review the status of developmental work at various airports; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As part of new initiatives, 24 airports namely, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai, Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata, Goa, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jammu, Trivandrum, Auragabad, Calicut, Guwahati, Agartala, Coimbatore, Amritsar, Varanasi, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, Ranchi, Jaipur and Udaipur Airports have been identified for improving aesthetics and upkeep of terminal building and city side. A team of officers consisting of Airport Director, Nodal Officer and Nodal Architect have identified various schemes for improving general cleanliness, toilets, flooring, signages, lighting, interior decoration, trollies, air-conditioning, horticulture etc. Some of the schemes will be completed within a span of four months and others within one year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to empanel Consultants in various fields to help it in upgrading the facilities at various airports. It has initiated action for appointment of consultants and final list is likely to be prepared having panel of professionals in each field like landscape, interior decorator, road and traffic engineers and acoustic. Private Sector will also be invited for landscaping of airports as per plans of AAI.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Various schemes have been initiated which will increase non-aeronautical revenue and it is a continuous process.

(g) and (h) The status of development work at all the 24 airports is reviewed in the monthly meetings attended by Airport Director of these airports and concerned Head of Departments at Airport Authority of India's corporate office. Progress of implementation of various schemes is closely monitored in these meetings and guidance given to the Airport Directors for improving customer satisfaction.

### **Exemption of Units Located in Special Economic Zones**

1007. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to exempt the units located in Special Economic Zones from making any contribution towards Provident Fund and Employees Insurance Scheme for five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to see that the employees of these units are compensated for these years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) It has been decided that in respect of Special Economic Zones, the State Government may apply for exemption, to the Central Government under Section 16(2) of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on a case-to-case basis.

In respect of the ESI Act 1948, the State Government, being the appropriate Government, may take a decision as per the powers provided under the Act.

### **Growth Rate of Unemployment**

1008. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the growth rate of unemployment vis-a-vis employment during 1998-2003?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was carried out during 1999-2000. Estimated growth rate of employment and unemployment on usual status basis during 1994-2000 was 0.98% and 2.23% per annum respectively.

### **Land Rent Plan**

1009. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any land rent plan to augment crop production and optimum utilization of cultivable land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are working on a novel concept of promoting land share companies in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be taken to safeguard the interest of poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Some suggestions have been received regarding Contract Farming, Land leasing, land share companies. The Government has not taken any decision in these matters.

### **Snag in Air Deccan Flight**

1010. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the freak accident of inaugural flight of Air Deccan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have instituted an inquiry into the incident and grounded/cancelled the licence of Air Deccan till the report of the inquiry committee is received; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 24.9.2003, ATR 42 aircraft VT-ADV owned by Avions De Transport Regional and operated by M/s Air Deccan Private Limited, Bangalore was scheduled for an inaugural flight from Hyderabad to Vijaywada. There were 39 persons on board the aircraft, including three crew members. After obtaining the start up clearance from the ATC, the pilot started right engine and rolled out and then started left engine. At that stage, the ground staff observed smoke and flame coming out of the left engine. The engines were shut down immediately and flames were extinguished.

(c) and (d) The Government has instituted an inquiry into the incident. Suitable action would be taken on the findings and recommendations of the report of investigation.

**Increase in Cargo Charges**

1011. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has steeply increased cargo charges for vegetables and fruits export in last two months;

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

(c) whether the Air India Mumbai Division has hiked the charges from Rs. 0.65 per kg. to Rs. 4.00 per kg;

(d) if so, whether the Vegetables and Fruits Exporters Association, people's representatives and others have strongly objected to this increase; and

(e) the remedial measure being taken by Air India and Civil Aviation Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. There has been no increase in cargo freight charges for vegetable and fruits exports in the last two months.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Rs. 0.65 per kg. is the terminal handling charge payable by the shipper at the new APEDA Perishable Centre at Mumbai Cargo Complex; and Rs. 4/- per kg. is the handling charge payable by the airlines to Air India.

(d) The Vegetables & Fruits Exporters Association have objected to the passing on of this handling charge of Rs. 4/- by some foreign airlines to the shippers.

(e) Air India has appealed to the foreign airlines in a meeting held on 3.10.03 not to pass on the handling charges to the exporters. However, no compulsion is possible, as airlines are allowed to charge freight rates from exporters on the basis of demand and supply, under the open sky policy for cargo.

**CMIE Report on Agricultural Production**

1012. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any report from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on Agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received the latest issue (November, 2003) of Monthly Review of the Indian Economy released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). In this report, the projected production of foodgrains for the year 2003-04 has been mentioned. CMIE's projection is for the entire year 2003-04, covering both kharif and rabi crops. The Government's projection for 2003-04 pertains only to kharif crops as per the First Advance Estimates released on 30.9.2003. The two sets of estimates are, therefore, not comparable. However, those are presented below:

*Production*

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	CMIE Figures	Government
	2003-04 (Kharif and Rabi)	Figures 2003-04* (Kharif)
1. Rice	86.0	75.1
2. Wheat	75.0	—
3. Coarse Cereals	33.3	28.0
4. Cereals (1+2+3)	194.3	103.1
5. Pulses	13.9	5.4
6. Foodgrains (4+5)	208.2	108.5
7. Oilseeds	22.4	15.1
8. Sugarcane	280.0	261.4

\*As per First Advance Estimates released on 30.9.2003.

**Landscaping of Monuments**

1013. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for improving the environs by creating more Landscaping in and around the ancient historical monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise and the details of protected Monuments of sites provided with the landscaping, circle-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated to each of these monuments during the last three years and in 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has a plan for improving the environs of the protected historical monuments by creating gardens, landscaping with pathways for movement. The requisite

information regarding Circle-wise details of monuments with horticultural operations along with allocation made during the last three years as well as in 2003-2004 to each of the monuments is given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Name of Monuments Circlewise with provision for last three years and 2003-04 where landscaping has been done*

S.No.	Name of Monument & Location	District & State	Expenditure in Rs.			
			2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04 (Provision)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Agra Circle</b>						
1.	Taj Mahal, Agra	Agra, U.P.	4,31,316	8,74,019	9,13,614	19,88,000
2.	Ram Bagh, Agra	Agra, U.P.	1,58,916	2,01,477	2,73,747	4,91,100
3.	Agra Fort, Agra	Agra, U.P.	2,04,247	4,53,125	3,47,620	11,17,600
4.	Mariyam Tomb, Sikandra	Agra, U.P.	2,05,123	2,03,782	1,46,473	2,73,300
5.	Fatehpur Sikri	Agra, U.P.	1,52,493	7,34,900	5,17,689	11,06,560
6.	R.C.C.	Agra, U.P.	2,43,635	3,09,258	1,04,389	2,67,200
7.	Khan-e-Alam Nursery	Agra, U.P.	3,00,776	2,29,388	2,10,697	6,79,100
8.	Mehtab Bagh	Agra, U.P.	5,41,127	4,09,061	4,48,763	9,10,000
9.	Chini Ka Rouza	Agra, U.P.	14,200	14,605	13,608	55,200
10.	Idgah	Agra, U.P.	16,420	57,502	34,474	2,19,000
11.	Akbar's tomb, Sikandra	Agra, U.P.	2,01,110	21,69,348	7,99,087	22,83,400
12.	Etmad-ud-Daula, Agra	Agra, U.P.	40,289	1,27,632	8,37,110	3,65,300
13.	Kankali Teela, Mathura	Mathura, U.P.	1,03,472	1,13,443	1,64,791	1,50,000
14.	Madan Mohan temple, Mathura	Mathura, U.P.	Nil	2,82,865	1,47,193	75,000
<b>Uttaranchal Circle</b>						
15.	Archl site, Kalsi, Dehradun	Dehradun, Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	1,66,698	1,00,000
<b>Lucknow Circle</b>						
16.	Sikandar Bagh, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	14,158	1,10,682	87,376	1,27,400
17.	Residency garden, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	1,65,132	4,98,283	4,94,546	26,00,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Alam Bagh, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	99,000	36,827	54,790	2,00,000
19.	Dilkusha Palace, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	19,712	60,100	42,371	13,99,800
20.	Nadan Mahal, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	10,606	73,481	90,342	1,83,500
21.	Bara Imam Bara, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	Nil	1,92,931	44,374	1,49,210
22.	Sahet, Sravasti	Behraich, U.P.	13,104	5,95,187	4,08,290	4,61,800
23.	Mahet, Sravasti	Behraich, U.P.	8,371	1,54,969	1,21,237	2,14,400
24.	Keydganj Cemetry, Allahabad	Allahabad, U.P.	8,958	56,492	96,729	1,58,150
25.	Khurso Bagh, Allahabad	Allahabad, U.P.	1,52,493	25,765	50,395	1,37,459
26.	Shahi Fort, Jaunpur	Jaunpur, U.P.	6,58,114	10,68,495	13,08,347	4,83,300
27.	Lord Cornwalis Tomb, Ghazipur	Ghazipur, U.P.	1,22,019	4,20,482	2,74,135	6,12,000
28.	Nakkar Khana, Lucknow	Lucknow, U.P.	Nil	1,92,931	61,549	—
29.	Jhansi Fort, Jhansi	Jhansi, U.P.	85,024	1,69,063	1,19,671	4,18,900
30.	Raja Gangadhar Raoki Chatri, Jhansi	Jhansi, U.P.	20,166	20,271	31,044	1,21,460
31.	Katcheri Cemetry, Kanpur	Kanpur, U.P.	6,770	20,271	31,044	2,00,000
32.	Kapilvastu, Piperhawa	Siddarath Nagar, U.P.	Nil	2,67,736	10,67,824	9,50,000
<b>Patna Circle</b>						
33.	Ramabhar Stupa, Kushinagar	Kushinagar, U.P.	1,58,297	6,69,782	3,45,557	3,25,900
34.	Matha Kaur Shrine, K. Nagar	Kushinagar, U.P.	Nil	Nil	1,39,083	1,25,700
35.	Stupa, Kushinagar	Kushinagar, U.P.	71,271	5,26,694	4,38,774	11,12,000
36.	Chaukhandi Stupa, Samath	Varanasi, U.P.	24,730	2,76,721	11,162	Nil
37.	Stupa, Samath	Varanasi, U.P.	2,69,458	5,66,543	6,16,569	8,60,000
38.	Museum, Samath	Varanasi, U.P.	Nil	Nil	44,315	2,35,300
39.	Lal Khan's tomb, Varanasi	Varanasi, U.P.	Nil	11,52,651	2,28,805	4,13,900
40.	Kumrahar Garden, Patna	Patna, Bihar	1,95,470	2,07,613	3,05,395	11,10,600
41.	Relic Stupa, Vaishali	Vaishali, Bihar	2,03,691	3,11,715	1,17,409	10,98,000
42.	Nalanda Garden, Nalanda	Nalanda, Bihar	2,43,909	4,13,498	8,53,238	24,99,200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43.	Sher Shah Suri's Tomb, Sasaram	Sasaram, Bihar	38,199	1,32,830	98,851	6,03,600
44.	Ashokan Pillar, Koluha	Koluha, Bihar	Nil	4,89,585	3,11,450	10,32,400
45.	Jain Caves, Rajgiri, Nalanda	Rajgiri, Bihar	Nil	63,288	2,29,201	1,12,900
46.	Maniyar Math, Rajgiri, Nalanda	Rajgiri, Bihar	Nil	Nil	3,06,946	1,50,000
<b>Bhopal Circle</b>						
47.	Mohd. Gaus Tomb, Gwalior	Gwalior, M.P.	Nil	Nil	76,358	14,18,300
48.	Dulha Dev, Khajuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	19,712	71,200	1,43,540	4,00,000
49.	Western group of temple, Khajuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	3,17,166	8,62,974	4,28,754	8,12,700
50.	Hanuman temple, Kharjuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	Nil	Nil	35,267	43,800
51.	Jawari temple, Khajuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	Nil	Nil	1,37,074	55,000
52.	Vaman temple, Khajuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	Nil	Nil	87,520	20,000
53.	Eastern group of temple, Khajuraho	Chattarpur, M.P.	47,700	3,51,895	Nil	1,00,000
54.	Old Fort, Burhanpur	Burhanpur, M.P.	12,560	79,099	1,19,356	1,46,800
<b>Bhubaneswar Circle</b>						
55.	Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	4,04,409	3,90,154	4,96,604	2,97,000
56.	Sun temple, Konark	Puri Orissa	7,26,719	2,26,465	7,23,076	10,56,540
57.	Mageshwar temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	1,03,441	2,27,871	1,23,723	3,37,000
58.	Lingraj temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	1,00,000	2,44,766	72,759	1,43,500
59.	Rameshwar temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	3,89,430	4,21,929	2,86,775	4,58,000
60.	Museum complex, Konark	Khurda, Orissa	3,65,373	2,97,302	1,65,000	1,37,840
61.	Mukteshwar temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	2,60,513	2,62,162	4,18,596	1,41,200
62.	Relic Stupa Dhauli	Khurda, Orissa	91,966	3,25,608	1,70,900	1,55,500
63.	Chitrakarani temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	33,143	2,23,612	1,24,300	1,24,000



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64.	Khandagiri & Udayagiri	Khurda, Orissa	2,17,775	2,73,499	5,75,531	4,00,000
65.	Museum complex, Ratnagiri	Jajpur, Orissa	3,53,285	4,10,444	8,10,235	6,39,980
66.	Brahmeshwar temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	80,586	98,126	2,62,598	6,51,000
67.	Parasrameshwar temple, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	Nil	Nil	1,52,407	1,20,000
68.	Udayagiri, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	Nil	1,52,952	1,16,523	63,200
69.	Samtrapur Nursery, Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Orissa	1,87,267	2,20,667	2,56,300	3,67,500
<b>Kolkata Circle</b>						
70.	Kalachand temple, Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	1,33,580	3,46,638	1,63,506	1,60,000
71.	Hazarduari, Murshidabad	Murshidabad W.B.	2,03,391	4,21,224	3,50,617	3,58,500
72.	Zor Mandir, Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	94,688	1,09,979	1,24,923	1,35,600
73.	Rash Manch, Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	3,01,913	1,32,438	1,41,175	1,54,800
74.	Nandlal & Radhagovind, Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	83,551	1,38,720	94,475	77,500
75.	Katra Mosque, Murshidabad	Murshidabad, W.B.	1,41,507	1,41,338	7,09,690	3,55,300
76.	Rajbar complex, Kalna	Kalna West Bengal	6,18,687	1,37,810	9,35,991	1,54,800
77.	Shyamrai temple, Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	69,591	71,948	70,261	76,000
78.	Radheyshyam & or bungalow Bishnupur	Bishnupur W.B.	67,108	88,943	1,04,447	1,08,880
79.	Qutabshahi Mosque, Malda	Malda W.B.	1,64,059	77,998	15,238	6,06,800
80.	Adina Mosque, Malda	Malda W.B.	40,220	37,100	31,350	3,97,520
81.	Chamkati, Loton, Tantipara, Malda	Malda W.B.	62,062	75,457	62,978	1,15,000
82.	Dakhil Darwaja & Feroz- minar, Malda	Malda W.B.	44,024	57,164	48,184	78,500
83.	Roshnibagh, Murshidabad	Murshidabad W.B.	Nil	1,21,904	82,832	1,39,760
84.	Khoshbagh, Murshidabad	Murshidabad	Nil	1,99,358	5,46,496	Nil
85.	Dutch Cemetery, Chinsurah	Hooghly W.B.	Nil	Nil	3,52,136	1,92,000
86.	Hanseswar temple, Bansberia	Hooghly W.B.	Nil	Nil	3,52,136	1,20,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
87.	Zafar Ghazi Khan, Triveni	Triveni W.B.	Nil	Nil	5,62,811	Nil
<b>Guwahati Circle</b>						
88.	Ranghar, Sibsagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	2,48,572	2,52,376	1,95,200
89.	Ahom Palace, Sibsagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	2,01,281	2,51,286	3,01,500
90.	Karenghar, Sibsagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	7,21,674	5,61,269	3,99,600
91.	Shivdol, Joysagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	9,886	1,58,545	4,16,500
92.	Bishnudol, Joysagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	13,056	1,17,548	5,55,500
93.	Devidol, Joysagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	13,056	1,51,397	9,11,100
94.	Shivdol, Gourisagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	Nil	9,989	
95.	Bishnudol, Gourisagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	Nil	8,514	
96.	Devidol, Gourisagar	Sibsagar, Assam	Nil	Nil	9,997	
<b>Hyderabad Circle</b>						
97.	Hill Top, Nagarjunaconda	Guntur, A.P.	1,66,777	5,94,673	3,94,439	4,98,000
98.	Museum Garden, Amaravati	Guntur, A.P.	2,67,059	1,33,227	1,17,505	1,91,900
99.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	Hyderabad A.P.	77,207	1,51,653	1,39,450	1,99,000
100.	Ramappa Temple, Palampet	Hyderabad, A.P.	63,789	1,54,152	1,15,994	3,69,300
<b>Mini Circle Goa</b>						
101.	Church Garden, Velha Goa	Punjim, Goa	2,71,736	4,72,459	7,82,171	23,24,300
<b>Bangalore Circle</b>						
102.	D.D. Bagh, Srirangapatna	Mandya, Kamataka	3,25,423	9,06,416	14,78,473	10,72,800
103.	Temple, Srirangapatna	Mandya, Kamataka	28,196	1,83,595	1,16,959	1,64,300
104.	Site, Srirangapatna	Mandya, Kamataka	39,466	1,78,087	1,42,478	1,72,800
105.	Archl. Garden, Gumbaz	Mandya, Kamataka	2,83,970	4,24,428	6,72,239	4,95,700
106.	Laxminarayan temple, Hosaholalu	Mandya, Kamataka	1,50,131	2,14,567	85,855	1,83,000
107.	Keshwa temple, Somnathpura	Mysore, Kamataka	70,324	2,00,414	1,69,292	1,44,600
108.	Amruteshwar temple, Amrutpur	Chikkamagur, Karnataka	1,28,676	1,98,998	1,32,460	1,99,000
109.	Hoyasaleshwar temple, Halebidu	Hassan, Kamataka	3,07,491	4,12,600	4,41,363	4,97,400
110.	Jain & Kedareshwar temple,	Hassan, Kamataka	87,356	2,03,499	1,36,539	1,79,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
111.	Museum garden, Kamlapur	Bellary, Kamataka	5,57,583	2,62,804	5,81,912	2,86,200
112.	Royal Enclosure, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	1,31,079	97,049	1,98,081	1,98,800
113.	Queen's Bath, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	1,64,773	2,87,451	1,26,745	1,60,000
114.	Chandrashekara temple, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	Nil	2,59,007	2,90,316	—
115.	Lotus Mahal, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	Nil	3,56,230	3,62,823	—
116.	Pattabhirama temple, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	1,70,843	Nil	69,985	—
117.	Elephant Stasble, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	97,000	1,05,168	97,064	—
118.	Vitthala temple, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	16,400	2,21,741	Nil	—
119.	Shiva temple, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	Nil	Nil	1,21,915	—
120.	Hazararama temple, Hampi	Bellary, Kamataka	Nil	Nil	15,00,000	—
121.	Veemarayana temple, Belwadi	Chikkamaglur, Kamataka	Nil	1,99,254	92,000	—
122.	Tipu body, Srirangapatna	Mandya, Kamataka	Nil	Nil	1,75,814	—
123.	Mercara Fort, Mercara	Mandya, Kamataka	Nil	Nil	1,83,379	—
124.	Bhongnandishwara temple, Nandi	Colar, Kamataka	Nil	33,520	6,88,238	—
125.	Chitradurga Fort, Chitradurga	Chitradurga, Kamataka	Nil	Nil	48,766	—
<b>Dharwad Circle</b>						
126.	Golgumbad, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	2,08,403	6,44,811	5,01,184	12,70,000
127.	Gagan Mahal, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	43,630	1,84,955	3,20,101	1,99,000
128.	Arquilla, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	15,589	65,001	55,122	2,84,800
129.	Ali-II Rouza, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	62,279	1,37,776	1,05,027	1,99,200
130.	Tomb, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	3,341	1,57,763	1,63,331	54,600
131.	Kumatagi	Bijapur, Kamataka	Nil	1,58,150	1,20,576	95,300
132.	Jodgumbad, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	55,497	88,571	2,08,975	2,59,000
133.	Ibrahim rouza, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	1,13,638	2,67,129	1,14,544	2,41,000
134.	Asar Mahal, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	27,650	1,32,205	1,85,708	1,63,000
135.	Jamia Masjid, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	8,006	2,63,535	1,52,321	86,700
136.	Dakhani Idgah, Bijapur	Bijapur, Kamataka	Nil	2,05,765	1,00,385	1,85,800
137.	Durga temple, Aihole	Bagalkot, Kamataka	64,594	1,30,199	1,71,468	1,98,300

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
138.	Hucchapaya Math, Aihole	Bagalkot, Karnataka	26,606	1,20,557	75,927	1,25,000
139.	Ambigergudi, Aihole	Bagalkot, Karnataka	50,086	55,104	85,939	1,43,600
140.	Rawanpadi, Aihole	Bagalkot, Karnataka	2,945	49,335	5,612	32,300
141.	Mallikarjuna temple, Aihole	Bagalkot, Karnataka	23,258	1,72,863	1,39,804	97,400
142.	Mallikarjuna temple, Pattadakal	Bagalkot, Karnataka	65,440	1,32,446	99,450	1,86,600
143.	Siddeshwar temple, Haveri	Bagalkot, Karnataka	Nil	96,275	3,36,250	2,89,300
144.	Jyotirlinga temple, Aihole	Bagalkot, Karnataka	1,31,646	Nil	Nil	
<b>Chennai Circle</b>						
145.	Brihadeshwara temple, Thanjavur	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	1,66,900	2,62,100	3,32,974	4,68,000
146.	Brihadeshwara temple, GKC Puram	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	1,89,800	4,36,007	6,93,925	3,67,600
147.	Vellore Fort, Vellore	Tamil Nadu	4,11,429	4,53,761	3,26,566	7,06,700
148.	Bhartiyar park, Vellore	Tamil Nadu	20,780	2,00,605	1,85,710	2,47,300
149.	Shore temple, Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	98,060	10,43,477	3,38,287	3,03,100
150.	Airavateshwar temple, Darasuram	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	3,95,575	11,39,191	4,42,105	4,99,900
151.	Five Rathas, Mahabalipuram	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	Nil	57,371	Nil	
152.	Arjuna's Penance, Mahabalipuram	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	Nil	Nil	9,76,313	
153.	Mukundnayanar temple, Mahabalipuram	Thanjavur, T. Nadu	Nil	Nil	57,300	
154.	Bhartiyar Park Vellore Fort	Tamil Nadu	Nil	71,320	Nil	2,47,300
<b>Thrissur Circle</b>						
155.	Palakkad Fort, Palakkad	Kerala	Nil	Nil	38,766	
<b>Delhi Circle</b>						
156.	Qutab Minar, Delhi	Delhi	4,92,466	9,87,212	7,61,789	10,86,000
157.	Lal Gumbad, Delhi	Delhi	30,000	7,42,556	Nil	1,96,400
158.	Vijay Mandal, Delhi	Delhi	31,121	72,270	45,399	1,88,000
159.	Tughlakabad, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	7,68,886	5,53,156	6,79,400

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
160.	Maqdoom Shah Mosque, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,14,400
161.	Hauz Khas complex, Delhi	Delhi	73,983	1,27,541	1,64,189	4,50,500
162.	Idgah, New Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	1,55,272	Nil
163.	Chor Minar, Delhi	Delhi	61,690	1,16,487	1,63,324	Nil
164.	Ashokan Rock Edict, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	56,590	1,23,790	3,63,300
165.	Nazaf Khan, New Delhi	Delhi	1,62,099	4,07,898	3,56,119	7,70,019
166.	Bade Khan Chotey Khan, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,57,300
167.	Kale Khan, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	86,800
168.	Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi	Delhi	3,33,205	2,65,045	4,58,285	4,81,000
169.	Sikandar Lodhi Tomb, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	27,307	80,600
170.	Humayun's tomb Delhi	Delhi	9,93,173	1,87,860	18,95,124	25,29,100
171.	Kharitul Manzil, Delhi	Delhi	2,23,960	92,795	1,89,594	2,59,600
172.	Khane Khana tomb, Delhi	Delhi	2,10,066	88,478	1,23,027	1,75,400
173.	Purana Quilla, Delhi	Delhi	5,01,226	8,03,606	9,37,476	11,17,300
174.	Kotla Feroz Shah, Delhi	Delhi	1,98,743	1,57,042	5,42,193	7,56,500
175.	Salimgarh Fort, Delhi	Delhi	1,99,920	1,34,988	79,626	6,12,800
176.	Red Fort, Delhi	Delhi	3,06,652	5,32,548	4,63,302	15,19,500
177.	Jantar Mantar, Delhi	Delhi	58,942	4,92,514	3,53,905	2,94,000
178.	Quilla Rai Pithora, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	12,13,193	7,76,900
179.	Jamali Kamali, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,50,000
180.	Wazirpur tomb, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,00,000
181.	Bhurey Khan tomb, Delhi	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,00,000
<b>Jalpur Circle</b>						
182.	Chittorgarh Fort, Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh,	6,35,178	13,62,234	25,45,119	45,68,100
183.	Badoli, Rawatbhata	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	Nil	3,24,157	37,048	1,18,300
184.	Deeg Palace Deeg	Deeg, Rajasthan	2,90,448	3,38,231	3,38,670	5,04,200
185.	Bharatpur Fort, Bharatpur	Bharatpur, Rajasthan	4,47,273	1,80,431	1,68,554	3,42,700
186.	Anasagar Baradari, Ajmer	Ajmer, Rajasthan	68,338	1,33,577	1,04,648	2,35,100
187.	Jamia Masjid, Amber	Ajmer, Rajasthan	13,801	21,670	17,550	5,80,300

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
188.	Shiva temple, Kansuwa	Kota, Rajasthan	40,686	33,604	27,443	1,14,100
189.	Chitrashala, Bundi	Bundi, Rajasthan	21,332	10,440	33,119	2,67,800
190.	Gupta temple, Darra	Jhalarpattan, Rajasthan	19,085	21,388	23,143	2,90,800
191.	Old temple, Chandrabhaga	Jhalarpattan, Rajasthan	Nil	29,363	37,879	1,91,500
192.	Bhangasrh Fort, Bhangarh	Alwar, Rajasthan	Nil	3,52,403	1,25,497	6,30,800
193.	Hamir Palace, Ranthambore Fort	Madhopur	Nil	2,54,661	4,47,941	4,00,000
194.	Vedi temple, Kumbhalgarh Fort	Rajasmund, Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	3,19,428	3,50,000
<b>Srinagar Circle</b>						
195.	Ramnagar Palace	Ramnagar J&K	33,119	21,721	28,996	13,17,200
196.	Ramnagar Fort	Ramnagar, J&K	21,872	31,904	19,781	3,35,600
197.	Temple complex, Kiramchi	Udhampur, J&K	29,656	16,854	25,971	1,49,700
198.	Devi Bhagwati temple, Manwal	Udhampur, J&K	36,267	33,065	33,606	2,79,300
199.	Kala dera, Manwal	Udhampur, J&K	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,00,000
200.	Sun temple, Martand	Anant Nag, J&K	40,363	62,444	59,569	2,98,300
201.	Pathar Masjid, Srinagar	Srinagar, J&K	12,409	37,284	45,378	1,58,200
202.	Shankracharya temple, Srinagar	Srinagar, J&K	Nil	Nil	Nil	70,600
203.	Avantiswara temple	Pulwama, J&K	5,113	14,690	21,403	89,400
204.	Avantiswami temple	Pulwama, J&K	12,761	42,670	42,316	1,74,900
205.	Gaurishankar temple, Pattan	Bara Mullah, J&K	13,297	20,179	38,705	89,100
<b>Chandigarh Circle</b>						
206.	Shiva temple, Baijnath	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh	46,752	36,359	2,48,676	2,69,500
207.	Kangra Fort, Kangra	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh	Nil	1,07,007	1,04,288	2,35,700
208.	Budhist Stupa, Kangra	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,00,000
209.	Katoch Palace, Sujampur	Hamirpur, H. Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	50,000
210.	Nurpur Fort	Nurpur, Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,00,000
211.	Hidimba Devi temple, Manali	Chamba, H. Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,00,000
212.	Institute of Advance Studies, Shimla	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,00,000
<b>Vadodara Circle</b>						
213.	Ruined Church, Daman	Daman & Diu	39,983	1,64,290	2,06,183	1,94,400

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
214.	Daman Fort, Daman	Daman & Diu	27,940	1,40,431	1,92,300	13,40,000
215.	Hazira tomb, Vadodara	Vadodara, Gujarat	1,54,285	1,98,000	9,08,249	—
216.	Jamia Masjid, Pawagarh	Pawagarh, Gujarat	34,744	1,80,100	3,63,231	1,75,800
217.	Shahar ki Masjid, Pawagarh	Pawagarh, Gujarat	1,18,982	1,96,850	3,30,111	2,61,000
218.	Sun temple, Modhera	Mehsana, Gujarat	8,15,608	25,99,514	16,20,732	10,97,400
219.	Step well, Adalej	Adalej, Gujarat	96,437	1,54,950	1,46,785	1,65,800
220.	Ahmadshah Masjid, Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Nil	1,28,000	1,49,571	1,72,900
221.	Rani ki Vav, Pattan	Pattan, Gujarat	Nil	7,23,596	50,98,712	3,99,000
<b>Aurangabad Circle</b>						
222.	Ajanta Caves, Ajanta	Ajanta, Maharashtra	Nil	30,500	1,41,729	—
223.	Bibi ka Maqbara, Aurangabad	Aurangabad, Maharashtra	5,54,009	6,25,518	7,21,787	10,55,000
224.	Daulatabad Fort, Daulatabad	Daulatabad, Maharashtra	54,600	1,06,297	1,72,104	2,92,600
225.	Pataleshwar Cave, Pune	Pune, Maharashtra	55,720	92,500	1,00,300	1,54,000
226.	Shaniwarwada Fort, Pune	Pune, Maharashtra	74,848	1,10,800	1,49,980	2,45,200
<b>Chandigarh Circle</b>						
227.	Harsh ka Tilla, Thanesar	Thanesar, Haryana	Nil	Nil	6,85,596	10,39,000
228.	Bhatinda Fort, Bhatinda	Bhatinda, Punjab	26,676	46,300	37,395	1,29,800
229.	Kabuli Bagh Mosque, Panipat	Panipat, Haryana	Nil	1,99,791	10,52,712	1,98,980
230.	Shamsher Khan Tomb, Batala	Batala, Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	5,00,000

**Insurance Scheme for Child Labour**

1014. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce insurance scheme for the child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted about the number of children to be covered under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of insurance cover to be provided for these children?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Agro-Based Vocational Education**

1015. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to introduce an agro-based vocational education system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) No, Sir. The Government have been implementing a scheme 'Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business

Centres by Agriculture Graduates' under which the graduates in agriculture are given training for two months.

(b) The Scheme for the Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture graduates was launched in the last year of the IXth Five Year Plan throughout the country. The main objective of the Scheme is to provide extension services to farmers through trained agriculture graduates on payment basis. The Scheme also helps to provide employment to agriculture graduates on payment basis. The Scheme also helps to provide employment to agriculture graduates. An illustrative list of about 20 activities have illustrative list of about 20 activities have been identified which could be taken up by the agriculture graduates individually or in a group of 5 persons.

This Scheme is being implemented through Small Farmers Agri. Consortium (SFAC), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Till now 20,450 number of applications have been received from the agriculture graduates from across the country and 4,043 graduates have been given training for two months, out of them, 757 graduates have set up agriclinics/agribusiness centres in different activities.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Integrated Dairy Development Project**

1016. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the Integrated Dairy Development Project under the Centrally

sponsored project White Revolution for Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of the allocations made during the last three years and the current year, project-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the other projects sent to the Union Government by those States; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Six IDDP projects are being presently implemented in Bihar and one project in Jharkhand.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Two new projects have been received from Bihar. The first project for Betiah district received on 28.8.2003, was circulated to the appraisal agencies for comments. Observations made by the appraisal agencies have been sent to the State Government for their response. Second proposal was received on 3.12.2003 from Bihar State Coop. Milk Producers Federation for dairy development in the districts of Bank & Jamui. The proposal is not as per the guidelines of Government of India and has not been routed through the State Government. Bihar State Coop. Milk Federation has been asked to submit the revised proposal through the State Government.

One project proposal was received from Jharkhand on 21.10.2003 for districts of Ranchi, East Singhbhum, Sarai Kala Kharaswan. The proposal was examined and the State Government has been asked to revise the project based on the observation of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

#### **Statement**

##### *Allocations made during last 3 years for IDDP projects in Bihar & Jharkhand*

State	Appro- ved outlay	Year of approval	Fund Released			Total Release upto 31.3.03	Unspent Balance as on 31.3.03	Funds released during 2003-04
			2000- 01	01-02	02- 03			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar I	158.60	1994-95	—	—	—	158.60*	0.14	—
II	364.50	1995-96	—	—	—	145.41*	29.04	—
III	67.25	1997-98	—	—	—	67.25*	10.52	—



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IV	66.30	1997-98	—	—	—	66.30*	0.81	—
V	447.73	2000-01	82.89	—	56.79	139.68	76.79	—
VI	279.78	2001-02	—	64.47	—	64.47	64.47	—
Jharkhand	364.50	1995-96	—	—	160	264.59*	20.00	99.91

\*Includes the release made before 2000-01

Note (i) Project-II in Bihar was sanctioned in 1995-96 for eight districts. Four districts were subsequently transferred to Jharkhand. Accordingly, proportionate allocation of funds was transferred to Jharkhand.

[English]

### Central Assistance to Drought Affected States

1017. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:  
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:  
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have declared assistance to drought affected States to meet the situation;

(b) if so, the names of districts affected by the drought even after good monsoon in 2003-04, State-wise;

(c) the names of States visited by the Central team to assess the situation in this regard;

(d) whether the said team has given its report;

(e) if so, the findings thereof;

(f) the assistance and foodgrains sought by each State in this regard; and

(g) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided by the Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):  
(a) to (g) Due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2003, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra declared parts of the State as drought affected. State-wise details of districts declared as drought affected by the respective States are indicated in the Statement-I enclosed.

The Governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra had submitted Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought declared during Kharif 2003 and Inter-Ministerial Central Teams visited these States for on-the spot assessment of the situation. State-wise details of release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2003-04, Central assistance sought and provided to these three States is indicated in the Statement II enclosed.

### Statement I

#### Details of Districts declared by States as drought affected during 2003-04

Sl. No.	State	Total Districts	Names of Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari, Vishakapatnam, West Godavari, Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Ananthapur, Kumool, Adilabad, Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Nizambad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda & Guntur.

1	2	3	4
2.	Jharkhand	15	Palamu, Garhwa, Dumka, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur, Chatra, Bokaro, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Kodarma, Giridih, Latehar, West Singhbhum & Saraikela Kharsava.
3.	Karnataka	25	Bagalkote, Bangalore Rural, Belgaum, Bangalore Urban, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamrajnagar, Dharwad, Chickmagalur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttara Kannada & Gadag.
4.	Maharashtra	11	Solapur, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Ahmednagar, Nashik, Beed, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Jalna & Latur.

**Statement II**

*State-wise details of release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2003-04, Central assistance sought and provided to States which declared drought during Kharif 2003*

(Rs. in crores)  
(Foodgrains in lakh MTs)

State	Release of Central share of CRF for 2003-04	Assistance sought		Assistance provided	
		NCCF	Foodgrains	NCCF	Foodgrains (so far)
Karnataka	64.74	1881.55	9.90	115.86	1.65
Andhra Pradesh	171.96	859.88	15.00	**	1.00
Maharashtra	136.49	1715.00	2.00	**	0.50

NCCF-National Calamity Contingency Fund

\*\*This will now be considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, for a decision on the quantum of assistance.

[Translation]

**New Tribunal to Resolve Krishna River Water Dispute**

1018. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a new tribunal under the Chairmanship of Supreme Court Judge to resolve the Krishna river water dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Government decided on 23rd August, 2003 for constitution of Tribunal under Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication of the dispute relating to Krishna waters. As per the said Act, the Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other Members nominated in this behalf by the Chief Justice of India from among persons who at the time of such nomination are Judges of the Supreme Court or of a High Court. The Chief Justice of India has been requested to nominate suitable serving Judges accordingly.

*[English]***Poor Quality Food In Air India Flights**

1019. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received regarding poor quality of meals served by Air India in its London-New Delhi flights; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide meals of standard quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Whenever complaint is received from a passenger or from Crew on the quality of meals, the same is taken up with the Manager-Catering/Cabin Service, Air-India, London as well as the Caterer for immediate investigation and necessary corrective action. Air India has tied up with a speciality restaurant in London for upliftment meals.

**Works to Labour Cooperatives**

1020. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued instructions to the State Governments for giving preferential treatment in awarding works to labour cooperatives;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(c) the funds provided to labour cooperatives during the last three years and the current year to revitalize labour cooperative in the country, particularly in Maharashtra through skill development?

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

(b) Some of the States have accepted the recommendation for giving preferential treatment in awarding works to labour cooperatives.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has released the following grants to the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives (NFLC) Ltd., New Delhi

for promotion and development of labour cooperatives including skill development:—

Year	Amount released (Rs. lakhs)
2000-01	17.00
2001-02	19.00
2002-03	38.00
2003-04	Nil

*[Translation]***Comprehensive Scheme for New Training Centres**

1021. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently formulated a comprehensive scheme to set up new training centers to prepare skilled labour with the cooperation of the States;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof and the time by when the above scheme is likely to be started alongwith the names of the States where it is to be implemented; and

(c) the estimated amount to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Employment and Training (D.G.E.&T) under the Ministry of Labour, have formulated a scheme for improvement in Vocational Training in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under various State Governments namely "Externally Aided Project for Improvement in the Vocational Training Services rendered by the State Governments". The scheme aims in Development of 200 ITIs as Centers of Excellence, Development and Modernisation of 100 existing Women ITIs, setting up of 50 Instructor Training Wings and 77 Vocational Training Wings for persons with disabilities in ITIs and establishment of Planning and Management units in State Headquarters for implementation of the scheme.

The Planning Commission has given "in principle" clearance to this Ministry for negotiating with the World Bank through Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. All the State Governments/Union Territories are participating in the proposed scheme.

(c) The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 553.00 crores.

*[English]***Fake Tourist Offices**

1022. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of fake tourist offices functioning in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey to identify the so called tourist offices fleecing the tourists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Some complaints have been received by the Department regarding misleading signboards put by some travel agencies. These complaints are taken up with the Local Authorities as and when received.

**Route Dispersal Guidelines**

1023. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a committee to review the existing guidelines that force carriers to operate a stipulated number of flights on uneconomical routes;

(b) if so, the composition of the committee; and

(c) by when the committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government have constituted a committee on 23.9.2003 under the chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to review the Route Dispersal Guidelines. The other members of the Committee are Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Member (Operations), Airports Authority of India and a Deputy Director General in the office of Director General of Civil Aviation.

(c) The Committee is likely to submit its report by end of December, 2003.

*[Translation]***Studies on Lakes and Rivers**

1024. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) the total number of studies undertaken by various agencies for ecological restoration of Rivalsar Lake and field testing laboratory and sanitation survey of Beas, Satluj and Yamuna river in Himachal Pradesh under National River Action Plan;

(b) since when the proposal for fund allocation for the above mentioned works are pending with the Union Government alongwith the number of such proposals;

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the funds so far; and

(d) the time by which funds would be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The "Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee" has been recently sponsored a study for prioritization of proposals for various states including Himachal Pradesh, for inclusion under National River Conservation Plan in the X and XI Plan. Government of Himachal Pradesh has not sent any proposal for revival of Rivalsar Lake for consideration under the National Lake Conservation Plan.

Under the National River Conservation Plan, however, proposals received from Himachal Pradesh are as follows:—

(i) Proposal for Rs. 78.60 lakh for assessment of pollution load in river Satluj in Himachal Pradesh received in 1994.

(ii) Proposal for Rs. 78.41 crore for pollution abatement in 11 towns along river Beas received in 2000.

The proposal for river Satluj could not be undertaken as the water quality of the river stretch in Himachal Pradesh was within the prescribed standards. For river Beas, since this proposal was basically preliminary and did not contain adequate details and proper cost estimates, the Government of Himachal Pradesh was

asked in May 2001 to prepare Detailed Project Reports with firm costs and following an integrated approach with 70:30 cost sharing between the Central and the State Government. No Detailed Project Reports have been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

### **Religious Tourism**

1025. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote religious tourism;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated/released to State Governments for the purpose, if any, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism promotes tourist places of national and international importance including important religious centres.

(b) The following schemes have been formulated in the 10th Plan for development of tourism infrastructure in the country:—

- (i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.
- (ii) Products/Infrastructure and Destination Development.
- (iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(c) Details of funds allocated/released to State/UT Governments are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released so far
2000-01	363	86.87	46.81
2001-02	209	56.09	33.19
2002-03	212	111.21	86.81

### **American Express Card for I.A. Travellers**

1026. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and American Express have jointly launched a card with global validity for air travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits of this card;

(d) whether it is expected to boost the market share of Indian Airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of increase expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gold Card has no pre-set spending limit, is globally valid and provides for one free supplementary Card. The joining fee for the card has been waived.

(c) The benefits to the Air Travellers who opt for this card include:

- Free enrollment into the Flying Returns Frequent Flier Programme.
- Extra excess baggage allowance,
- Free tickets on quantum spend,
- Discount on tickets purchased using the above card,
- Baggage Loss insurance,
- Purchase protection insurance,
- Travel accident insurance,
- 24 hour customer service in top 5 cities in India,
- Global assist (emergency medical and legal referrals),
- Emergency Card replacement-usually within 2 business days,

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The card targets the affluent customer segment and is expected to bring about a share shift in Indian

Airlines favour in this segment. However, with the multiplicity of schemes in the market, it is difficult to predict the extent of share shift.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of New Steel Plants**

1027. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new steel plants in various States in view of increasing demands of steel in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration of the Government, State-wise; and

(c) the States and locations in which these steel plants are likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **FDI in Civil Aviation**

1028. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers constituted by the Union Government had recommended raising FDI limit in the civil aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for restricting equity participation by foreign carriers to 26% in the airlines companies in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers has recommended that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) may be allowed upto 100% in airports through automatic route and FDI in domestic airlines may be increased from the existing 40% to 49% with permission to foreign airlines to participate.

(c) As per the existing guidelines, foreign airlines are not permitted equity participation in domestic airlines, directly or indirectly.

#### **Infrastructure for Agricultural Research and Education in A.P.**

1029. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure facility provided to Andhra Pradesh for agricultural research and education; and

(b) the steps being taken to augment the existing infrastructure in the State?

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

(a) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) To augment the existing infrastructure, support is provided mainly through Plan and Non-Plan grants.

#### **Statement**

##### *The Infrastructure Provided for Agricultural Research and Education in Andhra Pradesh*

S.No.	Name of ICAR Institutes/ NRCs/PDs/AICRPs	Location
1	2	3
1.	National Academy for Agril. Research Management	Hyderabad
2.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Rajahmundry
3.	N.R.C.-Sorghum	Hyderabad
4.	N.R.C.-Oil Palm	Pedavegi
5.	N.R.C.-Meat	Hyderabad
6.	Project-Directorate—Oilseed Research	Hyderabad
7.	Project-Directorate—Rice Research	Hyderabad
8.	Project-Directorate—Poultry Research	Hyderabad
9.	AICRP—Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad
10.	AICRP—Sorghum	Hyderabad
11.	AICRP—Tobacco	Rajahmundry
12.	AICRP—Linseed	Hyderabad

1	2	3
13.	AICRP—Sesame and Niger	Hyderabad
14.	AICRP—Agro-meteorology	Hyderabad
15.	Network—Economic Ornithology	Hyderabad
<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>		
16.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Eluru
17.	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Vijaywada
18.	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture—ORP centre	Kankipadu
19.	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Guntur
20.	Central Institute for Fisheries Education	Kakinada
21.	Central Institute for Fisheries Technology	Vishakhapatnam
22.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Kakinada
23.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Vishakhapatnam
24.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Guntur
25.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Jeelugumilli
26.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Hyderabad
27.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Kavvur
	*NRC—National Research Centre	
	*AICRP—All India Coordinated Research Project	

1	2	3
<b>Infrastructure for Agricultural Education</b>		
	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University	Hyderabad

#### Light and Dance Shows at Monuments

1030. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to organise light and dance shows at monuments or illumination of ancient historical monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in the country;

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

(c) the amount allocated to State Governments during the last three years and the allocations proposed/released for 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The details proposals to organize sound and light show, illumination and flood lighting of the monuments under the respective circles of the Archaeological Survey of India and the figures of estimated expenditure thereon are given in the statement enclosed. The proposals in original received from ITDC and CPWD have been forwarded to Department of Tourism for processing as well as funding these organizations.

#### Statement

*The detailed proposal to organize sound and light show, illumination and flood lighting of the monument under the respective circle and the amount proposed*

1	2	3
1.	<b>Delhi Circle</b>	<b>Amount Proposed</b>
i.	Qutub Minar, Delhi (Illumination and lighting of Qutub Minar-proposal from ITDC vide letter dated 7.8.2003)	Rs. 36 lakhs
ii.	Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (Illumination of Humayun's tomb (proposal from ITDC) vide letter dated 3.9.2003)	Rs. 37.40 lakhs
2.	<b>Bhopal Circle</b>	
	Samath Monuments, U.P. (Light and Sound Show at Samath) (proposal from ITDC vide letter dated 5.9.2003)	Rs. 507 lakhs

1	2	3
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**3. Bangalore Circle**

The field office of the Archaeological Survey of India at Bangalore has deposited the amount with the CPWD for the following works:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| i. Providing fibre optic lighting to the paintings at Virupaksha temple, Hampi | Rs. 68 lakhs    |
| ii. Providing Special Illumination to Vitthala temple, Hampi                   | Rs. 39.22 lakhs |
| iii. Providing illumination to Chitradurga Fort                                | Rs. 29.87 lakhs |

For light and show at Hampi sanction has been issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

**4. Jaipur Circle**

The amount allocated to the CPWD for sound and light show (civil work) and illumination work at Kumbhalgarh Fort and Chittorgarh Fort is as under:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| i. Mounting of Sound and Light show (Civil work) at Kumbhalgarh Fort (2003-04) | Rs. 69.30 lakhs |
| ii. Illuminasation of the monuments at Kumbhalgarh Fort (2002-03)              | Rs. 33.68 lakhs |
| iii. Mounting Sound and Light Show (Civil work) at Chittorgarh Fort (2003-04)  | Rs. 47.25 lakhs |

The amount allocated to the Indian Tourism Development Corporation for mounting the Sound and Light show is as under:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| i. Mounting of Sound and Light show of Kumbhalgarh Fort (2002-03)            | Rs. 195.00 lakhs |
| ii. Mounting Day Show and Sound and Light show at Chittorgarh Fort (2002-03) | Rs. 206.10 lakhs |

**[Translation]****Unorganised Labourers under Pension Scheme**

1031. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cover almost one crore labourers of the unorganised sector throughout the country under the pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basic objectives of this scheme; and

(c) the contribution to be made by the Union Government, State Governments and private employers in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A proposal to enact comprehensive legislation for unorganised sector workers and formulation of certain social security schemes which, inter-alia includes pension scheme for these workers is under active consideration of the Government.



*[English]*

**Scope of Contract Labour in Semi-Govt.  
Organisations**

1032. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of ministers of labour has decided to expand the scope of contract labour in Semi-Government Organisations;

(b) if so, whether the group of ministers headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission was set up to thrash out differences within the Government on the issue of labour reforms;

(c) if so, whether the Group has submitted its recommendations on the above issue; and

(d) if so, the details of the accepted and rejected recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The Group of Ministers on Labour Reforms headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has set up to examine the proposals for amendment to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The matter has been deliberated upon in detail but no final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Publication of Advertisements**

1033. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed the rules regarding publication of commercial advertisements in order to provide financial strength to the operation of Indian Airlines;

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

(c) the details of income likely to be generated from the advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Revision of Haj Subsidy**

1034. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised its policy of providing subsidy for Haj pilgrims for the year 2004;

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

(c) the total amount of subsidy given by the Government for Haj pilgrims during the year 2003 and how far the new policy would help the Government in reducing its expenditure on Haj pilgrims;

(d) whether the new policy has been criticized by the people intending to undertake Haj pilgrimage during the year 2004; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details of changes effected from Haj-2004 onwards are as under:—

(i) The subsidized Haj fare is permitted for each pilgrim only once in his/her life time from Haj 2004 onwards;

(ii) No Income Tax payer is allowed to avail of the subsidized fare from Haj-2004 onwards;

(iii) Only those pilgrims who live in the accommodation provided by Haj Committee would be eligible for the subsidized fare;

(iv) The subsidized fare would be kept at the existing level of Rs. 12,000 for Haj 2004 and the subsidy may be reduced in a phased manner in subsequent year. Government has also directed that an affidavit be obtained from the pilgrim to the effect that they have not availed the subsidized Haj fare earlier and that they are not income tax payee.

(c) The total provisional cost of operation of Haj flights during the year 2003 is estimated at Rs. 225.83 crores which includes a provisional amount of subsidy of Rs. 151.29 crores. The new policy is aimed at encouraging more deserving people to avail the benefit.

(d) and (e) Representations have been received from various quarters seeking repeal of the revised guidelines. However, this is not contemplated.

#### **Airports upkeep Programme**

1035. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a new programme called the "National Airports Upkeep Initiative";

(b) if so, the details of this project;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not been maintaining the airports and related facilities in a professional manner; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring about a change in work ethos in the AAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a part of new initiatives, 24 airports namely, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai; Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi; Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata; Goa, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jammu, Trivandrum, Aurangabad, Calicut, Guwahati, Agartala, Coimbatore, Amritsar, Varanasi, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, Ranchi, Jaipur and Udaipur Airports have been identified for improving aesthetics and upkeep of terminal building and cityside. Various schemes for improving general cleanliness, toilets, flooring, signages, lighting, interior decoration, trollies, air-conditioning and horticulture have been formulated for expeditious implementation at these airports. The progress of implementation of various schemes in these airports is closely monitored on monthly basis.

(c) No, Sir. However, "Airports Improvement Initiatives" shall further improve the maintenance of airports and related facilities.

(d) Airports Authority of India regularly conducts training courses at National Institute of Aviation Management & Research to improve the work ethos. Further, training programmes have also been organized at airports to inculcate better service-oriented attitude.

[Translation]

#### **WTO's Conference in Cancun**

1036. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the World Trade Organisation's Conference held in Cancun recently; and

(b) if so, the details of decisions taken in this conference with regard to agriculture?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the serious differences among Members in particular developed countries which heavily subsidize their farm sector and other countries including developing countries which do not, agreement could not be reached on the modalities for negotiations in agriculture. Since divergence in positions of members remained in other areas of the Doha Work Programme also, it was decided at the Cancun Ministerial Conference that, while considerable progress has been made, more work needs to be done in some key areas to enable the WTO members to proceed towards the conclusion of the negotiations in fulfillment of the commitments in the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November, 2001. The meeting agreed that the Chairman of the General Council working in close cooperation with the Director General, WTO will coordinate this work and convene a meeting of the General Council at Senior Officials levels no later than 15 December 2003 to take the action necessary at that stage to enable WTO Members to move towards a successful and timely conclusion of the negotiations as scheduled, by 1 January 2005.

[English]

#### **Numismatics Department under ASI**

1037. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to start a separate branch for the study of Numismatics under the ASI for the study of ancient coins and monetary system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise and the list of catalogues and manuals brought out so far by the ASI specifically dealing with Numismatics;

(c) whether the Government are aware that a huge collection of ancient coins of great historical significance are dumped in the treasury offices and the store rooms of the museums without any comprehensive study; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to study and catalogue those treasure trove finds and to make them easily accessible and available for Research Students and academicians all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has no such proposal. However, the Epigraphy Branch of the ASI studies and deciphers the ancient and medieval coins. These are being reported in the series of 'Indian Archaeology—A Review'.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The coins are available in the strong rooms of museums and of the Central Antiquity Collection Section of the Archaeological Survey of India. These are documented and recorded in accession registers. These are made available to the research scholars as and when required by them.

#### **Failure of Metal Detectors**

1038. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during a routine review of the security set up at airports recently, none of the door frame metal detectors installed at various airports was found functioning properly;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of airports covered under security check up during October, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The security Enforcement Committee during its inspection found that while the Door Frame Metal

Detectors (DFMDs) installed by Airports Authority of India at various airports are functional to the extent that they can detect objectionable objects weighting 30 gms. and above. However, the detection pattern of the DFMD is varying irrespective of the weight, depending on the shape/size of an object, its positioning on the body of a passenger and the speed with which he/she walks through the DFMD.

A Committee was constituted to verify from other International Airports if similar variation in detection pattern of DFMDs is experienced. It is found from the experience in Kuala Lumpur International Airport that the DFMD's detection capability is varying and that it needs to be supplemented by Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) to strengthen security measures.

All airports are inspected by officers of BCAS from time to time as per annual schedules drawn based on the threat perception.

#### **Legislation to Include Tourism in Concurrent List**

1039. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Rs. 500 crore tourism development fund;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to liberalise civil aviation policy and put tourism in the concurrent list for better coordination between the Centre and States;

(c) if so, whether this proposal has already been approved by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to bring forward a legislation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it would help to boost tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) A proposal for creation of a Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund/Scheme with an allocation of Rs. 500 crores during the 10th Plan has been sent to the Planning Commission.

(b) This proposal is not linked to liberalisation of Civil Aviation policy or placing tourism in the Concurrent list of the constitution. However, the Department of Tourism is in favour of liberalisation of civil aviation policy and placing tourism in the concurrent list of the Constitution for development of tourism in the country.

(c) The Planning Commission has not approved the proposal to date.

(d) No legislation is required for implementation of this proposal.

(e) This will help in improving basic infrastructure facilities like roads, electricity supply, water supply etc. at important tourist places in the country.

#### **Open Sky Policy**

1040. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend the open sky policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have unilaterally extended the open sky policy to 10 members ASEAN countries with the view to expedite greater integration of Indian Economy with ASEAN economy;

(c) if so, whether these countries would be allowed to operate flights to different destinations in the country without entering into bilateral agreement;

(d) if so, the extent to which this proposal has been accepted and implemented stating the destinations to be covered under this provision;

(e) the benefit, likely to accrue from this agreement;

(f) whether this policy would adversely affect the national carriers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial measures being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (g) Government has not announced an 'Open sky' policy for ASEAN nations. The offer made by India to the member countries of ASEAN at ASEAN-India Summit at Bali recently allows the facility of daily services to the four metropolitan cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and an unlimited number of flights to 18 tourist destinations in India. Requests received from ASEAN countries within the terms of this offer would be considered without any further bilateral talks as and when

formalised and implemented. This offer will lead to better connectivity between India and ASEAN nations and strengthen tourism, business, trade and commerce. Revenue implications of this offer for Air India and Indian Airlines cannot be estimated at this stage.

#### **Shortage of Milk in Delhi**

1041. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:  
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of milk in Delhi during the past few months;

(b) whether the Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) have not been able to cope with the demand of milk in the city;

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

(d) the total requirement of milk and the extent to which it is being met by the Mother Dairy and DMS;

(e) whether the DMS and National Dairy Development Board have imported milk powder to meet the milk shortage;

(f) if so, the details alongwith the period during which and the countries from where it was imported;

(g) the extent of difference between the per kilogram prices of imported and indigenous milk powder and the additional expenditure incurred as a result thereof; and

(h) the steps taken to ensure regular supply of milk in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There was some shortage of milk in Delhi during August and September, 2003.

(b) and (c) The supply of liquid milk by Mother Dairy and DMS during the past one year has remained as per demand barring a few days in the 2nd fortnight of August 2003. The supply dipped by about 20% in the third week of August and gradually came back to normal. The main reason for shortage of milk in Delhi and some other cities was attributed to the acute drought conditions

prevailing continuously during last three years in various states, which resulted in delay and poor calving of milch animals and also shortage of feed and fodder. The shortage was felt more in Delhi on Account of upsurge in the demand due to festivals beginning from August, 2003.

(d) The estimated demand of liquid milk in and around Delhi is 45 lakh litres per day. Mother Dairy and DMS currently provide an average of 20 lakh litres of milk per day.

(e) NDDDB has imported about 10,000 M.T. milk powder under the Tariff Rate Quota to augment domestic supplies.

(f) The contracts for import of milk powder were awarded between end August & mid September 2003. Most of the imported milk powder consignments have already reached the country. The countries of origin of contracted milk powder are European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina & Uruguay.

(g) The actual average landed cost of imported skimmed milk powder in Delhi is around Rs. 101/- per kg. as against this, the landed cost of indigenous skimmed milk powder in Delhi procured by Mother Dairy in August-September 2003 was between Rs. 100/- per kg & Rs. 160/- per kg.

(h) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in Ministry of Agriculture had called meetings with representatives of all state Governments/Federations/NDDDB and arranged supply of milk powder and white butter for Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy who are major suppliers of milk in Delhi. As a result of various measures taken by Government of India, the availability of milk in Delhi improved and no shortage of milk was felt. At present, there is no shortage of milk in Delhi and situation is going to be still more comfortable in the next couple of months.

#### **Development of Tourism**

1042. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have emphasised the need for a holistic and integrated approach towards development of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared 'Tourism Development Plans' to boost the tourism industry; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to implement these plans to develop the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The new approach is to synthesize the elements of tourism, culture, clean civil life and healthy environment at important tourist places.

(b) The Five Year Plan and the Annual Plans of Department of Tourism are prepared to boost tourism in the country.

The National Tourism Policy 2002 attempts to achieve the following:—

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- Harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation and economic development;
- Focus on domestic tourism as a major driver of tourism growth;
- Position India as a global brand;
- Acknowledge the critical role of private sector;
- Create and develop integrated tourism circuits;
- Ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India from within".

(c) The Annual Plans for development and promotion of tourism are implemented with the budgetary provisions made available to the Department of Tourism.

12.00 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida 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 V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8100/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:—
  - (i) The Employees' Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 783 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2003.
  - (ii) The Employees' Provident Funds (Amended conditions) Scheme, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 853 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2003.
  - (iii) G.S.R. 868(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2003 making certain amendment in the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8101/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

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 Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8102/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 795(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2003 under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8103/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. 796(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 206(E) dated the 5th March, 2003 issued under Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8104/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum and Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Air India Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8105/2003]

- (4) 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 Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8106/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coconut

Development Board Employees (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1318 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 2003 under section 21 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8107/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I on behalf of the Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai Chikhalia beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the Annual Reports for the year 2002-2003 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following institutes:—

- (a) (i) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad.
- (ii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore.
- (iii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal.
- (iv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar.
- (v) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Kolkata.
- (vi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.
- (vii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai.
- (viii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.
- (ix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Gurdaspur.
- (x) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati.
- (xi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior.

(xii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.

(xiii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur.

(xiv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai.

(xv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.

(xvi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.

(xvii) Institute of Hotel Management and Applied Nutrition, Patna.

(xviii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla.

(xix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shillong.

(xx) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar.

(xxi) Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

(xxii) National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi.

(b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the above institute for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8108/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management Gwalior for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8109/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Academi, 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 Sahitya Academi, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8110/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, 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 School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8111/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, 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 Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8112/2003]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, 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 West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2001-2002.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8113/2003]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2000-2001.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8114/2003]

- (13) 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 India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8115/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited Ranchi, for the year 1998-1999.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited Ranchi, for the year 1998-1999, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (14) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) Showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8116/2003]



12.02 hrs.

### PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003\*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND: I introduce the Bill.

12.03 hrs.

### STATEMENT RE: PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2003—*Laid*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I lay on the Table an Explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (Number 4 of 2003)

12.03½ hrs.

### NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL BILL, 2003\*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 8.12.2003.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rate of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matter relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I introduce the Bill\*\*

12.04½ hrs.

### STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE, 2003—*Laid*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf Shri Arun Jaitley, I, lay on

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

the Table an Explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 (Number 3 of 2003).

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...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this should not be treated as a routine permission. The Cabinet Ministers are away; they should have considered it and should have withdrawn their names. I am not challenging the authority of the Minister because he has the permission of the Speaker...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: He is in Rajya Sabha...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am only appealing to you. Not a single Cabinet Minister is present here. Why were their names given against those items? Why have they not changed it? This is not proper.

Sir, I am not challenging your authority. I am only appealing to you. They should not treat it as a routine matter, because you are kind enough...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken notice of that.

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...(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

### DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the Bill further to amend the De-limitation Bill, 2002.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 8.12.2003.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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12.05<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

### STATEMENT RE: DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2003—Laid

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table an Explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (number 6 of 2003).

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12.06 hrs.

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Shri Arun Jaitley ji is in Rajya Sabha. On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Peoples' Representation Act, 1950 and Peoples' Representation Act, 1951.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 8.12.2003.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF  
THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE—*Laid*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 5 of 2003).

12.08 hrs.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): Sir, on behalf of Shri Harin Pathak, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 8.12.2003.

SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND: Sir, I introduce the bill.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have got the opportunity to put forward your views, why are you not availing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, you may put forward your views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madan Lal Khurana ji, you please put forward your views.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Without making any allegations you can put forward your views.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please put forward your views without making any allegations.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi, Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the offer of money made by Shri Ajit Jogi, Ex-Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh to engineer split in Bhartiya Janata Party will be considered the most shameful chapter in the history of Indian democracy...(Interruptions) Shri Ajit Jogi tape episode is linked to the leader of opposition, Lok Sabha, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi...(Interruptions) The legal experts are of the opinion that it will not be possible to exclude Shrimati Sonia Gandhi from this episode...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, in today's list of Business there is no mention of a statement to be made by the hon. Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: As per section 10 of the Act concerning it, the statement of the prime accused is also considered the substantial evidence against the co-accused...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, while rejecting the admissibility of my motion it was said that the hon. Prime Minister would make a statement on the issue after his return from abroad....(Interruptions) But there is no mention of his making a statement in today's list of Business...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is extremely necessary to raise this matter to expose the conspirators and get the guilty persons punished...(Interruptions) Shrimati Sonia Gandhi should be called in the House as her name is also linked in this regard...(Interruptions) Such a shameful incident never happened in the history of democracy...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I permit the next speaker to speak. I would like to make clear two things. On the issues that are before me, one is a privilege notice given by Shri Kirit Somaiya. The issue is the same. The notice is under my consideration and I still have not made up my mind on this.

Another issue has been raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I must tell him that I have talked to the hon. Prime Minister and he is going to make a statement tomorrow on the issue of Shri Judeo.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised this issue with your permission only. I have not yet completed my statement...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have not finished your speech then please finish it. After you Shri Malhotra ji will speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the most shameful incident happened in the history of fifty years. Such a shameful incident

never happened earlier in the history of India. The name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is also involved in it. Not only the name of Sonia Gandhi ji rather...(Interruptions) The Congress party declared to extend support of its 37 M.L.As to a group. It was assured to pay lakhs of rupees...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have democracy in our country so we should listen to others also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh ji, the Members of the House listen to you. You should also listen to other Members.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any Chief Minister of Congress Party has the power to declare the support of his 37 MLAs for any other person?...(Interruptions) It means that they had the consent of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for extending support of 37 MLAs. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to call Sonia ji here and seek a statement from her ...(Interruptions) Her name is there. If Shri Jogi had no permission from her, why did he commit?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we refute this allegation. It is uncalled for, irrelevant and motivated...(Interruptions) If I now take the plea that Shri Bangaru Laxman took money with the consent of the hon. Prime Minister, then how would it hit them?...(Interruptions) This is unfounded and such things should not be said...(Interruptions) Did Shri Bangaru Laxman take money with the consent of the hon. Prime Minister?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, whether any Chief Minister can take a decision regarding extending support of his 37 MLAs on his own?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has just begun, let him speak.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If I take the plea that the former Party President of the BJP took money with the consent of the hon. Prime Minister, then how will you feel?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak on the issue if you want to. I am going to permit you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: None of the Congress Chief Ministers enjoy the power of doing any little thing without the permission of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. None of the Congress Chief Ministers can be bold enough to announce support of his 37 MLAs. He said that he has done so only after getting permission from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi...(Interruptions) Sonia ji should come here and answer it...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Jogi had secured the support of 13 MLAs of our party, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had commended him...(Interruptions) Therefore, she should come here and tell us as to whether it was done after seeking her permission? If she was kept in dark, then why she constituted a four member committee, what was its rationale? Now explanations are being sought from Shri Jogi. The House will not be allowed to function as long as Shrimati Sonia Gandhi does not come here...(Interruptions) She should give a statement. Lakhs of rupees have been mentioned and Rs. 50 lakh have changed hands. However, it is a different thing that letter was written by Shri Jogi...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana has still not concluded, let him finish.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Dr. Malhotra, why are you disturbing Shri Khurana?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the main accused mention name of any person the name of that person also gets included in the list. Since Shri Jogi mentioned, the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, she also is an accused...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, now you please conclude.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi be called here. The conspiracy to break BJP is most shameful...(Interruptions) Since Shri Jogi did all that only after getting permission from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, therefore, she should be called here...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must have our right to defend ourselves...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy is going to defend your case.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy is going to speak on the same issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, they must hear me...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the BJP claims that the sting operation was organised by it with the prior permission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani...(Interruptions) The Law Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley was privy to the so called sting operation...(Interruptions) The Deputy Prime Minister must come to the House and explain as to the role he played in the sting operation...(Interruptions) He must clarify whether any Minister including the Deputy Prime Minister, while being in the Council of Ministers, can be a party to a private sting operation...(Interruptions)

Sir, as for the letter written by Shri Jogi to the Governor, the Congress Party would like to clarify categorically that it was written without the knowledge, much less clearance, of the Congress high command...(Interruptions) Sir, it was for this act of indiscipline that Shri Jogi was suspended...(Interruptions)

Sir, as for the allegations on the audio-tapes, they are matters of contention and they need to be investigated...(Interruptions) The facts of the audio tapes or the contents thereof need to be verified through investigations and judicial determination...(Interruptions) Now, the name of the Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi is being dragged with a deliberate design to malign her...(Interruptions) The charge against the Congress President is ridiculous and malicious. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have permitted Shri Jaipal Reddy to speak and thereafter, I would permit Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Deputy Prime Minister of India must come and explain whether he endorses this type of a version...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House till 2 p.m.

12.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at fourteen of the clock.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Sonia ji ought to reply...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, will you please resume your seat? I am on my legs. This is not 'Zero Hour'. I cannot allow anyone to go on record like in 'Zero Hour'. We will continue with the business of the House. If any hon. Member is very much aggrieved on this issue and wants to present his case, let him give notice tomorrow morning and it would be taken up at the appropriate time. It cannot be taken up now. I appeal to you to please cooperate with me.

Now, we will take up item no. 17, Matters under Rule 377.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): What happened to Judeo Ji?...*(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee—not present

Dr. M.P. Jaiswal— not present

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat — not present

Even Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is absent! Maybe for a change.

Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

(i) **Need to declare a National Holiday on 18th December on the Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ghasidas.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, Sant Baba Guru Ghasidas ji was born on 18 December, 1756 at Giraudpuri, tehsil Balauda, district Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He dedicated his life to remove evils that had crept in the society of the downstrodden. His followers are not only in Chhattisgarh but all over the country. He founded the cult of Satnam and gave 'Guru Gaddi' as its mascot, gave the message of building 'Jai Stambh' in every village as a mark of identification. He revived his dead wife, Sapura Mata, a dead calf and another dead person through his nectar of Satnam. Madhya Pradesh Government, years ago, announced that his birth anniversary on 18th December will be a public holiday. My request is that Union Government also declare 18 December as national holiday so that his followers could pay their tributes.

(ii) **Need to set up a heavy industry in Mahabubnagar district, Andhra Pradesh**

[*English*]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: (Mahabubnagar): Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh is a backward area. Meagre and untimely rainfall and shortage in employment opportunities are posing a big problem for the development of this region. This situation is forcing the people of this area to migrate to other places. In order to discourage the migration, it is felt appropriate to evolve employment opportunities in the area itself. As a part of this many a time in the past proposals have been made and studies conducted for generation of employment opportunities in the area by setting up some heavy industries. But for one reason or the other those proposals had not materialised.

In view of the above, I urge upon the hon. Minister for Heavy Industries, the Defence Minister and the Government to evolve the ways for setting up of an

industry in the area for generating employment opportunities and stop migration to other places.

**(iii) Need to introduce additional Rajdhani Express train between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar on the Hirakud Express route**

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The 2421-2422 and 2443-2444 Bhubaneswar-Hazarat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express trains are running four days a week covering only four out of thirty districts of Orissa. The rail users of the remaining districts who frequently visit Delhi are not able to get the benefit of these trains. If another pair of Rajdhani Express train is introduced between Hazarat Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar and *vice versa* on the remaining three days of the week on the Hirakud Express route via Agra-Gwalior-Sagar, Bina-Bilaspur, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Angul and Dhenkanal, a large number of passengers not only from the State of Orissa but also from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh will be greatly benefited. Two link Express trains, one from Koraput and Sambalpur via Kesinga and Bolangir and another from Berhampur to Bhubaneswar should also be introduced to enable the passengers in these areas to board the Rajdhani Express at Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar respectively.

As such, I demand that the Rajdhani Express from Nizamuddin and Bhubaneswar be introduced on the Hirakud Express route without any further delay.

**(iv) Need to provide four-line connectivity to New Mangalore Port with the National Highway and Golden Quadrilateral**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Under the National Highway Development Programme and the Golden Quadrilateral Project launched by the Prime Minister, the National Highway Authority of India has been mandated to provide connectivity to all major ports in India with the Golden Quadrilateral.

New Mangalore Port is a major port on the South-Western Coast handling bulk import/export cargo for Kudremukh, MRPL, MCF etc. MRPL is under expansion with bulk Sudanese crude oil being imported. It is very essential that the New Mangalore Port be provided with four-lane connectivity to NH and the Golden Quadrilateral. But the work on this stretch is yet to commence whereas the NHAI has taken up NH-17 stretches passing through Kerala and Goa in a big way. Further, the New Mangalore Port Trust along with its major users like MRPL, MCF etc., has jointly offered to contribute 10 per cent of the

total project outlay for this port connectivity link. I request that Surathkal to Udupi on NH-17 be taken up urgently.

I request the Centre to accord top priority for this project and ensure adequate funds for the same.

**(v) Need to provide compensation to the families of Defence personnel killed while defending the Borders at par with the compensation given to Kargil Martyrs**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, the Government had announced for providing different facilities to the survivors of the Kargil Martyrs which also included the financial assistance for self employment and allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies to earn a living. The soldiers have kept on achieving martyrdom defending the borders even after the Kargil war due to cross border terrorism but the survivors of these martyrs have been kept bereft of the above said facilities.

Sir, several defence personnels have achieved martyrdom in various parts of the country particularly Almora, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal and Dehradun districts of Uttaranchal during the past four to five years and these martyrs have made valiant contribution at par and sometimes even beyond than that made by the martyrs of Kargil. However, they are not being provided the facilities like the Kargil martyrs by the Government.

Sir, I demand from the Government of India to provide compensation and facilities to the families of defence personnel killed while defending the borders at par with the facilities provided to Kargil martyrs.

**(vi) Need to increase the number of Notaries appointed for Kerala**

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasaragod): Sir, I would like to bring the attention of the Government towards revision of the Notaries to be appointed in Kerala.

According to the amended Rule of Notaries, the number of Notaries allotted for Kerala is 375. There were 787 Notaries on the date in the State. Notaries is a subject falling under the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Central Government have not consulted the State Government before fixing the

quota. Kerala Government have sent representation to the Ministry of Law and Justice in the year 2001 and 2002 to revise the number of Notaries for Kerala.

I request the Union Government to consult Kerala Government in this regard and take action to revise the number of Notaries to be allotted for Kerala as per their request immediately.

**(vii) Need to set up Industries in Naxalite-prone districts in Bihar**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Sir, the district Bhojpur, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Jahanabad and subdivision Masaudi of district Patna in Bihar is no industry area due to which lakhs of educated youth have been rendered unemployed and are on the verge of starvation. Poverty and unemployment has left the people disillusioned in these areas. The condition of the landless and small farmers is particularly bad. The people are compelled to join the anti-social organisations due to abject poverty and unemployment. This way these districts are turning into the terrorist prone regions.

Hence, I demand from the Union Government to set up small, medium and large-scale industries in these districts to protect them from turning into the hotbed of terrorism and also to bring back the disgruntled youth to the social mainstream by providing them employment.

**(viii) Need to start mobile service of BSNL in Macchilishahar and Patti Tehsil in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Macchilishahar): Sir, I request that the mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited be immediately started in the tehsil Patti of district Pratapgarh and Satharia industrial area of tehsil Macchilishahar of district Jampur so that the people of this region may get the benefit of this service.

14.15 hrs.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK  
(TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND  
REPEAL) BILL, 2000\*—Contd.**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 18 Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha, a lot of apprehensions had been expressed in the media by the banking organisations, the trade unions, the industrial houses and several other bodies. This Parliament had very rightly referred the entire matter to the Standing Committee for a detailed scrutiny. In 1964, the Indian economy, under the garb of mixed economy, kept in view the objective of a dream society known, in the true words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as the 'socialistic pattern of society'. For making further inroads, the IDBI Act was passed with the sole objective of development initiative of our country and to achieve the highest score in the industrial development of our country.

Since then, this nation has witnessed several pitfalls in various sectors of investment. Thereafter, it suggested various norms, amendments and framed rules for the entire development process to be undertaken by the public financial institutions, especially the institutions associated with development.

Our Party is not opposed to its repeal as such. But if the true spirit of the observations of the Standing Committee and also the threat to positive growth of development, especially of the joint sector, is not attended to by the Government, I am afraid, its repeal, in the form it has been brought forward, may not, in future, be productive and constructive for the purpose to be achieved.

We are all aware that in the opening up of the country's economy, globalisation and liberalisation did carry a continued message that right from the banking sector to the institutions concerned with development, further opening up is necessary. Being a Member of Parliament, I had the privilege to attend a meeting of a Committee of the United Nations. In that meeting of the Committee, the collective and comprehensive observations of many countries, including that of the United Nations Secretariat, did focus that even in the name of globalisation, unless serious and cautious efforts were made by the developing nations, including financial institutions and development banks and institutions, for further objective targets, mere banking activities as such may not carry forward the growth potential in the industrial sector.

Taking a clue from that point, I would take up some of the apprehensions expressed by the Standing Committee of the Parliament. That Standing Committee had gone into this matter seriously. I reiterate some of the observations made in its 46th Report in paragraph 30 on page 17:



"The Committee take note of the role played by IDBI in providing development finance to the industry for the last 40 years. Hence, they recommend IDBI, even after becoming a banking company, should continue to provide development financing so that industrial financing does not suffer any setback."

Mark the words 'development financing'.

"...The committee are unable to agree to the views of the Government, the officers of the RBI and CCI, that the IDBI, even after conversion, will continue to provide term lending to industry. They feel that once the IDBI Act of 1964 has been repealed, the alternative envisaged in the Bill would come in place and there is no specific provision in the Bill providing for the converted entity to act as a development bank."

Sir, I can understand the hon. Minister that the hon. Minister can instantly react to me and say, "Yes, we will take care of this." They may not bring amendment or they do not consider amendment of the Bill; but at least the Government should assure this House that they would dispel the apprehensions of the Standing Committee's Report by at least incorporating the relevant rules in a proper manner. I want a categorical answer from this Government in this regard and the Congress Party still is having a doubt and apprehension in this area in line with the Standing Committee of Parliament's observation. I would request the Government to note it and react to it positively while they dispose of the matter.

Sir, the development financial institution is a must for a country like ours. I will state it so. The Standing Committee said: "Teeming with millions of unemployed, industrially still backward and more so in the context of acute recession and that the proposed move of Government to convert IDBI into a banking company under Banking Regulation Act would serve no useful purpose other than adding one more bank to the existing 97 commercial banks in the country." They have also, it appears, opined: "that the original mandate give to the IDBI is being negated." The Government has to convince us that besides being the 97 commercial banks, what additional role this will play as a bank if we convert totally by repealing this Bill. This is the collective expression of the Standing Committee without any dissent voice.

Further the Standing Committee said, "Co-existence of DFI and commercial banking would create asset-liability mismatch because of short term resources of commercial

banking and long term investment in DFI." They also, it appears, have observed, "that although Narasimham Committee-II permitted the commercial banks to do project financing also besides usual banking activities, because of fear of asset-liability mismatch as also accumulation of NPAs, commercial banks are not doing project financing to the extent expected. The hon. Minister (Banking) can convince the Parliament whether this is a fact or not. For the last six years what is the project financing ratio of the banks, whose NPAs have gone high. The hon. Minister should tell the Parliament. You will find that the commercial banks whose NPA is at the highest peak, their project financing in last six years has come down below the expectations of the Government itself. In spite of various other considerations, in spite of various other methods like debt recovery tribunals, etc. how will they justify and convince the Parliament that they failed in project financing with this magnitude of NPA? Adding one more bank into this umbrella what additional climate would be built for development financing of the industry or at least the on-going industry, if not the new ones? These are the queries, not on political counts nor on partisan basis but on the count of the entire Parliament's observation through the Standing Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Standing Committee further observed, "The converted entity even if it becomes a commercial bank would not be able to survive because at the end of five years of moratorium period on SLR and CRR, it has to bring a whopping amount of Rs. 25,000 crore which the Committee, it appears, doubt as not attainable for a new bank as was submitted by us before the Standing Committee. Further, the Committee is also sceptical about achieving the targeted deposits by the converted entity. Who submitted this before the Standing Committee? It is the All India Industrial Development Bank Employees' Association. And their contentions have not been confronted till this date by the Government.

Sir, presently, IDBI is the only DFI in the country having the requisite expertise and skilled manpower to effectively discharge the role of DFIs; and commercial banks do not have the right set-up and expertise for project financing and appraisal of the same. It is a very technical thing. I am not going into it. I do not say that the commercial banks do not have the expertise. But, I do share the expertise of the development financial institution when it was conceived. You examine the project appraisal experts, monitoring experts, development growth and the development financing ratio, and company's liquidity observation and then you take a commercial bank, say Allahabad Bank. Pick up three or four cases. Invest

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi]

it in a project and in IDBI. Render development financial assistance to that project. Find whose job was done to satisfaction of the Government to save your public exchequer, and then explain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, DFI activity can never be ensured by a Board-driven company. You are corporatising the whole thing. A recent debate has been there in India whether disinvestment of BPCL, HPCL could be done straightway by the executive action, by a Resolution of the Board supported by the Government, and not to come to the Parliament. We felt since the Act was passed by the Parliament, they should come with a Repeal Bill. Accountability should lie with the Parliament. And, fortunately, one Bench of the Supreme Court held the view, one Bench of the High Court held the view and it is now before the Supreme Court.

Now, if you corporatise the IDBI, after this Repeal Bill is passed, the message is, accountability to Parliament is not there any more. All their omissions and commissions would be done by the executive action. So, the Government will have to answer to the Parliament, replying to the debate, what kind of accountability before the Lok Sabha would be there after passing this Repeal Bill so far as development financial institutions are concerned. It is because, there is a trend now. I am not accusing you or blaming you. I am saying there is a trend now. In the name of globalisation and liberalisation, all the institutions which are built by the public—which means the Government—will disappear without showing their accountability to the Lok Sabha. If this trend also embarrasses this particular Repeal Bill for IDBI, God knows why we are here. What for, then, are we coming here? I can understand that you can give logic. These days logic is getting a lot of support from the public. Is the Government to run a hotel? Is the Government to manage the things? Is the Government to run the Railway? The Government is here only to see the revenue and the policy of the country regarding international affairs, telecommunications, IT etc.? But, I will not argue those things because that is not the scope of this debate. The basic thing is that from 1964 to 2003 IDBI did a job, may not be to the full satisfaction. By repealing this Bill will you be able to face the trend of competition in the globalisation era of the world, chain of competition with the private sector, project financing by ICICI, mostly in the private sector? You look at most of the private sector undertakings. I just give you an example. If not today, tomorrow you give an assurance.

You table one document in Parliament as to which are the private sector companies, having received the

support of both the commercial banks and ICICI, have reached the pinnacle of economic growth and development growth. You say that these are the five-six cases. Take the assistance of CII who are giving you a lot of expertise. They are the champion of the entire economy. They can decide everything. Dr. Nitish Sengupta has to wisdom, we have no wisdom, Dr. Manmohan Singh has no wisdom. I mean, they are the good people. I am praising them. Only CII can decide it. Let the list be taken from CII. My dear good friend, you give me the names of 20 companies which are taking a substantial support from the commercial banks and ICICI. You also give us the names of another 20 bad companies where development financing by IDBI brought them down. The nation will be convinced, Parliament will be convinced, people will be convinced, and nobody will talk about politics or anything. Let the Government convince us. Let the Government come out with it.

Our Deputy Leader, Shri Shivraj Patil, the other day, advised the Finance Minister to take care of the loopholes, apprehensions and fears. If you do not bring appropriate amendment now, at least can you not assure to add effective rules as a safeguard with accountability to Lok Sabha? I do not know what will be answer of the Government at the end of the day but we, from the Congress Party, appeal it to you because I take the claim of good and bad things. Yes, to fulfil the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the two and a half Plans, and to make India further advanced, we did bring in the concept of IDBI in 1964. We say with all authority at our command that IDBI, if not fully but substantially, did not let down our dream as an institution.

If new things have come to his mind, well, let him report them to us. Let him convince us and we will be too happy.

Sir, I would like to make some suggestions today.

The Government should provide low cost fund to retire high cost debt incurred in the past.

If the funds cannot be found from the Budget, RBI may be asked to provide foreign exchange loan to IDBI at international interest rate prevailing abroad and this could be provided to IDBI without any loss to RBI.

Low cost development fund be made available to IDBI by guaranteeing the borrowings of IDBI and providing access to SLR bonds, low cost tax caving bonds, special funds like NIC from RBI as provided in the Act.

Stringent measures should be provided for recovery of NPAs—confiscation of personal property of promoters. Willful defaults be declared as criminal offence and no other projects/schemes of the promoters who are defaulters be supported. This, I think, will be strongly objected to by CII. That is why, you do not like to say it. I am not accusing you. I am telling you the facts.

There should be no further dilution of Government share holding in IDBI. Infusion of Government fund in equity and Tier-I Capital Bond should be there to maintain Capital Adequacy Ratio whenever necessary to insulate IDBI from effects of NPAs.

Tax exemption status of IDBI should be restored as DFI is a non-profit organisation.

There should be absolute Government control and responsibility to safeguard the huge public money involved in it and to carry on industrial developmental activities on national priority basis.

Loan sanctioning authority be made accountable individually in NPA cases and CBI inquiry be instituted against those responsible.

Infrastructure development projects be implemented through IDBI, which can play a pivotal role in this vital area of economic activity.

Also, the Government should give guarantee. Guarantee means not in terms of codifying the law. Guarantee means, in the entire frame of work, it will not deter from the path of development financing to the industry. To ensure that, a periodical review has to be made annually. That review report has to be tabled in the Lok Sabha. I want to attach in this matter at least some link of accountability. It is not allowing you to go scot-free, to do what you like in the name of corporate governance. These are a few things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the IDBI was being provided low cost fund in the form of NIC (LTO) from RBI and SLR bonds. I tell you that in 1991, when Shri Narsimha Rao was the Prime Minister, in pursuance of the policy of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation, in the garb of new economic policy, the support provided to the IDBI gradually started being withdrawn. I say this with specific example. At the end of the day, there is only withdrawing. Now, you have come to the Repeal Bill. I would again humbly request you to look at this specific paragraph of the Report of the Standing Committee, and also hear those experts who have been working in the IDBI for a long tenure.

My last appeal to the Government is this. Do not be allured, influenced or impressed suddenly by the so-called message and sweet songs of the World Bank....(*Interruptions*) I can give you the example of a few foreign nations where things have gone wrong. I hope you have studied those things. Take for example, Korea. You study how the development finance is given there. When it was changed to different direction, what happened to their economy? I can cite several other reports, but time will not permit me because my Party has not that much time. But I have two or three points only to refer to, which may help the Government to understand and decide at the end of the day.

The DFIs in India are already moving in the direction of universal banking and are increasingly operating on commercial consideration as opposed to development consideration. If the DFIs are required to assume any development obligation, we suggest that the RBI and the Government should provide an appropriate level of financial support to enable them to fulfil these obligations.

Sir, the Development Bank of Japan provides long-term low interest loans to projects with high risk, long maturity, low profitability and heavy initial investment. It is not dictated by primary consideration of profits. The entire funding requirement sources are from the Government. *The Journal of Development Finance*, August 2002 is the source. It is from Japan. If Japan can do that, look at it. If Japan can do that, why should India simply ignore India's actual fiscal reality and the role played by the Development Finance Institutions?

There is a policy-based finance organisation in the United States and Europe. In Europe, there is the European Investment Bank (EIB), the policy based financing organisation for the entire European Union and at the level of individual countries. The organisation of *Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau* (KfW), which is German name, which is in Germany, can be cited as an example for the representative policy-based financing organisation.

In the United States, where the capital market is the most developed, policy-based financing, similar to that in Japan, is comparatively rare. Even so, there is a public support system for loans and loan guarantees at the federal level whereas project support based on the use of industrial revenue bonds etc. is actively implemented by various States and local governments. This Annual Report is also from the Development Bank of Japan—August, 2002.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi]

*Korean Development Bank:*

- (i) Long term equipment financing for infrastructure, technology development, environmental protection, telecommunications;
- (ii) Receives budgetary allocations for directed lending;
- (iii) Has access to special purpose funds designated by the Government.
- (iv) Government is obliged to replenish KDB's deficits.

*Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand—the next door neighbour*

- (i) Provides concessional finance for exports, small scale industries, environmental protection;
- (ii) concessional funding from Bank of Thailand;
- (iii) exemption from Income-tax, stamp duties and certain withholding of the taxes.

(Source: Journal of Development Finance, August 2002)

*DFI in Malaysia*

Following the economic crisis in Malaysia, the country realised that drop in loan growth of manufacturing sector (six per cent growth in 1996 *vis-a-vis* 76 per cent for property and 65 per cent for general commerce) was one of the main reasons for economic crisis in Malaysia earlier and started enhancing capital flow to industry (64 per cent growth in 1998) through its DFIs.

Therefore, the role of IDBI as Apex Development Financial Institution in India is a necessity. IDBI was set up and followed this policy. I, therefore, request the Government that though you will pass the repeal Bill by majority, but please understand that the history of IDBI's operation indicates that the cumulative assistance extended by IDBI and other DFIs to industries was Rs. 3,50,000 crore as at the end of the March 2001 and of this assistance, 44 per cent (Rs. 1,52,000 crore) was provided by IDBI, and of the external funds mobilised by SFCs, 60 per cent was provided by IDBI. The many successful corporates that we see in India today have received financial support from IDBI at some stage or other.

Therefore, Sir, my humble submission to the Government at the end of the day of my speech is, please, if time permits you, do not pass the Bill hurriedly,

close the discussion, have a look, talk to the Opposition leaders, talk to your own party leaders—BJP or NDA—find out whether the Standing Committee has mentioned anything, look at the memoranda submitted by the employees, data that I quoted, the journals that predicted the position of Korea, Malaysia, Japan Germany. ...(*Interruptions*) and Pakistan also. I am sorry, I could not quote Pakistan, have any relevance. Do not crush our boat before it sails in the stormy sea of globalisation. Taking that thing into account, if possible, come with relevant supporting amendments, or substance of the rules. Heavens will not fall if we do not pass this Bill today. This is my only appeal to you and I hope the Government will give an objective consideration on the whole merit of the debate and bring justice to this institution without complete dilution.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

This is a disastrous step being proposed by this Government. Their decisions and actions in several sectors have already caused disasters to our self-reliant economy and this is one more addition they are going to do. This I am saying because we had an opportunity to discuss the issue in the Standing Committee and I had serious reservations about many of the provisions proposed in the legislation.

Ultimately, I cannot but oppose it vehemently because what is being proposed has no relation with the objective reality, the socio-economic reality of this country. In the name of financial sector reforms, banking reforms based on a foreign model, rather the IMF and World Bank models set up before us, we are trying to achieve the best international practices in the banking sector. While in many of the developed countries like Japan—as has been mentioned by my esteemed colleague—Malaysia, South Korea and even Europe and the U.S., there are provisions for Government support for project financing at low cost lending process and subsidy and it was being a case of being influenced by the IMF and the World Bank model which is called globalisation. But this severely criticises the very concept that in the name of globalisation, you are imposing the Washington consensus which has no relevance with many countries of the world.

One eminent Nobel laureate, Joseph Stiglitz, analysed the Scandinavian model, the European model, the American model and all these things. It is being said that as a business model it has become outdated and as a business model it has come under strain. The IDBI

has inherited a huge corpus of NPA of the order of Rs. 15,000 crore. How did it happen? It was because of the wrong policies not only of this Government but of the previous Governments, the Governments from 1991. Even before that the RBI was giving 14 per cent for G-Sec. Opposite arguments are being given that it will come at par with these things and all those things. Is converting one developmental financial institution, rather the principal developmental financial institution, including banks, going to serve any purpose to this country? You leave alone the concept. How can one more addition of a bank will save this IDBI? There are so many banks.

Even yesterday there was a report that the banks are fudging their balances based on trading only. Although the SLR has been brought down, they are putting money in G-Sec. There is hardly any off-take in spite of the rosy picture being presented in the mid-year review of the economy. What is the scenario with regard to the manufacturing sector? Only some stories about pharmaceutical and software are not going to ultimately serve any purpose and there lies the success story of China. China has made their globalisation and liberalisation country-specific. No one is against reforms. Reform is one of the inalienable part of progress and civilisation. But in whose interest the civilisation also indicates reforms? In what direction it is going? How is it phased and how it is sequenced? How can it be made country-specific?

You see our level of developmental or our stage of development, with so much of illiteracy, growing unemployment during the last ten years of the reform process. It is a tragedy. It is widely admitted by IMF, admitted by the World Bank, admitted even by the Government and the Planning Commission and admitted by all the Task Forces set up by the Planning Commission that the in the Central public sector, 6.5 lakh people lost their jobs. There is growing workforce and no employment. What should they do? Where should they go? Where shall they go? Terrorism is growing. There are so many stories parroting the language of Washington. By whom is terrorism being created? What has happened in Assam? there are handful of job opportunities even in Group C and Group D and there are lakhs and lakhs of them who are unemployed.

The Government has no concern. Who will make the project finance? Who will give concessional lending? They say, 'you go to the market.' What is the condition of the market? Leave aside the stories of scam one after another. Leave aside the question of insider trading and manipulation. How many scripts are being traded? Even

through the Mauritius route, a handful of FIs are cornering only a handful of blue chip scripts and in hundreds of other scripts, there is no trading at all. Steel sector is picking up and stories are being made out. Pharmaceutical sector is doing well. Only one or two sectors are doing well, but what is the overall situation with regard to our industries—large industries, heavy industries, medium industries and ancillary industries?

If IDBI is gone, it is being proposed that it will work as a bank. What sort of a bank will it work like? I had asked this question to the appropriate authority. What sort of a bank will it work like? Will it act as another retail bank, another niche bank? What will they do? Will they do corporate lending, wholesale lending? The cost of borrowing in the case of IDBI is a major deterrent factor. The Khan Committee was set up and it did not outright reject corporatisation. I have a copy of the Khan Committee Report. Citing the examples of Japan, Thailand, Korea, U.K. and many other countries, it says that international case studies clearly bring out that the development financing activity has largely been dependent on Government support. Without Government support, development financing cannot take place.

Who will come to IDBI? There are other agencies. There is capital market also. Who will finance the power projects? We know the ghastly stories of Enron and all these things. I am not reiterating them. Who will project finance the infrastructure? It is all studied because RBI had withdrawn LOT wherefrom the IDBI got the concessional funding which, in turn, will offer it on concessional rates. In such a situation, what is the business model, what is the Government's thinking about the model at all? They are weakening the Central public sector undertakings, even profit-making giants. Is it not eroding the self-reliant base of our economy?

Look at other developing countries. Look at even Pakistan. Such development is taking place in Pakistan also, but they are not compromising here. Malaysia is not compromising here. Thailand is not compromising. South Korea and Japan are also not compromising. Why the hell in our country are we thinking in terms of corporatisation? What will happen after corporatisation? What will be the focus area? Can it continue as a developmental financial institution without the support of Government, on subsidies' back? Then, why had the Government come out with a paper? The merited three categories of subsidies—without merit, with merit and less merit or moderate merit. This is an area which merits subsidy. Otherwise, there are areas of industrial process like power sector and important infrastructure sector where

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the superb profit motives of other multinationals' big business will never come. They will opt for consumer business where there is more profit in less time. Now, what will be the relationship between IDBI and the already existing IDBI Bank?

The Managing Director of IDBI gets not even 1/10th of the salary of what the CEO of IDBI Bank gets. Will it be a case for the merger? What will happen afterwards? What will be the arrears? They say that they shall apply to the RBI for a special permission so that they can continue to have their stake of more than 51 per cent or 57 per cent, etc. It is because they current stipulation—according to the Banking Regulation Act—states that they cannot have more than 30 per cent stake. I am totally opposed to it.

The Standing Committee had recommended that at least 51 per cent stake should be continued with the Government. What will happen after this? For five years you propose to grant certain concessions. The Standing Committee recommended income tax concessions, concessions in respect of capital gains, etc. It is all right, but you are proposing that—as I can understand it—for the coming five years you will be given concessions in respect of SLR and priority sector lending and that you will have no such obligation, rather you will be free from any such obligations.

What will happen after five years? Will this new entity—after five years—be able to fulfil all its obligations of capital adequacy and many other obligations that are required to be done, even in the Indian situation?

Then again, there is another Bill, namely the Banking Acquisition Bill that is pending. It is called the Privatisation Bill, privatisation of banks. In that, it has been proposed that the Government would bring down its stake to 33 per cent. Why and how did this calculation of 33 per cent come about? I have asked from several quarters and several people, but no one could explain to me. The stake of 26 per cent I can understand that it is according to the Company Law. What does a stake of 33 per cent mean here? Did any *Jyotishi* say something about this? I do not know.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Instead of giving 33 per cent reservation for women, they are talking of giving 33 per cent here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, instead of giving 33 per cent reservation for women, they are giving it here. What will happen then? The Standing Committee recommended 51 per cent.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Two new women Chief Ministers have been appointed today.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: But, even this does not make 33 per cent reservation.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Out of the three newly appointed Chief Ministers from our party, two are women.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am talking about the whole country.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): 26 per cent does make some sense.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It does not make any sense because you are supporting them. Almost all actions of this Government do not make any sense. They have no thinking, and it is all *ad hocism*. Sometimes Washington is saying something; sometimes some big businessman is saying something; and sometimes you want to compromise your interests...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: You should think about the situation in 1996-1997. Your party was on the treasury bench side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Nitish Sengupta, after Shri Rupchand Pal concludes, you are getting the floor.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, privately, I admit that the Government has several minds because they have to accommodate interests of all the partners in the NDA. How can they have a clear thinking and a clear direction? So, this Government is out to destroy not only the economic needs of the country, but it will cause de-industrialisation and that process they have started.

Who will finance infrastructure like power, road and many such related areas unless we succeed in manufacturing sector, and unless we have a well built-up infrastructure?

I am not only taking about the Union's obligations. What will happen to the State Government's obligations? they have their own SIDBI, etc. I think, there have been some sort of working relationship between different financial institutions like the IRBI, IFCI, IDBI, etc. over the last several years, which have been through consortium process, through various process, etc. in supporting the project financing and all such other things.

There are States and I know of such instances. It is not that IDBI was all right. Sometimes it was used as a pocket organisation by some influential industrial houses.

15.00 hrs.

The stories of corruption are known. Though it is a small organisation comprising 1600 employees and officers, it has a large corpus of money. However, there is hardly any professionalism for quite some time. The Chairman's post was auctioned. I do not say that it was never done earlier. Their autonomy was ruined by political activists and leaders. The whole kitty was given on a platter to individual industrial houses. I am not naming anybody; everyone knows it. When we wanted the IDBI to involve itself in some project in West Bengal, serious reservation was expressed and delaying tactics were resorted to. However, for an industrial house, just by a phone call, their yes-man was ready to comply with their request. It is not that in one day these NPAs worth Rs. 15,000 crore have come up.

My suggestion is that it is not the way to protect the health of this organisation. They need more professionalism, better technology and Government's considered support. They are giving in to the pressures of the World Bank and the IMF. What do they say? They want to de-emphasise developmental financing and they want that there should be more emphasis on the capital market so that the FIIs can enter, sometimes, through the Mauritius route and, sometimes, through some other routes. There will be volatility and buoyancy and the papers will write, "Oh, it crossed 6,000 mark." Whether it has any relationship with the fundamentals or not is a different question. The bubble will burst, and the small investors who burnt their fingers in it will shy away from it and they will again put the money in the banks only. More than 32 per cent of the small savings are put in the banks, although the long-term interest rate on the deposits has come down from 13 per cent to 6 per cent. Dr. Rangaranjan has seriously criticised that in the WPI, you do not take into account the services sector, which accounts for more than 50 per cent of the GDP. Now, calculating the inflation rate on the basis of WPI, you are bringing down the interest rate because in America, there is a low interest rate regime. So far as this interest rate is concerned, what will happen to the senior citizens who have put their money in the banks? If you take into account the inflation rate and the deposits, even after the low rates of lending, what is the offtake by the industrial houses? Since there is an overall gloomy picture in the industry, in such an Indian situation particularly, if they have to stand up and if they have to stand the

competition from not only our big neighbours but also from others, we need to rethink that the developmental financial institutions are urgently required. They should not be dismantled. The Government should cooperate and extend their full support to them. Without governmental support, the financial institutions, the erstwhile business models, cannot work anymore. The reform process should be country specific, taking into account the reality and the need of the country.

I think, Sir, they should withdraw the Bill and reconsider it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, while also supporting all their apprehensions. I rise to support this Bill as an inevitable and unavoidable kind of measure to help the IDBI readjust itself to the changed economic milieu which has come about in this country. However, at the same time, I am in the happy position to say that I am also supporting and appreciating some of the concerns raised by my good friend, Shri Rupchand Pal, and before that, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. But, Sir, why are they unnecessarily throwing all their gunfire at something which does not deserve that opposition? It is a simple measure meant to convert IDBI from a statutory corporation into a company under the Companies Act—simply that, nothing more. That sort of change has been done several times in the past. Many times in the past this House approved such proposals. Many corporations which started as statutory corporations have become public limited companies registered under the Companies Act. That gives a lot more flexibility to their operation than what a statutory corporation can provide.

Apprehensions were raised by Shri Dasmunsi that development financing must be given importance. All that can be done very simply by providing for all that in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new company which is to be formed. It is as simple as that. So, I would expect the Government to say that that will be done.

To go back to IDBI's history, incidentally IDBI was not set up during Nehru's time. It was set up during the great Lal Bahadur Shastri's time. He was the Prime Minister when the IDBI was set up. It started as a branch of the Reserve Bank of India; then became a kind of a statutory corporation; and then during the 1970s it was given the status of the apex financial institution, the lead financial institution. It was standing at the apex of the whole string of other institutions like IFCI, ICICI, and so on and so forth. They were all supporting bodies. In the

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

matter of project financing IDBI assumed the lead manager's role. They all used to come together. There used to be an inter-institutional meeting which used to decide on project financing so that each unit could contribute something to a project which was considered worth supporting after the project appraisal.

That age has gone by. During the 1970s, another situation came into being by and large. After the nationalisation of commercial banks, it was decided that the banks will generally provide working capital accommodation to industry and institutions will provide long-term financial assistance. For a long time, banks were not allowed to go to project financing at all. They were simply giving working capital accommodation.

Today, the scene is totally changed. Any bank is allowed to do both project financing and working capital accommodation. So, an industry can go either to Allahabad Bank or United Bank of India or any other bank and ask for long term project financing. So, to that extent, special justification for developmental bank is no longer there.

Having said that, I should say that since IDBI was considered a kind of a focal body, it has lost its lead position now. Today it is finding it very difficult to maintain its position. Other banks are making lots of money by giving short-term assistance at higher rates of interest. IDBI is prevented from indulging in many of these activities which can give them a certain return on project financing. They are not able to engage in those functions. So, the intention behind this Bill is only to give IDBI that flexibility which will give them a lot more opportunities to do lending and earn more interest so that in a way they can subsidise the other part of their activity which is project financing to the industrial companies and corporations. To that extent, that special position has gone.

Therefore, today any industry can approach any bank for either project financing or working capital. IDBI cannot do working capital accommodation or short-term funding. That is why they are being given that facility. After getting converted into a bank they can get that kind of flexibility. So, the concerns that are expressed by my friends as to what would be the role of the development financing that should be there. I would request the Government, and I am sure the Government will do that. When the company has been formed there is something called, as you know, under the Companies Act there is Memorandum of Association and there is Articles of Association. Memorandum of Association has an object clause which provides for all those things.

Therefore, all those considerations which Shri Dasmunsi or Shri Rupchand Pal mentioned could as well be included in that object clause. Therefore, IDBI should be able to continue their activities also aided by the fact that they can also do lot more other activities than what they are at present permitted to do.

Sir, a mention was made about Malaysia, Japan and KfW of Germany. Even the United States had a private sector organisation called OPIC to help the private sector companies, although it is a public sector body for a long time. Therefore, all these models are there.

But today, the world has changed and frankly, this change has nothing to do with globalisation; this change has nothing to do with liberalisation, and this change has nothing to do with the World Bank or IMF dicta. But it is essentially a part of setting the house in order. It is a kind of readjusting the priorities and adjusting this organisation with the changed economic milieu that has come about. Without that, I am afraid, its finances are going from bad to worse.

Sir, I made a quick calculation about the mounting loss. When this Bill first came before this august House about a year and a half ago. There was a suggestion that it should go to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. There was an apprehension expressed that if there is more delay, the losses will go on mounting. I am afraid, the losses have gone on mounting. They are, I think, Rs. 15,000 crore to Rs. 17,000 crore just now, and they will go on mounting.

I need not go into the NPAs level at this moment. Big NPAs have been built up. A lot of reasons were given. I sympathise with that view. I agree with that view that very often under pressure, in the past, a lot of project assistance had been given, which should not have been given according to the right principles of financial prudence. But they have been done. Now, the IDBI is faced with a big amount of NPAs which is mounting up everyday. Therefore, the longer we take to allow this Bill to be passed into a law, there would be more mounting of losses. If we really want to help the IDBI, this Bill should be passed quickly. But all the concerns expressed could be incorporated in the Memorandum Clause or in the Objects Clause suitably.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why should it not be incorporated in the Act?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Why do you want it to be in the Act? You can say something if you want, and that



can be noted. That is the decision of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. They can be included. Why do you have the apprehension that the Government will not do that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Nitish Sengupta, please address the chair.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sorry, Sir. My apologies.

The point is that all these companies which were mentioned from Japan, from Korea and from Germany, since the time they were united, they are there. So, the IDBI can as well continue to discharge that role. There is no doubt that it will discharge that role.

Sir, when the IDBI was set up, the basic problem was that the industry did not have the opportunity to get access to finance. The capital market was practically ill developed. It was very marginal, very infantile. At that time, the foreign investment was also not very easy to come. There was a lot of strict policy forbidding or restraining or minimising foreign investment in this country's economy. Then, the private sector financing sources were very small and inadequate. That is why, the Government, in its wisdom, came with a string of mighty institutions to help private sector industry in meeting the long-term requirements of finance. But today, that age has gone. It is essentially a part of adjusting ourselves.

Sir, somebody mentioned about stoppage of subsidies. Well, I think, I can claim some responsibility for it. In 1991, I was given task of formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan. Then, one day, when the Department of Economic Affairs' plan budget was coming for discussion, I found that there was an amount of Rs. 950 crore as Government subsidy for the institutions. So my immediate reaction was: "When these companies raise thousand of crores of rupees, how is it that the Planning Commission, the Department of Economic Affairs has to subsidise as their capital?" I said: "This must be stopped." I said: "Instead of raising Rs. 14,000 crore, they can raise Rs. 15,000 crore." Then, it was said: "No. That would mean dilution of the Government control. I said: "Let there be a dilution of the Government control." I said: "But at a time, when the Government does not have the funds to provide drinking water in all the villages which do not have drinking water; at a time when the Government does not have the funds to provide elementary primary education to all the villages, to all the children which we are duty-bound under the Directive Principles of the Constitution, the Government has no business to throw

around Rs. 950 crore on the IDBI, ICICI and all that, giving them budgetary support." And, that was stopped at that time. But that has gone on. I do not anticipate any situation where the Government will be able to bring back that system of subsidising them. They must stand on their own.

So, Sir, I fully appreciate the concerns expressed by some hon. Members and I fully agree with the concerns expressed by the Standing Committee. But I am afraid, they are treating this instrument as a kind of symbol for venting out all their apprehensions about the current state of economic affairs. That is not correct. The present Bill is a simple Bill enabling the conversion of what has been Statutory Corporation with a lot of difficulties by the of its operation and with lack of flexibility, into a bank or a corporate body where it can do a lot of other things, while continuing to discharge its role as a leading industrial finance provider.

With these words, I support this Bill and I do hope that the Government will take care of all those concerns.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you. I rise to support the Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002.

I was listening with rapt attention to what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni and Shri Rupchand Pal have said. As usual, Shri Rupchand Pal attributed every ill of Indian economy to the process of globalisation. It is very natural also because when I was a child and when I was studying in the high school, some people said that when it used to rain in Moscow in those days, the Communists here hoisted umbrellas over their heads.

Probably, they think that it is the same thing even now; that is, everything is being organised from the World Bank, from the International Monetary Fund and from Washington, and that India has nothing to do independently, and everything that India does is on the instructions of Washington. I am very strongly opposed to that cynical views expressed by the Communists of this country.

I agree with what Dr. Nitish Sengupta has said. It is a very simple Bill. The IDBI as a financial institution, does not have access to cheaper funds. Concessional finance is not being given to it by the Government. The average cost of borrowing by the IDBI which was below ten per cent at the beginning of the last decade has gone up to 11.5 per cent during 2001-02, while the average return has gone down from 14 per cent to 10.4 per cent over the same period.

[Shri Kharbela Swain]

As Dr. Nitish Sengupta was expressing, should there not be a level-playing field? Now, IDBI is not the only financial institution in India. Its NPA is 20 per cent. It has unpaid loans worth Rs. 2,75,155 crore by the commercial banks; 43 per cent of the loans are term loans of the commercial banks. When the commercial banks have access to cheap funds—because they do have deposits from outside, and they do have deposits from depositors—the IDBI has no such facility.

The IDBI as a development bank or as a financial institution, does not attract any deposit from anybody. So, it is a very simple Bill, letting IDBI to turn into a bank, maybe, as the IDBI Bank.

My point is this. Even when the IDBI becomes a bank, it will still remain as a Government bank; it will still resort to institutional finance; it will still resort to institutional lending; and it will finance the development activities of this country. The only thing is that it will have to open branches all over India, to attract deposits from small depositors.

You may take the example of ICICI Bank. It was also like a financial institution some years ago; now it has turned into a bank, more so, as a retail bank. It has resorted to retail banking and it is attracting deposits too. Now, it is not possible on the part of the IDBI to remain only as an institutional financing institution. So, it requires a level playing field. The NPAs in the IDBI are because of the legacy about environment. Now take the example of steel. The cost of one tonne of steel was 324 dollars but it suddenly fell down to 180 dollars per tonne. Now its situation has deteriorated because of these reasons which are beyond its control. Is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to do something about it? How much money will the Government of India do something about it? How much money will the Government of India be able to just pump in for the activities of IDBI every year? Is it not a good idea that it should go for its own funding? It should collect its own funds from the market so that the funds could be passed on to the industry at a cheaper rate of interest. A single product institution cannot survive in the globalised atmosphere. It is a very good thing that IDBI is going to re-phrase itself into IDBI bank.

An attack has been made by Shri Rupchand Pal on the process of globalisation. He mentioned about Malaysia, Korea, and so many other countries. He also said how because of the globalisation, there was recession in those countries. I agree that they had recession. It was called

the 'Asian Flu' in 1998. If you compare it with the recession of 1932, you will find that before the Second World War, all these countries including Germany were ruined because of the recession. But if you take the example of 1998, there was a recession in South-East Asia. It even affected countries like Japan and China. But it is because of the process of globalisation that there was restructuring of the economies of those countries on the advice of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Now you can see that within only four to five years, the phase of recession is over in those countries. They have already come back to real state of economy what they had about 5 to 10 years back. So putting everything on the head of globalisation and just trying to say that India should isolate itself, it should close its windows and doors, it should not allow anybody to come inside, etc. is a very wrong perception. If we do so, the Indians would also not be able to go to other countries and have their own multinationals. Therefore, I strongly oppose it.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, before participating in the discussion, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the IDBI is going to be revived. In the case of ICICI and ICICI Bank when the process of merger was over, the whole financial crunch of the bank had been rehabilitated. Here already IDBI, by virtue of being a statutory corporation, is governed by a separate enactment. What are the benefits this bank is going to get when it is having an existing statutory status with a overriding power over the companies? The large NPAs are due to this bank. How is this legislation going to help the bank? There are large defaulters.

There are company defaulters. How would these company defaulters going to pay? They already have had their dividends; they have already had their benefits prior to the introduction of this Bill. Without knowing all these facts and figures it is very difficult to either support or oppose this Bill. The whole object of the Bill is not being debated here.

Sir, my feeling is that IDBI is going to lose from this. Now, if there are honest industrialists who intends to repay their NPAs, then this legislation will help them in their rehabilitation. I do not think the IDBI as such, even after merger with the IDBI bank, is going to get revived. So, this takeover and merger of the IDBI bank can be debated after the Government comes forward with—I do not say a White Paper—a full statement stating the facts and figures of NPAs. It is then only that we would be able to contribute much on this.

Sir, however, I have to make a contribution to this debate. All sick companies, whenever they are put to stress, will take advantage of this legislation. Let it not be a bad precedent for all the banks. All the banks have suffered heavily, right from the Indian Bank to IDBI bank. No bank had been able to rehabilitate themselves till the Central Government paid huge amounts, including the Indian Bank, and helped them to regain their original status. Now, when there is already a statutory status enjoyed by the IDBI, these over-riding owners over the companies is not necessary. If it is necessary, then let the hon. Minister say so and then I would put forward my suggestions on this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, IDBI Act, 1964 was enacted with a view to promote and provide financial assistance to the industries in the country. The purpose of this Act was to provide adequate capital base to the industry which is the fundamental for running an industry besides other requirements like raw material, market and good management. When amendment in this Act was made in 1994, it increased the share of the Government to 98.5 percent.

Now what is being done is that a new amendment Bill is being introduced to repeal the IDBI Act, 1964 which seeks to convert IDBI into a commercial bank. This is, as claimed by the Government, being done on the basis of the recommendations made by the Narsimhan Committee and not on its own. Sir, I would like to know as to what steps have been taken by the Government to encourage and promote industries in the developing states in this era of globalisation. Commercial bank will be guided more by its commercial interests rather than promoting industrial development. The capitalists are hatching a conspiracy to convert IDBI into a corporate body and into a commercial bank and then totally privatise it. This way the process of disinvestment and selling has been going on everywhere and these people are trying to do it in all spheres. I would like to know as to what is the guarantee that the Government won't sell it as the process for its sale has already started and I very much doubt that it will happen.

This Standing Committee has also stated that it won't yield any benefit. There are already 97 banks and this will further add to make it 98. The bank has the NPA's worth Rs. 15 thousand crore at its disposal. I would like to know as to who is responsible for this huge non-performing assets and what action has been taken by

the government against the persons guilty of pushing IDBI into this state of affairs? The Committee has recommended to take stringent action against those persons. Firstly, I would like to know as to what action was taken to recover the bad debt worth Rs. 15 thousand crore? Why wasn't the property of the defaulter attached? Secondly what efforts were made to fix the responsibility in this regard and what action was taken against the officers guilty of sanctioning loans? The money worth Rs. 15 thousand crore was lost in the name of giving industrial loans and then the buck was passed saying that it has turned into a non-performing assets. The Standing Committee also stated that turning the bank commercial won't yield any benefit except increasing the number of banks. I am also of the view that it is not going to be beneficial in any way. Though it is different if the Government are bent upon selling it. The Government are claiming that it is going to do a lot better.

[Translation]

Now, if it is privatized or sold, then we can consider that he has taken right steps. But if he says that he is doing so to set it right, such a possibility is remote in this case.

I would like to read out a couple of sentences recorded by the committee in this regard. The committee are of the view that more steps are required to be taken by the Government to enable the converted companies receive the targetted amounts of deposit. The original charter of rights of the IDBI must be kept in mind. I would like to know the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee have noted the role played by the IDBI in development related financing to industries during the last forty years. Therefore, it recommends that after becoming a banking company, the IDBI should continue the development related financing so that industrial financing does not get a jolt. I would like to say that the laws are being changed and old laws repealed. Under such a situation it would go beyond the purview of the Parliament or will not remain within the ambit of the Parliament. If it will not finance, what will remain in its hands for which it would take action? What further action have been taken on the recommendations of the Committee to continue industrial financing so that the process may not be impeded?

The Committee are at variance with the opinion of the Government, RBI, IDBI and CII officers' forum that even after conversion the banking companies and IDBI

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

must continue providing term-loans to industries. It feels that soon after repealing of IDBI Act, 1964 the proposed alternative in the Bill will replace it and there is no special provision in the bill for the converted body function as a development bank. I would like to know the action taken by the Government in this regard. Rather, it noted that the mention of development bank in the present bill is being replaced by the new IDBI banking company. In this situation, the Committee does not believe that the converted bank will function as a development bank in future. The Committee considered over it deeply and concluded that it would no longer function as a development bank. I would like to know the logic the Government have in mind in this regard. How can you claim that it would function as a development bank in future also. Will you be able to pass this Act? The members of the Committee have expressed doubt after deliberations that the Government will not be able to get this law passed.

Therefore, appropriate provisions be made in the Bill to remove any doubts so that it can be ensured that the new banking company would also remain a development bank of the same type and provide term-loans to medium and small scale industries. Globalisation has been done. WTO has come into being Goods are being transported from one country to other. How will our people compete with MNCs when they are not financed and term loans are not given to small and medium scale industries. The Khan Committee has also recommended that such projects should be financed. In this regard the Government have said that a provision to this effect would be made.

What does the Committee recommend further? Therefore, the Committee recommends the Government to pressurise the management of IDBI to make integrated efforts to realise the non-performing assets which have gone up to Rs. 15,000 crores. What did the Government do in this regard? What action did the Government take on the report submitted by the Committee? What arrangement have been made to realise Rs. 15,000 crores. What action has been taken against the erring persons.

The Committee desire that IDBI must avail full benefit of the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interests Act, 2002 and Debt Recovery Tribunal so as to realise its non-performing assets. This is the view point of the Committee. After deliberations, the Committee has taken this decision and a recommendation to this effect has been made.

Finally, the Committee have been informed that the IDBI had been given certain tax-reliefs which have been withdrawn. The Committee are of the view that when the Government were bringing a special package for the reconstitution of the IDBI, there is no objection to restore tax-reliefs once again. Therefore, the Committee would like the Government to provide necessary relief in income tax to IDBI at least for 5 years during which requirement of SLR and CRR is continuously postponed which would include requisite concession in capital benefits under section 54e,c Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Committee have made all these recommendations. They brought the Bill hurriedly in order to get it passed. An ordinance have been promulgated in this regard. Perhaps it had lapsed by that time. I am very apprehensive that the Government want to run away from their responsibility of promoting the industries and providing them capital firmly. I am apprehensive that this would not function as a development bank and later we would be lagging behind in the fields of industry, globalisation and WTO. This indicates that the World Bank, IMF put obstacles in it. They influence our officials and the work is going on as per their wishes. What is our financial position, what is the status of our industries, how our industries can develop, how they can be helped? Such provisions must be made. But things are progressing in the opposite direction. Therefore, I am against this Bill and expressing my doubts. The Government must specifically tell the House their view point on the doubts expressed and recommendations made by the Committee. What action did the Government take on it and why such amendments did not come up in the Bill. The Government must respond to these queries otherwise, I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. I rise to oppose the Bill. While initiating the discussion today, the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta referred to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance. I am also a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance. We had in-depth discussion on this subject. I have some reservations. I do agree with the apprehensions which have been brought out by the Standing Committee itself. We are talking of performance of the IDBI. The half yearly accounts ending September, 2003 of the IDBI shows that it has improved its performance, registering an increase of 205 per cent, that is Rs. 2,568 crores. I have read the Reports of other Committees also. Let me refer to the Planning

Commission. The Planning Commission is also opposed to conversion of the IDBI into a company.

About the Committee on Public Undertakings, I would like to say that it is headed by the hon. Member Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra himself. What is the opinion of that Committee? That Committee has also categorically reiterated that there is need for the IDBI to discharge its development role.

What is the focal point of this Bill? The intention of this Bill is to corporatise the financial institution. Some of my good friends are talking about globalisation. They made some remarks about the speech of the hon. Minister. Is it not globalisation when you convert a financial institution into a corporation? Does it not mean globalisation when you constitute a Corporation? Is it not a part of the globalisation process?

I am talking about the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. Its report has also come out in the Press. It is not in favour of conversion of the IDBI into a Bank. So, it is not understood why the Government has brought forward this measure? Ignoring all these reports, how has the Government come forward with this Bill to get it passed? So, I request the Government, through you, Sir, to stop it, to postpone it. Next, it should initiate a discussion again with all concerned.

There is one more point. It is a very important point that I would like to make here. It is about the question of employment. The point is that the bank has stopped recruitment of workmen and staff for the last three years. The hon. Minister is here. The bank is refusing to meet the recognised associations also. The morale of the staff is at a very low ebb. At least, I hope that the hon. Minister will say something and respond to our points while he is going to reply. It may kindly be ensured that the strength of the workmen, which is already at a very low level, is not reduced.

So, I oppose this Bill. I think it will not help to develop the institution. The main focal point is profit and not development. That is why, the IDBI should be maintained in its existing form and it should not be converted into a Corporation or a Company.

We are talking about the NPAs. What about the NPAs of the commercial banks? Is that not more than rupees one lakh crore which is already there? If we take the NPAs of the private banks what is their performance? In the year 2000, the amount was Rs. 946 crore. In the

year 2003, that is, this year, it is about Rs. 7,232 crore. What are we talking about the NPAs in regard to the IDBI? Therefore, I appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, as also to the hon. Members of this august House that we should not hurry up with this Bill and pass it today. We should think more and more. We should study it more and more. At least, the IDBI should be revived. It should be strengthened. That is why, I rise to oppose this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful to the hon. Members. There has been an extensive discussion on this particular provision. It has been debated in the House now. Last year, about the same provision, in the month of December, I had introduced this Bill. It was then referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has examined it at length. Thereafter, it sent its recommendations.

We are now debating it in the final stages of consideration before it meets with the approval of the House and thereafter it goes to the other House for its approval.

Sir, in so far as the consideration of this particular Bill is concerned, it has received a very extensive consideration. I have followed the debate assiduously and with attention. I find that very broadly and principally there is one significant apprehension, doubt, difficulty that hon. Members have expressed. That is the principal one and the other is related to the welfare of officers. These are the two principal difficulties that hon. Members have given voice to and others are consequent upon these, about non-performing assets, how we will recover non-performing assets, how we are moving from a development finance to banking etc.

I do not want to go into the history of the establishment of the IDBI. It was an absolutely correct decision at that time. It started its life in the control of the Reserve Bank of India, then taken over by the Government and moved forward. In the 1990s, we saw a transformation of the availability or access to funds by the IDBI. Earlier, the access to funds by the IDBI was on easier terms and then it became difficult. When access to funds became difficult, the difficulties of the IDBI from about the 1990s began to mount. But we are mindful of the fact that the development finance aspect of the IDBI is, in fact, a very important aspect. The Government fully recognises this. We accept it and it is for this reason that there is an official amendment that we have moved

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

which, I am sure, hon. Members have taken note of. It talks about carrying on banking business in accordance with the provisions of that Act in addition to the business which may be carried on and transacted by the development banks.

Now, I give an assurance to this House that the development finance aspect of the IDBI shall not be diluted. That is the principal purpose. We continue to subscribe to the view that access to development finance, project finance is a very important aspect of the process of growth in the country's industrial or other development. If this particular provision is not adequate and after experience if we find that some difficulties are arising and if we find that, in this case, the development finance aspect of the bank is even being considered as not top priority, but even less than top priority, I assure the House that we would come back to the House and amend even this particular amendment that we have moved. But the Government's approach to development finance is not any different to what hon. Members have said.

[Translation]

Hon. Raghuvansh Babu is a very serious and erudite member of the House. He is also soft spoken. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you laugh...*(Interruptions)* He expressed doubt that we are hatching a great conspiracy. I would like to assure the Hon. Member that we are not hatching any conspiracy. I am also a human being and belong to the humanity. I may also suffer from some shortcomings in my comprehension. He had raised a question in his speech.

[English]

I fully take note of it and that is about development finance. I think, this is a very important aspect. This must be given the fullest consideration. We have moved an official amendment. I assure the hon. Members that development finance is of principal importance to us. We will continue to take care of this development finance.

[Translation]

Secondly, the discussion was held over it during the last session and Shri Shivraj V. Patil had stated that we have put a provision with respect to staff in which changes can be made through notification. We have taken sufficient care in this regard.

[English]

We have attempted to take full care of the protection of the employees of the IDBI. I would like to assure hon. Members that the provision that we have been making will, in fact, be beneficial to the employees. It is possible that you do not agree with that what I say. But I assure you that we cannot afford not to take fully satisfactory measures for the employees. We have already taken it. The Standing Committee considered all these aspects. We are taking it. But even after all this, should we find in the implementation of what we are doing that there are some difficulties or lacunae or shortcomings, I assure the hon. Members that we will come back to the House and amend this or strengthen those particular aspects.

These relate mainly to development finance and safeguarding the interests of the workers. These were the two principal issues. On both, I would like to fully assure the House that the views of the hon. Members and the approach of the Government are not difficult. We remain committed to it.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I think, the claims of the workmen should not be reduced.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Panda, let him complete.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I assure that if there are any pending claims or, in future, claims that arise, how can an institution not take care of the claims? It is self-evident.

With these words, I commend that this Bill be passed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, we have heard the Minister replying to the debate. He has given us the assurance that the performance of the Bank would be observed. If it is necessary, amendments can be made to the law to see that the purpose of development finance would be fulfilled. I think, we can rely on this assurance and pass this Bill.

Yet I must confess that I have some apprehensions in my mind. The hon. Minister may try to explain as to how what he wants to achieve will be achieved. There are three things. One is about the employees. I am not going to say anything on the point of employees. He will certainly take care of them. There are two other points. One is this. Which other institutions will provide the development finance to the industry in the country? Supposing this bank does not perform this duty, it will

take nearly five to ten years to find out that it is impacting adversely on the development of industry. That means, we would have lost that kind of time. So, we would like to know as to how the Government would like to see that the development finance is provided to the industry. If it is done on yearly basis and then the corrective steps are taken without any delay, it will be useful. That is one aspect.

The second is that the financial institutions have helped the development of the industry in the areas where the industry has not developed. The banks are not going to give money to the persons in the areas where the industry has not developed because they would like to see that the funds that are given are returned to the bank and they would be very cautious. They would not take any risk. Because of this, the development of industry in North-Eastern States, in the industrially less developed states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and the States where the funds have to be given, may not take place, as funds will not be easily available.

Now, what steps the Government would like to take if the finance is not available for the development of the industry? The private industry will not develop if the power is not available. The Government has taken a decision that the investment in generating the power will be through private sector also. Unfortunately, the private sector is unwilling to invest because huge amounts of money are required and the returns are not going to come very easily. Within ten years' time or 15 years' time or even 20 years' time also, the returns will not be there. So, the industry will be starved of the funds, the industry will be starved of the power, the industry will be starved of the technology also because technology also is not easily available. In view of these facts, will not the rate of growth of the industry in our country be affected?

I am posing these questions so that, if necessary, the corrective steps can be taken. We are satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister that they are aware of these facts and they would certainly take corrective steps. But we would like to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that this assessment has to be done on yearly basis. If you wait for five years to find out, a valuable time will be lost and this will not help our country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I think these are eminently sound and fully justified observations that the hon. Deputy Leader of Opposition has made. It is my duty and I shall endeavour to respond to them as well as I can.

The latter part of his observation related to regional imbalance in growths and how is that regional imbalance in growths the normal banking channel. On the one hand we insist upon the banks not to be laggard in having a proper and healthy balancesheet and at the same time we insist upon them to lend to such areas as have not kept pace with the country in the industrial development.

Then a mismatch of what I call expectation arises. Here, the hon. Member would recognise that it is addressed at various levels. He cited the example of North-East. We have a separate development finance institution for the North-East. There is a cess on each of the Ministries that a certain percentage of the Budget of each Ministry shall be allocated for the North-East. That is another. The third is directly related to the incentive that the Government provides. These are the direct incentives. The Planning Commission's allocation, etc. are the direct methods. I am not going into the North-East Council, North-East Development Finance Institute of the cess on each of the Ministries.

Here, we have taken steps, this Government has taken steps. Earlier Government also took steps. In fact, if my memory serves me right, the first of the tax benefits to the North-East and to that region was provided by my distinguished and eminently worthy as Finance Minister than I could possibly be, Dr. Manmohan Singh. He provided a certain taxation benefit to the State of Assam and North-East. Then we have spread. If you invest in the North-East, you get certain tax benefits. Like in Sikkim, there are tax benefits existing. This has now further been extended to Uttaranchal, to Himachal Pradesh, to Jammu & Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, there are two Island Groups as well.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am coming to that. I recognise that.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): By the name of Lakshadweep.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am very familiar with the geography of my country because I did have the honour of, some months back, being the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

16.00 hrs.

There is a separate body called the Island Development Authority. In fact, if I am not mistaken, it was started

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

during the time of Former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a very worthy institution. Has it met its expectations? No, Sir. This is one of our principal difficulties. I say this in a completely non-partisan manner. We do not set up institutions and we take initiatives. But, to impart life to those institutions, or to impart a momentum to those institutions which will continue—if I might be permitted to observe—is some kind of a functional inefficiency in our system.

Mr. Chairman, I know you have with great distinction represented one of those islands but it was for this purpose and to specifically target this a separate body called the Island Development Authority was set up. It has not entirely served it. It is a total failure. We must not term everything that is not a 100 per cent success as a 100 per cent failure.

But, then there is a corresponding difficulty that arises. I would like to share that difficulty with the hon. Member because it is a serious query about regional imbalance. If we continue to make correct the regional imbalance through taxation routes, then we find many difficulties.

Sikkim taught us many lessons. Now, I find that similar difficulties are arising, for example, in the cases of Uttaranchal or Himachal Pradesh. Permit me to cite what the Chief Ministers have themselves come and told me. One Chief Minister said that you give benefit to Uttaranchal. The neighbouring States comes and says industry on paper shift to Haridwar, we have the tax benefits in Haridwar. In reality, no industry has got set up. Or, they should be shifted to Dehradun. In similar terms, as soon as we provided benefit to Himachal Pradesh, one paper industry shifted to Pathankot. Again the same difficulty was there. This was the difficulty that we saw. Otherwise regional imbalance has to be corrected in States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan. There is a vast spread of the Indo-Gangetic plain, in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. If Bihar and Uttar Pradesh do not move at the same growth rate, at same pace, as, for example, some of our coastal States are doing, it will not be possible for India to continue to do it at the same pace. This is the reality. I accept it. We have to address it collectively. The Planning Commission tries to do it. We, in the Ministry of Finance, do it. Others also do it. Have we got absolutely correct mix of policy? I do not think anybody can claim that we have got an absolutely perfect or correct mix of policies in this regard. It is a federal country. The States are and should be very jealous of their preserves. This is our territory, the Centre cannot

interfere. There are complex webs of laws, despite that, growth must continue, disparity must be addressed. That is our aim.

On the question of development finance, should IDBI and the purpose for which it was intended not really achieve it then what we did? It is a very valid observation. We have other institutions. I am in the process, for example, of reforming the IFCI. But, I do not know how much it will provide. We, already, have an institution that was established as a subsidiary earlier of the Reserve Bank of India, namely, Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation. They have done some work. The need to be purchased. So the hon. Member suggested: "OK you go ahead, to, do this, but keep a watch on it. Do not do it every five years. Otherwise the time lag will be such that it will never be done." I assure the hon. Member—leave alone a year, we are going thorough this transition phase—that the Finance Ministry after six months or so will endeavour to keep a watch on the evaluation of what we are doing, development of it, and implementation of what we are doing on a quarterly basis.

If, after all, I am enjoyed now, Sir, by the FRBM Bill to report to the country and to report to Parliament the state of the nation's accounts, why should I not look at it? When I am doing that, it is entirely right that whenever we are making such changes, in the initial few years we should watch it very carefully and in a very tight time frame so that we are able to arrest a wrong before the wrong becomes incurable. I assure the House that we will endeavour to do this. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Members that we have considered this at a very great length now. It is my appeal that we should now pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has given very exhaustive answer. Is there anything left now for clarification?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, during the course of my speech, I have said that after hearing the Minister's reply, we would say whether we are supporting the Bill or not.

The hon. Minister has dispelled the apprehension and has removed the impression that we had. We had a wrong impression and he had dispelled that impression, but that assurance should be kept. On the strength of this assurance, we support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister as to what are the directions given to



the nationalised banks in order to implement the industrial development in the backward areas where the industry has not grown up to the mark? For implementing it, what directions have been given to the nationalised banks...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's concern. We have, since Independence, been endeavouring to address this question of backward area. Somewhere we have succeeded. We have not succeeded everywhere. It is not as if magically overnight we will be able to transform all the backward areas. As the hon. Member knows, consistently, successive governments have enunciated an endeavour to follow policies, admirable policies for the development of backward areas. They are taxation policies, revenue-oriented policies, special emphasis on development but the task is monumental. This is a vast country. I cannot address this question in terms of specific constituency level backward areas but in totality it is being addressed as it has been addressed by the earlier Governments.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I just want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli enjoys a special status as far as tax benefits are concerned. There are a lot of industries which have begun migrating from Gujarat to this Union Territory and that is creating a lot of problems in Gujarat itself in its income as well as in generation of employment. I will be very happy if you also look into that one.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, here again, I consider it a very positive. The fact that so many hon. Members today emphasised the need for balanced regional development, for addressing the backward area issue, and for ensuring that development finance continues, the hon. Member has cited the movement of industries away from a particular State into some Union Territories. Now, we are trying to address this question and I cited some examples why the movement take place. We do not want to find a cure that will instead of improving the patient kill the patient. We do not want the industry itself to be throttled, but this movement away we will certainly endeavour to study why it is taking place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matters

connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964, 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 clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 3 Undertaking of Development Bank to vest in Company**

*Amendment made*

Page 2, for line 14,—

*substitute* "carry on banking business in accordance with the provisions of that Act, in addition to the business which may be carried on and transacted by the Development Bank" (3)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 14 and 15,—

for "and as such shall carry on banking business in accordance of that Act"

*substitute* "and as such shall carry on banking business in addition to the work of Development Financial Institution, which shall remain its core activity, in accordance with the said Act:" (4)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I am putting your amendment to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let me say what is my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need not say anything. Your amendment has already been circulated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Many have not read my amendment. That is why, I want that the House should know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House has taken a very, very long time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has moved an amendment in regard to the development role of the IDBI, but my amendment is very simple. I think he can consider this because he has already assured that in future, with experience, if we find that there is a need to incorporate specific amendment to the Act, then the Government will consider that.

I want that the function of Development Financial Institution should be the core activity. I think the Minister may agree to my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 4 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to vote.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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 General effect of transfer and vesting of undertaking**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I beg to move:

Page 2,—

*after line 38, insert—*

"Provided that the Central Government shall always remain the majority shareholder of the Company and at no point of time its shareholding shall fall below 51%."

(5)

This is very important.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me put it to the vote of the House. We have already circulated the amendment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want this assurance from the Minister that in future, after passing of this Act, the Government's share shall remain at 51 per cent.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I also have to move my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is same and identical. Both your amendment and Shri Basu Deb Acharia's amendment are the same. That is why, his amendment was moved.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I stick to my amendment that 51 per cent of the Government's share shall remain.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is identical. Therefore, I allowed hon. Member, Shri Basu Deb Acharia to move.

I shall now put amendment No. 5 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to vote.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want a categorical assurance from the Government. Sir, I press for division on this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, you cannot have it. It is an identical amendment. You know, you are a senior Member of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want a division on this amendment...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How many Members are present in the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It may be one. Still I want. The assurance that fifty-one per cent Government share shall continue in future also, I want this assurance from the hon. Minister...(Interruptions) I press for a division...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, Lobbies are to be cleared.

Let the Lobbies be cleared—

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, may I say a word?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You give an assurance of consideration...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I ask all the hon. Members to be seated? The hon. Minister wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appeal to all the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence. What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appeal to all the hon. Members. This Bill has received the most intensive scrutiny and consideration. In the Standing Committee the question of 51 per cent Government holding was taken up and then the Government there said that this is a step...(Interruptions) I have just given an assurance in the House. I will examine what happens in the IDBI and its progress every quarter. If I examine, the House can come back and ask me 'what did you do'. I have given an assurance that I will maintain it as development financial institution because I cannot maintain.

Now, what the hon. Members say is that 'you please retain the Government holding at 51 per cent'. I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Government believes that this can be done without an amendment to the Act but through executive action and we will certainly consider it through executive action to maintain this. If we find any difficulties, then I will come back to the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are satisfied 70 per cent. What we are saying is that the 51 per cent shareholding of the Government in the Bank should not be changed. This is the only thing...(Interruptions) If you say that we will consider it through rules and this and that as far as this Bank is concerned, you give an assurance that it will not be reduced and if you have to reduce it, you come back again to the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This was examined after the Standing Committee's report came and the Government was of the view that we can do this if found necessary that it is through executive action alone that it can be maintained and it does not require a legislative over-riding provision. This has been conveyed. We will certainly consider the recommendations of the hon. Members and the Government will take appropriate action to having it considered. I assure the House that this can be done even through an executive action and an amendment is not necessary...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We do agree and we are satisfied. What we are saying is that you do not have to

come to the House for this purpose. Through executive action you do it; but tell us that you will do it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A categorical assurance is required.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): The hon. Minister is saying it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not saying that you shall have to come to the House. You tell us that you will do it. We will believe you and we have to believe you and that is all...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government assurance shall continue...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We do not want this kind of rigmarole to be gone through again—putting this thing and all those things. We are saying that we are in the same wavelength; but only there is a slight difference. You say that even through executive action you will not reduce it to the level of less than 51 per cent. That is all...(Interruptions) You resort to executive option...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have met the requirements of the hon. Members to the fullest extent. Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition is entirely justified to want me to say a certain phrase as he wants me to say.

Please permit the Government to say what it wants to say. No Government can function in that fashion. I have given a solemn assurance to this House about maintaining the development financial character of this institution. I have said that it is not necessary to have an amendment about what percentage shareholding is required. It can be done through an Executive action and I have said that we will consider it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me put the amendment moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Are you trying to save the Government? The Government have been caught unawares. Now it is the question of voting. Then why an effort is being made to patch up the issue. We are in the opposition...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to cast your vote on the amendment.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we want a categorical assurance...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, as far as the Government has said, 'we will consider it', we would like to know from the Presiding Officer whether 'consider it' is an assurance to the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Me!

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes. Is 'consider it' an assurance? We will want to be doubly sure that 'consider it' is an assurance...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, on the very financial matter of this particular legislation, the assurance for considering the proposal moved by the Opposition at this stage should be treated as an assurance...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we do not want to extract anything more than what the hon. Minister has said. Now, 'consider it' is an assurance. We will like to be doubly assured by you that 'consider' is an assurance...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know whether 'consideration' as such amounts to assurance. I have to see that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if you do not know, you consult the book and ask the Secretary-General, and let us know it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Assurance is only to consider and it is not an assurance. That is the thing.

This should not be a rigmarole on the Presiding Officer. If the Government wants to give an assurance, let them give. If you are satisfied, it is all right. Otherwise, I will put this amendment to the vote of the House. That is the only way I can do it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let it be put to the vote of the House. Sir, I am very humbly submitting to you that now, the House should not be treated this way. 'Consider' has been treated as an assurance, yet if this is your new ruling with the help of the people of who understand it, well, we cannot go against it. In that case, the matter will be put to the vote of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would only ask the Government. If the Government wants to say that it is an assurance, let the Government say that it is an assurance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we want voting...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When the red light is on, why a patching up exercise is being done at the time of voting. Is there any rule or not here? The amendment has already been moved, the red light is on, it is now the time of voting, division will take place and we will press the button, then why all this is being done?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Who is saving the authority of the Government through the IDBI?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, can you say it? They want an assurance. Is it possible or not? Otherwise, I will have to put the amendment to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, the concerned Minister is here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This amendment is to be put to the vote of this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Are there any rules or not. Voting will be done. Is manipulation being done in it? There is no other way out than voting? They are cutting short the time?...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They have asked us to give an assurance in this regard?...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we want voting. Sir, the amendment is moved. Now, you put it to the vote of the House....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He said to do it through an executive instruction and it would not go below 51 per cent.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let her complete.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Madam, we are fully satisfied with your Statement, and we will not press for it...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That is what it means that do not press for an amendment. There is no need for an amendment for making it below 51 per cent. It can be done through an executive instruction. How can I do it below 51 per cent?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri Shivraj V. Patil put a very simple question. Will the Finance Minister assure the House that by executive action 51 per cent the holding shall not be reduced? Nothing more than that. If he says "yes", we are not pressing it. Then should Shrimati Sushma Swaraj take the trouble?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want a simple assurance...(*Interruptions*) He is not giving that assurance. Let there be the voting now.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: As has been asked that an assurance may be given.

[English]

we will consider the Standing Committee's proposal.

[Translation]

she has already said that.

[English]

it is an assurance that it will be considered. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want an assurance that the Central Government shall always have 51 per cent share of the company...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the red light is on. The division bell has since been rung. Thereafter there is no other way out than voting. Patch up will not do. This is what the rules say...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Minister is repeatedly saying that there is no need of an amendment in the Act, then there is no need to bring in amendment clause in the main Bill. He is saying that it can be done through an executive instruction and I have already said that the Government rule does not prescribe going below it. Even after that why they are pressing for an amendment, I cannot understand. There is no need of an amendment. What they want can be done through an executive instruction.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, I am to dispose of his amendment here. That is my difficulty now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I agree with you...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: There is no need of that amendment. When there is no such need in the Bill, why are they pressing for the amendment? What they want can be done through an executive instruction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I know that there is no need of making an amendment. The hon. Minister should say that it won't go below 51 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What they want can be done through an executive instruction.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It could be that we will do that. We know its legal provision. The Government should say that they will not do that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: They do not want that they will not do. They are saying as to how the Government can think of below 51 per cent the Government cannot think of below 51%. This is what he is saying.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We know that as per the legal provision there is no need to come to Parliament for exercising executive powers. Let the Government say that they won't do it below 51 per cent. The matter ends there.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He says that he has twice said as to how the Government would make it below 51 per cent. The Government are not thinking making it below 51 per cent.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: They won't do.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We are not thinking so.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: When will the Government think?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please say clearly that the Government share will not be reduced below 51 per cent.

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, we want Division.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We do not want the word "consider", and we want "assurance". ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Finance Minister, let me put the amendment to vote of the House. Now, let me dispose of this amendment.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: When it becomes an Act the Government will have to come here for any change in it. If the legislation is not made, the Government can make a change in it later by using their executive rights.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me put to the vote of the House the amendment moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 2,—

after line 38, insert—

"Provided that the Central Government shall always remain the majority shareholder of the Company and at no point of time its shareholding shall fall below 51%." (5)

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Ayes'

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Noes'

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, Noes have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a division.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary-General may read the instructions regarding vote recording system.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording system:

1. Before a division starts, every Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.
2. As may kindly be seen, the "red bulbs above display boards" on either side of the hon.

Speaker's Chair are already glowing. This means the voting system has been activated.

3. For voting, please press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, namely,

- (i) One "red" button in front of the Member on the head phone plate and

also

- (ii) Any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of the desk of seats:

Ayes — Green colour

Noes — Red colour

Abstain — Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong should be heard and the red bulbs are "off".

Important: The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Do not press the amber button (P) during division.

6. Hon. Members can actually "see" their vote on display boards and on their desk unit. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment No. 5 to Clause 4 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

*The Lok Sabha divided:*

DIVISION NO. 1      AYES      Time 16.40 hrs.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Bhuria, Shri Kantilal

\*Bind, Shri Ram Rati

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

\*Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Das, Shri Khagen

Dasmuni, Shri Priya Ranjan

Farook, Shri M.O.H.

Govindan, Shri T.

Handique, Shri Bijoy

Jalappa, Shri R.L.

Jos, Shri A.C.

Khan, Shri Sunil

Lahiri, Shri Samik

Mahant, Dr. Charan Das

Mann, Sardar Simranjit Singh

Mistry, Shri Madhusudan

Muniyappa, Shri K.H.

Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam

Pal, Shri Rupchand

Panda, Shri Prabodh

Patel, Shri Tarachand Shivaji

Patil, Shri Shivraj V.

Patil, Shri Shriniwas

Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana

Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

Sanadi, Prof. I.G.

Sar, Shri Nikhilananda

Saroj, Shri Tufani

Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh, Shri Khel Sai

Singh, Shri Ram Prasad

Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar

Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.

Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil

Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

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\*Voted through slip.

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\*Voted through slip.

## NOES

Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.  
 Bais, Shri Ramesh  
 Banerjee, Kumari Mamata  
 Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni  
 Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai  
 \*Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal  
 Chauhan, Shri Bal Krishna  
 Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen  
 D'Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix  
 Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari  
 Godhavi, Shri P.S.  
 Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar  
 Jai Prakash, Shri  
 Khaire, Shri Chandrakant  
 Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali  
 Khurana, Shri Madan Lal  
 Kumarasamy, Shri P.  
 Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari  
 Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar  
 Mane, Shri Shivaji  
 Manjhi, Shri Ramjee  
 \*Mohitepatil, Shri Pratapsinh  
 Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad  
 Oram, Shri Jual  
 Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.  
 Pandian, Shri P.H.  
 Paswan, Dr. Sanjay  
 \*Paswan, Shri Sukdeo  
 Ponnuswamy, Shri E.  
 Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh  
 \*Sanghani, Shri Dileep  
 Saroja, Dr. V.

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\*Voted through slip.

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan  
 Singh, Shri Ramjivan  
 Sinha, Shri Manoj  
 Swain, Shri Kharabela  
 \*Thakor, Shri Punjali Sadaji  
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Those who did not press any of the buttons to vote at the time of voting cannot call for the slips and put their vote now...(Interruptions)

I would like the Chair to clarify this point. If a Member who is present in the House at the time of voting but does not vote by pushing any of the buttons, and later on, after seeing the figure, decides to vote, is his vote accepted...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I am going to give the ruling on your matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj V. Patil, can you tell us something?

[Translation]

You throw some light on it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What is the use of mine throwing light on it? Ultimately I have to accept what you will say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can also speak after the ruling by the chair.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There only 69 or 70 Members present in the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this cannot be done after ten minutes...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just now you received one slip. You better keep that slip separately.

...(Interruptions)

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\*Voted through slip



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will decide it. You go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to go back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

16.52 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Ram Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was not present earlier....(Interruptions)

16.54. hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You resume your seat. House cannot be adjourned right now. You resume your seat, I have to take decision.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnaur): How can a Member come when lobbies are closed.

...(Interruptions)

16.58 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ram Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you. Let there be order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we respect all the Members of the House. We do not have any disregard for any Member of the House. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the motion was moved, instructions regarding voting were read out. After the instructions were read out, the division bell rang. We put our votes on the machines. Then, the officials went to take the correction slips from the members. After 15 minutes, a Member was taken in the back row...(Interruptions) Sir, let me finish...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak. Let me hear.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Then, the slip was taken. Sir, I understand that the entire proceeding are on video. The best thing to satisfy is to find whether during the voting, the Member was caught pushing his button or not by the video camera. If it is so, we have no quarrel. If it is not, then, Sir, you have to take action...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They took half an hour to make calculation of 69 Members...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let me hear.

...(Interruptions)

17.00 hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he does not even know the motion of the amendment moved.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we did not want to create any problem in the House. We gave an opportunity to the hon. Minister. Probably, the Minister could not have said anything without consulting his colleagues and his Cabinet. I can understand that. He said that he would consider. We were saying that if you have to change your mind anytime afterwards, you can inform the House and do it. Though it is an executive order and it is not necessary for you to do it, we left it to the Chair to interpret the word consideration whether it is a promise or assurance or not. Then you gave the ruling. It is binding on us. Now, if there is anything else and which we can point out to you, we cannot challenge your ruling on the floor of the House and we are accepting it. Now, it was put to the vote and when it was put to vote, why should it take so much time to calculate or count the vote?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, there are only 70 odd Members present in the House at the moment.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: How many Members are there in the House at present?...*(Interruptions)* counting of the vote is going. And if this much time is taken and somebody who has not voted whether he was sitting or he has come from outside the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why did the counting go on even after half an hour of the voting?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this much time is not to be taken to calculate the votes. We do not want to suggest any solutions, and it is for you to find a solution for this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you not want me to talk?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please do not interpret in this fashion. Not this much time was taken in the past....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It should not take more than 2-3 minutes. Everybody knows the job of voting. I know that my vote has not been recorded and within 2-3 minutes every Member has a clerk. Within 1-2 minutes, my vote should have been recorded...*(Interruptions)* Please do not disturb me.

Certainly we find after 23 minutes a clerk is there standing there. Why did he go there? How long does it take to vote via slips? How many Members are present in the House? How many slips were issued? We would like to know this. It has taken half an hour to calculate as to how many slips were issued. I would like to know. How long does it take? So, far a particular Bill let this House not be taken for a ride...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the whole world is watching what is happening for over half an hour.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we would like to know how many correction slips were there?

*[Translation]*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will you keep on saying as you wish...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Irregularity has taken place in voting....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I say something? Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please let me tell you. Listen, please maintain some order. After voting the slips were distributed almost all slips have already been brought here. One slip was with one hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, but after 20 minutes...*(Interruptions)*

Whatever it may be, when I asked the Member, he came here and said that he has voted from his own place but that was not recorded and, that is why, he went back and then got the slip. This is what he said to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am only stating what he has said.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Does he require 15 minutes just to go there and vote? Is it believable?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is up to the House. Please let me complete my sentence. Now, whatever is recorded here, if you do not believe it, then the only thing is that we will have to check the record to find out whether he has pressed the button. All those things will be available; if you do not believe it, we can check it up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How many correction slips have you received? How long does it take to count them?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Once the lobbies are cleared, everybody has a right to vote here. Once the lobbies are cleared, whosoever is here, he has a right to vote here.

*[Translation]*

Will you only cast vote and not any other...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Everybody has a right to vote, but the Member has to be present within the House. If he is outside, you cannot bring him inside just for the passage of the Bill. You cannot do it.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is very much present in the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: It never happened in the history of the Parliament that just for passing a Bill, such a thing has been done...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion to make. Let the results of this voting be not declared and they may be kept withheld. Let there be a thorough scrutiny of the TV and video recording covering all the movements during the entire voting process in the Chamber of the Speaker and, thereafter, you can announce the results...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear the hon. Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Do you not trust them? They are standing at the gates...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNJAJI SADAJI THAKOR (Mehasana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as soon as the voting bell was rung. I kept on pressing both the buttons and impressed both the buttons after the second sound of the bell but when I saw no indication against my division number 173, I failed to know whether my vote had been caste or not...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNJAJI SADAJI THAKOR: I kept on looking at it for sometime but when I went to the board, I found that my vote was not recorded. Then I asked my Senior Members whether I can recast my vote as I don't have any experience to cast vote by machine...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let he be given an opportunity to explain his position.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNJAJI SADAJI THAKOR: When my senior colleges replied in affirmative that I can cast my vote through slip I voted through slip and caused some delay...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Bashirghat): Sir, you reject his vote...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we do not disregard the hon. Member. He is our Colleague.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): As he is a new Member it has taken place...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: What is the need to see the video referred to by Dasmunsi when Members are sitting here...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not on the merits of the Bill. I am in the question of the future of this Parliament. Shall we be party to a situation today that disturbs our conscience?...(*Interruptions*) Only 69 Members plus those whose vote is not recorded are here. It comes to a total of 70 or 75 Members. How many slips were handed out?...(*Interruptions*) How long does it take for one to vote? Does it take fifteen minutes? The Clerk is standing there. It has never happened. We have been here for several years. I have been here for 32 years. Nobody has even seen this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Only Somnathji keep on speaking in the House all the time.

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON: You ask your securitymen, they won't tell a lie. You may also ask the people standing at the gate...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: In the name of Shri Ghani Khan Choudhury, what did the Congress party do?

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

The Congress party Members know it pretty well. Shri Balayogi was the Speaker then. You ask them. Now Shri Somnath Chatterjee talks about the future of this Parliament. What did he do about it then?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Assuming that something was done wrongly, one wrong does not justify another. Does it justify what has happened today?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Somnath Chatterjee is worried about the future of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Punjani Sadaji Thakor, Division No. 173 has just now stated that he tried to press the button to vote but his vote was not reflected. He is a new Member. He said that he sought the help of the Lobby Assistant who got a slip for him and he was filling that slip. This is what he said just now. If you are not satisfied with it, and if you feel that the record has to be verified from all angles, you are at liberty to do so. If you want to do that, I will order that. I will see whether he had already pressed his button at Seat No. 173 or not.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, let me make a submission. Let us not stretch it to that extent. We will just leave it to your judgement. You do whatever you want to. There is a certain decorum which has to be maintained in the House. I have never seen this much time being taken for counting these few votes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I was making the same point.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We will leave it to your judgement. You do whatever you want to. We are not insisting on anything. My colleague has said what he said very rightly. But then we think that we should not stretch it to that extent.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the allegation that is being levelled is that the Member was not present in the House during voting and came after voting had finished. This is the allegation levelled by the opposition. There is a procedure of voting in the House. The Secretary General rises on his feet and say that lobbies are to be cleared and the doors are closed and then voting takes places. If the opposition is levelling this allegation that the Member came after voting finished, this allegation is not against the Government but tantamounts to the allegation against the Lok Sabha

Secretariat and the Government don't have any control on this premises. The employees of this premises function under you. There can not be anything more derogating then levelling the allegation against the Lok Sabha Secretariat personnel that they allowed some Member to come in.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not say any such thing.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Lobbies are cleared, doors are closed, does the member take ten minutes to cast his votes or takes one minute. Being a new Member he has failed to cast his vote and he voted through slip later on. All these things are immaterial as he was inside the House during voting and he has a right to cast his vote.

As far the mention made by Shri Shivraj ji that unprecedented time is being taken is concerned, I would like to say that if this game of allegation and counter allegation had not taken place, result would have been out immediately...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has taken 20 minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: All this delay is due to allegations and counter allegations. This delay is not due to us or you but due to the allegations and counter allegations. Hence I would like to say that the Member has cast his vote and the result be declared...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the House should not doubt the integrity and honesty of the Member who is saying that his vote could not be recorded when he voted through machine...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to say that no one should take this impression that we don't have a liking for and don't appreciate the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat as much as any other. They are nothing to gain from one more or less vote in the House and we also know as to who is going to be benefited or lose from it. I am only saying that why so much time has been taken despite electronic voting. When we are trying to find a way out, those on the treasury benches are making it a prestige issue...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The prestige and credibility of the House is intact throughout the country and the world. It is also a record fact that the

Government had lost the majority by virtue of a single vote and the world is also watching the voting on the amendment that has taken place just now. The Government wants to change the result through bogus voting. Hence you tell the result subject to correction...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, there is hardly any problem in accepting the voting slip by an hon. Member because you have yet to declare the result...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Sir, I would like to know from Shri Shivraj ji and Hannan Mollah whether they have themselves seen any Member coming into House to back their allegation? A new Member is being treated and harassed like this. He is a new Member like me.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two aspects of this entire episode. One is a demand made by the Opposition about 51 per cent Government holding. I do not want to go into what I requested the hon. Member. I have now asked that 'if you say that you will consider it, that is sufficient for us'. That is enough, I did say.

Then, another hon. Member of the Opposition said that is not enough. You must now say to this House. So, the whole episode has started from this particular issue. The Government cannot accept, cannot take word as dictated by anybody because we have to work on a certain basis.

Thereafter, the second part of it is the division in the House and the controversy that has arisen. In fact, the controversy diminishes all of us. I do not want to wish to comment on it because I do not have the honour to belong to this particular House. At the present I do not have the honour though I had earlier served here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is an agony for all of us...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The whole controversy is unnecessary. It diminishes all of us. The hon. Member is a new Member. It is possible that he is not fully familiar with the procedure. I will not go into that. I appeal to all of you. I will not comment on the voting procedure of this House. The whole issue arose from 51 per cent.

You have just arrived at a situation to turn IDBI...(*Interruptions*) You have just given your consent...(*Interruptions*) I am giving beyond the issue of slip. You listen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I had submitted to hon. Members that no Government can possibly utter in the House words that are required to be uttered in a particular form. The essence of it is that majority shareholding must remain with the Government. Now, I want to submit one thing to the hon. Members. This rather sorry and unedifying episode that has arisen, in fact, does not enhance any of us. If the question is of 51 per cent, the hon. Members may please reflect that you have just agreed to convert IDBI into a Bank. The whole question of banking shareholding is with the Standing Committee. The request to the Standing Committee is on the shareholding in banks which is at 51 per cent. The request has gone that it be reduced to 33 per cent. The request has not yet been considered in the Standing Committee.

The minute you convert IDBI into a Bank or give your approval and we convert it into a Bank, then we will be bound by what the existing regulations on banking are. This is self-evident. But when it is demanded from me, when I have spoken to a very dear friend and a very senior member—'look, this is the situation, I am giving you an assurance; when I say I will consider, but as an executive action', then I was dissected and said—'No, give it 51 per cent' and 'is what you are saying an assurance?'

The minute this becomes a Bank, it comes under the provisions of the bank shareholding. The bank provisions of the shareholding are 51 per cent. We have said that you give your consent to reduce it. The Standing Committee has not yet given its consent. We have to come back to the House whenever the Standing Committee approves it. In fact, it is not even a dispute between what the Opposition is saying and what we are saying. The control of the Government has to be there if you have to maintain the identity of the IDBI as a development financial institution. The minute you wanted it as a Bank and you give your approval for it as a Bank, we will become subject to that 51 per cent. What else do you want from the Government?

We have done it all. It is all there. What we have indulged in is, in fact, I am sorry to say, a very well-intentioned safeguard that the hon. Members wanted; but

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

to my mind it was the safeguard that was actually not needed....(Interruptions)

I appeal to all the hon. Members that a very distinguished and a new Member of the House, who is not familiar with the voting complexities of the House, has cast his vote....(Interruptions) Some Members of very long standing also make mistakes in voting. I do not want to cite an hon. Member who himself admitted....(Interruptions) I am not saying that....(Interruptions)

I said the minute you grant your approval for IDBI to become a Bank, it is subject to what you are saying. Why do you want now to drag this controversy? For one year, we have debated on IDBI fully. I appeal to all the hon. Members to please put this controversy behind us and to please approve the IDBI Bill....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Purity of Parliament itself has to be maintained....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, just a minute. The only thing we wanted from the Government was the assurance and we tried to understand his words whether it was an assurance or not and from the Chair also....(Interruptions) Now, there is no controversy. The hon. Minister has said 'I assure'. Now, that is more than sufficient. We could not have gone through this rigmarole also.

The only thing that we wanted an assurance whether in our words or in his words or in any one's else's words. We do not mind it. We do not want this to be stretched to this extent. If he does that, then the voting is not necessary. If the hon. Member who has moved it agrees, then nothing is required. The hon. Minister's assurance is sufficient for us.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Basu Deb Achariaji, make it happen....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to clear one thing from our side....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Voting has been done, what mockery is going on in the House,

what procedure is being followed and the amendment is being subsidised....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Deputy Leader is a distinguished parliamentarian having held the office of the Speaker. Sir, you are in the Chair. I will like to submit one thing from our side. We have no intention to malign or undermine the dignity of any Member of the House, whether new or old. We are all Members of Parliament. Our dignity is the dignity of Parliament....(Interruptions) What we questioned is what happened inside the House and that question is recorded because we felt that it was improper. Now, Sir, you know technical things better. After a Bill is discussed, amendment is moved, voting took place and the results are awaited, whether good or bad, Sir, it is for you to decide whether technically and procedurally, at this stage, an amendment can be withdrawn. This is one point, which is a procedural point. We stand by what our Deputy Leader said about whether it can be withdrawn technically.

Secondly, even if it could be withdrawn technically, I feel that if any aspersion is cast on the Secretariat, as has been alleged by the Government to our side, should be expunged because no Member from this side questioned the *bona fide* and credibility of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I would like to make these things very clear in the record. Therefore, Sir, I feel that you decide technical things. About other things, we have our objection. I would like to again record that the manner in which voting took place and the incident that happened thereafter is deplorable and not in terms with the dignity of the Lok Sabha....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have seen, there are of 35-36 members and how it is being tried to be shielded. Its result be declared and then amendment be taken up. The world has seen it. Now the chair should give decision about it. What is the result of the Voting? It has been a custom that once voting has taken place then there is no scope left to sideline the decision.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make it very clear that the Opposition Party, the Congress, is not a representative of the entire Opposition. We were made to vote and we want results from the Chair to be announced. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have no objection to that also. We have not suggested anything to the House. We have left it to the Chair. Whatever is necessary, whatever is correct, let it be done. We wanted that this should be done at a particular level.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now, will you please give me a patient hearing at last?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I have to vote because the result is Ayes: 38 and Noes: 37+1 which becomes 38. So, I have to the vote now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given me an assurance that you will hear me, Shri Jos, former Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Now, in view of the assurance already made by the hon. Minister and as the House has accepted it, I allow withdrawing the amendment at this stage without casting my vote.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Chair should not be asked to withdraw it. It is not right. Such a bad custom should not be established. You should cast your vote. An act setting up a wrong precedent should not be done...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let me speak. We wanted a clear and categorical assurance from the hon. Finance Minister that the Government share shall not be reduced to less than 51 per cent and such clear assurance he has not given.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He has given. Why are you saying that he has not given?...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let me finish my point...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We take it that the assurance given by the hon. Finance Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I walkout of the House in protest.

17.33 hrs.

(Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Whatever the hon. Finance Minister has said on the floor of the House, in his presence, we take it as an assurance to maintain minimum 51 per cent. Let him keep quiet and it would be treated as his assurance. On the basis we believe that he will...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, since you requested me to withdraw my amendment...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In deference to your desire...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Otherwise I would have to vote.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you have to vote in our favour. Sir, I withdraw my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia be withdrawn?

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Lobbies are cleared now.

The question is:

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be opened.

The question is:

"That Clauses 5 and 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 7 Tax exemption or benefit to continue to have effect**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you moving your next amendments again?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. I am moving my amendments.

I beg to move:

Page 4, line 15—

*after "the Company" insert—*

"as long as the Company is engaged in the business of financing of infrastructure facilities in the country" (6)

Page 4,—

*after line 22, insert—*

"(4) The Company shall be permitted to raise funds from the market in the shape of Capital Gain Bond under Section 54 EA and 54 EB of Income Tax Act, 1961." (7)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 4, line 15—

*after "the Company" insert—*

"as long as the Company is engaged in the business of financing of infrastructure facilities in the country" (6)

Page 4,—

*after line 22, insert—*

"(4) The Company shall be permitted to raise funds from the market in the shape of Capital Gain Bond under Section 54 EA and 54 EB of Income Tax Act, 1961." (7)

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 to 15 were added to the Bill.*

*The Scheduled was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 1 Short title and commencement**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 6,—

*for "2002"*

*substitute "2003"*

(2)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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-third Year"*

*substitute "Fifty-fourth year"*

(1)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*



17.37 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:  
DISAPPROVAL OF TAXATION LAWS  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2003  
AND  
TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 19 and 20 together.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 2 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 8th September, 2003."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am objecting to the Government having issued so many Ordinances. Certainly, the Constitution gives them a right to issue Ordinances but this right is given to the Executive to cope up with the difficult situations. When there is an urgency or an emergency, this is done, and not in ordinary course. Even when the House is meeting in one month's time, they are issuing Ordinances. And, the consequence of Ordinances is that when the Ordinance is placed before the House and when the Bill is moved here, it does not go to the Standing Committee.

Sir, this House has provided that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee for dispassionate examination by a small group of MPs who are interested in matters of this kind.

Now, here the Government is using this power of promulgating Ordinances in order to get any law passed by this House. This is denigration of legislatures itself. Why has the Government done it? What is the explanation of the Government? What was the urgency? The Government has to explain this when the Ordinance is moved. We would like to know what the urgency was and why the Government has done it. We are not finding

fault with any individual as such, but we are finding fault with the attitude of the Government to the legislature itself. What for this Parliament exists? You promulgate the Ordinance, you send it to the President and then you come here and say that this is an Ordinance and so, it has to be passed. What was the urgency? Why was it done? We would like to know that. Not one Ordinance was promulgated, but there are seven of them. Seven Ordinances have come to the House promulgated within a month's time. They could not wait even for one month or they could not wait for two months. What was the urgency? We would like to know that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This Government, during the inter-Session period, always promulgates a number of Ordinances. Last time also, this was pointed out by me. Last time, at least six Ordinances were promulgated during the inter-Session period.

This time, seven Ordinances were promulgated, and that too, all these Ordinances were promulgated within one week. The House was to meet on the first week of December. This Ordinance was promulgated on the 8th September 2003. There was no urgency, as I could see from the Statement of the Minister made in regard to the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation on Taxation Laws. Now, this Ordinance is to be replaced by an Act. But there was no urgency.

A number of times, there have been observations by the Chair that the Government should not ordinarily resort to promulgation of Ordinance. The first Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Mavalankar, on 25th November 1950 had observed:

"The procedure of promulgation of Ordinance is inherently undemocratic. Whether an Ordinance is justifiable or not, the issue of a large number of Ordinances has psychologically a bad effect. The people carry an impression that Government is carried out by Ordinances. The House carries a sense of being ignored, and the General Secretariat perhaps get into the habit of slackness which necessitates Ordinances. And an impression is created that is desired to commit the House to a particular legislation as the House has no alternative but to put its seal on matters that have been legislated upon by Ordinances. Such a state of things is not conducive to the development of the best parliamentary relations."

He again wrote a letter to the First Prime Minister of India on the 15th December 1950, wherein Shri Mavalankar had said like this.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

"I think all of my colleagues will agree with me that the issue of Ordinance is normally not desirable and should be avoided except on special and urgent occasions. But when such an occasion may or may not arise, it is a matter of judgement. Not only Government of a State but private Members of Parliament are continually urging that new legislation should be passed. The parliamentary procedure is sufficient to give fullest opportunities for the consideration and debate and to check errors and mistakes creeping in. That is obviously desirable. But all this involves considerable delay. The result is, important legislation is held up. Every Parliament in the world has to face difficult problems and various proposals have been made to overcome them."

In regard to Ordinances on financial matter and on taxation, a specific observation was made by the first Speaker of Lok Sabha. On 15th November 1971 when the Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Affairs sought to lay on the Table copies of 13 Ordinances issued by the President during preceding inter-Session period, an objection was raised that never before in the history of Parliament so many Ordinances were issued during any particular inter-Session. then the Speaker observed:

"I agree with you that so many Ordinances should not have been issued. I personally think it is not a light matter to be ignored."

In regard to Ordinances which had imposed certain levies, the Speaker observed:

"If you think that there should be some distinction between financial and non-financial and tax and non-tax Ordinances, there is nothing in my knowledge on which I can base my ruling. Shall I say that I do not approve of an Ordinances just at the time when the House is about to meet?"

Sir, these are the observations made by the first Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Mavalankar. Now these Ordinances were promulgated in the month of September. We find that there was no urgency. What is the proposal of the Government? It says that the interest rates prevailing in the market were falling and there was an urgent need to revive the interest payable by the assessee or payable to the assessee under Income Tax Act of 1961.

When did the Minister find that interest rate is falling and that an immediate Ordinance has to be promulgated to arrest it? Was it in the month of September? If it was in the month of July, why was a Bill not brought? The

Standing Committees are there. The Speaker had observed that all the Bills which are introduced in the House should be sent to Standing Committee and those Bills should be scrutinised by the Standing Committee. But when an Ordinance is promulgated, there is no scope for its scrutiny by the Standing Committee. It has to be passed by Parliament. Why is this wrong procedure being adopted and a wrong precedent is being set by this Government?

In the last Session, at least six Ordinances were promulgated and passed by this House and this time seven Ordinances have been promulgated and now they have been brought before the House. What was the necessity for this? Another reason has been given by the Minister that certain problems were being faced by the exporters of wood based handicraft items who despite exporting about 100 per cent of their said products, could not avail of the benefits which are available up to 100 per cent to export oriented units and units in the Special Economic Zones.

It is because they were unable to comply with the associated conditions such as custom bonded warehouses, restrictions on transfer of goods, complete restrictions on the use of indigenous wood etc. In view of this, an urgent need was felt to provide for special deduction of 100 per cent of profit derived from the export of wood-based handicraft items. I support this proposal. But I do not find any urgency in this. The hon. Minister could have waited for this Session and brought in a Bill on this. The Standing Committee is always asked to give their recommendations expeditiously. Maybe, within 15 days the Standing Committee also could have scrutinised the Bill and it could have been brought before the House. But that procedure has not been adopted here. I do not find any urgency in this matter.

Sir, why is it only in case of wood-based handicraft items? When you are allowing it for wood-based handicraft items, why are you not allowing for other items as well? There are thousands of artisans who are dependent on an economic activity based on conch shells. The customs duty was increased to 30 per cent on this. Previously there was no customs duty for importing conch shells. The hon. Minister had reduced it but still there is a five per cent customs duty on this item. I requested him saying that when he has reduced it to five per cent, why can he not totally exempt the poor artisans from paying a duty on import of conch shells from countries like Sri Lanka? Thousands of artisans are dependent on an economic activity based on this in the State of West Bengal.

Sir, I do not find any urgency in regard to the concessions that is being proposed to be given to the ship wrecking industry not in our country but for those in foreign countries. This was not anything urgent. The Government could have waited for this Session.

Sir, I oppose this move of the Government of bringing in so many ordinances in order to avoid the Standing Committees. Without any urgency they have brought in all these ordinances. Also, the observations made by the former Speakers on a number of occasions are also not being complied with by this Government. I want your observations on this as to whether resorting to so many ordinances are undemocratic or not, an issue on which there have been so many observations by former hon. Speakers of this House. I would request you to give your observations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are already precedents of such things. I can only repeat them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you please repeat them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is a very strange case. This is exactly surrendering the economic sovereignty of the country. Some of the foreign companies are wanting to have some kind of concessions and so this is being done. The Government should give them concessions by all means but not by avoiding the House. Heavens would not have fallen if it was brought in the form of a Bill. Seven ordinances have been promulgated. This Legislature should hold the Government accountable for this kind of a legislative activity. They are doing it in favour of some foreign companies. This is all the more reason for us to take objection to their promulgating ordinances. We are saying what we have to say. The former President Officers have said what they wanted to say and yet this practice is being continued. Can they not be told that this is not to be done? If it is done, then it is neither favouring the Opposition nor the Ruling Party. This is patently wrong. The Constitution has given the Government the right to promulgate an ordinance but there is for overcoming a difficult situation. But this has become a regular practice. There are seven Ordinances. Seven Ordinances mean seven laws. If we are sitting here for 15 days, half of the period will be devoted to Ordinances. Should it be neglected? Should it not be considered by us and that too, when it is in order to favour somebody who is coming from outside? This is not correct. This should not be done. Why is it done? This point should be explained.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, I have also given notice on the promulgation of Ordinance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may participate in the debate. Now there will be a reply for the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Before the reply, I want to say something as I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When there would be a proper discussion, the reply would also be there.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I have given a notice to speak on the promulgation of Ordinances. I associate myself with what my Deputy Leader as well as my hon. colleague have said. Normally, I would not have spoken. But, this has become the order of the day. This Government has become a Government of Ordinances. As Shri Acharia mentioned just now, six Ordinances have been promulgated during the inter-Session period and this is the seventh Ordinance.

As regards this amendment, it started from the Finance Bill. We passed the Finance Bill nearly a year back. At that time, the Government should have thought over all these things. Ordinance is meant for emergency and exigency, and for an urgent thing to be done. In this case, the Government, after having passed the Finance Bill, could have looked into the provisions. The Government has not looked into them. The Government has come *fait accompli* to us. It is pre-emptive action of this honourable House. We do not have to discuss anything. It has come now with *fait accompli* and these things are to be done. The hon. Deputy Leader suggested here that it is to favour some foreign company...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I have also given notice.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Especially when action is taken on finance, when taxation law is amended or when laws relating to wealth tax is amended, these things are deliberated very seriously and elaborately in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jos, there is going to be a proper discussion for two hours. You will be getting a chance to speak.

SHRI A.C. JOS: We want your observation as well as a reply from the Government on this point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my observation. I am only joining my predecessors.

SHRI A.C. JOS: You are joining your predecessors and I am also joining mine. I am not going into it. What I am submitting before this honourable House is that the Government should not take this House for granted so far as this system of promulgation of Ordinances is concerned. The President is obliged to sign any Ordinance which is placed before him by the Cabinet. The Cabinet is taking us for a ride. This is not possible. That is why, we very strongly demand that Ordinances cannot be passed in this House and so, it should be withdrawn...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I associate with my hon. colleague, Shri Acharia.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get a chance to speak. The Bill is going to be discussed for nearly two hours.

I want to go on record as repeatedly said by Shri Acharia and Shri Shivraj V. Patil. Unless and until emergencies and exigencies are there, promulgation of Ordinances should be avoided. Otherwise, it will be a sort of a short cut from this House. And the Government may take note of it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Indeed, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there cannot be two opinions what you and other hon. Members have stated about the desirability or otherwise of Ordinances. Of course, ordinances are not desirable. It is much better not to take recourse to promulgation of Ordinances. They are infinitely pressurable on any day rather than the normal legislative process. However, as you recognise and, I am sure, the hon. Members of the Opposition recognise, we need to issue Ordinances on occasions of exigencies and hence, there is a constitutional provision.

18.00 hrs.

Otherwise, the Constitution would not have provided it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, how much time do you need to complete because I have to extend the time of the sitting of the House?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will finish in about five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the sitting of the House till the hon. Minister finishes his speech?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time is extended till the hon. Minister finishes his speech.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The statement under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha has accompanied the Ordinance proper, but I would very briefly explain that the Government was to place this Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill before the Parliament during the last Session itself. I will not go into the reasons as to why the Government could not do it. We had prepared the Bill. It was in the list of pending Bills. We could not do it.

Now, I wish to particularly refer to an observation made by certain hon. Members that we are giving benefit to some foreign companies through this Ordinance. Let me explain that the Government had entered into an agreement—this is an old agreement—with the Nordic Investment Bank which has been set up by the Nordic countries, by all the Nordic countries together. It was agreed that that Investment Bank will have certain taxation benefits. In the Finance Bill of 2003, inadvertently this was left out. In terms of the agreement, it was required that the interest paid to the Bank on loans advanced by the Bank to Indian concerns was to be exempt from tax. This was to be introduced in the last Finance Bill itself. Inadvertently it could not be done. As it involved an international agreement, the Ordinance was brought. It is not as if the Government went out of its way to provide benefits to some foreign concerns. Such benefits are available to a number of concerns as this was an extension of the commitment of that agreement. That is why it was brought in.

The other aspect of the Bill has been properly discussed. Large representations were received from a number of State Governments that traders across the country have pointed out certain difficulties on these rates of tax specified, considering the normal profit margins of the business. As it is the routine, even after the Finance Bill is passed, quite often the Finance Ministry or the Finance Ministers do carry out certain fine tuning of the tax rates so that neither the revenue nor the assessee is made to suffer.

The other aspect relate to benefit provided to 100 per cent Export-oriented Units like wood-based, handicraft

Karachi, we have moved through this Ordinance. We had earlier intention to have the Bill in the last Session.

But because we could not do it and it was necessary to make these corrections, therefore, the Government made these corrections. I would request the House also to simultaneously consider these corrections.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motions moved:

**"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 2 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 8 September, 2003."**

**"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."**

**18.05 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 9, 2003/Agrahayana 18, 1925 (Saka).*

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