

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVIII, Eleventh Session 2002/1924 (Saka)

No.5, Monday, November 25, 2002/Agrahayana 04, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 82-84	4-23
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 85-101	23-287
Unstarred Question Nos. 906-1110	23-50
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	
287-292	
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS	
Twenty-Ninth to Thirty-Second Reports	292
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE	
Fifty-Third Report	293
CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Reported Closure of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited	293-314
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	293, 298
Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa	293-298, 308-313
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	298-300
Shri Lakshman Seth	300-301
Shri Rajo Singh	301-303
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	303
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	303
Shrimati Kanti Singh	303
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	303-304
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	304-305
Shri Raghunath Jha	305-306
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	306-307

* 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
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL -- INTRODUCED	316-317
STATEMENT RE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - LAID	317
UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL - INTRODUCED	317-318
STATEMENT RE: UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) ORDINANCE - LAID	318
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL -- INTRODUCED	318-319
STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - LAID	319
STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RE: ATTACK ON RAGHUNATH MANDIR, JAMMU	319-364
Shri L.K. Advani	319-321, 357-364
Shri S. Jaipal Reddy	319-324
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	324
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	325
Shri J.S. Brar	325-326
Shri Rupchand Pal	326
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	326-329
Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra	329-331
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	331-334
Shri Mohan Rawale	334-335
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	335-337
Shri Rashid Alvi	337-338
Shri P.H. Pandian	339-341
Chowdhary Talib Hussain	341-343
Shri Prabhunath Singh	343-344
Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi	344-346
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	346-347
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	347-348

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Prabodh Panda	348-349
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	349-350
Capt. (Retd.) Inder Singh	350-352
Shri Shyamacharan Shukla	352
Shri Ram Nagina Mishra	353-354
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	354
Shri Shivrāj V. Patil	354-355
Shri Ramdas Athawale	355
Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore	355-356
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	
Re: Mourning the Loss of Lives of Innocent People and Deploing Dastardly Acts of Violence in the Attack by Terrorists on Raghunath Temple and Shiva Temple in Jammu	365
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	365-371
(i) Need to reopen Bokaro Thermal Power Station, Plant 'A' Jharkhand	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	365-366
(ii) Need to ensure proper maintenance of National Highway No. 7 between Jabalpur and Bargi in Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Ram Naresh Tripathi	366
(iii) Need to provide funds from Central Road Fund to Government of Madhya Pradesh for construction of Sagar-Khuri-Beena road in the State	
Shri Virendra Kumar	366-367
(iv) Need to release adequate funds to the Government of Karnataka for providing relief to the people affected by severe drought in the State	
Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda	367
(v) Need to provide financial package for revival of Brahmavara Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. in Udupi district, Karnataka	
Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake	368
(vi) Need to shift some of the Offices of Central Government to Nagpur in view of increasing strain on the infrastructural facilities in Delhi	
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	368

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vii) Need for construction of dams in Varrah area in Bihar to check recurring flood there Shri Subodh Roy	369
(viii) Need to expedite completion of pending projects under Drought Prone Area Programme in Banda and Chitrakut districts of Uttar Pradesh Shri Ram Sajivan	369
(ix) Need to declare Tamil as one of the official languages of the Union Shri. K. Malaisamy	370
(x) Need to take suitable measures to check distress sale of paddy by farmers in West Bengal Shri Prabodh Panda	370
(xi) Need to link Narmada Kshipra Kalisindh-Chambal rivers with a view to solve water problem in Malwanchal, Madhya Pradesh Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	370-371
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF DELHI METRO RAILWAY (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE AND DELHI METRO RAILWAY (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL	371-400
Motion to Consider	
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	371, 372-375, 396
Shri Ananth Kumar	371, 375-377, 393-395, 396-398
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	377-383
Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari	383-387
Shri Moinul Hassan	388-390
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah	390-392
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	392-393
Resolution - Withdrawn	399
Clause by Clause Consideration 2 to 105 and Clause 1	400
Motion to Pass	400

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

...(Interruptions)

Monday, November 25, 2002/Agrahayana 04, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, law and order situation has deteriorated in Maharashtra. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Narayan Rane's house was set on fire in Maharashtra. ...(Interruptions) The Government of Maharashtra should be dismissed with immediate effect. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are two three issues. I can give you the permission to ask question but take your seat first. This all is possible only when you cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak, what is the matter? Khaire ji, please speak, I would like to hear you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Rawale ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Kanakvali Shri Narayan Rane's house was attacked and it was set on fire in the presence of the police and the police remained mute spectator. This issue raised in the wake of Gram Panchayat election. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue during Zero Hour. Your question is about Shri Narayan Rane's house which has been burnt. You can ask the question during Zero Hour.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an alarming situation has emerged in the wake of terrorist attack on Raghunath temple in Jammu yesterday. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you know that the terrorist attack on Raghunath temple is a very serious issue. Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Chaturvedi have raised this issue. The Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement in this regard. Thereafter, I will give you the special permission. Then you can ask the question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPALREDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when is the Home Minister going to make a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: I have told him to make the statement as early as possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that you can raise this issue during Zero Hour. Please be silent. You can not raise this issue now. The terrorist attack on Raghunath temple is a serious issue. Discussion would be held on this issue. I am repeatedly requesting you to take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire ji, I have asked the hon. Minister and he will make a statement in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we severely condemn yesterday's terrorist attack on Raghunath temple in Jammu. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident took place in the presence of the police. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terrorist attacked Raghunath temple in Jammu yesterday and 12 persons were killed in this attack. ...(Interruptions) This policy of the Union and the State Government is. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received three Adjournment motions today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The first one is regarding problems being faced by sugarcane growers by Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such attacks are taking place each and every day. It is not only first or second attack but it is third one on the temples. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The second is about the terrorist attack on Raghunath Mandir, Jammu. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has agreed to make a statement as early as possible.

The third notice has been given by Shri Lakshman Seth about Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe Tehelka issue. A copy of the notice has been sent to the Government. Now, I would ask the Government as to what they want to do in this case.

There are two notices for suspension of Question Hour. One notice is from Shri Mohan Rawale regarding attack on the house of Shri Narain Rane, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I will tell Shri Mohan Rawale to wait for some time. This question can be raised during 'Zero Hour'.

The last notice is from Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi about terrorist attack on Raghunath Mandir, Jammu. According to me, the Raghunath Mandir, Jammu is the most serious issue. The Government has agreed to make a statement on this issue. The Minister of Home Affairs is coming to the House. He will be making the statement as early as possible.

As a special case, I am going to permit questions from Members also after the Minister makes his statement.

Now, I will have to go to the Question Hour. Please cooperate with me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell us about Maharashtra also. The house of former Chief Minister of Maharashtra has been attacked. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. It is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your Notice on Adjournment Motion. I shall take up all the motions together.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. First listen to me. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terrorist attack on Raghunath temple, Jammu is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, terrorist attacks on the temples are on rise. I have also given a Notice in this regard. How long the Hindus would, continue to be killed? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Government whether this issue can be discussed. It does not mean that this issue cannot be discussed.

[English]

Now, I go to Question Hour. The first question is from Shri Kirit Somaiya. Question No. 82.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Optimum Utilisation Programme for Airports

* 82 SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised optimum utilisation programme of National and International Airports in India;

(b) if so, the name of airports to be given top priority;

(c) the details of the leasing conditions, project appraisal report and benefits to be accrued by such leasing of airports particularly Mumbai airport; and

(d) the action plan of the Government to improve the situation like waiting period etc.?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) assesses the requirement of air-side and terminal capacities at domestic and international airports on an on-going basis, vis-a-vis the existing capacities, and takes up requisite measures for optimum utilization as well as capacity augmentation, as and when required. Major airports like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Trivandrum, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Calicut etc. are accorded priority.

(c) In January, 2000 the Government decided to restructure the four International Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to attract private sector investment and upgrade these airports to world class standards, with latest technology, facilities and managerial skills. Action is in hand for finalizing the legal framework and transaction structure for this purpose.

(d) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services (ATS) at Mumbai and Delhi has already been completed, which has resulted in increased traffic handling capacity to 30 flights per hour, thereby reducing the waiting period for the aircraft. AAI has also engaged a consultant through International Civil Aviation Organisation for carrying out a study and suggest possible solutions for further enhancing traffic handling capacity of Delhi and Mumbai airports. As regards waiting period for the passengers in the terminals, the position would improve in the four metro airports, once the restructuring exercise is completed.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in the reply that the Government in January, 2000 had decided to go in for privatisation and leasing of airports. In this regard, I want to know from the Government whether the Government have received any response from the private sector and also whether the Government have any scheme for privatisation and leasing. Further, whether the Government is of the opinion that the private parties will jump into the fray and if so, what is the attraction for them and what is their response thereto. The improvements and expansion of international airports is stopped pending privatisation and leasing and there is a

severe problem of traffic jam at all the airports. I urge the Government to give complete information in this regard.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance had given an assurance in the budget speech for 2002 and the Government are working on it. The process is not yet complete and the Government have already made a declaration regarding up gradation of four airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The Government will make them world class and the process is on in this regard and keeping in view the benefits of long term lease for the four metro airports from 12.1.2002, we have set up a Corporatisation Airport Authority of India for the airports. It is in the final stage and very soon we will be able to give complete information about it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already mentioned that corrective and improvemental expansion works have been stopped. Therefore, first reply to that and then I will ask the supplementary.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I reserve your right of supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have dropped major projects as we are going to lease the airports. The hon. Finance Minister had made the declaration in the budget speech. However, the Government have not stopped the work of giving facility to the passengers and we have done many things in this regard. The hon. Members have been present at several inaugural functions relating to such works. We have undertaken several works at Mumbai Airport too. Work related to major terminal has been stopped but we are still doing minor works. We are constructing a new terminal at Chennai and the Government are spending 80 crore rupees on it. Similarly, we have got a new terminal constructed in Mumbai which has been inaugurated by the hon. Member. It has three aero bridges and the hon. Member knows about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you still want to put up a supplementary question. You yourself inaugurated it. So, what do you want to ask now.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at times, the hon. Minister does very good work and I am sure that he can perform better. I would like to inform you that in August, 2002, 1132 flights got delayed at the present Mumbai Airport. Further, 873 flights got delayed in September, 2002 and 1432 flights were delayed in October, 2002. Sir, you are aware that it is a common thing for the flights taking 15-20

rounds over Mumbai Airport before landing. So, there is the problem of traffic jam. It has also been stated about the new alternative airport that 3082 crore rupees will be needed for it. The revenue earning from Mumbai Airport is one crore rupees daily. I want to know as to how the Govt. will be able to construct the alternative airport? Which operation system like BOT and private parties will be involved in this and how will they generate alternative revenue for the existing airport where the work of taxi track has been stopped? At present there are more than 35 thousand slum tenements on the land owned by the Mumbai Airport. I would like to know how will the hon. Minister expand the airport after rehabilitating them and along with this how will he solve the problem of traffic jam. What is their action plan in this regard, please give information.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very good question but he has clubbed 4-5 questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: They are complementing each other. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: The hon. Member has rightly mentioned that flights get delayed there. I am happy to inform that the Government has made many improvements in this regard during the last three years. We have modernised it too. Earlier, only 10 flights could land at the Mumbai Airport. After the installation of this system every hour 29 flights can land at Mumbai and per hour 30 flights can land at Delhi. When we compare them with foreign airports we think that since there are not two runways in Mumbai and Delhi, flights get delayed at these airports. through you, I would like to inform that there are two runways at Heathrow Airport and three runways each at Paris and Frankfurt Airports, and despite having two runways in Mumbai and Delhi, we are able to use only one runway because no long-term planning has been done in this respect.

So far as the question of flight-delay is concerned, the presence of large number of JJ clusters over there is the main reason for it. The members of Parliament are fully aware of the fact that we got 1828 jhuggies removed from there during the last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Have they been rehabilitated?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: They have been rehabilitated. We have given them flats free of cost. We

have honoured them. In the prevailing circumstances different types of pressures are exerted on us when we go to get even a small piece of land vacated but despite that we have got 40 acres of land vacated in Mumbai during the last one year which includes removal of 1828 Jhuggies and for that we have paid Rs. 16 crores to the Government of Maharashtra and Rs. 9 crore more are still to be paid to them. Question has been asked about the new airport. He has raised quite serious questions all at once.

MR. SPEAKER: You may reply only one question.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: If these questions are not explained, then there will be confusion. People are also saying that a futile exercise is being carried out. I, through you, would like to mention that there are 125 airports in our country of which 11 are running in profit and Mumbai airport is on top of them. Its total annual profit is Rs. 246 crores out of the total annual revenue of Rs. 796 crore. We are going to lease out this airport. So far as the question asked by the hon'ble Member regarding new projects is concerned, the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to us regarding new projects which is being studied by the Airport Authority but the problem is that only one runway has been proposed in that proposal. We have said that in case a new airport is constructed in Mumbai then there should be two runways at that airport so that we can have a long term planning therefor.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: The proposal pertaining to Navi Mumbai has been pending for the last five years, nothing has been done in this regard so far. Only meetings and discussions are being held but no result is coming out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Reply the question which has been asked.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: The question has been asked about the Navi Mumbai airport but there is no mention about two runways in that proposal. We have suggested that the proposal of two runways be considered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prakash Paranjpe, resume your seat.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The demand relating to Civil Aviation is not discussed at length and several important questions are not asked. I would like to say that no objection should be raised even if the question is asked in elaborated form.

The hon'ble Minister has just told how much money the Government get from International Airport Authority. Among so many airports in the country only Mumbai airport

earns a profit of Rs. 250 crores due to which the entire civil Aviation is earning profit. Civil Aviation is running in profit mainly because of our airports. But the irony is that you are going to privatise the same airports due to which the entire civil aviation may land into deep trouble. This has to be taken into account. The hon'ble Minister told here that a new airport would be constructed. J.R.D. Tata Saheb had long back talked of making a new International Airport in Mumbai. He had told that we should invest 20 thousand crore of rupees and construct a new international airport. If the Government do not have the adequate money, it should entrust the work to the private sector and let them invest as much money as required and earn from that whatever they desire to earn. But it would not be proper to hand over valuable government land to private players and reduce the profit earning of the International Airport Authority. Such step would prove harmful for civil aviation.

Sir, we require 400 airports for the country, but as of now, we have only 125 airports. It is my submission that the Government should themselves run these airports properly and these should not be privatised. If the airports have to be privatised, new airports be constructed for this purpose. They should make new airports and earn from them as much as they can, but the existing airports should not be handed over to private parties. If these airports are privatised, no new airport will come up in the country and civil aviation, the transport system of future, will get weakened. Therefore, the Government should think twice before for privatisation. They should be prudent and farsighted in taking any such action. I am not opposing privatisation, but the private players should be permitted to make new airports so as to create additional capacity. We will not be able to help the civil aviation to privatise the existing airports.

Sir, such a question does not come up frequently and since it has been raised today, I would like to know from the hon. Minister taking the House in to confidence should tell us as to what he intends to do in this matter.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as respected Shivraj Patil ji has himself been the Minister of Civil Aviation, he knows the enormity of the question and he is fully aware of it. He has rightly stated that this country needs 400 airports and we have at present only 125 airports. It is unfortunate that we operating scheduled traffic only 62 airports because we are not getting traffic there. That is why we have told the domestic carriers to land wherever they want to. All facilities are being provided by the Government.

Sir, 28 out of 125 airports are such where we have made civil enclaves, only 11 out of them are running in profit. Mumbai is earning maximum profit to the tune of Rs. 246 crore and Delhi is earning the profit of about Rs. 171 crore. But about the concern that Patil Sahib has expressed, I would like to say in the House, through you, Sir, that the Government are fully aware of it and it will be kept in mind while privatising all four airports and the money to be earned through this would be invested in the construction of new airports. I shall keep in view what Patilji has spoken.

The question Mr. Patil has raised about the small airports is also being considered by the Government to chalk out a plan of privatisation of such 10-12 airports either on lease or in joint venture. One of our airports has come up in private sector in Cochin. Investment in private sector is going to take place in Hyderabad and Bangalore. The Government will take due care of it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, air travel is no longer a luxury. It has become essential for economic development and, particularly development of tourism. One problem that this country is facing in various spheres, including civil aviation, is the unbalanced development of the country. Many areas and regions of this country are deprived of adequate air travel facility for reason I do not know. There has been no study as such. Just now, the Minister said there is no traffic in many places. So I do not know what is the basis of such finding or assessment. But in the reply to this Question of my hon. friend, the Minister has been good enough to say that there is a constant assessment of the requirement of the air-side and terminal capacities both at domestic and international airports vis-à-vis the existing capacities, and AAI takes up requisite measures for optimum utilisation. For these, you are not waiting for privatisation. You say there is a constant assessment going on, and you are taking steps for optimum utilisation. Also from the reply, in January 2000, the Government had decided to restructure the four international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to attract private sector investment and upgrade these airports.

I have a specific question regarding Kolkata International Airport where there is a tremendous handicap faced by the cargo dealers because of inadequate capacity at the cargo terminals.

The hon. Minister, I am sure, is fully aware of it but on the plea that it is going to be privatised, the cargo terminal work has been totally stopped. Recently, those people met us and said that because of the absence of space they have

to incur extra expenditure to send the cargo from Kolkata to another airport. Even for sending to the Far East, goods are being sent to Mumbai or Delhi airport for the purpose of carriage but the terminal construction or expansion work has been stopped. What sort of optimum utilisation efforts are being made? What sort of assessments are being made?

I would like to know what is the position with regard to this cargo terminal at Kolkata Airport and whether the expansion or new construction work has been stopped. If so, what is the decision of the Government with regard thereto?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is about optimum utilization of which I am unable to give full details. The cost of the work going on in Kolkata is Rs. 40 crore. The work has not been stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Are you sure? Please tell us how much work has been done.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: It is, true. Somnath Babu has just raised the point about the problems being faced by the international terminal in Kolkata. I am a resident of border area of Bihar. The city of Kolkata is quite near to my area and I frequently visit it. I have myself visited. Several points have just been raised about the airport that it remains very crowded. It is true that is Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have specifically asked about the Cargo terminal.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I am just replying to that. Kolkata has got the capacity of 8.20 lacs while the number of visitors there is 5.90 lacs. The honourable Member knows that an international terminal has been set up there. In addition, domestic terminal is also at Kolkata. There international flight. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: He is asking about Cargo terminal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I am coming to

that. I shall not reply if you say so. He has asked about it that is why I am replying. He has no reservation about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: He has reservations that is why I am speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: He has asked about cargo and also about the problem of international terminal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said, if there were a constant assessment for upgradation of airports for optimum utilisation, here was an instance where the Cargo terminal work was not being done because of proposal privatisation. So, how are you doing it?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I want to inform, through you, Sir, that the hon'ble Member will be happy to know that the construction of airport of Kolkata with a cost of Rs. 40 crore has been sanctioned. We have no intention to discontinue that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now, he has come to it.

[Translation]

You have no intention but the work is not in progress there. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great happiness that the Ministry of Civil Aviation is taking measures through Airport Authority of India for the optimum utilisation of facilities at our airports of international level. For this the Government deserve congratulations. Through you I would like to know from the government the conditions existing in our international airports vis-a-vis the facilities available in the international airports of the other developed countries. In this context I would like to submit that in the international airport at Delhi the entire air traffic comes to a halt or gets delayed whenever there is a dense fog. Under these conditions what efforts are being made by the Government and the Airport Authority to obviate the problem of fog or to keep the International Airport of Delhi regularly working even in the face of dense fog?

Besides, what is the progress made in the scheme to make an alternative international airport of Jaipur?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I.L.S. Cat-III has been installed in Delhi. It has been inaugurated by the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister on the 25th of December last year. I.L.S. Cat-III has been installed there but there the question of the training of pilots is involved. The pilots of the foreign airlines who come here use that facility but among the pilots of our country's airlines airbuses only a few have got training. After 11 of September the trainers of the Boeing plane had to come from America and they had to impart training to our trainers, but America did not send their trainers after 11 September consequently, they could not be trained. But Cat-III is fully operational. The Government have made arrangements in that regard.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, proper traffic handling capacity increases the status and prestige of different airports in the estimation of either domestic passengers or international passengers. The Kolkata airport is not being uplifted up to the estimated, desired level. Many foreign airlines are withdrawing their aircrafts from the Kolkata airport. There are enough opportunities and scope because the North-Eastern part of the country is totally connected with Kolkata airport. From the tourists' attraction point of view also, the Kolkata airport — as it was expected to be uplifted — is not being uplifted properly.

Sir, even in the reply the hon. Minister has said:

"AAI has also engaged a consultant through International Civil Aviation Organisation for carrying out a study and suggest possible solutions for further enhancing traffic handling capacity of Delhi and Mumbai airports..."

The Kolkata airport has not been included in the list. A survey was made in Delhi and Mumbai airports as to how the traffic arrangements can be made more authenticated and more air crafts can be given permission. Some negotiations were made with the foreign aircrafts also. Considering the importance of Kolkata airport, will the hon. Minister state as to why the Kolkata airport is not being included in the survey along with Delhi and Mumbai?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, you can demand half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had never compared the Kolkata airport with those of Delhi and Mumbai on this account. In Delhi, thirty flights land on the runway per hour and I had told about the one and a half minute delay that takes place in landing at the Delhi airport due to JJ clusters. Kolkata has got enough runway. No flight gets delayed in landing there. The reply I had given was in that context that there was traffic rush due to the runway. In Kolkata the issue involved is to have more and more traffic.

Secondly, it has been told that aircrafts of foreign airlines should come more. We will make airports but that could be utilised only when more and more aircrafts land at the Kolkata airport. Now there is no problem regarding the runway of the Kolkata airport, no aircraft has to hover around before landing.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: In the Kolkata airport aircrafts land after hovering around for 15-20 minutes. This is the situation.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: No Sir, the problem is not that much.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The question relates to national and international airports.

I come from the North-Eastern region. The Silchar airport was sanctioned extension for airbus aircraft landing for the last one year. However, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation are having a tug of war about certain difficulties. There may be some difficulties, but this work is long over due.

Sir, the working months in North-Eastern region is from December to March. Now, the waiting list in my airport in the aircrafts is 40 to 50 daily on an average. Other passengers come via Guwahati. Now, you have sanctioned a Guwahati flight. So, I would like to know when would this extension of airport take place for which the hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to give special sanction for money. So, please let me know about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Sontosh Mohan Devji has asked about the Silchar airport. I am feeling happy to tell him that we have decided to increase the existing 6,000 feet long runway to

7,500 feet. A provision of Rs. 20 crores has also been made for this purpose. We have to instal more I.L.S.'s inside it and in this regard we are interacting with the Ministry of Defence because that airport belongs to the Airforce.

Despite, Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up it's runway extension work. We have sent a draft to the Defence Ministry. An N.O.C. is going to be received from them and very soon we are going to sign M.O.U. and give you the good news this year itself.

Increase in Minimum Wages

*83. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:.

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have increased minimum wages recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received some complaints regarding non-payment of minimum wages by various State Government and agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government has recently increased national floor level minimum wage to Rs.50/- per day w.e.f. 1.9.2002. Earlier, the minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act had been raised in scheduled employments of 'mines' and 'construction, maintenance of roads, building operations, laying of underground cables etc.' in the Central Sphere in January, 2002 (effective 1.10.2001). In the mines sector the wages ranged between Rs.52/- and Rs.111/- per day and in construction, maintenance of roads etc., between Rs.52/- and Rs.118/- per day.

(c) to (e) The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is secured through the Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in the Central Sphere while in the state sphere, the implementation is ensured by the state

enforcement machinery. The officers of these machineries conduct inspections of the establishments regularly and also investigate complaints and whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages they advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages. In the case of non-adherence, they file claim applications and take legal action as per provisions in the Act against the defaulting employers. Whenever, the Union Government receive complaints, the same are referred to the concerned State Governments asking them to take immediate action.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has replied that national minimum wages have been raised to rupees 50/- per day w.e.f. 1.9.2002. I am slightly getting confused due to this as to whether minimum wages are Rs. 58 or Rs. 50 per day. Secondly, I would like to bring it to your notice that all the works being undertaken in rural areas under all the schemes whether it is SRY or JRY being run by the Government are being done through the agencies. When we visit our areas and ask the labourers. We find that at some places they are given Rs. 40 and at some other places they are paid Rs. 45 only instead of Rs. 58. I would like to ask as to whether the Government will ensure that the implementing agencies be it PWD or Irrigation Department ensure that minimum wages of Rs. 56 or Rs. 58 are paid to the labourers for the works being done through tenders and contractors. The labourers should be paid Rs. 118 or more than Rs. 80 for the large scale of work done through tenders by the big companies in NTPC and NCL. When we go on visits we get the complaints that our labourers who are working through big contracts, are not being paid sufficient wages and only Rs. 60-70 are being paid as wages. If a labourer lodges a complaint, he is fired next day. Whether the Government would ensure that labourers are paid the minimum wages fixed for them be it NTPC or NCL. Otherwise, the company that does not pay the fixed wages should be blacklisted, its tenders should be cancelled.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked as to whether the minimum wages are Rs. 50 or Rs. 58. I would like to tell the hon. Member that it is Rs. 50. We have requested all the State Governments to keep this fact mind while fixing minimum wages from September 2002. Earlier it was Rs. 45. It was Rs. 45 in December 1999 and we raised it to Rs. 50 from 1st September. You have also said that minimum wages are not being paid where the works are being done by agencies through the Government and at several places PSU's also get the work done but there too it is not being paid, whenever we get complaints in this regard we take action against them. He is right to say that if a contractor does not

implement it, he should be blacklisted and action should be taken against them. State Government monitors all this but Central Government monitor the work of PSU's. We have regional labour commission in every state to monitor the system. Wherever there is any lacunae or complaint, they look into the matter and take action against the persons responsible for that. There is a provision in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 that anybody does not comply with this, is liable for 6 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500. I agree to it that there may be cases of less payment by some people and they may not have been held accountable. The reason may be this that no one has lodged a complaint and had somebody lodged a complaint, action would definitely have been taken against them.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: In part 'C' of the question, we have asked the hon. Union Minister whether the Union Government have received some complaints regarding non-payment of minimum wages by various state Governments and agencies? If complaints have been lodged then the state-wise number thereof and the details of their disposal?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not received much complaints in this regard. In all we have received 16 complaints during last three years out of which mostly are from Bihar, Delhi and few are from Madhya Pradesh during last three years most of the complaints have been received from the States where Congress Party is in power. Bihar, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh figure mainly in it. Now we are getting a few complaints from Punjab also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is essential to protect the labourers of the unorganised sector. It can be done only if distribution of minimum wages and income is made uniform. Hon. Minister has told that minimum wages have been raised from Rs. 47 to Rs. 50 w.e.f. 1.9.2002. It is true that the Government have formulated many laws but it is also true that the contractors and big companies behave arbitrarily in the matter of paying wages. At several places only Rs. 60-70 are paid per day. Moreover, it has also been observed that despite uniform rules for men and women, women are paid Rs. 50 while men are paid Rs. 70. Discrimination is done in this way. Apart from this, there are different patterns of taking action in different states. Centre have a separate committee and states have different committees. Due to this many companies behave arbitrarily. On one hand the Government have promised to pay Rs. 50 as minimum wages but on the other hand Government are stating that in the areas of mining, building construction and road construction, Rs. 52 to Rs. 111 are being paid as wages and Rs. 52 to Rs. 118 are also being paid.

Some receive Rs.52 and others Rs.111 or 118. What does this mean? The Government have to clarify it. You

have stated that in several States Rs.52 and in many States Rs.118 are paid. What coherent measures the Government proposes to take to remove this anomaly?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member has said is right that there is some disparity. There are different scheduled employment and different works hence there is disparity in wages. There are 45 such scheduled employment in the Central region and 1232 in the States where the payment of wages is made in accordance with the nature of the work. I want to further clarify that the payment of Rs.50 as minimum wage as I have promised, is just a national floor level. I have requested and written to the Chief Ministers of the States that whenever they fix minimum wages, it should not be less than this. Still in some of the States less than Rs.50 that is less than the national floor level, is being paid as minimum wages.

[English]

In less than this amount, you cannot keep your body and soul together. This is the minimum amount required to meet the barest needs of a person.

[Translation]

You cannot fix below this. But, unfortunately at some places it is lesser than this. Recently, the Supreme Court of India has also directed that provisions should be made for their requirements of food, clothes, accommodation, lights, fuel, medical treatment, education, festivals, entertainment, marriages and old age. All these requirements have been kept in mind while increasing the national floor level of minimum wages.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Through you, Sir, I would like to ask a particular question. There is no point in having the Act alone. Unless it is enforced with a resolute will, it will not bring any benefit or solace to the labourers. Due to globalisation, tea and coffee estates are facing a very grim situation. In States like Kerala, a large number of workers in the tea and coffee estates are committing suicide, and wages have not been paid to them for several months.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: As I had submitted earlier that this act is implemented through the States. As discussed, we keep on writing repeatedly to the State Governments and all the Chief Ministers have been requested to check any exploitation of such nature wherever it takes place and action be taken against the exploiters. We frequently keep corresponding and it is thoroughly discussed in our annual Indian Labour Conference and all are requested to ensure

that exploitation of labourers should not take place and they are paid minimum wages.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the Minister's attention and say that the Minimum Wages Act is utterly hopeless. If a worker or labourer working in a village does not get minimum wages and wants to get the same than he is required to approach a labour officer as per the procedure laid down in the Act, the labour officer would examine it and would file a complaint which is subsequently investigated and the offender is punished. I want to ask whether it is practical for a labourer working in the fields to go through this protracted procedure and action is taken after years of investigation on his complaint? It is impractical. I want to know whether you have any proposal for making this Act practical so that a labourer, who is subjected to injustice, may get some benefit, compensation, little money in a limited time period. Do you propose to bring in some new legislation to make it effective?

MR. SPEAKER: It is good and this should be done at the earliest. Therefore, I think that you should inform the House what are you going to do in this matter.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we have constituted a working group to study the problems relating to formulation of various parameters and guidelines on the basis of critical evaluation, implementation of minimum wages and the classification of the concept of minimum wages under Section (8) in the Central Advisory Board. Representatives of the states have been included in it and the employment Advisor, the Convener of this Group and the representatives of Madhya Pradesh and many other states of the country are included in it and they will submit their reports. This is one thing. It has been done in order to expedite the concerned activities. Secondly, National Labour Commission has also asked to rationalise all the laws, particularly Minimum wages law. Alongwith that we have four laws in place - Equal Remuneration, Payment of Bonus, Payment of wages and payment of Minimum Wages - by rationalising these four ones, we are making a legislation, making it more practical, meaningful and simplified. As you have stated regarding Agricultural labourers as to where the poor will make their appeal for justice and how they will get justice, all these things will also be kept in mind.

Secondly, you have referred to labourers working in unorganised sector and agricultural labourers also come in this sector. Sir, we had conducted a seminar on 7-8 November in which we had discussed all these issues in detail. Some recommendations have also been made and we will make laws taking all those things into account. We reasonably expect to come up with a meaningful and practical

legislation in the next Budget Session having rationalised the same.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the rural industries in the country, be it tea or some cottage industry are in bad condition. The owner of these industries don't have enough funds. They can't even pay minimum wages and due to this, labourers are working at the wages of Rupees 30-40 and eat up loaves of grass. On the one hand, the Government have made a policy to close-down rural industries and on the other hand, an assurance to make laws to provide them with more wages. I would like to ask the Minister as to "how long will it take to put an end to this contradiction?"

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised many national issues. ...*(Interruptions)* Out of these national issue, he has rightly said about the issues related to my Department. In the year 1989 we formed a National Commission of Rural Labour under the Chairmanship of Shri Hanumant Rao who is an economist and also had been a member of the Planning Commission. He had recommended that in rural areas, remuneration should be paid on the basis of minimum wages we implemented this recommendation in 1991 @ Rs. 20 which was subsequently raised to Rs. 35, 45, and Rs. 50 respectively. What Honourable Member has said is not directly linked to my Department but as per the Govt.'s Policy, industries, cottage industries and house hold industries should continue in the rural areas. The Central Government is paying full attention to it. Chandra Shekhar ji, I want to tell you and you are right that the unemployed villagers can be provided employment with this means only and the Government is very much attentive in this direction and the steps are also being taken.

[English]

Storage Facilities

*84. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of proper storage facilities, movement and transport bottleneck, outdated food laws and inappropriate taxing system are seriously impeding the growth of the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

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

(c) the export performance of the FPIs during the last three years?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) While multiplicity of food laws, problems in the taxation regime and infrastructure bottlenecks are recognized as areas requiring attention, studies also point out that food processing industries as a whole grew at a rate (5.8% per annum) higher than the GDP growth rate (5.7%) in the country during the 9th Plan Period.

To address the problems faced by the industry in multiplicity of laws, regulatory authorities and standards, Government have constituted a Group of Ministers to recommend an Integrated Food Law, independent regulators and comprehensive amendments to existing legislation for facilitating fast pace growth of food processing industries. A number of plan schemes and interventions for infrastructure development including silo storage, cold storage, reefer vans, agri-export zones and food parks have been devised to facilitate food processing industries. The Central Government brought down excise duty on processed fruit and vegetables to zero w.e.f the Budget year 2001-02.

The export performance of food processing industries during the last three years is indicated below:-

(Rs. Crores)			
Item	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	993.64	1345.54	1100.57
Meat & Meat Products	905.08	1637.16	1500.93
Marine Products	5116.60	6443.80	5957.00
Other Processed Foods	1494.49	1798.03	1780.07
Total	8509.81	11224.53	10338.57

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, my question was about storage facilities. But the hon. Minister has not replied as to how that problem could be addressed. Even at the existing level of production, a substantial amount of farm produce, estimated at Rs. 7,000 crore is being wasted every year due to lack of proper storage and processing facilities.

Sir, this is a fact that India wastes more grain than what Australia produces. We need proper storage facilities

for that. Cold chain and cold storage are capital intensive industries. The Government has to come forward and provide financial incentives for setting up of enough cold storage facilities so that the produce does not perish.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please be brief so that you can get a reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know from the Minister whether the Government of India will consider treating the cold chain, both in the private as well as public sector, as a continuous process industry and award priority status to it? Will the Government provide fiscal incentives for encouraging creation of cold chains, which are capital intensive and have a long gestation period?

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member that foodgrains are wasted due to non-availability of storage facilities. There are warehouses under Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations. Private sector godowns are also there. The capacity as on 1st October 2002, is 861 lakh metric tonnes. The storage capacity available for storage of foodgrains under Food Corporation of India and State Agencies is 563.49 metric tonnes. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 2002 was 568 metric tonnes. The capacity of cold storage available as on 31st March, 2000 was 13.62 metric tonnes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: My question was quite different from the reply the Minister is giving.

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming to your question.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: I am coming to your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Answer my question. I already have the figures that you are stating.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: The question was elaborate and so the answer is elaborate.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: The available capacity of cold storage is 13.62 million tonnes. Now the projection is that 5 lakh metric tonnes is required for the Tenth Plan. In our plan scheme, Horticulture Board is assisting the private sector in setting up cold storage facilities. Twenty-five per cent subsidy is given for setting up of cold storages. Our Ministry is also giving assistance for setting up cold storages in food parks. We are giving Rs.4 crore for creating infrastructure facilities under the common infrastructure facilities. In the food parks we are giving cold storages and

other godowns, labs and common effluence treatment plants. Therefore, for anybody who is interested in setting up food parks - whether in the public sector undertakings, in the private sector, in the cooperative sector, or others - we are giving an assistance of Rs. 4 crore for setting up cold storage and warehousing facility. For the cold chain facilities, we are assisting from the post-harvest level to the processing level in our Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Another supplementary, or the same supplementary again? Whatever you want, the choice is yours.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will have to ask the question until I get a proper reply; and, of course, we may get the same answer.

Sir, there is enough potential for export from the food processing industries. But this is gradually reducing. During 2000-01, it was to the tune of Rs. 11,224.83 crore, but next year, i.e., during 2001-02, it got reduced to Rs. 10,338.57 crore.

What is the reason that the export from the food processing industries has been reduced although there is enough potential?

ICAR has developed gama rays for preservation of vegetables, particularly, potatoes. If gama rays are used, potatoes can be preserved for, at least, six months. But the cost of installation of equipment is about Rs. 6 crore to Rs. 7 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government will provide financial support for purchase of the equipment to facilitate gama rays. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Second National Labour Commission

*85. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected separately;

(c) whether the employees/representatives and the trade union leaders were also consulted;

(d) if so, the views expressed by these bodies and reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) whether various State Governments including Delhi Government have criticized the recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission and the draft legislation;

(f) if so, the facts thereof;

(g) whether the Government are considering cutting down a number of legislation drastically;

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(i) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be fully examined and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) The recommendations of Second National Labour Commission are under active consideration of the Government. With a view to bring about a broad consensus of different interest groups, a series of meetings have been held at various fora with the representatives of Trade Unions, employers' organizations, labour law practitioners, eminent persons, academicians, etc. The recommendations of NCL were discussed at the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held on 28-29 September, 2002. The recommendations relating to unorganized sector were also discussed at the National Seminar on Unorganised Sector held on 7-8 November, 2002. The views expressed by different groups in these meetings, conference, seminar, tripartite consultations, etc. are being examined/processed further with a view to crystallize the views of the Government.

(e) and (f) Some of the State Governments including NCT of Delhi had expressed their divergent views at the 38th Session of ILC and suggested to hold Tripartite Consultation before accepting these recommendations.

(g) to (i) It is proposed to rationalize the existing labour

laws into a few comprehensive laws on Labour Management Relations, Wages, Occupational Safety & Health, Small Enterprises, Child Labour, Unorganised Sector, Hours of Work, Leave, Working Conditions, etc. However, given the procedure involved, it may not be possible to specify time limit.

[Translation]

Assistance to Sugarcane Growers

*86. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane growers are unable to produce good crop in the absence of prototype and technical knowledge of production and quality of agricultural fields in the country particularly in Bihar;

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

(c) the details of assistance being provided by the Government to the sugarcane growers for the development of better sugarcane variety and promote sugarcane cultivation alongwith the main features of the draft of the schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugarcane Development scheme was implemented in major sugarcane growing States including Bihar. However, since October 2000, the scheme "Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems" (SUBACS) has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture alongwith other 26 schemes to give more flexibility to States and implement the programmes on the basis of State's priorities and requirements. Funds are allocated and released to States in lump sum for Macro Management Mode of Agriculture and not provided on the basis of individual crop.

[English]

Sky Marshals

* 87. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air line routes, domestic and international, where sky marshals have been deployed on board for security;

(b) the pay, perks and other facilities provided to the sky marshals;

(c) the catering and other in-house facilities provided to them on board when on duty; and

(d) the details of grievances ventilated by them so far through official channel and action taken, if any, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Providing details of airline routes on which Sky Marshals are deployed would not be in public interest.

(b) Sky Marshals are commandos of National Security Guards (NSG) and drawn from the Army on deputation. The pay of Sky Marshals is given as per the rank of the officer. The Sky Marshals are provided Boarding, Lodging and Transport while on duty.

(c) The catering and other in-house facilities provided to the Sky Marshals on board is the same as provided to the passengers.

(d) No serious grievances have been aired by Sky Marshals. However, the few incidents/complaints reported/made by the Sky Marshals are in the area of pre-embarkation security checks, lack of advance information of rescheduling of flights/cancellation of flights and seating arrangements. Necessary corrective measures have been taken to pre-empt recurrence.

Rationalisation of Flight Operations

*88. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present Air India and Indian Airlines are operating to the same destinations like Singapore and Bangkok incurring avoidable losses;

(b) if so, the details of sectors incurring such avoidable losses; and

(c) the steps being taken to rationalise the flight operations of both the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Though it is true that Air India and Indian Airlines are operating to some common destinations like Dubai, Muscat, Kuwait, Doha, Bahrain etc. in Gulf and Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur in South East Asia, it is incorrect to say that they are incurring losses on these routes. Both airlines are serving these destinations precisely for the reason that operations to these destinations are profitable. Since AI does not have enough number of aircraft to fully meet the demand on these destinations with adequate services, Indian Airlines has been allowed to operate to these destinations to meet the demand. This improves utilization of the aircraft of Indian Airlines which are unutilized during night time for domestic operations and at the same time leads to increased Indian presence in such market which otherwise would have been exploited by foreign carriers to their advantage.

However, there are some shortcomings in such operations to common destinations like tendency of undercutting the fares of each other etc. and, therefore, an exercise in on to rationalize such operations so that the two airlines compete effectively with foreign airlines rather than with each other and the same time Indian presence in such market is strengthened with better services. This would also help the two airlines plan their future operations in such markets in a better fashion. The rationalization exercise would be completed within a month.

Plight of Workers of Tea/Coffee Estate

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable conditions of workers of Tea/Coffee Estate/Plantation which have been either closed or abandoned by their owners; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to rehabilitate the affected workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) There are reports about the problems of workers in plantations which have been closed or abandoned by their owners. Based on the available information, the details are given below:

Kerala : Government of Kerala have informed that 23,000 workers have been affected due to closure or abandonment of 23 estates.

Government of Kerala have started relief measures. In addition to relief, Government of

Kerala have set up a Standing Committee, as a permanent body to address the various problems of the plantation industry. A sub-committee of State Cabinet with State Labour Minister as convenor, has been formed to explore the feasibility to reopen the plantation estates.

West Bengal :

Government of West Bengal have informed that 10 tea gardens in the State have been closed or abandoned thereby affecting approximately 6,000 workers. The government is trying to re-open the gardens through conciliation meetings. The workers of three estates are receiving assistance of Rs. 500/- per month under a scheme of financial assistance to the workers in locked-out industrial units.

Tamil Nadu :

Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no such pathetic conditions of the plantations workers have been brought to their notice and no plantations either beep closed or abandoned by their owners in the State.

As per the report received from the Tea Board, the position in respect of other States is as under:

Karnataka : There is no serious crisis in any of the tea estates in Karnataka.

Assam : Only three gardens are reported to be under lock-out and the number of workers affected thereto adds up to 2526.

Tripura : Four tea gardens are reported to be under lock-out; the total number of workers affected adds up to 560.

[Translation]

Reservation for Women and OBC in ITIs

*90. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of reservation of seats for women and candidates belonging to OBC in Industrial Training Institutes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Provision exists for reservation of 25% seats for women candidates in ITIs. A provision has also been made for reservation of seats for OBC candidates in ITIs from the session starting from January, 2003. The extent of reservation will be at par with the reservation available for them for employment in government service of respective State Governments/UT Administration.

[English]

Tourism Pact with ASEAN Countries

*91. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries has signed any tourism pact for the promotion of tourism among the member countries;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have also signed this pact;

(c) if so, the details and the out-come thereof; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to our country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The following countries, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, who are members of ASEAN have signed an agreement on 4th November 2002 at Phnom Penh.

(b) to (d) Does not arise as India is not a member of ASEAN and is only a full-dialogue partner.

[Translation]

Job Oriented Schemes

*92. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed youths in the country at the end of Ninth Plan period and at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have noticed any decline in employment generation since 1991;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate job oriented schemes in order to create more employment opportunities in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any target of employment generation has been fixed during the Tenth Plan period;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the extent to which the present level of unemployment is likely to be reduced along with the steps initiated by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) State-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31.3.2002 (end of Ninth Plan) and as on 31.8.2002 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) As estimated through the National Sample Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the employment which was of the order of 37.4 crore in 1993-94, had gone up to 39.7 crore during 1999-2000.

(d) and (e) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

(f) to (h) During the Tenth Plan, 50 million employment opportunities are proposed to be generated. Out of this, about 30 million employment opportunities will be from usual growth process and the remaining 20 million through special employment generation schemes with special emphasis on Agriculture, Irrigation, Agro-Forestry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Information & Communication Technology, Tourism & other services. This is expected to substantially reduce the unemployment problem in the country.

Statement

*No. of job-seekers on the Live Register of
Employment Exchanges*

(in lakh)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	As on March 2002	As on August 2002
1	2	3	4
(A) States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.0	30.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.2	0.2
3.	Assam	14.9	15.2
4.	Bihar	19.1	18.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	7.8	7.8
6.	Delhi	10.1	10.4
7.	Goa	1.0	1.0
8.	Gujarat	10.7	10.8
9.	Haryana	6.9	7.7
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8.9	9.0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.6	1.5
12.	Jharkhand	13.4	13.3
13.	Karnataka	20.2	20.0
14.	Kerala	42.7	39.5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	18.1	18.4
16.	Maharashtra	44.2	45.3
17.	Manipur	4.1	4.1
18.	Meghalaya	0.4	0.4
19.	Mizoram	0.8	0.4
20.	Nagaland	0.4	0.4
21.	Orissa	8.5	7.8
22.	Punjab	5.3	5.2

1	2	3	4
23.	Rajasthan	7.5	7.4
24.	Sikkim*	-	0.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	49.1	50.8
26.	Tripura	3.3	3.4
27.	Uttaranchal	3.4	3.6
28.	Uttar Pradesh	17.9	17.6
29.	West Bengal	61.5	63.3
(B) Union Territories			
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.4	0.4
31.	Chandigarh	0.9	0.8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.06	0.1
33.	Daman and Diu	0.07	0.1
34.	Lakshadweep	0.1	0.1
35.	Pondicherry	1.4	1.5
Total		416.0	416.2

Protection to Rare Species of Birds

*93. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Natural History Society and Bird Life International have warned that the number of rare species of birds is alarmingly dwindling in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which such a warning was issued;

(c) whether they have also stated that Pinhead Duck, Forest Owlet, Jardones Cruiser, Himalayan Mountain Quail, Saras Crane and two species of vulture are also included in the list and these species need to be protected; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for protection of these rare species of birds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Bombay Natural History Society

(BNHS), Birdlife International and several other organizations have been expressing concerns about decline in population of several bird species in India.

(b) Birdlife International has published "Threatened Birds of Asia" in collaboration with BNHS which was released on 5-6-2001. An updated version of this book "Threatened Birds of India" has been released by BNHS on 26-9-2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pink headed duck and the Himalayan mountain quail were last sighted in 1935 and 1876 respectively and hence are considered extinct. Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to protect Jerdon's Courser, Forest Spotted Owlet, Saras Crane and Vultures are as follows:

- (i) Protection status of Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing it the highest degree of protection under the Act.
- (ii) Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
- (iii) Management of the Wildlife Habitats is done on scientific lines, allowing only such activities in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.
- (iv) Support scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving

strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.

- (v) National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.
- (vi) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

[English]

Mechanized Fishing

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

(a) whether the Government have marked any limit along the coastline of the country debarring mechanized fishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to assist the poor fishermen during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on a model Marine Fishing Regulation Bill circulated by the Government of India all the coastal States, except Gujarat have enacted Marine Fishing Regulation Acts earmarking operational areas for, different types of fishing vessels. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to assist the poor fishermen during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Areas reserved for Traditional Crafts & Mechanised Vessels in the Territorial waters of Maritime States

S.No.	State/Act	Area exclusively for traditional craft*	Areas for Mechanised Vessel
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	Marine Fishing Regulation Act of the State is under consideration	
2.	Maharashtra MFRA 1981	5-10 fathom depth (9-18 depth)	
3.	Goa MFRA 1980	5 Kms.	Beyond 5 Kms.

1	2	3	4
4.	Karnataka MFRA 1986	6 Kms.	Beyond 6 Kms.
5.	Kerala MFRA 1980	10 Kms.	Beyond 10 Kms.
6.	Tamil Nadu MFRA 1983	3 nautical miles (5.4 Kms.)	Beyond 3 nautical miles
7.	Andhra Pradesh MFRA 1993	8 Kms.	Beyond 8 Kms.
8.	Orissa MFRA 1982	5 Kms.	(i) Upto 15m OAL beyond 5 Kms. (ii) Above 15m OAL beyond 10 Kms.
9.	West Bengal	(i) Upto 8 Kms. for mechanised vessels upto 9m OAL (ii) Upto 20 Kms but not below 8 Kms. for vessels above 9m OAL.	(i) Upto 15m OAL upto 50 Kms. but not below 20 Kms. (ii) Above 15m OAL beyond 50 Kms.

* Traditional craft can fish anywhere in the sea. The reservation mentioned implies only that other category of vessels may not fish in the area reserved for traditional craft

Statement-II

The steps taken by the Government of India to assist the poor fishermen of the coastal States/UTs are as follows:

1. Subsidy for purchase of Out Board Motors engine (OHM) @ Rs.10,000 per engine and Inboard Motors engine (IBM) @ Rs.12,000 per engine.
2. The National Welfare of Fishermen Schemes is having 3 components:
 - (i) Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for marine fishers.
 - (ii) Accident Insurance Scheme for active fishers.
 - (iii) Housing for fishers.
3. Under the Scheme of Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD, an amount of Rs.2603.22 lakhs has been granted to the States for assisting fishermen for the last three years.
4. Under the scheme for Motorization of traditional Crafts, an amount of Rs.383.99 lakhs for motorising 7215 crafts has been granted for the last three years.
5. Under the Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, central assistance of Rs.63. 71 crore has been released to various States/UTS, for the last three years. About 12 lakh fishermen were covered under Group Accident Insurance Scheme and about 2.5 lakh fishermen under Saving-cum-Relief component.

6. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major & Minor Ports, Central assistance to the tune of Rs.3252.67 lakhs has been released to the various maritime States, UTs and Port Trusts during the last three years. Under the scheme, expansion of existing facilities of one major fishing harbour at Visakhapatnam, five minor fishing harbours and 14 fish landing centres have been sanctioned during the last 3 years, which would benefit the fishermen for safe berthing and landing facility of their boats/vessels.

Drought Relief Measures Suggested by CII

*95. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has suggested a series of short and long term measures to help the States to cope with the drought in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested a number of short and long term measures to deal with droughts.

The short term measures include resort to short duration crops with seed subsidy, Food for Work Programme, setting up of State Level Task Forces, discontinuance of

subsidy on power in Blocks with serious water scarcity, provision of uniform power for water supply, banning of inter-State movement of fodder and opening of goshalas, etc.

The long term measures essentially consist of a number of proposals for economizing water use and technological innovations in utilization of water. The other measures include sustainable land use through planting of forage crops and trees.

Many of these constitute well known strategies for managing droughts and to ensure sustainable development—these are already under implementation. There are other suggestions which need to be looked into by the State Governments, to whom these have been referred to by the CII, for examination, having regard to the local circumstances. The suggestions regarding banning of inter-State movement of fodder may not benefit the acutely drought affected States.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken any decision to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it would enable a safer route on genetically-modified crops and provide shelter against foreign attacks on the national law as well;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the protocol has been signed by 103 nations except USA?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 5.9.2002.

(b) to (d) The Protocol offers a number of tools for promoting biosafety. It incorporates the use of Precautionary Principle, the application of Advance Informed Agreement, Procedure for import of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework, Capacity Building, Public Awareness and exchange of scientific and technical information on Living Modified Organisms through a biosafety Clearing House Mechanism.

- (e) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Survey on Ground Water Level

*97. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey on constantly declining water level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise; and
- (c) the follow-up action taken by the Government on the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) regularly monitors the ground water level through a network of around 15000 National Hydrograph Monitoring Stations located throughout the country. The water level is taken four times in a year i.e. in the months of January, May, August and November. Analysis of data collected by the CGWB has indicated fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country on long-term basis. The names of the States/districts having pockets with fall in water level in the last twenty years (1982-2001) are given in the statement enclosed.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. To remedy the situation, Central Government has initiated following measures to arrest decline in ground water and to harness it:-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore.
- (ii) Circulation of Manual on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

Statement

Name of the States/Districts having Pockets with Fall in Water Level in Last Twenty Years (1982-2001)

(Pre-monsoon Period)

Sl No.	States	Fall in Water Level	
		4-6 metre	more than 6 metre
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Anantpur, Chittoor, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Warangal, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam	Adilabad, Anantpur, East Godavari, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Warangal, Visakhapatnam, W-Godavari
2	Bihar	Gaya, Giridih, Lohardaga, Palamu	
3	Chhattisgarh	Baster, Bilaspur, Janjgir, Champa, Kanker	Baster, Dantewada, Durg, Raigarh
4	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar, Valsad	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar
5	Haryana	Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Sirsa	Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Yamunanagar
6	Delhi	South West, South, New Delhi, North West, West, Central	South, South West, New Delhi
7	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Kolar, Koppala, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttar Kannada	Bangalore, Belary, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajanagara, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttar Kannada
8	Kerala	Ernakulam, Idukki, Kannur, Kasaragod, Kollam, Kottayam, Kozhikode	Idduki, Kannur, Kollam, Kottayam, Thiruvananthapuram
9	Madhya Pradesh	Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Jabalpur, Katni, Khandwa, Khargone, Morena, Narsinghpur, Nimach, Panna, Raisen, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri	Barwani, Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Datia, Dewas, Guna, Gwalior, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Nimach, Raisen, Rajgarh, Rewa, Shajapur, Vidisha
10	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nasik, Parbhani, Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Thane, Wardha, Yavatmal	Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Latur, Nanded, Pune, Sholapur

1	2	3	4
11.	North Eastern States	Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi-Anglong, South Tripura, West Tripura	Morigaon
12.	Orissa	Balasore, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Nowrangpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Suvampur	Angul, Balasore, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Phulbani, Sundergarh, Suvampur
13.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Sangrur	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Moga, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur
14.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhitwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur
15.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Dharampur, Dindigul, Kancheepuram, Madras, Theni, Tiruvannamalai, Tuticorin	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharamapuri, Erode, Kanya Kumari, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Tanjavur, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Badaun, Ballia, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Fatehpur, Ghaziabad, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lakhimpur, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pratappgarh, Raebareilly, Rampur, Sharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Badaun, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bulandshahar, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Fatehgarh, Fatehpur, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pratappgarh, Raebareilly, Sultanpur, Unnao
17.	West Bengal	Bankura, Birbhum, Koochbihar, Purulia	Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Purulia

[English]

MNCs in Indian Market

*98. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow Multi National Companies (MNCs) to enter Indian market particularly in Gujarat in the field of fresh branded milk;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian co-operatives engaged in the business of milk and milk products will face tough competition as a result of MNCs' entry, causing revenue loss to the co-operatives; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to review the decision taken by the Government for allowing MNCs in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government policy permits Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in processing/ manufacturing of milk and milk products, under the automatic route without any cap on the extent of foreign equity participation. However, it is not mandatory for foreign investor to indicate the location of proposal at entry stage under automatic or Govt. approval routes.

(c) and (d) The entry of MNCs in the business of milk and milk products will make Indian Dairy Cooperatives more competitive as FDI supports domestic investment for achieving a higher level of economic development, providing

opportunities for technological up-gradation, access to global management skills and practices.

Promotion of Contract Farming

*99. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has suggested for promotion of contract farming training on pre-harvest and post-harvest management;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide required physical and marketing infrastructure to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) In the paper made available by ASSOCHAM, there is no mention of promotion of contract farming training on pre-harvest and post-harvest management. The paper only refers to 'introduction of contract farming by appropriately modifying the existing land legislation' as one of the methods of involving the corporate sector in agriculture.

Touts at Airports

*100. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the general complaint of the passengers being cheated by touts operating at major airports including Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether they are reportedly acting in connivance with the taxi operators, trolley retrieving staff, loading agents and other subordinate staff;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been initiated in this matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Certain instances have

come to notice regarding touts operating in connivance with taxi operators, trolley retrieving staff, loading agents and certain sections of subordinate officials of the agencies working at the airports. All such cases are referred to the concerned agency/organization/police for appropriate action.

(e) Steps like installation of CCTV cameras, surprise checks by senior Officers, initiation of disciplinary action against erring staff, provision of prepaid taxi counters under the charge of traffic police etc. have been taken up.

[Translation]

Chemical Pollution of Rivers

*101. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have adequate machinery to protect the rivers from chemical pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made to check such pollution;

(c) whether the rivers are getting polluted from chemicals despite existence of the Government machinery;

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

(e) the names of companies located around Ganga at Kanpur and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh against which action has been taken during the last three years indicating the details of action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Government is implementing a National River Conservation Plan for Cleaning of polluted rivers. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) through State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is monitoring the water quality of rivers under Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources (MINARS) and Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) programs at 784 locations. Further, to prevent pollution of rivers from industries including the chemical factories located on the banks of the rivers, a total of 851 grossly polluting industries have been identified. These industries are regularly monitored by CPCB and SPCBs. As per the latest report, out of 851 industries, 608 industries have provided effluent treatment facilities after issuance of directions, 238 industries have been closed and 5 industries are defaulting and facing legal action.

(e) A total of 74 grossly polluting industries have been identified along the river Ganga at Kanpur and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. Out of 74 units 27 units are closed and 35 units are operating effluent treatment plants (ETPs) satisfactorily. The remaining 12 units have installed

ETPs but their operation is not satisfactory and the State Pollution Control Board has been asked to take action against these units. The list of these 74 industries along with their operational status is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Status of Grossly Polluting Industries Discharging Effluents into River Ganga

Sl.No.	Name and Address of Industry	ETP Status
1	2	3
Allahabad		
1.	IFFCO, Phoolpur, Unit-1 & 2, Allahabad	OPRS
2.	Recron Synthetic Ltd., Unit-1 & 2, Naini, Allahabad	OPRS
Kanpur		
1.	M/s. Super Tannery (India) Ltd., Jajmau, Kanpur (Unit No. 1)	OPRS
2.	M/s. Pioneer Leather Finishers, 150 Feet Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
3.	M/s. Zaz Tannery 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
4.	M/s. Uper India Tannery, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
5.	M/s. Northern Tannery, 150 Feet Road, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
6.	M/s. Asia Tannery (P) Ltd. 150 Feet Road, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
7.	M/s. Sunrise Tannery, 150 Feet Road, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
8.	M/s. Qayum Leathers (Allied Tannery) 150 Feet Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
9.	M/s. Universal Leather Finisher, 461 A, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
10.	M/s Ordnance Factory, Kalpi Rd., Kanpur	OPRS
11.	M/s. Kanpur Dugdh Utpadak Sahkari Sangh Nirala Nagar, Kanpur	OPRS
12.	M/s. CETP, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
13.	M/s. Shalimar Leather Finishers, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
14.	M/s. Danish Tanners Nazidpur, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
15.	M/s. Diamond Tannery, Wazidpur, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
16.	M/s. Nagouri Tanning, Wazidpur, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
17.	M/s. Bright Tanning Industries, Iqbal Street, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
18.	M/s. Star Tennery, 19, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS

1	2	3
19.	M/s. Oudh Tannery Bhalla Estates, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
20.	M/s. Homera Tanning Indus. (P) Ltd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
21.	M/s. H. Rahman Tanners, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
22.	M/s. United Provinces Tannery Co. Ltd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
23.	M/s. Hamraj Leather Finishers, Budhiyagat, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
24.	M/s. Kasif Tannery, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
25.	M/s. Supreme Tanning Industries, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
26.	M/s. Nusrat Tannery, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
27.	M/s. Renets Estern Export Ram Rai Saray, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
28.	M/s. Globe Tannery, Jajmau Rd., Kanpur	OPRS
29.	M/s. Wasif Tannery 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
30.	M/s. Aziz Leathers Finishers, Budhiya Ghat, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
31.	Super Tannery (India) Unit No. 2, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
32.	M/s. Uero Asia Leathers (P) Ltd. (Union Tanning Inds.) Wazidpur, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
33.	M/s. Sultan Tanners, Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRS
34.	M/s. Panki Thermal Power, Panki, Kanpur	OPRS
35.	M/s. Globe International, 104 / 90, A-72, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
36.	M/s. M.K.J. Corporation (P) Ltd., Sareesh Bagh, Kanpur	UCL
37.	M/s. International Tanning Industries, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
38.	M/s. Samser Ki Tannery Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
39.	M/s. Saad Tanners, Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
40.	M/s. Indian National Tannery, Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
41.	M/s. Zeenat Tannery Ram Rai Saray, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
42.	M/s. New Moon Light Tanning Industries, Makkosahid Ka Bhatta, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
43.	M/s. Aizaz Tannery, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
44.	M/s. N.R. Tanners Budhiya Ghat, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
45.	M/s. Sewan Tanner, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
46.	M/s. New Universal Tannery, Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS

1	2	3
47.	M/s. Mona Tanning Indus., Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
48.	M/s. Kamal Tanning Ind. Sheetla Bazar, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
49.	M/s. Changal Tanning Ind. (Classic Tanning Indus.) Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
50.	M/s. Enterprises Tanning Industries, Jajmau Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
51.	M/s. Hindustan Tannery Pvt. Ltd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
52.	M/s. Rafio Tannery, 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
53.	M/s. Sk Kamal (Leather Finishers) Sheetla Bazar, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
54.	M/s. Alsapha Tannery Budhiya Ghat, Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
55.	M/s. Kammruddin Ki Tannery, Laltoopurwa, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
56.	M/s. Greater Arafat Tanners, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
57.	M/s. New Light Tannery (P) Ltd., 150 Ft. Rd., Jajmau, Kanpur	UCL
58.	M/s. Seema Tanning Indus. 150 Ft. Rd., Sanjay Nagar, Kanpur	OPRNS
59.	M/s. Magdoom Tannery, Jajmau, Kanpur	OPRNS
60.	M/s. Ashoka Akshya & Co. Kanpur	UCL
61.	M/s. Atul Refinery, Kanpur	UCL
62.	M/s. Banarsi Das Laxmi Narain, Kanpur	UCL
63.	M/s. Elgin Mill Co. Ltd. Unit-I, Kanpur	UCL
64.	M/s. Elgin Mill Co. Ltd. Unit-II, Kanpur	UCL
65.	M/s Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Ltd., Kanpur	UCL
66.	M/s. Kanpur Woolen Mill, Kanpur	OPRS
67.	M/s. Kanpur Textile Ltd., Kanpur	UCL
68.	M/s. Laxmi Ratan Cotton Mill, Kanpur	UCL
69.	M/s. Muir Mill, Kanpur	UCL
70.	M/s. New Victoria Mill, Kanpur	UCL
71.	M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mill, Kanpur	UCL
72.	M/s. TEFCO, Kanpur	UCL

ETP Status is to be reported as:

OPRS	ETP operating and complying with the standards
OPRNS	ETP operating but not complying with the standards
UCL	Industry is closed.

[Translation]

Working of IACR

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is working under the pressure of Monsanto a seed growing company of America;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the ICAR has submitted its report on BT cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the directives of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducted trials of Bt cotton hybrids through All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project in Central & South zones of India during 2001-02 crop season. The final evaluation report was submitted to the GEAC in February, 2002. The GEAC in its meeting held on 26th March, 2002 has conditionally approved the release of three transgenic Bt cotton hybrids (Bt MECH 12, Bt MECH 162 & Bt 184) for commercial cultivation in the Central and South zones of the country during 2002-03 crop season after the review of performance of Bt cotton hybrids.

[English]

Closure of Kokilabari Central State Farm

907. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUT-HIARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to revoke the previous decision for the closure of the "Kokilabari Central State Farm", Barpeta, Assam and take over the management of the concerned farm for the benefit of the people of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to sanction the required fund out of the Non-Lapsable Central Pool Resources to revive the farm; and

(e) if not, the steps taken in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) On account of continuous losses suffered by Central State Farm, Kokilabari and the law and order problems in Assam, the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) decided to close down the farm after its lease expired in November, 2001. The Government of Assam, however, requested that SFCI may continue to run the farm for which they would provide security support, etc. However, the Government of Assam did not agree to the condition set forth by SFCI to reimburse the losses, if any, suffered by the farm every year. In the meantime, 81 out of the 84 employees of the farm have opted for voluntary retirement.

Bank Guarantee by NAFED

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

(a) whether NAFED furnished a bank guarantee of Rs.1.14 crore to Army Purchase Organisation but only a cash guarantee of Rs.10 lakhs was taken from Delhi Federation sometime in the past;

(b) if so, whether it is as per the business principles of NAFED;

(c) whether the Central Registrar has conducted any preliminary inquiry into the scandals of NAFED and has held the business committee responsible for the losses thereto;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government/NAFED on the Report of the Central Registrar?

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

(b) As per the business practice and principles, NAFED does not take any guarantee from its member organizations for completing their commercial commitments. However, NAFED took cash guarantee of Rs. 10.00 lakhs from Delhi Federation as a token.

(c) to (e) The Central Registrar conducted a preliminary inquiry into supplies made to APO by NAFED and held the Business Committee responsible for losses suffered by the NAFED. However, he sought some further clarifications from the Business Committee. NAFED represented to the Central Registrar that Business Committee is a policy making body and personal liability cannot be fixed on members of the Committee. It was requested to the Central Registrar to review his decision. Subsequently, the CBI investigated the case relating to supplies made to APO and after investigation has filed charge sheet in the court against two officers of NAFED. NAFED has also initiated disciplinary proceedings against other responsible officials. NAFED has also filed a recovery case against Delhi Federation before the Central Registrar.

Release of Monkeys from National Institute of Virology, Pune

909. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some animal activities have forcibly released monkeys mean for research works in the National Institute of Virology, Pune;

(b) if so, whether these monkeys infected with various diseases may pose a danger to public health; and

(c) if so, the preventive measures the Government propose to take in the interest of public health?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A team duly constituted by CPCSEA inspected the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, on 8th May, 2002. It was found that many of the animals in the stock of NIV were sick. Based on the Inspection Report, 37 monkeys were subsequently handed over by NIV to The Indian Herpetological Society, Pune for rehabilitation.

(b) and (c) Since the continuation of such animals in NIV and their use for experiments did not fully conform with the provisions of the manual on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and could have caused a danger to public health, it was decided to shift the animals from the Institute.

Shortage of Foodgrains

910. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be an immediate shortage of foodgrains in the near future due to the prevailing drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains lost due to the drought;

(d) whether the farmers and consumers are likely to face problems in the next Kharif during 2003-04; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no likely shortage of foodgrains in the near future. It is, however, estimated that the loss of production in Kharif foodgrains will be about 18.72%.

(d) and (e) It is too early to give any indication in this regard.

Stoppage of Charging of Users Fee at Calicut Airport

911. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have instructed Calicut Airport authorities to stop charging "Users fee" from air passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance to India under Kyoto Protocol

912. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) whether India has received money from developed countries to set up cleaner projects which slow down the climate change under the Kyoto Protocol;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the amount received; and

(c) the details of the projects identified alongwith the locations identified for its implementation, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh

913. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when the Bargi Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh was constructed;

(b) the reasons for not constructing the right canal of this dam so far;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government for the completion of canal; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Bargi Project consists of a main dam, Left Bank Canal and two Power Houses. The main dam was completed in the year 1987. Right Bank Canal from Bargi Reservoir which is also known as Bargi Diversion Project has been delayed due to insufficient funding to the project by the State Government.

(c) and (d) The Union Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Fast Track Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to Bargi Diversion Project i.e. Right Bank Canal for its expeditious completion. An amount of Rs. 98.03 crores has been released to this Projects under Fast Track Programme during 2001-02. The next instalment will be released when the amount already released as 1st instalment is fully utilized by the State Government.

[English]

Licensing Procedure for Aquaculture Farms

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

(a) whether the Government have received some requests from States to expedite licensing procedure for aquaculture farms;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in providing licences;

(d) whether this delay is having an adverse impact on export of marine products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Based on a request received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for expediting issue of approvals for setting up of shrimp aquaculture farms in coastal areas by reducing the number of inspecting departments/agencies with regard to farms below five hectares, the Aquaculture Authority set up as per the directives of the Supreme Court has restricted the scrutiny of applications to the Departments of Groundwater, Revenue and Fisheries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Advisors

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

(a) the number of posts of 'Advisors' in Khadi and Gromodyog Commission lying vacant as on October 31, 2002 alongwith the time since when these are lying vacant;

(b) whether the Government have not taken any action so far to fill the said posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Since 25.09.2002, one post of Financial Adviser, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KWIC) has been lying vacant. The Government has requested the Department of Personnel and Training, to suggest a suitable panel of names for appointment as Financial Adviser. The post can be filled up only after selection of a suitable person, therefore, definite time frame cannot be given.

[English]

Occupancy in J and Y Class of Indian Airlines

916. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air buses operating in the country every day under Indian Airlines alongwith their originating points and destinations;

(b) the occupancy rate in 'J' and 'Y' classes in these flights in the month of September 2002; and

(c) the details of the profit making flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) A list of number of airbuses in Indian Airlines' fleet and the routes operated by them under Indian Airlines flight numbers is enclosed as statement.

(b) The occupancy rate in the 'J' and 'Y' classes in the month of September, 2002 is as follows:

J - 63.2%

Y - 64.9%

(c) Indian Airlines is operating A-300 and A-320 aircraft from Airbus family. The Airbus operations are making net cash contribution i.e. surplus of revenue over cash cost of operation for majority of flights. During 2001-02, out of 112 flights operated by Airbus aircraft by Indian Airlines, 83 flights generated cash contribution.

Statement

Airbus fleet of Indian Airlines alongwith the routes being operated

	<i>Airbus Fleet of Indian Airlines</i>	
	A-300	A-320
Operating	4	32
Maintenance	1	4
Total Fleet	5	36

International Service of Indian Airlines (As on 18 November 2002)

Sr No	Route
1	2
1	Chennai-Colombo-Chennai
2	Chennai-Singapore-Chennai
3	Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi

1	2
4	Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata
5	Kolkata-Kathmandu-Kolkata
6	Mumbai-Calicut-Cochin-Sharjah & VV
7	Mumbai-Goa-Calicut-Sharjah & VV
1	Bangalore-Singapore-Bangalore
2	Chennai-Bangkok-Chennai
3	Chennai-Calicut-Dubai & VV
4	Chennai-Calicut-Muscat & VV
5	Chennai-Cochin-Goa-Kuwait & VV
6	Chennai-Cochin-Muscat & VV
7	Chennai-Coimbatore-Cochin-Sharjah & VV
8	Chennai-Hderabad-Dubai & VV
9	Chennai-Kuala Lumpur-Chennai
10	Chennai-Trichy-Calicut-Fujairah-Kuwait & VV
11	Chennai-Trichy-Calicut-Rasalkhaimah-Kuwait & VV
12	Chennai-Trichy-Trivandrum-Sharjah & VV
13	Cochin-Calicut-Doha-Baharin & VV
14	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat & VV
15	Delhi-Amritsar-Sharjah & VV
16	Delhi-Bangkok-Singapore & VV
17	Delhi-Lucknow-Sharjah & VV
18	Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Kuwait & VV
19	Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Sharjah & VV
20	Hyderabad-Bangalore-Chennai-Bangkok & VV
21	Hyderabad-Bangalore-Muscat & VV
22	Hyderabad-Bangalore-Sharjah & VV
23	Jaipur-Delhi-Dubai & VV
24	Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata

1	2
25	Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata
26	Kolkata-Kathmandu-Kolkata
27	Kolkata-Yangon-Bangkok-Kolkata
28	Trivandrum-Male-Trivandrum
29	Varanasi-Kathmandu-Varanasi

*Domestic Services of Indian Airlines
(As on 18 November 2002)*

Sr No	Route
1	2
1	Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi
2	Kolkata-Guwahati-Kolkata
3	Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai
4	Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai
5	Mumbai-Kolkata-Mumbai
1	Bangalore-Mumbai-Ahmedabad & VV
2	Bangalore-Cochin-Trivandrum-Bangalore
3	Bangalore-Hyderabad-Bangalore
4	Bangalore-Kolkata-Bangalore
5	Bangalore-Pune-Goa-Bangalore
6	Chandigarh-Delhi-Mumbai-Goa (One way)
7	Chennai-Delhi-Chennai
8	Chennai-Hyderabad-Chennai
9	Chennai-Trivandrum-Chennai
10	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi
11	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Delhi
12	Delhi-Bagdogra-Guwahati-Delhi
13	Delhi-Bangalore-Delhi
14	Delhi-Bhubneshwar-Delhi
15	Delhi-Guwahati-Imphal & VV

1	2
16	Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi
17	Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar-Delhi
18	Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi
19	Delhi-Mumbai (One way)
20	Delhi-Mumbai-Aurangabad & VV
21	Delhi-Mumbai-Cochin & VV
22	Delhi-Mumbai-Coimbatore & VV
23	Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi
24	Delhi-Mumbai-Pune & VV
25	Delhi-Mumbai-Trivandrum & VV
26	Delhi-Srinagar-Jammu-Delhi
27	Hyderabad-Tirupati-Hyderabad
28	Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata
29	Kolkata-Bagdogra-Kolkata
30	Kolkata-Chennai-Kolkata
31	Kolkata-Dibrugarh-Kolkata
32	Kolkata-Guwahati-Kolkata
33	Kolkata-Imphal-Kolkata
34	Kolkata-Mumbai-Kolkata
35	Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai
36	Mumbai-Bangalore-Mumbai
37	Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Mumbai
38	Mumbai-Chennai-Madurai & VV
39	Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai
40	Mumbai-Delhi-Chandigarh (One way)
41	Mumbai-Delhi-Lucknow-Varanasi & VV
42	Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi & VV
43	Goa-Mumbai-Delhi (One way)

1	2
44	Mumbai-Goa-Mumbai
45	Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai
46	Mumbai-Jaipur-Mumbai
47	Mumbai-Nagpur-Mumbai
48	Mumbai-Puttaparthi-Mumbai
49	Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai

International Elephant Festival

917. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Elephant Festival is proposed to be organised in January 2003 at Kaziranga National Park in Assam in collaboration with Air India, for show-casing the unique association between man and elephant;

(b) if so, the features of the festival and the Central and State Governments participation therein; and

(c) the steps/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Celebration of fairs and festivals is the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. The Government of Assam proposes to organise an Elephant Festival in Assam in January, 2003.

(b) and (c) With a view to bring about an awareness of the increasing man-elephant conflict in Assam and work out measures for conflict resolution the festival is being arranged by involving active public participation. The festival will highlight the age old tradition of man-elephant co-existence in our society. Besides, parade of decorated elephants, different dimensions of elephant heritage shall also be introduced during the festival involving the elephants.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has not sanctioned any financial assistance for this festival.

Flouting of Rules by Private Airlines

918. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a number of cases private airlines operating in the country are not adhering to Government's stipulation that incidents or accidents, minor or major, involving their aircraft be reported to the regulatory authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases that came to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strengthening of Cooperative Schemes

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

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to strengthen the cooperative schemes in the country;

(b) if so, whether the financial assistance is extended to every State for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the cooperative sector in Karnataka during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been providing funds to State Governments under various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes to strengthen the cooperative schemes in the country. Some of the schemes are implemented through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Government of India is also providing 100% financial grant to National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) for conducting cooperative training programmes in the country and to National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for implementation of the special component for intensification of cooperative education. NCUI is also provided 20% grant for other approved activities for promotion of Cooperatives. The assistance is provided on the basis of the proposals received from the States.

(c) Financial assistance provided to Karnataka to strengthen the Cooperative development mainly through

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. crore)
1999-2000	40.93
2000-2001	83.74
2001-2002	67.57
Total	192.24

The financial assistance extended to Karnataka and the number of beneficiaries for the last three years under the programme of Cooperative Education and Training is as follows:

Year	Financial Assistance (Rs. lakh)	No. of persons educated/ trained
Cooperative Education		
1999-2000	15.80	16747
2000-2001	18.39	31339
2001-2002	22.92	26874
Total	57.11	74960
Cooperative Training		
1999-2000	54.00	1289
2000-2001	54.00	1362
2001-2002	55.00	1426
Total	163.00	4077

[Translation]

Central Manpower Export Promotion and Indian Overseas Employees Welfare Fund

920. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Indian Overseas Employees Welfare Fund to guide people who want to go abroad for employment; and

(b) if so, its objectives with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government propose to enact the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002, which has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002, to set up Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and constitute Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund. The functions of the Council will be promotion of employment opportunities for emigrants; projection of manpower services; collection of statistics and information relating to employment opportunities and matters connected therewith; collection and maintenance of statistics and information in respect of persons seeking employment; liaison with other export promotion agencies; recommendation to the Central Government about the standards and guidelines for overseas employment; and administration of Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund. The proposed Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund will meet the contingencies, such as making the payment to the Embassies or High Commissions for arranging return ticket for the workers who get stranded in the foreign countries; meeting the cost of transportation of dead bodies of the workers; granting financial assistance to such workers who become partially or permanently disabled and providing relief for such other causes as may be specified in the rules. But the assistance shall not be provided to illegal migrants.

[English]

Luxury Train in Karnataka

921. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government's Tourism Department is set to deal with Indian Railways to roll out a super luxury train in Karnataka on the lines of Rajasthan and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether this would give a boost to the tourism in the state; and

(c) if so, the time by which it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) as its nodal agency proposes to tie up with Indian Railways to roll out a Super Luxury Train in Karnataka on the lines of similar packages in Rajasthan and Maharashtra. It will boost tourist traffic to the State.

(c) It is expected to start its operations shortly.

Wildlife and Forest Tourism

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

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote wildlife and forest tourism in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the tourist potential;

(c) whether any plan has been prepared by the State Government and submitted to the Union Government for financial assistance to develop tourist infrastructure in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Like in most of the States, there is scope for promotion of wildlife and forest tourism in Orissa also.

(b) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. The Department of Tourism has, however, been providing financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Governments. During the Ninth Plan 62 projects with Central financial component of Rs.12.36 crores were sanctioned for development of tourism in Orissa. Now under the new Schemes only integrated development of tourism circuits and destinations are to be taken up in Tenth Plan in consultation with the State Governments.

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

923. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes started by the Union Government for completion of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh and other tribal and backward areas in the State during the last three years;

(b) the present status of each of these projects;

(c) whether the said projects are running as per schedule; and

(d) 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) Irrigation is a State subject and as per present policy, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Union Government has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance for expeditious completion of such ongoing major and medium irrigation projects which have investment clearance from the Planning Commission. The details of major and medium irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh receiving Central Loan Assistance under AIBP is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Normally the major projects will take 10 to 12 years and the medium projects will take 5 to 7 years for completion. But the delay in completion of the projects is due to land acquisition problems, paucity of funds, forest clearance and court cases etc.

Statement

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects Receiving Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District benefited (DPA/TA)	Latest estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Central Loan Assistance released upto 3/2002 (Rs. in crores)	Potential created (000 ha.) upto 2/2002	Plan of start	Year of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Sriram Sagar St. I	1. Adilabad	2425.00	219.22	323.007	III	2006-07
		2. Warangal (TA)					
		3. Nizamabad					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		4. Karimnagar					
		5. Nalgonda					
		6. Khammam (TA)					
2	Cheyzeru (Annamaya)	Cuddapah (DPA)	60.45	15.23	1.214	V	2002-2003
3	Jurala	Mahboobnagar (DPA)	545.82	99.88	33.930	VI	2006-2007
4	Somasila	Nellore	467.00	44.525	20.862	V	2006-2007
5	Nagarjunasagar	1. Prakasham (DPA)	1135.00	26.43	863.290	II	2006-2007
		2. Khammam (TA)					
		3. Krishna					
		4. Nellore					
		5. Guntur					
		6. Nalgonda					
6	Madduvalasa	Vijaynagaram	95.05	41.80	2.248	V	2003-2004
7	Gundalvagu	Khammam (TA)	121.58	1.67	Nil	V	2006-2007
8	Meddigedda	East Godavari (TA)	16.37	1.00	1.093	V	2006-2007
9	Kanupur Canal	Nellore	27.58	1.92	7.077	III	2006-2007
10	Yerrakalva Reservoir	West Godavari (TA)	81.20	2.17	3.720	V	2006-2007
11	Vamsadhara St. II	Srikakulam (TA)	123.136	New Scheme	8.100	VI	2006-2007

DPA = Drought Prone Area

TA = Tribal Area

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of Research Institute Under ICAR

924. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to each research institute falling under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the amount spent by them during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of new syllabus and research projects started by these institutes alongwith the target thereof during the said period;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed/propose to review the functioning of these institutes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) The details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(c) To review the functioning of these institutes, the ICAR has constituted the Quinquennial Review Teams, Institute Management Committees, Research Advisory Committees and Staff Research Councils. These Committees review and monitor the functioning of these Institutes/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs at regular intervals.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I**Scheme-wise Three Years Allocation and Expenditure**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 1999-2000		Annual Plan 2000-2001		Annual Plan 2001-2002	
	Budget Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Anticipated Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Crop Science						
A. Plant Genetic Resources						
1. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	600.00	500.50	350.00	250.00	212.00	212.00
2. NRC - DNA Fingerprinting	150.00	172.00	150.00	117.90	88.00	88.00
Total (A)	750.00	672.50	500.00	367.90	300.00	300.00
B. Flood Crops						
1. Indian Agricultural Research Institute	950.00	922.34	945.00	694.95	1240.00	1240.00
2. Central Rice Research Institute	335.00	300.25	500.00	234.40	460.00	460.00
3. Vivekananda Parvataiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala	200.00	200.00	220.00	240.00	245.00	245.00
4. Indian Institute of Pulses Research	350.00	275.42	320.00	201.02	281.00	281.00
5. AICRP - Chick Pea	180.00	177.47	200.00	255.48	246.00	246.00
6. AICRP - Pigeon Pea	185.00	178.04	220.00	256.97	249.00	249.00
7. AICRP - Pulses (MULLARP)	240.00	217.96	275.34	356.74	369.00	369.00
8. AICRP - Arid Legumes	50.00	46.76	75.00	88.10	56.00	56.00
9a. Project Directorate - Wheat Research	400.00	444.79	511.02	490.97	485.00	485.00
9b. AICRP - Wheat Research						
10. N.R.C. - Sorghum	125.00	138.93	140.00	98.65	205.00	205.00
11. AICRP - Sorghum	200.00	199.87	200.00	214.83	164.00	164.00
12a. Project Directorate - Rice Research	650.00	640.00	683.08	641.74	518.00	568.00
12b. AICRP - Rice Research						
13a. Project Directorate - Maize Research	350.00	328.07	342.76	410.69	543.11	543.11
13b. AICRP - Maize Research						
14. AICRP - Pearl Millets	140.00	150.72	140.00	180.00	186.00	186.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	AICRP - Small Millets	135.00	89.52	100.00	142.00	262.00	262.00
16	AICRP - Barley	35.00	58.50				
	Total (B)	4525.00	4368.64	4872.20	4506.54	5509.11	5559.11
C. Forage Crops							
1	Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute	120.00	151.79	155.00	165.00	336.00	336.00
2.	AICRP - Forage Crops	160.00	255.00	213.14	213.00	182.00	182.00
	Total (C)	280.00	406.79	368.14	378.00	518.00	518.00
D. Commercial Crops							
1	Central Tobacco Research Institute	70.00	89.99	85.00	85.00	186.00	186.00
2	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research	100.00	101.43	140.00	230.00	369.00	369.00
3.	Central Institute of Cotton Research	130.00	119.86	130.00	129.93	200.00	200.00
4.	Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres	175.00	95.88	170.76	207.65	200.00	200.00
5.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	220.00	200.00	210.00	199.90	190.00	190.00
6.	AICRP - Cotton	220.00	240.00	280.00	346.49	218.00	268.00
7	AICRP - Jute	85.00	155.00	152.61	141.96	133.00	133.00
8.	AICRP - Tobacco	70.00	63.41	80.00	73.00	54.00	54.00
9.	AICRP - Sugar Crops	145.00	143.98	173.69	189.00	190.00	190.00
10.	AICRP - Under utilised & Under-exploited Plant	50.00	49.93	55.00	62.00	33.00	33.00
	Total (D)	1265.00	1259.48	1477.06	1664.93	1773.00	1823.00
E. Oilseeds							
1.	N.R.C. Groundnut	145.00	134.72	125.00	106.13	109.00	109.00
2.	N.R.C. Soybean	135.00	124.04	135.00	95.54	121.00	121.00
3.	N.R.C. Rapeseed & Mustard	350.00	299.80	300.00	199.78	115.00	115.00
4.	Project Directorate - Oilseed Research	550.00	580.00	585.00	625.97	444.00	544.00
4a.	AICRP Linseed						
4b.	AICRP Sesame and Niger						
5.	AICRP - Groundnut	135.00	135.00	156.68	212.10	144.00	144.00
6.	AICRP - Rapeseed & Mustard	200.00	250.00	218.07	201.00	141.00	141.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	AICRP - Soybean	100.00	159.35	101.20	131.00	85.00	85.00
	Total (E)	1615.00	1682.91	1620.95	1571.52	1159.00	1259.00
F. Plant Protection							
1.	N.R.C. - Integrated Pest Management	85.00	39.45	50.00	45.00	67.00	67.00
2a.	Project Directorate - Biological Control	180.00	179.97	202.36	148.50	100.00	100.00
2b.	AICRP - Biological Control					33.00	33.00
3.	AICRP - Honey Bees	55.00	54.99	71.08	95.00	100.00	100.00
4.	Network - Soil Arthropods	45.00	39.99	57.56	57.00	48.00	48.00
5.	Network - Agricultural Acarology	45.00	38.55	50.00	60.80	64.00	64.00
6.	Network - Rodent Control	50.00	45.10	50.00	52.96	79.00	79.00
7.	AICRP - Pesticide Residue	100.00	74.14	91.45	150.97	185.00	185.00
8.	AICRP - Nematode	80.00	75.08	92.12	147.11	124.00	124.00
9.	Network - Economic Ornithology	45.00	34.98	40.00	66.00	64.00	64.00
	Total (F)	685.00	582.25	704.57	823.34	864.00	864.00
G. Hybrid Seed							
1.	Project on Promotion of Research & Development on Hybrid Seed in Selected Crops	0.00	19.01	0.00	1.62	0.00	0.00
H. Biotechnology for Crop Improvement							
1.	N.R.C. - Biotechnology Centre for Crop Science	125.00	139.09	140.00	117.08	172.00	172.00
I. Seed Technology Research & Breeder Seed Production							
1.	National Seed Project	340.00	526.29	392.08	679.44	424.00	424.00
J. New Initiatives							
	Directorate of Millets (Not approved)		0.00	110.00	0.00		
1.	National Bureau of Agril. Important Microbes & Insects	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	227.00	27.00
	Total (G) + (H) + (I) + (J)	465.00	720.39	892.08	798.14	823.00	623.00
K. Externally Aided Projects							
1.	Establishment of Phytotom Facility (IARI)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Indo UK collaborative Project on Plant Germplasm Conservation and Utilisation (NBPGRI)		1.57	0.00	0.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Indo-US Plant Genetic Resources		0.00	0.00		
4.	Quality Seed at IARI (Japan)					
5.	Indo-Israel Demonstration Project (IARI)	115.00	97.96	0.00	0.00	4.00
	Total (EAPs)	115.00	99.53	35.00	31.22	4.00
Total (Crop Science)		9700.00	9792.49	10470.00	10141.59	10950.11

II. Horticulture**A. Fruits**

1.	Indian Institute of Horticulture Research	330.00	239.25	250.00	214.80	285.00	285.00
2.	Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture	180.00	90.00	160.00	110.00	160.00	200.00
3.	N.R.C. - Citrus	135.00	144.59	150.00	129.99	150.00	150.00
4.	N.R.C. - Grapes	180.00	135.00	170.00	235.00	240.00	240.00
5.	AICRP - Tropical Fruits	120.00	120.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
6.	AICRP - Sub-Tropical Fruits	90.00	90.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
7.	AICRP - Arid Fruits	70.00	59.78	80.00	79.83	80.00	80.00
8.	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture	150.00	99.98	175.00	89.99	140.00	140.00
9.	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture	145.00	139.24	170.00	199.25	190.00	190.00
10.	N.R.C. Banana	160.00	138.88	180.00	197.13	200.00	150.00
11.	AICRP - Apple Scab	0.00	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (A)	1560.00	1257.59	1595.00	1515.99	1705.00	1695.00

B. Vegetables

1.	N.R.C. Mushroom	120.00	83.98	100.00	94.92	100.00	115.00
2a.	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research	490.00	513.22	390.00	159.43	350.00	350.00
2b.	AICRP - Vegetable Research						
3.	Vegetable Seed Project (National Seed Project)	90.00	96.51	100.00	269.98	100.00	100.00
4.	AICRP - Mushroom	50.00	35.00	55.00	55.17	55.00	55.00
5.	N.R.C. - Onion and Garlic	140.00	125.00	160.00	150.00	214.08	256.08
	Total (B)	890.00	853.71	805.00	729.50	819.08	876.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C. Potato & Tuber Crops						
1. Central Potato Research Institute	200.00	300.00	220.00	184.78	210.00	222.00
2. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	220.00	225.06	150.00	124.46	150.00	150.00
3. AICRP - Potato	100.00	85.00	115.00	130.00	115.00	115.00
4. AICRP - Tuber Crops	60.00	55.00	80.00	90.00	80.00	80.00
Total (C)	580.00	665.06	565.00	529.24	555.00	567.00
D. Plantation Crops						
1. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	260.00	199.97	190.00	183.99	215.00	215.00
2. Central Agricultural Research Institute	150.00	120.00	200.00	189.92	248.00	213.00
3. N.R.C. - Cashew	125.00	84.79	100.00	59.98	90.00	90.00
4. N.R.C. - Oil Palm	150.00	104.21	100.00	79.74	90.00	90.00
5. AICRP - Palms	100.00	80.35	130.00	129.54	130.00	130.00
6. AICRP - Cashew	50.00	50.00	60.00	69.92	60.00	60.00
Total (D)	835.00	639.32	780.00	713.09	833.00	798.00
E. Spices						
1. Indian Institute of Spices Research	155.00	134.98	135.00	135.00	170.00	200.00
2. NRC Seed Spices	0.00	4.93	90.00	49.99	130.00	130.00
3. AICRP - Spices	100.00	89.99	110.00	136.00	110.00	110.00
Total (E)	255.00	229.90	335.00	320.99	410.00	440.00
F. Floriculture, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants						
1. N.R.C. - Orchids	150.00	121.69	300.00	38.41	150.00	175.00
2. N.R.C. - Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	150.00	157.00	160.00	129.97	226.20	226.20
3. AICRP - Floriculture	90.00	72.01	100.00	85.07	100.00	100.00
4. AICRP - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	80.00	80.00	100.00	123.00	100.00	100.00
5. AICRP - Betelvine	50.00	64.50	80.00	90.12	80.00	80.00
Total (F)	520.00	495.20	740.00	466.57	656.20	681.20
G. Post Harvest Technology of Horticultural Crops						
1. AICRP Post Harvest Techn. of Horticulture Crops	60.00	65.21	80.00	85.19	80.00	80.00
Total (G)	60.00	65.21	80.00	85.19	80.00	80.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H. New Initiatives						
1. NRC for Makhana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	25.00
2. NRC for Litchi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	116.00
3. NRC for Pomegranate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	5.00
4. Technology Mission on Hort. for NEH Region	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
(Not taken up)						
Total (H)					225.0	146.00
Total (Horticulture)	4700.00	4205.99	4900.00	4360.57	5283.28	5283.28
III. Natural Resource Management						
A. Resource Inventory						
1. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	300.00	299.89	256.00	346.00	335.00	335.00
Total (A)	300.00	299.89	256.00	346.00	335.00	335.00
B. Soil Management						
1. Central Soil & Water Conservation Res. & Training Instt.	216.00	195.96	273.00	201.12	300.00	300.00
2. AICRP - Tillage Management of Indian Soils	91.00	89.47	120.00	100.32	120.00	120.00
Total (B)	307.00	285.43	393.00	301.44	420.00	420.00
C. Nutrient Management						
1. Indian Institute of Soil Science	163.00	199.03	150.00	133.52	180.00	180.00
2. AICRP - Micro Secondary Nutrients	120.00	119.28	145.00	119.92	130.00	130.00
3. AICRP - Biological Nitrogen Fixation	70.00	60.67	80.00	52.79	60.00	60.00
4. AICRP - Micro Biological Decomposition	60.00	60.26	70.00	71.13	75.00	75.00
5. AICRP - Soil Test Crop Response	135.00	131.28	150.00	150.64	160.00	160.00
6. AICRP - Long-term Fertilizer Experiments	60.00	57.58	70.00	71.49	75.00	75.00
Total (C)	608.00	628.10	665.00	599.49	680.00	680.00
D. Water Management						
1. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	111.00	89.97	138.00	138.00	190.00	190.00
2. Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region	174.00	129.93	220.00	199.97	180.00	180.00
3a. Project Directorate - Water Management Research	147.00	139.27	125.00	99.64	90.00	90.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3b.	AICRP - Water Management Research	300.00	349.98	316.00	339.98	400.00	400.00
4.	AICRP - Management of Salt Affected Soils & Use of Saline Water	120.00	120.00	125.00	125.26	130.00	130.00
5.	AICRP - Optimisation of Groundwater Utilisation through Wells	60.00	30.01	75.00	60.18	65.00	65.00
6.	AICRP on Management of Diaraland Improvement	40.00	19.98	42.00	31.99	35.00	35.00
	Total (D)	952.00	879.14	1041.00	995.02	1090.00	1090.00
E. Cropping System Research							
1.	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	121.00	121.00	85.00	125.99	118.00	118.00
2.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	170.00	175.00	175.00	125.00	220.00	220.00
3a.	Project Directorate - Cropping System Research	268.00	82.50	148.00	82.77	250.00	250.00
3b.	AICRP - Cropping System Research	450.00	514.52	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
4.	N.R.C. - Weed Science	168.00	148.23	102.00	101.95	138.00	138.00
5.	AICRP - Weed Control	150.00	165.00	210.00	159.29	180.00	180.00
6.	AICRP - Agro-meteorology	120.00	115.00	130.00	150.00	160.00	160.00
7.	AICRP - Dryland Agriculture	350.00	339.00	360.00	410.00	450.00	450.00
8.	N.R.C. - Agroforestry	206.00	173.00	178.00	108.00	160.00	160.00
9.	AICRP - Agroforestry	230.00	192.00	198.00	252.00	210.00	210.00
10.	ICAR Research Complex for Goa	100.00	72.80	80.00	78.39	115.00	115.00
11.	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	400.00	302.09	445.00	319.82	499.40	499.40
	Total (E)	2733.00	2400.14	2611.00	2413.21	3000.40	3000.40
F. New Initiatives							
1.	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region	100.00	0.00	234.00	14.00	474.60	474.60
	Total (F)	100.00	0.00	234.00	14.00	474.60	474.60
	Total (Natural Resource Management)	5000.00	4492.70	5200.00	4669.44	6000.00	6000.00
IV. Agricultural Engineering							
A. Farm Implements & Machinery							
1.	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering	345.00	259.60	330.00	213.94	292.00	292.00
2.	AICRP - Power Tiller	75.00	62.00	70.00	54.69	0.00	0.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery	310.00	284.00	300.00	239.55	230.00	230.00
4.	AICRP - Human Engineering and Safety Studies	70.00	43.98	65.00	45.20	120.00	120.00
	Total (A)	800.00	649.58	765.00	553.38	642.00	642.00
B. Post Harvest Technology							
1.	Central Institute for Post Harvest Engg. & Technology	340.00	180.48	320.00	244.53	419.99	419.99
2.	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	210.00	214.86	200.00	184.89	200.00	200.00
3.	Indian Lac Research Institute	120.00	82.92	115.00	85.19	105.00	105.00
4.	National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology	143.00	87.64	138.00	157.79	136.00	136.00
5.	AICRP - Application of Plastics in Agriculture	50.00	44.00	50.00	38.07	37.00	37.00
6.	AICRP - Jaggery & Khandasari	45.00	25.12	40.00	32.94	40.00	40.00
7.	AICRP - Harvest & Post Harvest Technology	310.00	230.15	290.00	269.99	250.00	250.00
	Total (B)	1218.00	865.17	1153.00	1013.40	1187.99	1187.99
C. Energy Management in Agriculture							
1.	AICRP - Renewable Energy Sources	170.00	226.50	160.00	166.91	162.00	162.00
2.	AICRP - Energy Requirement in Agricultural Sector	135.00	100.90	130.00	100.60	120.00	120.00
3.	AICRP - Utilisation of Animal Energy	80.00	72.00	75.00	75.00	80.00	80.00
	Total (C)	385.00	399.40	365.00	342.51	362.00	362.00
D. Drainage Engineering							
1.	AICRP Agricultural Drainage	80.00	69.62	70.00	56.29	65.00	65.00
	Total (D)	80.00	69.62	70.00	56.29	65.00	65.00
E. New Initiatives							
1.	Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and Water Mgmt.	10.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	55.00	55.00
	Total (E)					55.000	55.00
F. Externally Aided Projects							
1.	RNAM Phase VI	7.00	0.00	7.0	0.00	8.00	8.00
2.	Indo-SAREC Stand Alone Fuel Cell						
	Total (F)	7.00	0.00	7.0	0.00	8.00	8.00
Total (Agricultural Engineering)							
		2500.00	1983.77	2400.00	1965.58	2319.99	2319.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
V. Animal Science						
A. Animal Genetic Resources						
1.	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources	220.00	129.94	220.00	87.67	210.00 80.00
2.	Network Animal Genetic Resources	90.00	69.56	125.00	127.39	100.00 150.00
	Total (A)	310.00	199.50	345.00	215.06	310.00 230.00
B. Livestock Improvement						
1	National Dairy Research Institute	580.00	343.91	600.00	592.39	575.00 600.00
	Institute (including NRC Biotechnology in Animal Production)					
2.	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	264.00	141.72	275.00	210.60	250.00 300.00
3.	Central Avian Research Institute	255.00	255.00	250.00	247.31	175.00 225.00
4.	Central Institute for Research on Goats	240.00	281.61	250.00	219.80	190.00 220.00
5.	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes	230.00	165.49	250.00	200.00	190.00 210.00
6.	National Institute of Animal Nutrition & Physiology	370.00	199.94	300.00	278.53	390.00 390.00
7.	N.R.C. on Biotechnology (Part of NDRI)					
8.	N.R.C. - Camel	135.00	144.99	150.00	126.00	150.00 120.00
9.	N.R.C. - Yak	170.00	170.00	200.00	181.91	255.00 250.00
10	N.R.C. - Mithun	165.00	164.94	200.00	195.34	420.00 420.00
11.	N.R.C. - Equine	155.00	210.81	175.00	168.96	130.00 130.00
12a.	Project Directorate - Poultry Research	200.00	177.55	200.00	146.42	120.00 120.00
12b.	AICRP - Poultry Research	130.00	130.00	150.00	150.06	150.00 150.00
13a.	Project Directorate - Cattle Research	250.00	216.61	300.00	271.97	325.00 300.00
13b.	AICRP - Cattle Research					
14.	AICRP - Sheep	58.00	52.74	60.00	56.52	65.00 65.00
15.	AICRP - Goat	55.00	3.49	75.00	75.25	80.00 60.00
16.	AICRP - Buffalo	67.00	59.84	70.00	56.04	300.00 520.00
17.	AICRP - Pig (including NRC - Pig)	150.00	88.80	200.00	131.97	200.00 100.00
18.	AICRP - Agricultural By-product	64.00	54.66	70.00	50.71	110.00 100.00
19.	Network - Micronutrients	90.00	205.18	80.00	50.49	55.00 45.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Network - Embryo Transfer	130.00	65.60	100.00	78.67	165.00	155.00
21. Network - Crop Based Animal Production System	35.00	40.00	40.00	56.84	55.00	45.00
Total (B)	3793.00	2992.88	3995.00	3545.78	4350.00	4525.00
C. Livestock Product Technology						
1. N.R.C. - Meat & Meat Product Technology	100.00	3.20	100.00	21.39	150.00	50.00
2. R&D Support for Process Upgradation of indigenous milk Products for Industrial Application	70.00	17.09	70.00	21.66	150.00	10.00
Total (C)	170.00	20.29	170.00	43.05	300.00	60.00
D. Animal Health						
1. Indian Veterinary Research Institute	680.00	725.03	700.00	741.14	550.00	600.00
2. PD - Disease Monitoring & Surveillance	110.00	57.94	250.00	73.43	240.00	160.00
3. AICRP - Blood Protesta	52.00	0.00	60.00	93.60	80.00	80.00
4. AICRP on Foot & Mouth Disease	135.00	40.20	80.00	140.19	95.00	95.00
5. N.R.C. - Biotechnology (Part of IVRI)		156.33	180.00			250.00
6. High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory					125.00	
Total (D)	977.00	979.56	1270.00	1048.36	1090.00	1185.00
E. New Initiatives						
Network on Rumen Dynamics (Not taken up)	40.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1. Network on Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	50.00	0.00	40.00	23.06	60.00	60.00
2. AICRP on Gastrointestinal Parasitism	60.00	0.00	40.00	36.75	55.00	55.00
3. Network on Bluetongue (BT) Disease	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00
4. N.R.C. Pig including AICRP - Pig	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Total (E)	150.00	0.00	120.00	59.81	190.00	240.00
F. Externally Aided Project						
1. Indo UK transfer of Molecular Biological Technologies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (F)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (Animal Science)	5400.00	4192.23	5900.00	4912.06	6240.00	6240.00
VI. Fisheries						
A. Capture Fisheries						
1. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	400.00	346.00	450.00	407.00	326.88	326.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	250.00	249.10	415.00	367.94	213.68	213.68
	Total (A)	650.00	595.10	865.00	774.94	540.56	540.56
B. Culture Fisheries							
1.	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	215.00	354.95	203.00	261.35	241.41	241.41
2.	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	350.00	268.56	275.00	118.48	259.15	259.15
3.	N.R.C. - Cold Water Fisheries.	140.00	104.85	181.00	149.29	259.15	259.15
4.	ORP on Processing & Utilisation of Organic Waste for Aquaculture	20.00	21.31	20.00	14.07	8.55	8.55
	Total (B)	725.00	749.67	679.00	543.19	768.26	768.26
C. Fish & Fish Processing Technology							
1.	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	550.00	169.59	502.00	324.00	437.80	437.80
D. Fish Genetic Resources							
1.	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	325.00	224.74	251.00	243.82	154.94	154.94
E. Fisheries Education							
1.	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	550.00	370.00	553.00	488.34	715.50	715.50
F. Externally Aided Projects							
1.	Indo-French proposal Seabase Breeding & Culture	0.00	0.00	50.00	47.66	120.94	120.94
	Total (Fisheries)	2800.00	2109.10	2900.00	2421.95	2738.00	2738.00
VII. Agril. Statistics & Economics							
1.	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute	141.00	104.43	150.00	29.23	156.00	156.00
2.	N.R.C. - Agricultural Economics & Policy Research	259.00	185.23	250.00	64.87	210.00	210.00
Externally Aided Project							
1.	Sustainable Refined Agril. in R&D	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (A.S. & E.)	400.00	289.66	400.00	94.10	366.00	366.00
VIII. Agricultural Extension							
A. Vocational Training with Integrated Function							
1.	Integrated Krishi Vigyan Kendras	4825.00	5038.73	5773.57	6123.63	6676.84	6676.84
2.	NRC for Women in Agriculture	175.00	73.27	226.43	84.76	273.72	273.72
B. New Initiatives							
1.	Institution Village Linkage Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Estt. of New KVKs/TTCs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1986.74	1986.74
	Total (Agricultural Extension)	5000.00	5112.00	6000.00	6208.39	8987.30	8987.30

IX. Agricultural Education**A. Strengthening of Agricultural Education**

1	National Academy for Agril. Res. Management	200.00	137.69	160.00	122.78	200.00	200.00
2	Development & Strengthening of State Agril. Univ.	2710.00	4403.68	2350.00	3389.74	1200.00	1200.00
3	Development & Strengthening of Agricultural Education of Central Universities	100.00	0.00	75.00	0.000	100.00	100.00
4	Strengthening PG Education in Deemed to be Universities.	160.00	110.10	130.00	179.98	130.00	130.00
5	Estab. of Centres of Advance Studies in SAUs & DUs	300.00	210.02	300.00	184.02	200.00	200.00
6	AICRP on Home Science	210.00	263.19	225.00	319.32	160.00	160.00

B. Central Agricultural Univ.	1200.00	1250.00	1750.00	1995.00	1700.00	1700.00
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C. Recognising Professional Excellence

1	Best Teacher Award	10.00	2.00	10.00	0.70	15.00	15.00
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D. Professional Resources Utilization

1.	Preparation of University Level Books	10.00	0.43	10.00	0.80	4.00	4.00
2.	Emeritus Scientist Scheme	40.00	0.58	40.00	59.77	60.00	60.00

E. New Initiatives

1.	Establishment of Agricultural Univ. at Jammu	300.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
2.	Development and Strengthening of UG Edn. by College of Agriculture Affiliated to General Univ.	50.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	120.00	120.00
3.	Rural Awareness Work Experience Programme	110.00	0.00	100.00	126.76	122.00	122.00
4	Accreditation Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	National talent	0.00				0.00	0.00
6	Education Media Centre (not approved)	100.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
	One time Catch Up Grant	0.00	0.00	1500.00	0.00	4379.44	4379.44
	Total (Agricultural Education)	5500.00	6377.69	7000.00	6378.87	8690.44	8690.44

X. Management & Information Services

1.	Civil Works:						
a.	National Agricultural Sciences Centre	2700.00	812.24	500.00	150.00	370.00	370.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b.	Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan - Phase-II						
c.	Land at DWMR, Patna	0.00	25.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Publication and Information	150.00	69.99	150.00	69.80	40.00	40.00
3.	ICAR Headquarters:						
a.	Modernisation of Office Space & Facility	60.00	27.17	80.00	32.74	252.60	252.60
b.	ICAR Library	30.00	0.00	30.00	14.57	16.00	16.00
c.	Publicity and Public Relations	30.00	2.92	20.00	38.86	11.00	11.00
d.	Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	15.00	0.00	15.00	1.18	12.00	12.00
e.	Golden Jubilee (including ICAR Hqrs. + Instt.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
f.	Strengthening of ICAR Hqrs.	50.00	9.98	60.00	2.40	0.00	0.00
4.	Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)	50.00	3.24	50.00	16.12	20.00	20.00
5.	Support to Professional Societies including NAAS	100.00	134.53	185.00	156.35	83.00	83.00
6.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	50.00	28.30	60.00	30.17	54.00	54.00
7.	Pipeline Projects	615.00	0.00	1335.00	0.00	911.87	911.87
	Total (M.I.S.)	3850.00	1113.73	2485.00	512.19	1770.47	1770.47
XI.	Mini Mission	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	450.00	450.00
XII.	One Time Catch UP Grant						
XIII.	World Bank & Foreign Aided Projects						
1.	National Agricultural Technology Project	11300.00	8900.00	13400.00	12841.00	13722.41	13722.41
2.	Agril. Human Resource Development (W.B.)	1000.00	1109.99	1200.00	297.78	783.00	783.00
3.	Indo-Dutch ORP on Drainage Water Mgmt.	200.00	118.16	200.00	145.40	99.00	99.00
4.	National Agricultural Research Project (NARP-II)	0.00					
5.	Other Externally Aided Projects	0.00	49.18	0.00	0.00		
	Total (W.B. & F.A.P.)	12500.00	10177.33	14800.00	13284.18	14604.41	14604.41
	Grand Total	57350.00	49846.69	62955.00	54948.92	68400.00	68400.00

Statement-II

Sustained efforts are being made to have uniform syllabus for Agricultural Education in the country and to modernize it by including the emerging/frontier areas.

It is pertinent to mention here that only four deemed to be universities viz., Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, National Dairy Research Institute and Central Institute of Fisheries Education and one Central Agricultural University are teaching institutes, besides, conducting research and undertaking an extension activities. Agricultural Education is imparted at undergraduate level, post graduate level and doctorate degree level. Other schemes undertaken under Agricultural Education System are Best Teacher Award, Accreditation Board, Emeritus Scientist Schemes, Preparation of University Level Books and Establishment of Centres of Advance Studies and Strengthening of Agricultural Education in State Agricultural Universities.

The Research Projects both ongoing and newly started by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are already given in Annex-I alongwith the financial details. However the details of priorities and targets are as follows:

To enhance the productivity and profitability, the stability and sustainability of the agricultural system is the objective of the ICAR during the IX Plan so that the quality of life among every segment of current and future generation could be improved. For laying a strong foundation for evergreen revolution in Indian Agriculture focus was on the following issues during IX Plan.

- Conservation, planned enhancement and utilization of agro-bio-diversity.
- Enhancing productivity through evolution of high-yielding hybrids and varieties.
- Research on diversification, quality improvement, post-harvest technology, value addition and export-oriented commodities.
- Sustaining enhanced productivity of irrigated agriculture and judicious development and use of energy, especially renewable sources of energy.
- Characterization and development of sustainable land-use models for rain-fed agriculture in high-rainfall areas.
- Development of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management System

(INMS) approaches and systems for sustainable agriculture.

- Fostering excellence in the relevant basic and strategic research.
- Generating research and technologies geared to promote equity among regions, sectors of society and gender.
- Strengthening of Agricultural Education System in the country.
- Promoting integration of research, technology generation, assessment and refinement and dissemination in area specific and production system mode for combining food security, poverty alleviation, rural development and conservation of natural resources.
- Strengthening social science, policy planning, agri-business, research monitoring mechanisms, administration and personnel reforms, publication and information dissemination system, sensitization, and empowerment of women for self-reliance and economic security.

[English]

More Capacity for Gulf Region

925. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to deploy more capacity in the Gulf area for the winter season;

(b) if so, whether this deployment in the Gulf would affect domestic services;

(c) whether new aircraft are needed by Indian Airlines for this purpose; and

(d) the details of deployment and the source of such excess capacity for Indian Airlines?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report on Promoting Environmentally Acceptable Fuels Through Fiscal Majors

926. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have received the report on "Promoting Environmentally Acceptable Fuels Through Fiscal Majors" from the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority;

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

(c) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government and further action taken thereon; and

(e) the reasons for not accepting all the recommendations?

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

(b) The main recommendations of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority are as follows:

- (i) The Government of India must frame a fiscal policy to allow for higher price competitiveness for environmentally acceptable fuels with the competing conventional fuels.
- (ii) Taxation policy should be designed in a manner that an appropriate and effective price differential is maintained between CNG and diesel.
- (iii) Government should provide a tax break on CNG for a certain period of time. Subsequently, differential taxation should be phased in.
- (iv) Government must urgently formulate a policy to promote environmentally acceptable fuels for the transport sector like CNG by using economic instruments to maintain the critical differential

between environmentally acceptable and conventional fuels.

(c) to (e) No final decision on the recommendations has been taken as yet.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rapid spread and persistence of the foot and mouth disease in animals in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether adequate funds and expertise are not being made available to tackle this problem;

(c) the plans of the Government to tackle this problem in the current year;

(d) whether any team has been sent to visit the affected areas in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. As per information provided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Foot and Mouth Disease is prevalent in some areas of the State.

(b) To tackle the problem funds are made available by Central Government for subsidized vaccination and necessary expertise are made available by the State Governments.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to vaccinate 2,77,500 animals against Foot and Mouth Disease during the current year. The State Government's requirement for Rs.4.56 lakhs during 2002-2003, has already been released as Central grants for control of Food and Mouth Disease.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The scientists from Regional Foot and Mouth Disease laboratory, Hyderabad have visited the outbreak areas along with local and district level officers and taken steps for effective control of food and mouth disease.

[Translation]

Losses by Use of BT Cotton

928. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of all the Southern States including Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are facing huge losses due to the usage of BT Cotton;

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

(c) whether it is reducing the fertility of land and also causing loss to the crops and the environment; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken to check it?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Delicensing in FPI

929. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to delicense the commodities relating to the food processing industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Government have already abolished the requirement of industrial licence for setting up food processing units except for alcoholic beverages and items reserved for small scale industries.

Use of BT Cotton

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

(a) whether the hybrid of BT cotton developed with the help of genetic engineering is being viewed as a safe alternative for traditional Narma cotton;

(b) whether research has proved that farmers can increase their yield by 1/3 through BT cotton with less amount of pesticides;

(c) whether the Government have not given approval to the production of BT cotton in Punjab, Haryana

and Rajasthan, while permission has been granted for the production of BT cotton in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during Kharif season 2002-2003; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to give permission to the farmers of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab to use BT cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests has, so far, approved the environmental release of three Bt Cotton hybrids. These hybrids are suitable for cultivation in the Central & Southern parts of the country. In the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Programme of ICAR, the three Bt. Cotton hybrids registered increased seed yield to the tune of 61.47 and 51% whereas in the South zone these Bt. Cotton hybrids recorded more than 100% increase in seed cotton yield over their non-Bt. counterparts. The traditional 'Bikaneri Narma' cotton variety is a variety for North India.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been directed by GEAC to conduct trials for agro-nomic evaluation of Bt. Cotton hybrids suitable for northern States including Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab during Kharif 2002-03. The decision for release of Bt. Cotton hybrids will be taken by GEAC on the basis of the performance of Bt. hybrids in the trials.

Air Cargo Service

931. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce air cargo service from Nasik city (Maharashtra State) to facilitate export of fruits, vegetables, grapes etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present. This facility can be availed from Mumbai Airport which is situated close to Nasik.

All the operators are, however, free to introduce air cargo service to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial feasibility.

Decline in Foreign Tourists

932. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ab Poorab ke paryatakon ke liye bahein pasarega Bharat" appearing in 'Navbharat Times' dated November 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in tourists from western countries alongwith extent of decline that has taken place during the last two years and the loss of foreign exchange as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to attract foreign tourists from eastern countries?

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

(b) The tourist traffic declined due to number of reasons including overall global economic downturn, September 11 incidents in the USA, war in Afghanistan, terrorists' attack on Indian Parliament, tension on Indo-Pak borders and the travel advisories issued by a number of foreign Governments.

The tourist traffic had increased, in the year 2000 by 6.7%. Due to above mentioned factors, it declined by 4.2% in 2001. However, the foreign exchange earnings marginally increased by 0.7%. During the period January-October, 2002, the tourist traffic declined by 11.8%. There are however, positive signs of recovery as the tourist traffic has increased by 16.8% in October this year as compared to same month last year.

(c) The Government has embarked on an aggressive plan to promote Indian tourism products in major tourism generating markets including those in eastern countries. The plan focuses on reassurance campaign, advertising through print and electronic media, participation in fairs & exhibitions, organising workshops & seminars, web marketing, dissemination of information through brochures, CD Roms, etc.

[English]

Delegation for World Summit on Sustainable Development

933. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large contingent of officials and

NGOs from the country attended the World Summit at Johannesburg recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including source of funding of the NGOs;

(c) whether there was any coordination amongst the officials and NGOs and any other private delegations from India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The list containing names of the members of the official Indian Delegation including NGOs to the World Summit on Sustainable Development is given in the enclosed Statement-I. In addition to the members of official Indian delegation, services of a number of diplomats and other officers (Statement-II) were utilized to assist the Indian Delegation during the WSSD. All the members of the delegation including NGOs were funded by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) During the Summit, interaction was carried out with the NGOs on all the issues under negotiations. This close interaction helped the Delegation in coordinating Indian position on various cross-sectoral issues.

Statement-I

List of Official Members of Indian Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

H.E. Mr T.R. BAALU, Minister for Environment & Forests, Leader of the Delegation from 26 to 31 August 2002

H.E. Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Minister for External Affairs, Leader of the Delegation from 1-4 September 2002

Mr. Lakshman Singh, Member of Parliament

Mr. Bikram Keshari Deo, Member of Parliament

Mr. Mohan Dharia, Chairperson, Varanasi, Pune. (NGO)

Dr. Digvijay Singh, Former Deputy Minister for Environment and Forests (Non-Official)

Mr. P.V. Jayakrishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. K. Sibal, Foreign Secretary

Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Additional Secretary, PMO

*Shri A. Gopinathan, Dy. Permanent Representative, PMI, New York

Ms Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Joint Secretary (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. S. Velumani, Private Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Forests

*Mr. Deepak Kumar, Private Secretary to the Minister for External Affairs

Mr. K.V. Sarabhai, Director, Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad (NGO)

Ms. Sunita Narain, Director, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi (NGO)

Mr. Manoj Joshi, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Mr. S. K. Joshi, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. A. A. Rao, Dy. Press Information Officer attached to MoEF

*Ms. Divya Datt, TERI, New Delhi.

* Did not participate.

Statement-II

List of other Members of Indian Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Mr. S.S. Mukherjee, High Commissioner to South Africa

Ms. Primrose R. Sharma, Consul General, Johannesburg

Mr. Ajit Kumar, Consul General, Durban

Mr. Y.K. Sinha, Counsellor, Embassy, Abu Dhabi

Mr. N.K. Saxena, Deputy High Commissioner, Pretoria

Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh, Counsellor, Permanent Mission

Capt. V. Shankar, Defence Attache, High Commission, Pretoria

Mr. R.K. Jha, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Jagdish Parshad, First Secretary, High Commission

Mr. A. Kapur, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Mahinder Kumar, Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. A.K. Sharma, Second Secretary, High Commission

Mr. A.P.S. Chauhan, Attache, High Commission

Mr. V.K. Kukreja, Vice Consul, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Anil Kumar, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. A. Bhaskar, Consulate General, Johannesburg

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Diplomat, PS to Minister of External Affairs

Mr. Venu Rajamoni, OSD to External Affairs' Minister

Ms. Reva Ganguli Das, Director, Ministry of External Affairs

Assistance for Damdama Sahib

934. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Damdama Sahib at Talwandi is visited by lakhs of pilgrims from various parts of the country and abroad every year which is the 5th sacred place for sikhs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to release any financial assistance to improve the infrastructure at the site; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Punjab.

(c) Does not arise.

Dues Against Former Prime Ministers and Officers

935. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether former Prime Ministers of India and other Ministers and Officers have not paid outstanding dues to the Government for the air travel they undertook by Air India, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Pawan Hans;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount outstanding against each individual;
- (d) the date by which the dues against them are likely to be recovered; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) No, Sir. On a regular basis, there is a system of credit between Ministries/Departments of Government of India and Airlines where the dues are settled on an ongoing basis.

[Translation]

Waiving of Repayment of Crop Loans

936. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have announced waiving of repayment of crop loans and interest thereon for farmers and also some other concessions and welfare schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the date since when these schemes are likely to be implemented and the number of farmers to be covered thereunder;
- (d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (e) the benefits which the farmers are likely to get as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some credit related relief measures, such as rephasing/re-schedulement of Short-term loan, postponement of instalment of Long-term credit, advancement of fresh crop loans etc. have been announced.

(c) The credit relief measures to all the farmers affected by recent drought situation i.e. Kharif 2002, have been provided.

(d) No firm figures of likely expenditure are yet available.

(e) The farmers will get the following benefits:

- The current dues of the farmers would be postponed.
- The affected farmers would be eligible for taking fresh loans.
- Instalments payable by the farmers for long-term credit would be postponed.

[English]

WTO Agreement

937. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are facing serious problems in dealing with WTO agreement on the farm sector front;
- (b) if so, whether any meeting with the representatives of the various States have been conducted to arrive at a consensus;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the views voiced by the States; and
- (d) the strategy adopted by the Government to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A review of the present Agreement on Agriculture of the WTO is in progress. India's position and approach in the ongoing negotiations in agriculture under the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture is based on wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union Territories, representatives of political parties, farmers' associations, eminent agro-economists and research institutions.

(b) Government of India had called a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and Agriculture Secretaries of all the States/UTs on 23.10.2002 and of Agriculture Ministers of all the States/UTs on 24.10.2002, and of Political Parties and Stakeholders on 29.10.2002, to discuss the strategy to be adopted during these negotiations.

(c) and (d) In these consultations, there is a general convergence of the views of various stakeholders in agriculture on need to safeguard the interests of our agricultural production and farmers during the negotiations.

and to have increased Market Access for agricultural products of export interest to us.

In the on-going negotiations India has been building coalitions with other WTO members holding similar interests and concerns. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1st January, 2005.

Amendment to Bye-Laws of Kendriya Bhandar

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

(a) whether some of the Members of Parliament had written to him more than a year ago on the amendment of the bye-laws of the Kendriya Bhandar without the approval of the General Body;

(b) if so, the reasons for not responding to the specific communication; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the reply?

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

(b) and (c) A suitable reply has already been sent to the concerned Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

Islamic Students in ICAR for Research

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

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research is trying to attract students from Islamic countries for academic and research purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been making efforts to attract students from several foreign countries including Islamic countries for academic and research purpose to State Agricultural Universities and ICAR's Deemed to be Universities, through:

- (i) Preparation and distribution of brochures giving details for different courses, eligibility, location and procedure to different Embassies in India and Indian Embassies and Commissions abroad.
- (ii) Orientation programmes with different Embassies in India.

(iii) Development of International hostels and facilities in Agricultural Universities, and

(iv) Introduction of Deficiency Courses for developing proficiency in English language, are the some efforts which are being made in this context.

Corruption under PMRY

940. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the arrest made by the CBI with regard to acceptance of bribe from a handicap under PMRY as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 20, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether a large number of staff are involved in corruption for sanctioning loan under PMRY in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent corruption in this regard?

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

(b) The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has informed that one Shri C. P. Bambani, Inspector, then working with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (South West District) at Kapashera has been taken in CBI custody on 18.10.2002 on the charges of having accepted bribe. He was sent to judicial custody from 18.10.2002 to 28.10.2002. He has been placed under "Deemed Suspension".

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The implementing agencies have been requested to ensure implementation of the Scheme strictly as per the extant guidelines. Complaints, if any, are taken up with the appropriate authority for taking necessary corrective and punitive action.

Drought Condition in Rajasthan

941. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Western Rajasthan reels under severe drought condition for an average eight years out of every 10 years;

(b) whether Western Rajasthan, especially Barmer and Jaisalmer are in the grip of severe drought for the last five years and there is acute shortage of potable water and fodder for animals;

(c) if so, whether the Government have carried out on the spot assessment of problems being faced by poor farmers and livestock there;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the scarcity of drinking water, fodder for livestock; and

(e) the long term measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Parts of Rajasthan are facing drought situation during the last few years. During the current year, both meteorological sub divisions of the State viz. West Rajasthan and East Rajasthan received scanty rainfall during South-West Monsoon period (1.6.2002 to 30.9.2002) and the State Government has declared all the 32 Districts in the State as drought affected.

The following assistance has so far been sanctioned:

- (i) 7 lakh MT of wheat free of cost for relief works;
- (ii) Approval of Rs 207.68 crores for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Relief Fund (NCCF) subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State;
- (iii) Advance release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund Rs. 85.58 crores;
- (iv) Allotment of 30,000 MTs of Cattle Grade Feed;
- (v) Sanction of 2.40 lakh mini kits;
- (vi) Free Transport of water and fodder through rail;
- (vii) Rs 11.66 crores for running 435 cattle camps through NGOs.

(e) Necessary steps in this regard has to be taken by the State Government.

[Translation]

Law on Safety of DAMS

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

(a) whether the States are being encouraged to enact a law for safety of Dams;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have been so encouraged; and

(c) the amount of investment required for increasing the irrigation capacity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The central Water Commission has prepared a draft bill on Dam Safety Act and after approval of the Ministry of Water Resources it was circulated to all the Member States of National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS). The NCDS has representation from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttaranchal and three dam managing and operating organizations namely, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, Damodar Valley Corporation and Bhakra Beas Management Board.

(c) The increase in irrigation capacity in the country shall depend on the outlay being provided in the tenth five year plan for major and medium irrigation sector.

[English]

Fare Structure in Palace-on-Wheels

943. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of decline in foreign tourists to the State, the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation has announced a special fare structure scheme for the Indian Nationals travelling on Palace-on-Wheels from October 2002 to March 2003; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith facilities extended to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The fare structure is given in the enclosed statement and the facilities are of international standards which woo the domestic and international tourists to buy a package of seven nights and eight days @ Rs. 20,000/-.

Statement**Rupee Fare Structure on Palace-on-Wheels****Season: October-March**

Single Occupancy Rs. 20,000/-

Double Occupancy Rs. 15,000/-

Triple Occupancy Rs. 10,000/-

Off-Season: September and April

Single Occupancy Rs. 15,000/-

Double Occupancy Rs. 12,000/-

Triple Occupancy Rs. 9,000/-

Pepper Production

944. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vietnam has overtaken India as World's largest pepper producer and exporter;

(b) if so, whether Vietnam is not even a member of the International Pepper Community; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to regain India's status in pepper production and its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per estimates of International Pepper Community for the year 2001-02, India is the largest producer of pepper, with production of 80,000 Metric Tonnes. Indonesia was the largest exporter with export of 60,453 Metric Tonnes during 2001. Vietnam, however, exported 56,606 Metric Tonnes of pepper as compared to 22,741 Metric Tonnes exported by India during 2001.

(b) Vietnam is not a member of the International pepper Community.

(c) In order to protect India's position in the global trade, integrated programme for development of pepper with 100% central assistance have been implemented in the country in intensified manner during VIII and IX Plan periods. The major components of the programme for development of pepper are:

(a) Production of quality planting materials of high yielding varieties of black pepper and

their distribution on subsidized rates to the farmers.

(b) Establishment and management of field demonstration plots for popularizing high yielding varieties and also improved cultivation practices.

(c) Adoption of integrated pests and disease management practices.

(d) Encouraging rejuvenation of old and unproductive gardens.

(e) Effective transfer of technology.

These programme are continued in major pepper growing States as part of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture- Supplementing/ Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plan" which provides flexibility to State Government to prioritize the crops and interventions as per the need.

Qatar Airways Flights from Hyderabad

945. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights operated by Qatar Airways from India;

(b) whether Qatar Airways also propose to operate flights from Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) As per the Winter 2002-03 schedule as approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation, Qatar Airways are authorised to operate to/from India as per following details:

Sector	frequency per week
Doha-Mumbai vice versa	6
Doha-Thiruvananthapuram vice versa	7
Doha-Hyderabad vice versa	3

This is in accordance with the India/Qatar Memorandum of Understanding of 24th June, 2002.

Clearance to Human River Project

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

(a) whether the Expert Committee of his Ministry has raised certain points with regard to the clearance of Human River Project in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra during its meeting held on July 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a detailed point-by-point compliance report has been submitted to his Ministry on August 26, 2002;

(d) if so, whether the clearance to the Human River Project has since been accorded;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(g) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

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

(b) Details were sought on corridors for tiger movement, land use, ground water monitoring, surface drainage, Environmental Management Cell, etc.

(c) A reply has been received from Government of Maharashtra on 5.9.2002;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Environment impact assessment of a proposal is usually completed within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

[Translation]

Mismanagement at Babatpur Airport

947. SHRI RAM RATI BIND:

DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of gross mismanagement at Babatpur airport in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken for beautification, sanitation and plantation of trees there; and

(c) the time by which the aforesaid jobs will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Beautification, sanitation and plantation of trees is being undertaken properly at Babatpur Airport in Uttar Pradesh. Plantation of trees, beautification, sanitation etc. is also planned for the newly proposed terminal building at the Airport.

[English]

Impact of Garbage Control Act 1995

948. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are closely monitoring the impact of Himachal Pradesh Non-biodegradable Garbage Control Act, 1995 and the state Government's Special Order to keep Manali Town area free of pollution;

(b) if so, whether despite this ban in force, large volumes of non-biodegradable waste have got accumulated in Manali area because of intense tourist traffic;

(c) if so, whether the Government intend to replicate this project in other States with the help of Environmental action groups and local municipalities/communities; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, powers have been vested with the local authority including Nagar Panchayat for removal of non-biodegradable garbage under the provisions of Non-Biodegradable garbage (Control) Act, 1995. Accordingly the Nagar Panchayat Manali has imposed ban on the use of Polythene bags. The Nagar Panchayat has also initiated a scientific project with the help of Norwegian Government and has started door-to-door collection of garbage. Further, the State Council for Science, Technology and Environment have organised workshop on the solid waste management in October 2002 for increasing public awareness.

Central Government has formulated and issued comprehensive Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 under the powers conferred by section 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986). Under these rules every municipal authority has been made responsible for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes in the country.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price of Agricultural Produce

949. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural produces in the country;

(b) whether the Government have announced MSP for various agricultural produces and if so, the details thereof, produce-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the extent of loss suffered by farmers as a result thereof, State-wise;

(d) the details of requests received from various States regarding declaration of MSP for various produces alongwith action taken thereon;

(e) the details of recommendations made by Abhijit Sen Committee regarding MSP of produces and the action taken on each of the recommendations;

(f) whether the Government agencies are unable to purchase various produces from Mandis and are taking help of Middlemen;

(g) if so, the steps being taken to eliminate the role of middlemen to protect the interest of farmers; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to declare the MSP at right time to protect the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government announces each season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), Jute Corporation of India (JCI), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities fixed in recent years is enclosed.

(d) The reports of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) on Price Policy for different crops are circulated among the State Governments for obtaining their comments and the same are taken into account while fixing the MSPs.

(e) The High level Committee to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy has submitted its final report on 31.7.2002. So far as MSP is concerned, the HLC has recommended that the present MSP policy should continue. As such, the present policy to extent the benefits of MSP to farmers would continue.

(f) and (g) The designated central nodal agencies do not take the help of middlemen in purchase operations. To facilitate greater share for the farmers out of produce sold, the State Governments have been advised to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Commodities Act to provide for direct marketing etc. as recommended by Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms.

(h) All necessary steps are taken to declare MSPs at the earliest.

Statement*Minimum Support Prices**(According to Crop Year)*

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Special Drought relief price	(#) increase in MSP 2002-03 over 2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	-
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	
2	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	-
3	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	-
4	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	
5	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	-
6	Wheat		550	580	610	620			
7	Barley		385	430	500	500			
8	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200			
9	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	
10	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	10 (0.8)
11	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	10 (0.8)
12	Masur (Lentil)		-	-	1200	1300			
13	Sugarcane @		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05			
14	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	-
		H4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	-
15	Groundnut in Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	15 (1.1)
16	Jute		650	750	785	810	850		40 (4.9)
17	Rapseed/Mustard		1000	1100	1200	1300			
18	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	10 (0.8)
19	Soyabean	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	-
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300			
21	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265			
22	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil(F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00			
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	25.50	27.00	28.00	29.00			
23	Copra	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300		-
	(Calendar Year)	Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550		-
24	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	50 (3.6)
25	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120		20 (1.8)

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 percent increase in recovery above that level

The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase

[English]

Linking of Mahanadi River with Southern Rivers

950. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that linking of Mahanadi river of Orissa with major southern rivers is a viable option for linking of major rivers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering this proposal; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. Under the Peninsular component, interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery and Vaigai is envisaged. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other

studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6. links under Peninsular Component.

Complaints under PMRY

951. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) the mechanism to monitor the operation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints from certain States regarding disbursement of loans under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The implementation of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is monitored at the district level by the District PMRY Committee, at the state level by the State PMRY Committee and at the central level by the High Powered committee for PMRY and by the Monitoring

Cell at the Rural, Planning and Credit Department (RPCD), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai.

(b) to (d) The Government receives such complaints from various quarters. Most of these complaints pertain to insistence on collateral security before disbursement of loan and delay in disbursement of loan etc. After investigation by the Regional Offices of the RBI, such complaints are resolved/disposed off in terms of extant guidelines.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Steel Industry

952. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures for the upgradation of steel industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Government has taken various measures for the upgradation of the steel industry, which inter-alia include:

- (i) Induction of foreign technology both through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and through foreign technology collaboration. FDI is freely allowed in steel sector i.e. without prior permission of Government.
- (ii) Automatic approval by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to all industries for foreign technology collaboration agreements subject to certain conditions.

SAIL has undertaken, from time to time, modernisation programme of their steel plants i.e. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) thereby adopting energy efficient Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) technology for steelmaking and providing Continuous Casting facilities.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Japanese Aid for Yamuna Action Plan

953. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Japan Bank of International Cooperation has drastically reduced its financial assistance for Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) its likely impact on the Yamuna Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) deputed an Appraisal Mission for appraisal of Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II from 10th October to 31st October, 2002. The main objective of the Appraisal Mission was to finalise the scope of work and cost estimates for the project. On the basis of Minutes of Discussions signed between the Appraisal Mission and Government, the project size has been fixed at Rs.637 crore with the details of scope of work in Haryana, Delhi and UP as given in the enclosed statement. The project size has been finalised on the basis of inter-se priority amongst the various projects under consideration of JBIC and availability of funds with the donor agency. However, the pledging of loan assistance which is the official commitment of Government of Japan for the project has not been done so far.

Statement

Town-wise and Component-wise Details of Works under Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/Scheme	Estimated Cost
1	2	3
I Delhi		
1	Bela Road Trunk Sewer	14.60
2	Wazirabad Trunk Sewer	64.20
3	Ring Road Trunk Sewer	55.20
4	Okhla STP	82.40
5	Keshopur STP	95.20
	Pilot Plant for electricity generation from biogas	

1	2	3
6	DPR Preparation including Pilot Plant implementation for YAP III	40.00
7	Misc. e.g. Slum Rehabilitation, Public Participation & Awareness & Capacity Building / PR	28.00
	Total of Delhi Segment	379.60

II Uttar Pradesh

1	Northern Zone of Agra (sewers, pumping stations, rising mains, STP)	29.80
2	Western Zone of Agra (sewers, pumping stations, rising mains, STP)	61.90
3	Land Acquisition & Compensation	14.50
4	DPR Preparation including Pilot Plant implementation for YAP III	13.00
5	Misc. e.g. Public Participation & Awareness & Capacity Building/PR	25.50
	Total of Uttar Pradesh Segment	144.70

III Haryana

1	Technology Transfer (I&D Works)	34.50
2	DPR Preparation including Pilot Plant implementation for YAP III	9.00
3	Misc. e.g. Public Participation & Awareness & Capacity Building/PR	19.00
	Total of Haryana Segment	62.50

IV Capacity building of NRCDD, MoEF & PIAs

1	Accounting and Management Information System	5.00
2	Water Quality Management Program (monitoring stations, mobile laboratory, R&D, review of existing monitoring system, model development, training etc.)	10.00

1	2	3
3	PMC (monitoring of tendering, evaluation, physical works, Institutional strengthening & capacity building, water quality monitoring program, fund flow, training, DPR preparation for YAP III, pilot plant implementation & various other activities)	35.20
	Sub Total (IV)	50.20
	Grand Total	637.00

Abbreviations

STP: Sewage Treatment Plant, DPR: Detailed Project Report, I&D: Interception & Diversion, YAP: Yamuna Action Plan, PR: Public Relation, R&D: Research & Development, PMC: Project Management Consultant, PIA: Project Implementing Agency

National Water Policy

954. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "water policy plan draws flak" appearing in the Times of India dated October 17, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been delaying the implementation of the National Water Policy, 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have consulted NGOs and experts on the implementation of the policy;

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

(f) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The National Water Policy, 2002 was adopted

in April, 2002 and thereafter several steps have been taken for its implementation. These include inter-ministerial meetings with Central and State Governments, interaction with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and institutions concerned with the water sector. A series of seven regional Workshops was also organised by the Ministry of Water Resources at Pune, Bangalore, Bhubneshwar, Guwahati, Lucknow, Jaipur and New Delhi during August to October, 2002 for continued deliberations with the NGOs, water experts and professionals. These workshops have also been attended by representatives of the State Governments. Based on the suggestions/discussions held, the Action Plan has been accordingly modified. The Action Plan will be placed in the Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States and Union Territory Administrations for its consideration and thereafter sent to all State Governments and concerned Central Ministries for implementation.

Bonded Labour

955. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rescued labours recount tales of woes" appearing in the Statesman dated October 4, 2002;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any other incidents of crimes of bondage and slavery perpetrated have come to notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(e) if so, details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per the news item, the Bachpan Bachao Andolan rescued 31 bonded labourers, including 12 children on 30th September from a stone quarry of Charkhi Dadri in Haryana. All these labourers were migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh.

(c) The bonded labour system has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Act provides for constitution of Vigilance Committees at district and sub-divisional levels. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties and responsibilities under the Act. Further, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 11.11.1997 in the case of Public Union for Civil Liberties Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and Others, directed that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should be involved in dealing with the issues of bonded labour. The Ministry of Labour has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take cognizance of the incidence of bonded labour reported through press or by the voluntary agencies. In the instant case, the NHRC has issued notice to the Deputy Commissioner, Bhiwani to enquire the matter.

(d) and (e) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Incidents of Alleged Bonded Labour and Slavery Registered with NHRC during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 (upto 20.11.2002)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (upto 20.11.2002)	
		Bondage	Slavery	Bondage	Slavery	Bondage	Slavery
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	3				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	3				
3.	Bihar	5	1	6		4	
4.	Goa	2					
5.	Gujarat			1	1	3	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Haryana	31		12		18	
7.	Himachal Pradesh			3			
8.	Jammu & Kashmir			2		1	
9.	Karnataka	3		3		1	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5		3		5	
11.	Maharashtra	11					
12.	Mizoram					1	
13.	Orissa			1			
14.	Punjab	8		89		190	
15.	Rajasthan	10		8		8	
16.	Tamil Nadu	3	3	3		1	
17.	Uttar Pradesh	63		34	2	34	1
18.	West Bengal	1					
19.	Delhi	8		16			
20.	Chhattisgarh					1	
21.	Uttaranchal	4		2		1	

Acquisition of Land by Steel Plants

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

(a) the total land acquired by various private and public sector steel plants in Orissa and Jharkhand;

(b) whether some steel plants have demanded additional land from the above two States;

(c) if so, the approximate number of people likely to be displaced thereby; and

(d) the extent afforest land likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) In so far as public sectors steel plants are concerned, SAIL have Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa and Bokaro Steel Plant in Jharkhand. The area of land acquired by these plants are

28095.805 acres and 31287.24 acres respectively. These steel plants have not demanded additional lands from the concerned State Governments and thus the question of displacement of people and forest land being affected does not arise in these cases. Details relating to land acquisition by private sector steel plants are not maintained by the Government.

Insurance Cover to Tourists

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

(a) whether most insurance firms in the developed countries are denying insurance cover to tourists who propose to travel to India resulting in mass cancellation of pre-booked trips;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any corrective measures to ease the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) (a) and (b) No, Sir, Insurance Companies do provide insurance to the tourists visiting India but in view of the terrorists attack on WTC in New York (USA) and the US attack on Afghanistan and terrorist attack on Information Centre in Kolkata and travel advisories issued against travel to India due to cross border tension in the region, Insurance firms in some of the developed countries had denied insurance cover to tourist visiting India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has started a Re-assurance Campaign through Press Conferences, Travel Trade Briefings, Seminars, Workshops, Internet and Print media/Road Shows in primary markets and support of Indian Missions. Eleven new niche promotional products have been chosen and the brochures on these will be distributed soon. The electronic media campaign is also under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Performance of SAIL

958. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has earned a cash profit of Rs.90 crores in the first six months of the current fiscal years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of profit and loss making steel plants under SAIL during each of the last three years; and

(d) the foreign tours undertaken by the officials of each steel plant under SAIL during the last ten months and the reasons for each such tour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of cash profit earned for the first six months of the year 2002-03 are as under:

(Rs. /crores)

Period	Turnover	Gross Margin	Interest	Cash Profit/ Loss	Depreciation	Net Profit/ Loss (-) (PBT)
H1' 2002-03	8189	793	703	90	569	(-) 479

(c) The details of Profit (+) / Loss (-) making steel plants under SAIL during each of the last three years are as under :

(Rs./crores)

Plants/Units	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	92	342	477
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	-651	-236	-262
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	-704	-445	-1036
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	120	49	-459
Alloy Steels Plant (ASP)	-260	-184	-149
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	-142	-155	-153
Raw Material Division (RMD)	-74	-30	-41
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL)	-91	-68	-103
Other Units	-10	-2	19
SAIL	-1720	-729	-1707

(d) The details of the foreign tours undertaken by the officials of steel plants under SAIL is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Foreign Tours Undertaken (Plant-wise) During 2002-03 (Till Date)

Sl.No.	Plant / Unit	Reason for Visit	Country Visited
1.	ASP	To visit Special Steel and Special Alloy Plant for preliminary assessment for providing technical assistance to AZE, Egypt in collaboration with EGITELAC	Egypt
2	BSL	In connection with modernisation of CRM of BSL	UK & USA
3.	BSL	In connection with modernisation of CRM of BSL	USA
4	BSL	In connection with modernisation of CRM of BSL	Japan
5.	BSL	To conduct Refresher Training Programme under agreement between SAIL & HADEED	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
6.	BSP	International Steel Making Conference 2002	Austria
7.	BSP	To conduct Refresher Training Programme under agreement between SAIL & HADEED	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
8	BSP	Explore increasing export of existing as well as new products of Bhilai Steel Plant	Malaysia & Singapore
9.	DSP	To conduct Refresher Training Programme under agreement between SAIL & HADEED	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10.	RSP	Int. Conf. Trip-Aided High Strength Ferrous Alloys	Belgium, Luxembourg
11.	RSP	To conduct Refresher Training Programme under agreement between SAIL & HADEED	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
12.	RSP	Visit to Blast Furnaces in Germany and Belgium and hold discussions with M/s Paul Wurth regarding rebuilding of BF4 of RSP	Belgium, Luxembourg & Germany
13.	RSP	4th Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons	Hong Kong

[Translation]

Missing Manuscripts

959. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that rare manuscripts have been found missing from some of the leading museums of the country, especially from Orissa museum as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated October 5, 2002 under the caption "Orissa Sangrahalaya se 18 Hazar Durlabh Pandulipyan Gayab";

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

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The Orissa State Museum is under the administrative control of the State Government. The Government of Orissa has informed that on preliminary verification it was found that as per Accession Register of Manuscripts in the Orissa State Museum, there were 19,250 manuscripts, out of which 19,220 were physically available. The Government of Orissa has already initiated a detailed

physical verification of manuscripts. The State Government has taken all precautionary measures including regular verification and supervision of the work to prevent any loss of manuscripts.

Import of Animals from Australia

960. SHRI RAJO SINGH:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of animals imported from Australia during the last three years;

(b) whether the 200 animals imported from Australia with a cost of three and a half crore rupees are suffering from serious diseases and the health protocol has not been adhered to in this purchase;

(c) whether High Security Disease Laboratory situated in Bhopal has diagnosed them to be suffering from Bovine viral diarrhoea and malignant catarrhal fever;

(d) if so, whether certain persons are trying to shield this irregularity by giving a clean chit to these diseased animals;

(e) if so, whether these animals brought to India for breeding purposes have been kept in Chennai quarantine station;

(f) if so, whether medical check up of these animals was conducted before their import;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) the total amount of foreign exchange spent thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 292 Cattle, 205 pigs, 60 goats, 2 horses and 53 dogs have been imported from Australia during the last three years, as per the quarantine records.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A number of imported animals have been found to be positive for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea

and Malignant Catarrhal Fever by High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir. The animals were tested for the presence of the diseases mentioned in the health requirement by the Australian authorities during the pre-export quarantine in Australia.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The amount of foreign exchange spent on the purchase of 201 animals is to the tune of 6,71,550 US \$ (Total value in Rs.3,28,38,795.00).

(i) The animals which were tested negative have been relocated to another site and Government of India is keeping a constant watch and re-testings are being undertaken, so that no diseased animal could be released for breeding.

[English]

Reduction of Staff in AI

961. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for rationalising the man-power in Air India by reducing its staff strength and outsourcing certain activities of the company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Rationalisation of manpower in Air India is an ongoing exercise. Air India has taken the following measures for rationalising manpower:

(i) External recruitment has been frozen in non-operational categories.

(ii) Staff at foreign stations have been retrenched following downsizing/closing of foreign stations.

(iii) 687 people have been redeployed from non-operational to operational areas.

- (iv) 168 employees have been allowed to avail leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto 5 years.
- (v) Shorter working week scheme have been introduced where employees have the option of working for 60% of their present emoluments.
- (vi) Retirement age has been rolled back from 60 to 58 years.
- (vii) All vacant posts were abolished in February-March, 1997.
- (viii) A voluntary retirement scheme is being introduced.

As a result, the staff strength of Air India has come down from 17205 on 31.3.2001 to 16312 on 31.10.2002.

[Translation]

Fixation of MSP for Ginger and Turmeric

962. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the poor farmers living in tribal areas of the country particularly Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are forced to sell the medicinal produce like Ginger and Turmeric etc. at throwaway prices due to prevailing poverty, starvation and inadequate food processing industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to fix Minimum Support Price for these products for the welfare of the poor farmers during current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) For commodities not covered under the Minimum Support Price (M.S.P.) Scheme already there is a scheme viz., Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under which horticultural and other agricultural crops, which are perishable in nature are covered. In order to protect the growers of horticultural and agricultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival periods when price fall below the economic level, MIS scheme is implemented for a particular commodity on the requests of the State Governments which are ready to bear 50% of losses (25% in the case of north eastern states) if any, in

its implementation. The Crops covered under the MIS include onion, potato, maida, kinno, galgal, chillies, ginger, apple, oilpalm, arecanut etc.

Report on Helicopter Crash

963. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated on the report of the Investigation Commission that went into the causes of the crash of Bell 206-B-3 helicopter resulting in the tragic loss of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, then Speaker of Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Report of the Committee of Inquiry has not yet been accepted by the Government. Hence, it is premature to indicate the course of action at this stage.

(c) The Directorate General of civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by operators, including helicopter operators by way of safety audits. The safety audit covers all essential areas including engineering, operations, quality control departments etc. In addition, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA.

Adventure Tourism

964. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope to promote adventure tourism in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the assistance extended by the Union Government for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) During the last three years, 39 projects were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.954.55 lakhs for the development of tourism including adventure tourism in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

Amendments to Forestry Laws

965. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the stringent rules and laws of the Forest Department have caused disruption of developmental work in many States and are an impediment to the implementation of important schemes relating to construction of roads etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to amend these laws keeping in view the need of fulfilment of essential and fundamental needs of the people;

(c) if so, the details indicating the time by which these laws are likely to be amended; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The rules/laws referred to in the question pertain to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This Act was enacted to restrict indiscriminate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose and provides for conservation of forests and matters connected therewith. As per the provisions of the Act, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary for diversion of any forest land for non-forestry purpose/developmental works including construction of roads. Since 1980, more than 8000 proposals involving diversion of about 5.76 lakh hectares of forest land have been approved for various non-forestry activities/developmental works.

(b) to (d) The Act does not prohibit taking up of any developmental work if required on forest land but tends to regulate such use of forest land with certain stipulated conditions. This Act being regulatory and not prohibitory in nature is flexible enough to allow important developmental activities on forest lands and as such no change or amendment in the Act is contemplated.

Development of Badrinath Dham

966. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any proposal for the development of Badrinath Dham in Uttaranchal on the lines of Vaishno Devi Temple in Jammu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration. But it would take quite some time to arrive at a final decision.

[English]

Flood Prone Areas

967. SHRI HARBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total flood prone areas in the country recorded in each plan period from First to Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether dams on the rivers are causing dryness/silting of all river beds thereby causing floods; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) has assessed the flood prone area in the country as 40 mha. in 1980 using the data on flood affected area during 1953-78.

The flood affected area is collected and reported by Revenue Authorities of States. Central Water Commission has compiled the data since 1953 on the basis of information received from State Revenue Authorities. The Statement of Statewise and Planwise average annual flood affected area from 1st Plan to IXth Plan is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Dams do have some morphological impact on the upstream as well as downstream of the river. The impact varies from location to location and also temporarily. But the hypothesis that dams can cause dryness or silting is unfounded in the absence of any back-up scientific study.

To study the problem of silting in rivers, the Government of India has set up a multi disciplinary committee, which has members from various organisations like Central Water Commission, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Brahmaputra Board, Dredging Corporation of India, Central Water & Power Research Station, National Remote Sensing Agency, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Geological Survey of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru University and various State Governments.

Statement

State-wise and Plan-wise Average Annual Flood Affected Area from I-IX Plan

Sl No.	State	(Area in mha.)												
		I Plan 1953-56	II Plan 1956-61	III Plan 1961-66	Annual Plans 1966-69	IV Plan 1969-74	V Plan 1974-78	Annual Plans 1978-80	VI Plan 1980-85	VII Plan 1985-90	Annual Plans 1990-92	VIII Plan 1992-97	IX Plan 1997-2002	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.023	0.296	0.078	0.037	0.072	0.252	0.280	0.243	1.046	0.011	0.297	0.407	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.040	0.001	
3	Assam	1.547	0.752	0.750	0.817	1.148	0.700	0.490	0.896	1.430	0.744	0.647	0.670	
4	Bihar	1.747	0.870	0.840	1.170	1.422	2.398	1.590	1.726	1.646	0.925	0.641	1.309	
5	Chhattisgarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.018	
6	Delhi (NCT)	0.010	0.010	0.022	0.017	0.002	0.015	0.035	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.012	0.000	
7	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
8	Gujarat	0.000	0.348	0.074	0.057	0.230	0.545	0.370	0.400	0.415	0.336	0.660	0.000	
9	Haryana	0.043	0.156	0.242	0.250	0.108	0.443	0.360	0.146	0.195	0.044	0.144	0.002	
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.010	0.045	0.024	0.164	0.000	0.293	0.163	
11	Jammu and Kashmir	0.017	0.026	0.000	0.007	0.006	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.000	0.076	0.003	
12	Jharkhand	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
13	Karnataka	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.008	0.000	0.100	0.076	0.188	0.138	0.100	0.038	
14	Kerala	0.000	0.062	0.040	0.290	0.038	0.250	0.105	0.144	0.366	0.640	0.160	0.115	
15	Madhya Pradesh	0.097	0.040	0.022	0.017	0.032	0.028	0.083	0.020	0.036	0.026	0.078	0.004	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	Maharashtra	0.000	0.068	0.044	0.007	0.046	0.023	0.100	0.004	0.076	0.136	0.025	0.011
17	Manipur	0.000	0.002	0.004	0.027	0.016	0.008	0.000	0.030	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.002	0.004	0.000
19	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.082	0.000
20	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.000
21	Orissa	0.220	0.592	0.308	0.587	0.824	0.253	0.355	0.514	0.460	0.938	0.147	0.422
22	Punjab	0.310	0.350	0.566	0.117	0.074	0.118	0.025	0.022	0.740	0.002	0.231	0.027
23	Rajasthan	0.000	0.016	0.032	0.197	0.454	0.910	1.175	0.192	0.152	0.900	0.389	0.036
24	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.008	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000
25	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.002	0.112	0.000	0.092	0.085	0.020	0.049	0.001	0.000	0.049	0.000
26	Tripura	0.007	0.014	0.082	0.080	0.048	0.025	0.000	0.030	0.007	0.000	0.011	0.000
27	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
28	Uttar Pradesh	2.130	1.940	1.150	1.583	2.702	2.115	4.020	3.980	1.971	1.510	1.106	0.860
29	West Bengal	0.257	1.114	0.134	1.080	1.182	0.858	1.550	0.070	0.922	1.474	0.305	1.116
30	A&N Islands	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000
31	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32	D&N Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.013	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.008	0.002	0.000

Ban on Peacock Feather Trade

968. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the peacock feather trade is common in India and thousands of feathers are sold every day which comes from illegally killed peacocks; and

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning a notification to put the peacock into Schedule-I of the Wildlife (protection) Act and ban the trade?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Tail feather of peacock has been exempted for the purpose of domestic trade under the provisions of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972. Killing of peacocks is an offence and action is taken whenever the cases of poaching of peacocks come to the notice. Peafowl is already included in the Schedule I of the Act and export of the tail feathers and articles made therefrom has also been banned under the EXIM policy of the Government. No decision has been taken to impose a ban on domestic trade.

Choking of South Asia by Smog

969. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Is a blanket of smog choking South Asia" appearing in the Times of India dated August 13, 2002;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to check pollution menace in India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) An international collaborative

study "Indian Ocean Research Experiment (INDOEX)" has indicated haze over the Indian Ocean. The haze is not a permanent feature of the atmosphere over the Asian region and the surrounding seas. It occurs only during January-March, the season in which INDOEX observations were made in 1999. Conclusive data are not available to correlate the impact of haze on the monsoon and/or agriculture of our country. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has, this year, brought out a report entitled "The Asian Brown Cloud: Climate and other Environmental Impacts" based on INDOEX. The press release of the UNEP launching the said report paints an alarming picture of the impacts of this haze on both regional and global scales. However, most of the concerns expressed therein are not well substantiated by reliable modelling studies or experimental observations. The existing legal and policy framework, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, addresses the concerns of air pollution in the country.

Multi-National Seed Companies

970. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multi-National Seed Companies (MNCs) are aggressively acquiring Indian Seed Companies with a view to monopolise the seed distribution market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by the Union Government for restricting foreign participation in seed business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Details of foreign collaboration approvals granted in the seed sector from 01.01.2000 to 31.8.02, including cases of acquisition of shares in Indian Seed Companies by foreign collaborators are enclosed as statement.

(c) Foreign Direct Investment upto 100% is permitted in the seed sector subject to compliance with bio safety guidelines and the provisions contained in the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988.

Statement

*List of Foreign collaboration cases as approved by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion,
Ministry of Commerce & Industry from January, 2000 to August, 2002.*

S.No.	Name of the Indian Company	Item description	Name of the foreign collaborator	Amount percentage equity (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chambal Agri Tech. Ltd., New Delhi	Mass multiplication under control environment of high yielding plantlets resulting in miniature seed potatoes	Technico Pvt. Ltd., Australia	0.00 (0.00%)
2.	Global Transgenes Ltd., Aurangabad (Mah.)	Transgenic Hybrid cotton seeds	Chinese Cotton Research Institute, China	Technical case.
3.	Global Transgenes Ltd., Aurangabad (Mah.)	Transgenic Hybrid rice seeds	Huazhong Agril. University, China	Technical case
4.	Global Transgenes Ltd., Aurangabad (Mah.)	Transgenic Hybrid cotton seeds	Chinese Cotton Research Institute, China	Technical case.
5.	Global Transgenes Ltd., Aurangabad (Mah.)	Transgenic Hybrid cotton seeds	Biocentury Transene (China) Comp. Ltd., China	Technical case.
6.	Wika Instrument India Pvt. Ltd., Pune	To set up a wholly owned subsidiary for marketing of seeds.	Wika Alexander Wiegand GmbH & Co., Germany	400.43 (100.00%)
7.	Unicorn Seeds Ltd. Secunderabad	Vegetable seeds	Zeraim Gedera Seeds Growers Co. Ltd., Israel	Technical case
8.	Adani Wilmar Ltd., Ahmedabad	Solvent extraction from Oilseeds and International trading of oilseeds	Wilmar Investments (Mauritius)	0.00 (0.00%)
9.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Hyderabad	Developing producing, processing and marketing of hybrid seeds.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Mauritius	4320.00 (100.00%)
10.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Hyderabad	Developing producing, processing and marketing of hybrid seeds.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Mauritius.	0.00 (0.00%)
11.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Hyderabad	Wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) to undertake Research & Development of hybrid seeds.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Mauritius.	50.00 (100.00%)
12.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Hyderabad	Wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) to undertake Research & Development of hybrid seeds.	India Seed Holdings Ltd., Mauritius.	4370.00 lakh (0.00%)
13.	Hybrid Rice International Ltd., New Delhi	Growing, raising, processing and selling of hybrid paddy seeds.	Biogenetic Technologies B.V., Netherlands	690.00 (61.06%)

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Proagro Seed Company Ltd., New Delhi	Development and marketing of certified high yielding hybrid seeds & Vegetables seeds	Biogenetic Technologies Co., Inc., Netherlands	11.11 (100.00%)
15.	Hybrid Rice International Ltd., New Delhi	Growing, raising, processing and selling of hybrid paddy seeds.	Biogenetic Technologies, B.V., Netherlands.	0.00 (0.00%)
16.	Spic Agro Biotech Centre, Chennai	Flower seeds	Schreurs De Kwakel BV, Netherlands	Technical case
17.	Proagro Seed Company Ltd., New Delhi	Development and marketing of certified high yielding hybrid seeds & vegetables seeds	PGS International N.V., Netherlands.	5.47 (10.96%)
18.	Proagro Seed Company Ltd., New Delhi	Development and marketing of certified high yielding hybrid seeds & vegetables seeds	PGS International, N.V., Netherlands	0.00 (0.00%)
19.	Known Youseed (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Breeding of high quality seeds of fruits vegetables	Known You Seed Co. Ltd., Taiwan	80.00 (100.00%)
20.	Monsanto Chemicals of India Ltd., New Delhi	Manufacture of agro chemicals and seed business	Monsanto Comany, USA	231.74 (72.17%)
21.	Spic Phi Seeds Ltd., New Delhi	Manufacture of hybrid seeds	Pioneer Overseas Corp., USA	45.00 (100.00%)
22.	Pioneer Overseas Corp., New Delhi	WOS for production of parent foundation seeds	Pioneer Overseas Corp., USA	1400.00 (100.00%)
23.	Alltech Inc., USA	Development, manufacture, marketing and trading for the purpose of seed marketing	Alltech Inc., USA	70.00 (100.00%)
24.	Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Research, development, production and sale of hybrid and improved seeds	Monsanto (India) Pvt. Ltd., USA	0.00 (0.00%)
25.	Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai	Hybrid Seeds	Monsanto Co., USA	Technical case
26.	Seedworks India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	Wholly subsidiary for research development, production, marketing and export of seeds	USA griseeds Inc., USA	0.00 (0.00%)
27.	Alltech Inc., USA	Development, manufacture, marketing and trading for the purpose of seed marketing	Alltech Inc., USA	0.00 (0.00%)
28.	Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Manufacture of agro chemicals and seed business	Monsanto Co., USA	0.00 (0.00%)

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Research, development, production and sale of hybrid and improved seeds	Monsanto India Pvt. Ltd., USA	0.00 (0.00%)
30.	Nunhems Proagro Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	WOS for processing improved open pollinated variety and hybrid seeds	Unseeds, USA	1746.74 (0.00%)
31.	Zuari Seeds Ltd., Panaji	Deals in seeds	The Institute of Field & Vegetables, Yugoslavia	Technical case

Assistance to Oil Palm Farmers

971. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor rainfall has adversely affected oil palm yields; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed for the oil palm farmers in distress due to drought like conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Oil palm is a perennial crop and is mostly grown under irrigated conditions in India. To protect the small farmers against the vagaries of rainfall, subsidy is provided for purchase of diesel pump sets and sprinkler irrigation systems under the Oil Palm Development Programme. As per the guidelines of the Calamity Relief Fund and the National Calamity Contingency Fund assistance at the rate of Rs.4000/- per hectare, as agriculture input subsidy, is provided to small and marginal farmers where the loss of perennial crop is 50% and above.

Setting up of Vegetable and Herbal based Agro Industries

972. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up vegetable and herbal products based Agro Industries in tribal belts like Orissa, Maharashtra etc. producing such products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government by

itself does not set up any industry. The decision to set up industries including those connected with vegetables and herbal products are left to the entrepreneurs. However, the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country including the tribal belts of Orissa and Maharashtra States for promoting agro based industries including vegetable and herbal products based agro industries. Under this scheme, the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs.10 lakhs and for the project above Rs.10 lakhs and upto Rs.25 lakhs, rate of margin money is 25% of Rs.10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of SC/ST/ OBC/ Women/ Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary / institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs.10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs.25 lakhs it is 30% of 10 lakhs plus 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary's contribution is at least 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector banks, Regional Rural Banks etc.

Moreover, the Government on 14.05.2001, has announced a package for the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) including agro based industries. The package consists of Rebate Policy for Khadi for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc. The package is under different phases of implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Recovery of Outstanding Dues by SAIL

973. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.3582 dated August. 07. 2002 and state:

(a) the names of those customers of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) who owe in excess of Rs. 2 crore to SAIL alongwith the dates;

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to recover the dues alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) It is not in the commercial interest of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to divulge customer wise details of outstanding dues.

(b) and (c) Debts are generally recovered on time. In all cases of overdue debts, vigorous efforts are made by SAIL by constant and regular follow-up to recover outstanding dues, and in appropriate cases, legal action is also resorted to.

[English]

EPF and ESI Dues from Hotels

974. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Five Star Hotels situated in the country particularly in Delhi and Tamil Nadu are reported to be the biggest defaulters of ESI and EPF dues during the last three years;

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

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government against the owners/management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Information

in respect of Employees State Insurance and Employees Provident Fund Organisation is as under:

(i) ESI: The five star hotels situated in the country including those in Delhi and Tamil Nadu are regular in payment.

(ii) EPF: The compliance in respect of two five star hotels in Delhi viz Ashoka and Qutab is not found satisfactory as both these hotels have not implemented the provisions in respect of contract employees in full. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation is assessing the dues in respect of contract employees under Section 7A of the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. No such case of default in respect of Tamil Nadu has come to the notice of Employees Provident Fund Organisation.

[Translation]

Sick Steel Plants

975. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several steel plants are sick;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the said plants;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Among public sector steel plants, only Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in June, 1994 and was subsequently declared a sick industrial company in August, 1994 under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Pursuant to Government's approval, rehabilitation proposal is currently under examination of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the Operating Agency. Once the scheme gets approval of BIFR, implementation will be taken up.

[English]

Innovation in Technology Dissemination Component

976. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of "Innovation in Technology Dissemination Component" funded by the World Bank;

(b) the States chosen for implementing this scheme and the basis of their selection;

(c) whether the Union Government have included Tamil Nadu in the said scheme for development of agriculture for strengthening the extension services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component of the World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) proposes to:

- establish innovative and decentralized institutional arrangements for technology dissemination at district level and below with greater emphasis on group approach, farmer participatory methodologies, bottom-up planning producers making the system more demanded-driven and farmer-accountable.
- Revamp the extension service to make it pluralistic multi-agency system and
- Harness the strengths of Public sector, Private sector, Media and Information Technology.

(b) It is being pilot tested in the Seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab covering four districts in each. The selection of the project states/districts has been made on the basis of agro-ecological consideration and status of agricultural development and extension services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Bifurcation of SAIL

977. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for bifurcation of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was being re-examined;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 5 parties expressed their interest against the modified offer in the year 2000 for sale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There is no proposal for bifurcation of Steel Authority of India Limited.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

978. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed target to establish at least one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in each district in the country by end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether most of the KVKs are not fully functional; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Besides the existing 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), during the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has strengthened 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up additional functions of KVKs. In addition, approval of 66 new KVKs were obtained for its establishment over a period of three years from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Additional financial resources have been provided for establishment of KVKs in the remaining districts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The Infrastructure facilities of the KVKs are developed in a phased manner. Out of 261 KVKs sanctioned

earlier, 82% of the KVKs have been made fully functional. Each KVK has a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) with the participation of district officials and Zonal Coordinator to review the progress of infrastructural development along with the Annual Action Plan of a KVK.

Assistance to Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

979. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 80% of the women who lost their husbands in Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984 have no source of income as reported in the Times of India dated September 27, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

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

[Translation]

Cutting of Trees Along NH-2

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

(a) the details of terms and rules under which order/permission/NOC has been granted to cut down very old green fruit bearing trees on both sides of the National Super Highway No.2 being constructed between Delhi and Kolkata;

(b) the parties authorised for cutting of these trees alongwith the ownership rights of the trees after their cutting;

(c) whether the said trees have been counted and variety ascertained before awarding contracts for their cutting;

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

(e) whether auction of the cut down trees has been done and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be done indicating the name of authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Permission has been granted under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and other provisions, as applicable, for felling of trees of various species for widening

of the National Highway No.2. The main condition was that at least twice the number of trees felled shall be planted as compensatory afforestation.

(b) State Forest Departments are authorised for cutting of trees under their ownership in their respective States and also to dispose off the felled trees in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. However, in certain stretches felling was carried out by National Highway Authority of India under the supervision of concerned State Forest Department.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. It is an established practice that trees to be felled/auctioned are properly marked and a detailed account is maintained. Such details are not compiled at the Central Government level as these matters fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Governments.

[English]

Closure of Ferro Alloys and Ferro Chrome Plants

981. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Ferro Alloys and Ferro Chrome Plants in the country have either been closed or are on the verge of closure;

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

(c) the number of workers affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 58 Ferro Alloys Units having capacity of 14,09,320 tonnes per annum, 22 Units with capacity of 4,40,838 tonnes per annum are lying closed. Thus, the closed capacity is about 31.28%. Out of 36 working Units reporting production of Ferro Alloys, 10 Units have reported production of Ferro Chrome. The total capacity of these 10 units is 3,52,000 tonnes per annum. A list of closed Units is enclosed as statement.

(c) On an estimate, about 16,500 workers have been affected due to closure of these plants.

(d) All the closed Units were in the private sector. They have been closed due to the impact of unfavourable interplay of market forces. As such, the Government has no direct role to play.

Statement*List of Closed Ferro Alloys Units*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of the Unit	Capacity (tonnes per annum)	No. of workers
1	Andhra Pradesh	Jindal Strips Limited	40,000	253
2	Andhra Pradesh	VBC Ferro Alloys Ltd.	37,000	231
3	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Ferro Alloys Ltd.	5,000	75
4	Andhra Pradesh	Ferro Alloys Corpn. Ltd.	72,500	4,709
5	Chhattisgarh	Hira Ferro Alloys Ltd. (I)	16,000	380
6	Chhattisgarh	Nav Chrome Pvt. Ltd.	27,500	410
7	Kerala	The Travancore Electro Chem. Industries	7,500	210
8	Kerala	The Silcal Metallurgic Ltd.	10,500	157
9	Karnataka	Dandeli Steel & Ferro Alloys	15,000	384
10	Karnataka	Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel	15,000	350
11	Karnataka	Sandur Manganese & Iron Ore	60,000	2,000
12	Maharashtra	Bharat Pulverising Mills	300	50
13	Maharashtra	KFA Manganese (Khandewal Ferro Alloys)	53,750	3,500
14	Maharashtra	Sunbel Alloys Co.	300	50
15	Maharashtra	Universal Ferro & Allied	40,000	2,500
16	Madhya Pradesh	Jalan Ispat Casting Ltd.	10,000	200
17	Orissa	Eastern Metals & Ferro Alloys	588	150
18	Orissa	The Jaypore Sugar Co.	24,000	600
19	Orissa	Utkal Ferro Alloys Ltd.	300	50
20	Pondicherry	The Silical Metallurgic Ltd.	3,500	150
21	Tamil Nadu	The Silical Metallurgic Ltd.	1,800	75
22	West Bengal	R. Sen & Co.	300	50

*[Translation]***Ranthambore National Park**

982. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to irregularities and lawlessness in Ranthambore National Park, the animals are dying and number of tourists to the park are declining;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware

of the misutilization of funds granted by World Bank for protection of environment and development of the said park;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to attract tourists, protect animals, bring normalcy in the park and proper utilization of funds alongwith the action to be taken against the guilties, if any?

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

(b) and (c) No such cases of irregularity in the assistance received from the World Bank under the India Eco-development Project have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(d) Central assistance under the schemes namely 'Project Tiger' and 'India Eco development Project' is provided to the State Government for the proper management of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve which includes assistance for the activities related to protection of wild animals and development of habitat. Due to prevailing drought conditions in Rajasthan this year, the Central Government has provided an additional central assistance of Rs. 45.00 lakhs for providing fodder and water facilities in the adjoining villages of the Reserve, out of which Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been released as the first instalment.

[English]

Rotational Farming System

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the practice of keeping the paddy fields fallow has been on the increase in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to actively promote rotational farming system in wetlands in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir. The area coverage under Rice during last three years are as under:

Year	Area in million hectare
1996-97	43.43
1997-98	43.45
1998-99	44.80
1999-2000	45.16
2000-2001	44.36

The marginal decrease in rice area during 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000 was due to adverse climatic condition like flood and droughts.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture has no such scheme. However, under Macro Management Scheme, States have flexibility to take measures/activities suited to their agro-climatic conditions/area specific requirements for rice/crop production.

Afforestation of Waste Land

984. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Using Microbes to green Asola" appearing in the Times of India dated November 6, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to introduce these new techniques widely through out the country; and

(d) the details of any other schemes, if any, to recover the lost forest area due to encroachment of deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prof. C.R. Babu of Delhi University along with a team of scientists from Delhi University's Centre for Management of Degraded Eco-System has undertaken a pilot research project on "Technology Development for Rehabilitation of Bhatti Mined Area and Other Morrum Quarries in Delhi State" on two sites of 1.5 hectare each at Bhatti and Asola areas. The duration of the Project was five years from 01-12- 1994 to 30-11-1999 at a total cost of Rs. 25,76,970/-. The project envisages encapsulation of seeds/roots of the saplings of the native flora with the nitrogen fixing and phosphate solubilising microbes. These microbes help in making available the

nutrients to the plants for their growth. About fifty species of legumes and grasses have been tried for rehabilitating the dry and hot areas of the worked over mine areas located in Asola and Bhati of Delhi falling under Aravalli Ranges. Being a pilot research project, its replication to the other parts of the country, at this stage, is premature.

(d) The eviction of encroachers from the forestland is done in accordance with the provisions made in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and similar State Legislations currently in force. However, directions have been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to the State Governments and the Union Territory Administration to deal with the issue of encroachment seriously and evict the ineligible encroachers from the forestland in a time bound manner as per the guidelines issued under the provision of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Restructuring of Breeding Operation

985. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have launched any programme for Restructuring of Breeding Operations to cover the suitable breeding population through artificial insemination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the release of Rs.1108 lakhs of the State as per the recommendations made by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2000-2001;

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

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for the release of additional grants for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing Programme and National Bull Production Programme were clubbed together to launch the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in October, 2000. The main objective of the project is to progressively bring all the breedable

cattle and buffaloes under the coverage of artificial insemination or natural service be provided by high quality bulls.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs.5.52 crores was provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and National Bull Production Programme up to September 2000 during the financial year 2000-2001. As regards the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo breeding, Andhra Pradesh Livestock Development Agency of the State Government has been provided Rs.14.97 crores from October, 2000 so far for implementing the project.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Release of further grants will have to conform to year wise pattern of releases approved by EFC subject to utilization of the past grants and achievement of physical targets thereof.

Theft of Forest Wealth

986. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large-scale forest abuse and destruction/theft of forest wealth has been reported in various parts of the country especially in Kerala during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of action taken in each of the case particularly of Idukki district in Kerala alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No specific instances of large scale Forest abuse and destruction/theft of forest wealth have come to the notice of the Central Government in the country including Kerala except those of North-Eastern States and some parts of Kerala.

In case of North Eastern States, the Central Government had received information about large scale movement of illegal timber through railways. Physical verification of about 200 wagons was got done by the Central Government during which all the wagons were found to contain substantial quantity of illegal timber. In exercise of the powers conferred on the Central Government by the Supreme Court by its order dated 13.11.2000 in writ petition no. 202/95, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted for carrying out investigations and further follow up action. After investigations, illegal timber contained in these wagons has been confiscated. Licenses of the concerned wood based industries have been suspended.

In Wayanad district of Kerala, felling of 431 trees was noticed during January, 2000 for which a case was registered against culprits after seizing the felled timber. The seized timber has been auctioned. The delinquent officers, found prima-facie involved in the scandal, were placed under suspension. A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) enquiry has also been ordered by the High Court of Kerala.

In the Idukki districts of Kerala, which was under the dual control of the Revenue and Forest Departments, some encroachers occupied about 800 ha. of land. The entire area has now been brought under the control of Forest Department to ward off any further encroachments. Disciplinary action has been initiated against erring officials of Revenue and Forest Departments.

Isolated cases of theft, smuggling, encroachment etc. do take place resulting in destruction of forest wealth. All such cases are dealt with under various Acts and Rules in force in the respective States.

Krishna Water Tribunal

987. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to the Union Government to set up Krishna Water Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to release surplus water to Karnataka and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The State of Karnataka has in September 2002 sent a letter of complaint under section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. In the letter, it has been stated that a Water dispute has arisen with the Govt. of the State of Andhra Pradesh and with the Government of the State of Maharashtra by reason of the fact that the interests of the State of Karnataka and its inhabitants in the waters of Inter-State river Krishna and its valley have been or are likely to be prejudicially affected by:

i. the executive action of the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh in utilizing (even before allocation) the surplus waters by way of permanent construction of large scale projects and water reservoirs and refusing to share the surplus water i.e., waters in excess of 2130 Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) (2060 TMC plus 70 TMC return flow) at 75% dependability;

ii. the executive actions of the respective Governments of the State of Andhra Pradesh and of Maharashtra in refusing to agree to the raising of the height of Almatti dam from Full Reservoir Level (FRL) 519.6 meter to 524.256 meter as proposed and planned by the State of Karnataka;

iii. the executive actions of the Government of Maharashtra in creating in the Krishna basin a total live storage capacity of 560 TMC having a potential to use the surplus water i.e., water in excess of 2130 TMC (2060 TMC plus 70 TMC return flow) at 75% dependability;

iv. the executive actions of the Government of the State of Maharashtra in failing to maintain adequate summer flows in the Bheema river in the Krishna valley at the Inter-State border during the months of November to May in every water year; and the consequent failure of the Government of the State of Maharashtra to exercise their powers with respect to the use, distribution and control of the waters of the Krishna river.

It has been requested in the letter to (i) by notification in the Official Gazette to constitute a Water Dispute Tribunal under Sec.4 (1) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956; and (ii) Refer to the Tribunal so constituted for adjudication and decision, the water disputes and matters connected with or relevant to the water disputes (as well interim measures) emerging from this letter of complaint.

(c) As per the provision of Act, Central Government is required to initiate steps for finding a negotiated settlement of the disputes failing which the dispute is required to be referred to the Tribunal for adjudication within one year from the receipt of the complaint.

[Translation]

Construction of Multi-Purpose Dam on Rivers

988. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bihar mein har versh bandh vinash ke liy Kendra sarkar jimmedaar" appearing in 'Punjab Kesari' dated October 25, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to construct a multi-purpose dam on Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati rivers to control flood menace in the State; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is aware that floods in Bihar are generally caused by the rivers coming from Nepal. Government of India is in dialogue with HMG, Nepal on a regular basis at various levels to mitigate the devastation caused by flood from rivers originating from Nepal.

As regards Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme, a break through was achieved in October, 2001 during the discussions with Nepal wherein a Joint Inception Report on the scheme was finalised, paying the way for setting up of Joint Project Office and taking up field investigations for preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report. This Project will interalia provide flood control benefits for Bihar.

Regarding the construction of multipurpose Projects on Kamla & Bagmati rivers, the matter is still under discussion with HMG Nepal.

Further, in order to prevent spilling of flood waters from Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Khando & Kamla rivers from Nepal side into Bihar, both sides have agreed to extend the embankments along these rivers in Indian Territory to Nepal and tie to high ground in Nepal with corresponding strengthening of embankments on Indian side. The Central Government provides financial assistance for these works. The Central Government is also providing financial assistance to Government of Bihar for maintenance of flood protection works on river Kosi.

Procurement of Agricultural Produce

989. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugarcane and kharif crop procured in Uttar Pradesh since January 2001 till date;

(b) the number of farmers benefited by this, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme recently to ensure payment of remunerative price to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Wheat and rice are procured for Central Pool under price support scheme at the Minimum Support Price (M.S.P.) fixed for each marketing season. The quantities of wheat and rice procured in Uttar Pradesh since 2000-01 Marketing Season are as under:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)		
Marketing Season	Wheat	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)
2000-01	15.45	11.74
2001-02	24.46	19.36
2002-03	21.11	0.08
(As on 20.11.2002)		

The procurement of coarsegrains is done by the respective State Governments. No coarsegrains are procured in U.P. Sugarcane is not procured by the Central Government. However, there is compulsory levy sugar obligation on sugar factories according to percentage fixed by Government from time to time.

(c) and (d) With a view to effecting savings in the form of reduction in the outgo of food subsidy, enhancing the efficiency of procurement and Public Distribution System (PDS) and encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers, the scheme of Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains was introduced by the Government in 1997-98. The scheme is now in operation in the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal. The Union Government has been encouraging States to adopt the scheme of decentralized procurement of foodgrains.

Sharda Project

990. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 'Sharda Project' has been included in the Five Year Plan of Nepal;

(b) if so, whether it can have any adverse impact on India;

(c) if so, whether "Sharda Barrage" is facing threat due to water of main rivers falling in Sharda river; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of any "Sharda Project" conceived by Nepal. No information is available in respect of such Project being included in the Five Year Plan of Nepal.

[English]

Unutilization of Sea Water

991. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for utilization of sea water by the process of Reverse Osmosis Plant for supplying water to Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources has not received any proposal for utilization of sea water by Reverse Osmosis Plant process for supplying water to Kutch in Gujarat.

Service Condition in AASL

992. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground staff of Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL) suffers from disparity in salaries in comparison to Indian Airlines and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and they do not even have separate provision for medical allowance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to remove this discrepancy;

(c) whether the officials inducted into Alliance Air from Indian Airlines on deputation continue to draw huge allowances in addition to their salaries from Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures to check this;

(e) whether there exists any promotional policy in Alliance Air; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The employees of Alliance Air other than those drawn on deputation from Indian Airlines are on short-term renewable contract for a term of three years. Those on deputation from Indian Airlines draw their salaries from Indian Airlines. Those on contract have distinct salary structure as per the agreement signed with the management and they are entitled to facilities such as Medical Allowance, Provident Fund, Gratuity, Annual Increment, Leave, air passages, Canteen facility etc. The contract is renewable subject to satisfactory performance.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines employees on deputation in Alliance Air draw their salaries, deputation and other allowances, commensurate with their job requirements.

(e) and (f) Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL) have adopted the following policy for the development of employees employed on short-term renewable contract in Alliance Air:-

- (i) Induction will be at the level of Assistant Supervisor/Supervisor Office as per the requirements and in accordance with the educational and other qualification criteria laid down for the post.
- (ii) No promotion to be considered in the first agreement period.
- (iii) In case the individual during the first agreement period acquires additional qualifications, he may be granted a monetary incentive and he may be considered at the time of renewal of the agreement for the next higher level.
- (iv) In case the individual acquires the higher qualifications within the first two years of the initial agreement period, he may be considered for the next higher level after completing two years of the initial agreement. In such an eventuality, a fresh agreement would have to be entered into for the higher post.

- (v) An employee must put in a minimum of three years at any level before he can be considered for appointment at the next higher level.

Ecological Degradation of Aravali Hills

993. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing ecological havoc in Aravali hills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the havoc;
- (c) the action initiated by the Government against the persons responsible for ecological degradation of Aravali hills; and
- (d) the steps taken to protect and conserve the Aravali hills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There has been ecological degradation in the Aravali hills due to increase in biotic pressure and various other activities including mining.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made for containing ecological damage in the Aravali range including strict and effective implementation of the provisions of the Punjab Land (Preservation) Act 1900, Environment (protection) Act 1986, Forest Conservation Act 1980 and other relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations. A notification under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 has been issued on 7th May 1992, prohibiting carrying out of processes and operations such as cutting of trees, mining, setting up of new industries, construction and electrification in the specified areas of Aravali range in Gurgaon and Alwar districts, except with prior permission. Notification under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been issued in respect of the ridge areas falling in Delhi which is part of the Aravali range, notifying Government intention to declare this area as reserve forest. For conservation and development of ridge areas, Ridge Management Board has been constituted.

Setting up of a National Institute for Organic Agriculture

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Institute for organic Agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received willingness from the State of Kerala to extend all necessary assistance and facilities for setting up of the proposed Institute in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming, whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The components include the following:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming.
- Capacity building for organic farming.
- Support to commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetables waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture etc.
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala is one of the States, who have requested for setting up of National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF) in their State. Their request along with similar requests received from other States will be considered at appropriate time.

Minimum Support Price for Sugarcane in A.P.

995. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane Growers' Association requested the Union Government to declare Rs.1,000/- as Minimum Support Price (MSP) for sugarcane at 8.5% recovery rate, since the total yield had come down due to the prevailing drought conditions in the State;

(b) if so, whether similar requests have also been received from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and other sugar producing States;

(c) if so, the details of the demands received from different State; and

(d) the Government's reaction and response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government fixes Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane and not Minimum Support Price (MSP). No request from the Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane Growers' Association to declare Rs.1,000/- as SMP for sugarcane at 8.5% recovery rate for 2002-03 sugar season has been received.

(b) No such requests have been received from any Sugarcane Growers' Association in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and other sugar-producing State.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

S.No.	Name of the Projects	Date of receipt	Estimated Cost (in Crores)		Benefits (in Thousand Hectare/Mega Watt)
			Original	Latest	
1	Attapady Irrigation Project	Feb. 1996 (Revised)	26.00	110.00	8.38/0
2.	Kuttiadi Augmentation Bansurasagar Project	Sept. 1977	5.00	17.98	4.80/0

The Cauvery Water Disputes between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry was referred to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 in June 1990. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. The Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the Cauvery Water Dispute. No irrigation project of any State has been recommended for investment clearance during the pendency of the dispute before the Tribunal by the Union Government of India to the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Forest Cover

997. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether all the States in the country particularly Bihar and Maharashtra have the requisite forest cover;

Irrigation Projects of Kerala

996. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted 21 Projects to the Union Government related to Cauvery river for approval, long back; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken to accord approval of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala submitted only 2 projects in the Cauvery basin for approval of Government of India as below:

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of efforts made by the Government to remove obstacles in the way of achieving the targets regarding requisite forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages to have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the Hills and mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. As per the latest assessment of Forest Survey of India, the State of Bihar and Maharashtra have 5.13 % and 15.17% respectively of the total geographical area under forest cover.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement as per State of Forest Report 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various measures taken to increase forest in the country are:

- (i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by States/UTs from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.
- (ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Guidelines to all States/UTs have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (v) A protected areas net-work has been established.
- (vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

Statement

Percentage of forest cover in States/Union Territories as per State of Forest Report, 1999

States/UTs	Percentage
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	16.08
Arunachal Pradesh	82.21
Assam	30.2
Bihar	5.13
Chhattisgarh	41.93
Delhi	5.93
Goa	33.79
Gujarat	6.61
Haryana	2.18
Himachal Pradesh	23.5
Jammu and Kashmir	9.2
Jharkhand	27.15
Karnataka	16.93

1	2
Kerala	26.56
Madhya Pradesh	19.73
Maharashtra	15.17
Manipur	77.86
Meghalaya	69.7
Mizoram	86.99
Nagaland	85.43
Orissa	30.21
Punjab	2.8
Rajasthan	4.05
Simla	43.94
Tamil Nadu	13.13
Tripura	54.79
Uttaranchal	43.49
Uttar Pradesh	11.55
West Bengal	9.42
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	92.21
Chandigarh	6.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	41.44
Daman & Diu	2.68
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	0
Total	19.39

[English]

AI Flights to Canada

998. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is currently operating any flights to Canada;

(b) if not, whether talks have been held with Canada to explore the possibility of direct connectivity between the two countries; and

(c) If so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) As of now, Air India has no plans to operate to Canada due to fleet limitations. Air Canada has also ceased operations from India due to its own commercial reasons. However, Air India carried the passengers upto a point in Europe/UK, then transfers the passengers on other carriers to points in Canada.

[Translation]

Setting up of Iron and Steel Plant in Collaboration with Russia

999. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an iron and steel plant in the country with the collaboration of Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the steel plant is likely to be set up;

(d) the estimated cost of the project; and

(e) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) While the Government has no proposal to set up an iron and steel plant in the country with the collaboration of Russia, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Steel is setting up a commercial pig iron plant with a capacity of 300,000 tonnes per annum at Nagarnar, District Bastar, Chhattisgarh with Russian technology. The plant is likely to be commissioned by October 2004.

(d) The estimated cost of the plant is Rs. 298.68 crore.

(e) An amount of Rs. 43.15 crore has been allocated by NMDC during 2002-03 for the project.

[English]

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

1000. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is being launched in every State;

(b) if not, the States where such programme has been launched and since when;

(c) whether the programme has been launched in Orissa also; and

(d) the funds allocated to States under the programme, so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Union Government launched "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)" during 1996-97 for expeditious completion of large irrigation and multipurpose projects costing Rs. 500 crore or more and which are beyond the resources capability of States as also for completion of other projects which were in the advance stage of construction. The funds were released in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on matching basis. Considering the poor financial position of the States, funding pattern under AIBP was revised in 1997-98 and in 1999-2000, the CLA is being released to the Special Category States comprising the North Eastern States, hilly States of J&K, H.P. and Sikkim as well as Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa in 3:1 (Centre: State) ratio, whereas, the ration 2:1 for other General Category States. In addition, all minor projects (both ongoing and new) of the Special Category States and KBK districts of Orissa are also being provided CLA in 3:1 ratio. The AIBP Guidelines have been further modified with effect from February, 2002 to give incentive to reforming States by providing CLA in the ratio of 1:0 (Centre: State) for Special Category States & 4:1 (Centre: State) for General Category. The details of funds released to the States is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	CLA Released during						Total CLA
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	Andhra Pradesh*	35.250	74.000	79.670	65.015	95.020	281.660	0.000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.500	7.500	15.000	0.000
3	Assam	5.230	12.400	13.950	14.540	24.077	14.521	2.085
4	Bihar	13.500	5.150	36.185	129.695	148.440	3.420	0.000
5	Chhattisgarh	0.000	4.500	9.500	10.520	13.930	48.200	0.000
6	Goa	0.000	5.250	0.000	3.500	61.650	58.000	0.000
7	Gujarat *	74.773	196.900	423.820	272.700	421.850	581.690	289.115
8	Haryana	32.500	12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.677
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	6.500	5.000	11.047	18.015	3.244	3.450
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1.300	0.000	0.000	4.680	10.460	11.070	0.000
11	Jharkhand	0.000	8.890	11.640	14.345	9.050	10.820	10.000
12	Karnataka	61.250	90.500	94.500	157.140	171.000	492.500	0.000
13	Kerala	3.750	15.000	0.000	0.000	22.400	11.275	0.000
14	Madhya Pradesh*	63.250	110.000	81.250	95.325	151.328	215.410	0.000
15	Maharashtra	14.000	55.000	50.860	49.875	97.020	39.100	0.000
16	Manipur	4.300	26.000	10.780	21.810	1.500	9.360	0.000
17	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.694	5.512	4.470	0.000
18	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.433	1.433	2.000	0.000
19	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.730	5.000	5.000	0.000
20	Orissa *	48.450	85.000	71.500	90.250	100.320	168.475	8.250
21	Punjab	67.500	100.000	0.000	42.000	55.620	113.690	18.160
22	Rajasthan	2.675	42.000	140.050	106.665	78.467	96.315	63.300
23	Tripura	3.773	5.100	3.975	34.653	13.883	21.083	0.000
24	Tamil Nadu	20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
25	Uttar Pradesh*	43.500	78.000	76.500	286.000	315.900	354.690	194.970
26	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27	West Bengal	5.000	20.000	10.000	25.000	26.825	38.608	0.000
28	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.360	0.000	2.400	0.750
Total		500.001	952.19	1119.18	1450.48	1856.2	2601.981	594.757

* Covered under Fast Track Programme

*[Translation]***Assistance to UP for Pollution Abatement**

1001. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance under Ganga Action Plan to Uttar Pradesh during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details indicating the names of cities where this programme was implemented alongwith the success achieved thereunder;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought assistance from the Union Government for pollution control programme being run in 23 cities situated at the banks of Ganga, Yamuna and Gomati rivers under the Ganga Action Plan recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The Ganga Action Plan has been taken up in two phases. Under Ganga Action Plan Phase I which was started in 1985) pollution abatement works were implemented in six towns of then combined Uttar Pradesh namely (Hardwar-Rishikesh) Kanpur, Allahabad, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Fatehgarh-Farrukhabad at a sanctioned cost of Rs.191.25 crore. The Ganga Action Plan Phase I was completed on 31-3-2000. A capacity to intercept, divert and treat 375 million litres per day of sewage was created in the above six towns under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I.

Under Ganga Action Plan Phase II, pollution abatement works are under implementation in 23 towns along the polluted stretches of Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar at an estimated cost of Rs. 537 crore. As far as assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh is concerned, it amounts to Rs. 40.66 crore and Rs. 52.38 crore respectively for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 for implementing the above programme. A capacity to treat 401 million litres per day of sewage has been created in Uttar Pradesh under Yamuna Action Plan.

The names of the 23 towns along with their present approved cost and additional assistance sought are given in the enclosed statement. The projects would be considered depending upon the pollution status of the town and availability of funds.

Statement

Additional assistance sought by U.P. Government for pollution control programme being run in 23 cities.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Town	Present Approved Cost	Additional Assistance Sought
1	2	3	4
Ganga			
1	Allahabad	32.72	202.08
2	Anupshaher	5.49	
3	Bijnor	7.18	
4	Chunar	4.68	
5	Farrukhabad	0.51	
6	Garmukteshwar	1.54	
7	Ghazipur	7.72	
8	Kanpur	85.74	121.62
9	Mirzapur	3.70	
10	Mugal Sarai	4.09	
11	Saidpur	0.62	
12	Varanasi	45.06	191.22
	Sub Total (Ganga)	199.05	514.92
Gomati			
13	Jaunpur	5.66	12.46
14	Lucknow	47.75	279.93
15	Sultanpur	4.70	4.30
	Sub Total (Gomati)	58.11	296.69
Yamuna			
16	Agra	74.63	126.19
17	Etawah	9.43	13.67
18	Ghaziabad	91.72	51.22

1	2	3	4
19	Mathura	27.99	129.89
20	Muzaffar Nagar	12.83	18.44
21	Noida	28.15	
22	Saharanpur	25.52	27.03
23	Varindavan	9.62	23.30
	Sub Total (Yamuna)	279.89	389.74
	Total	537.05	1201.35

[English]

Inspection of Multi-State Co-operative Society

1002. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No.424 dated March 4, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon;

(d) whether letters have been received from certain Members of Parliament highlighting the irregularities and corruption in the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Since the powers of Central Registrar were delegated to the State Registrars also, the information about their inspections was called for which is awaited from a few of them.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies had ordered an inspection of the Kendriya Bhandar by appointing a senior level officer as per the provisions of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The inspection report revealed no violations as far as the contents of the purchase policy and bye-laws were concerned and no corrupt practices were reported in procedure for floating of the tenders as well as issues of the orders for purchase of goods/different items. The Central Registrar then also ordered a statutory inquiry into the allegations. The Inquiry Officer has submitted the report in which the allegations have not been proved. It has been reported by the Kendriya

Bhandar that an amount of Rs.800 was recovered from the then Chairman, Shri Brahma for private journeys. It was also found that the Deptt. of Personnel & Training (DOPT) has laid down no terms and conditions of the deputation of the officer of the rank of Addl. Secretary to the Government as Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar.

Proposal for Alternative Crops to Rice

1003. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to study the possibility of alternate crops to rice in delta region and irrigated areas to avoid massive glut of rice production is in the anvil;

(b) if so, the institute or body assigned with this task;

(c) the status of this study;

(d) whether public opinion has been elicited for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the feasibility report is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Market Friendly Agriculture Marketing Policy

1004. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a village "Rural Market Friendly Agriculture Marketing Policy" for the development of marketing structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private sector participation in Agriculture-Marketing is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to strengthening and developing agricultural marketing system in the country, an inter-Ministerial Task Force set up by this Ministry has submitted its Report on 28th June, 2002. In the Report, the Task Force has, inter-alia, recommended (i) to amend the State Agriculture Produce Marketing Regulation Act to allow private and cooperative sector investment in setting up of agricultural markets, to encourage direct marketing and contract farming and to bring about rationalization of market fee structure, (ii) making complementary investment by the State and Central Governments; (iii) providing subsidy to enable the private sector initiative to attain economic viability; and (iv) ensuring adequate credit flows to agricultural marketing activities. To attract promoting agencies to take up the infrastructure projects, the Central/State Governments need to additionally extend support in allocation of suitable land to set up markets, deregulation of areas where new markets will be set up from the purview of the APMC Act, fast approval for foreign technical assistance, import of equipment and for services like electricity, water, sewage, telephones etc. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Task Force at a National Conference held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 27.9.2002. A Standing Committee of State Ministers is also set up under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture) to evolve an action programme for the implementation of the reforms measures in the agricultural marketing sector.

[English]

Development of Tourist Spots in Assam

1005. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sent any proposals to the Union Government for development of tourist spots in the Tejpur area of the State;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost of the schemes and connected projects;

(c) whether the same have been approved by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Tejpur in Assam falls on the Eco-Tourism Circuit identified in the North-East for development during the current financial year.

(b) to (d) Housing and Urban Development Corporation, as consultant, has been asked to prepare a master plan for development of this circuit in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

[Translation]

Reduction of Employees in SAIL

1006. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is contemplating over a new proposal for reduction in the number of employees in order to check excess expenditure;

(b) if so, whether 1600 employees are proposed to be retired during 2002-03;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of categories for which the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is proposed to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All employees of SAIL are eligible for voluntary retirement subject to the conditions laid down under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 2002.

[English]

Allotment of Duty Free Shops

1007. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government; has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Duty free shops at new International Airports may go to UAE company" appearing in the Economic Times dated November 07, 2002; and

(b) whether the Government propose to reconsider this decision and encourage any public/private Indian enterprise?

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

(b) On invitation of Global tenders for setting up of duty free shops at Lucknow, Varanasi, Guwahati and Amritsar Airports and additional duty free shops at Trivandrum Airport, four parties had purchased the tender documents and only one party submitted the bid. The work is likely to be awarded after completion of all the prescribed criteria.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Indian Wildlife Institute, Dehradun

1008. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been pointed out in a test check audit of Indian Wildlife Institute, Dehradun carried out during July, 2002 wherein it has been stated that crores of rupees collected in the name of consultancy have been distributed amongst Directors (Group-A) instead of depositing the same in the account of Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(c) the efforts being made for recovery of the Government money?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The inspection report of the Senior Audit Officer of the Principal Director of Audit for the year 2001-02 in respect of Wild Life Institute of India has raised audit objection on mismanagement of consultancy funds of Rs. 99.39 lakhs by the faculty members and supporting staff. Action has been initiated by the institute to recover the excess amount from the recipients.

Airport at Navi Mumbai

1009. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since finalised the New Airport project at Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the land to be acquired for this project and the number of farmers to be affected by the acquisition;

(d) the schemes formulated for rehabilitation of the displaced farmers; and

(e) the time by which the entire exercise is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Flow of Water in Rivers Passing through Punjab

1010. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with passage of time the flow of water in the rivers passing through Punjab has dwindled;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the actual position in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Delegation of Farmers for Geneva to meet WTO Officials

1011. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to send a delegation of farmers' unions and stakeholders to Geneva to meet with WTO officials to discuss matters pertaining to agriculture;

(b) if so, by when the delegation propose to leave the country; and

(c) the details of agenda for discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to send a delegation of farmers' unions and stakeholders to Geneva to meet with WTO officials.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Losses Due to Flood

1012. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is losses worth crores of rupees and damage to life and property due to floods in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for storage of flood waters in the ponds and reservoirs so that this could be supplied to areas facing water scarcity;

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

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Integrated Water Resources Development envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/ areas with a view to minimise the regional imbalances and optimally utilize the available water resources. The proposal inter-alia envisages building up of storage reservoirs at potential sites in various river basins.

NPP comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component.

(d) The tentative cost of implementation of interbasin water transfer link schemes both under Peninsular and Himalayan components at 2002 price level is estimated at Rs. 5,60,000 crores.

[English]

Investment of Non-Government Provident Fund

1013. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government noticed any cases of non-implementation of their guidelines regarding investment of non-government provident fund in States as well as Centre;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the losses suffered by the employees; and

(c) the steps proposed to safeguard the interest of employees indicating the directions issued to the concerned defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No deviation has been made by Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund in investing the money as per the guidelines regarding investments issued by the Government.

The Provident Fund Trusts, which have been exempted from all or any of the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 under Section 17 of the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 & Paras 27 & 27 A of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 are required to follow the terms & conditions of exemption as laid down in the Act & Scheme. These, inter-alia, provide that (i) "the employer shall make good any other loss that may be caused to the Provident Fund due to theft, burglary, defalcation, misappropriation or any other reason." (ii) "failure to make investments as per direction of the Government shall make the Board of Trustees separately and jointly liable to surcharge as may be imposed by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner or his representative."

Thus, there is no loss suffered by the employees since the Act & Scheme already lay down the steps that need to be taken to safeguard the interest of the employees of such exempted establishment.

Farm Subsidy by Developed Countries

1014. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appealed to the developed countries with regard to lifting of farm subsidies;

(b) if so, the response received from the developed countries; and

(c) the effects of the non-acceptance of request on the Indian farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The mandate to negotiate agreed at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in Doha in November, 2001, provides for comprehensive negotiations in agriculture aimed at, inter alia, substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and reductions of, with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidies.

In order to correct and prevent distortions in world agricultural markets, in the negotiations being conducted under this mandate, India, in its comprehensive proposals has sought, among other things, substantial reduction of all trade-distorting support by developed countries.

The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1st January, 2005.

New Formula for Pricing of Sugarcane

1015. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to formulate a new formula for pricing of sugarcane countrywide;
- (b) if so, by when it is likely to be effective; and
- (c) the details of main features of the new formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Government has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend new sugarcane pricing policy. Government's policy in this regard would depend on the recommendations to be made by the CACP.

Performance of Indian Board for Wildlife

1016. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) has failed to achieve its objectives;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the extent to which its objectives have been achieved since its establishment; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve its targets within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Indian Board for Wild Life (IBWL) is the highest advisory body in the country in matters relating to the conservation of wild life. The Board has, since its establishment, taken several decisions to fulfil the conservation objectives concerning wild life in the country. Important among them are mentioned in the statement enclosed.

(c) Conservation of wild life in the country is an ongoing process. Appropriate action is taken from time to time by the State Governments with the financial and technical assistance of the Central Government.

Statement

Important decisions taken by the Indian Board for Wild Life since its establishment

1. Recommendation for a unified legislation for wild life conservation in the country leading to the enactment of the Wild Life (protection) Act, 1972 to cover all aspects of the conservation throughout the country except the State of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Protection of the endangered wild Buffalo in the state of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
3. Establishment of a sanctuary or national park for the last surviving population of Asiatic Lion in Gir and also to find a second home for relocating the population of Asiatic Lion.
4. Preservation of Keoladeo Ghana of Bharatpur as a sanctuary for migratory birds.
5. Preservation of Flamingo breeding ground in the Rann of Kutch.
6. Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of national parks and sanctuaries in the States.
7. Celebration of Wild Life week in the 1st week of October for generating awareness amongst the local people especially in the rural areas and educational institutions.
8. Adoption of the National Wild Life Action Plan-1983.
9. Recommendation for establishment of Protected Areas in the country.
10. Inclusion of India's endangered species in the Appendices of CITES for regulating the trade.
11. Recommended to designate Tiger as the National Animal and Peafowl as the National Bird of India.
12. Creation of a sanctuary for protection of Jerdon's Courser in Sri Lankamalleswaram in Andhra Pradesh.
13. Recommended establishment of the Wild Life Institute of India

14. Adoption of the National wild Life Action Plan-(2002-2016).
15. Adoption of the National Wild Life Conservation Strategy-2002.
16. Recommended for the amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Amendment Bill, 2002 introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

III Effects of Developmental Projects on Climate

1017. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research project about climatic change has been undertaken in Kullu Valley by the Delhi University in collaboration with certain other agency/institute;

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

(c) whether according to research project, the number of casualties and types of extreme weather events taking place in Kullu Valley have increased due to unplanned developmental projects and this variation can lead to adverse effect on the entire South Asian Region;

(d) if so, whether due to unplanned change in land-use, about 67% of the 1500 major glaciers in the Himalayas are receding and mountains and urban areas are affected as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the concrete action plan chalked out or to be chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Department of Geography, University of Delhi has been undertaking collaborative research activities with University of Manitoba, Canada with financial support from Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and Canadian International Developmental Agency on various facets of environmental impacts in the Kullu Valley with special attention to extreme events such as land-slides, flash-floods, climatic variability etc. The studies have enhanced our understanding of anthropogenic impacts on land-use and land-use changes as well as land information system in Kullu Valley, including the impact of climatic variability on crop yields in the Valley. The micro level studies done in the Kullu Valley cannot be co-related for the entire South-Asian region.

(d) According to the Geological Survey of India, as per the inventory of Himalayan Glaciers, the Indian part of Himalaya has more than 7500 glaciers of all dimensions.

There are only 365 major glaciers, more than 5 km in length (excluding Shyok and Kishanganga basins). The studies conducted by the Survey reveal that the majority of them are receding. The rate of recession in different climate zones of Himalaya is found to be variable in different years. Therefore, the studies confined to Kullu Valley may not give the overall natural cyclic process. The earth has witnessed several phases of glacial and interglacial period. It is a natural phenomenon. Presently the earth is passing through an interglacial phase whereby the ice bodies throughout the world are receding and the recession of glacier is a natural phenomenon and could also be attributed to global warming.

(e) The Government is aware of the environmental concerns and has supported conservation activities in the Himalayan region including afforestation, establishment of community toilets, and removal of garbage and promotion of eco-tourism.

[Translation]

Breed Improvement Scheme

1018. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made under the Breed Improvement Scheme under animal husbandry during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a programme has been chalked out for artificial insemination to improve the breed of cow, buffalo and goat during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government are aware that all the artificial insemination centres are lying closed in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the steps being initiated by the Government to make these facilities available to farmers at their doorsteps and make the closed artificial insemination centres functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Achievements made under various breed improvement schemes implemented during the 9th Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding is implemented during the current period as spillover activity of the 9th Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, there is some coverage

of artificial insemination through Cooperatives and Private Operators. The State Government has been requested to send a revised proposal on National Project for Cattle and

Buffalo Breeding as per the approved guidelines of the project. The proposal has not been received from the State Government yet.

Statement

Achievements under the Schemes

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Achievements
1.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing and National Bull Production Programme	As sum of Rs. 137.74 crores was released to various States under these schemes during the 9th Plan and the physical achievements are as under:
2.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (Implemented from October 2000 by clubbing the above components)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estt./Conversion of mobile Artificial Insemination Centre - 18,179 2. Estt./Strengthening of Sperm Station - 51 3. Estt. of Strengthening of Frozen Semen Bank - 84 4. Estt./Strengthening of Training Centres - 58
3.	National Ram/Buck and Rabbit Development Programme	A sum of Rs. 8.59 crores was released to different States for improvement of these species.
4.	Preservation and development of pack animals	A sum of Rs. 1.53 crores was released to different States for improvement of pack animals.

[English]

Illegal Trade in Wildlife

1019. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite ban on trading in endangered species of birds under the Wildlife Protection Act, vendors in the lanes of Nakkhas Market in Lucknow are openly selling the Saras Cranes categorised as Schedule-I endangered species of birds;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for the rescue and protection of the Saras Cranes and against the vendors found trading in the endangered species of birds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There were media reports and complaints regarding sales of Saras Cranes in Nakkhas market, Lucknow. An investigation was carried out by a team headed by the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer along with Wildlife staff/officers but nothing specific was found.

Preservation of Monuments by Private Organisations

1020. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have entered into any MoU with some private organisations to fund the preservation of heritage monuments in the country;

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

(c) the total fund released by each of these organisations for the purpose;

(d) the organisations that have not yet released the money in violation of the MoU; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Culture through the National Culture Fund has entered into MoU with Private Organisations as per statement enclosed.

(e) Project details relating to Jantar Mantar and the Taj Mahal are being finalised. Once this is done, private organisations will be asked to deposit the requisite funds for carrying out works.

Statement

Name of Sponsoring Agency	Name of Monument	Estimated cost for the activities identified	Funds released so far	Comments
Apeejay Surendra Hotels	Jantar Mantar, Delhi	Rs.10 lakhs	Nil	Documentation and Planning is in progress.
Aga Khan Foundation and Oberoi Group of Hotels	Humayun's Tomb, Delhi	Rs. 2.25 crores	Rs. 29.00 lakhs (Aga Khan Trust)	Revitalisation of garden is in progress.
Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	Taj Mahal, Agra (U.P.)	Rs. 1.87 crores	Nil	Conceptual plan and item of works to be executed are being finalised.

*[Translation]***Compensation to Drought Affected States**

1021. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts particularly tribal areas of Maharashtra and other States affected by drought and the extent of loss caused to life and property during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any Central team visited the affected States during the said period;

(c) if so, the details of the report submitted by the said team, State-wise;

(d) the funds sought by such State Governments including Maharashtra as compensation during the said period;

(e) whether the Union Government have released the requisite funds; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) Government of Maharashtra has informed that 26 Districts during 2000-2001, 16 Districts during 2001-2002 and 33 Districts during the current year have been affected

by the drought. The Central Teams visited the State for assessment of the drought situation earlier and no assistance was sanctioned from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as State Government had adequate funds in the Calamity Relief Fund to meet the situation. A Central Team also visited the State for assessment of current year's drought. The High Level Committee (HLC) approved an amount of Rs. 20 crores subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State.

*[English]***Flights over Pak Air Space**

1022. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No.11 dated July 15, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Pakistan has since lifted the aviation restriction over Pak Air Space for India as a reciprocal gesture; and

(b) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) It is for Pakistan to take a decision on this issue. Pakistani aeroplanes have not been able to overfly Indian territory as a result.

*[Translation]***Development of Tourism**

1023. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the arrival of tourists in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of tourists visited India during the current year;

(c) whether records of leading hotels, airports and tourist spots have shown that foreign tourist feel safe in India since June, 2002 onwards;

(d) if so, the extent to which the tourist arrivals have picked up since then; and

(e) the facilities and the steps being taken by the Union Government to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There has been a positive growth of 16.8 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals in the month of October, 2002 as compared to October 2001.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the period January to October 2002 is 1.83 million.

(c) According to a survey report released in the month of June 2002 by the Hotel Association of India, practically no tourist perceived any threat to his/her safety & security.

(d) The tourist arrivals are estimated to have increased from 143100 in June 2002 to 212191 in October 2002.

(e) The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country:-

- Development of 'Hubs' in which elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, efficient and effective management and healthy environment are synthesised with a view to ensuring that a tourist to India should get physically refreshed, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated and on return 'should feel India within him'.
- 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.
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism.
- Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.
- Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.

*[English]***Visit of Tourists Abroad**

1024. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from China, even small countries like Malaysia, Hongkong, Thailand and Singapore have recorded more tourist arrivals last year as compared to India;

(b) if so, whether India is burdened with lack of infrastructure, exorbitant hotel tariffs, high cost of domestic flying due to costliest Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and increasing incidents of terrorism and nots; and

(c) if so, the reasons for increasing number of Indians opting to fly out to neighbouring countries on short holidays even with a low budget?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The security scenario in South Asia, the existing tax regime, high cost of travel and inadequate infrastructure have had an impact on the growth and expansion of tourism in India.

(c) The visits of Indian tourists to neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, etc. depend on their preferences for various tourist attractions of these countries and the packages offered by them which suit their budget.

Self-Sufficiency in Agriculture Produce

1025. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural produce in which the country is deficit and are importing;

(b) the steps taken to achieve self-sufficiency therein during the last three years and the success achieved so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the palm oilseed cultivation remunerative to motivate farmers to take up the new crop;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the National Pulses Development Project to increase the production of pulses to check frequent import thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Edible Oils and Pulses are the major agricultural commodities which are being imported because the domestic production is inadequate to meet the demand.

(b) In order to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Oilseeds and Pulses, the Government are implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) & National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses. In view of recurring drought conditions in some parts of the country, success of steps taken is not discernible from the production figures of last three years. However, substantial increase in yield achieved over the years, especially in oilseeds, reflects the success of the measures cited above.

The production of Oil seeds and Pulses in the country during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is given in the table below:-

(million tonnes)			
Crop	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02*
Oilseeds #	20.71	18.40	20.73
Pulses	13.41	10.67	13.52

Includes Groundnut, Castorseed, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Rapeseed & Mustard, Linseed, Safflower, Sunflower, Soyabean

* Fourth Advance Estimates as on 27.6.2002

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Oil Palm is the highest yielder of edible oil and its cultivation is being promoted in various States for which the potential area of 8.00 lakh hectares has been identified in the country. Various incentives like planting material, cultivation costs, drip irrigation, training, extension & publicity, demonstrations, diesel pump sets, development of waste land etc. are being provided to the farmers to take up the cultivation of Oil Palm on a large scale.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There is no proposal to review the National Pulses Development Project. However, the thrust areas identified for increasing the production of pulses include development of high yielding varieties/hybrids and drought tolerant varieties of seeds, irrigation facilities, ensuring adequate & timely supply of nutrients, use of sulphur rich chemicals like gypsum/pyrites, timely credit & extension services and providing marketing support to the farmers.

Supply of Water to Rajasthan from Bhakra and Pong Dams

1026. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of non-supply of water to Rajasthan due to non filling of designed full reservoir level of Bhakra and Pong Dams;

(b) if so, whether due to continued severe drought in Rajasthan for the fourth consecutive year, water supply in the State is further worsened;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to fill the reservoir level of these two dams to ensure supply of water to the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Rajasthan is being supplied water from Bhakra and Pong Dams as per decisions taken in the monthly Technical Committee meetings of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Inter alia represented by Rajasthan, based on various agreements among the partner States including Rajasthan, their indents to BBMB for water inflows and water availability in the reservoirs. As estimated by BBMB, availability during the current depletion period (from 21st September to 20th May of the following year) is expected to be lower than that of last year and the shares of Rajasthan and other partner States would be decided accordingly.

(c) and (d) The filling of the reservoirs will depend on the inflows into them due to rainfall and snowfall / snowmelt in their catchments. The releases from the reservoirs are being made by BBMB to meet the drinking water and irrigation requirements of partner States including Rajasthan in an optimum manner.

Expansion of AI

1027. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India has decided to purchase 17 long range aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof including terms and conditions of the supplier;

(c) the routes on which the same are proposed to be introduced as replacement or fresh induction;

(d) the estimated cost of this expansion; and

(e) the details of source of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) A final view is yet to be taken by Air India on the fleet expansion plan.

As regards Indian Airlines, they have no plan to purchase 17 long range aircraft.

[Translation]

Training for running Agro and Rural-based Industries

1028. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether training is being imparted especially to run agro and rural-based industries in order to provide employment to the people in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) imparts training to artisans/entrepreneurs through 44 departmental and non-departmental training centres. Training is being conducted both under stipendiary as well as non-stipendiary programmes. During 2001-02, a total of 31,310 people had undergone training in various courses. Moreover, EDP training is provided compulsorily to all Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) beneficiaries by the KVIC through various departmentals as well as accredited training centres all over the country.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Minimum Wage Laws

1029. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all countries in the world except India have minimum wage laws to protect the interests of workers from monopsonistic exploitation;

(b) if so, the hurdles in enforcing said laws in India;

(c) whether the Government have given priority to protection of labour and generating more employment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In India a legislation called Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is in force to safeguard the interest of the workers in the unorganised sector who are generally vulnerable to exploitation due to illiteracy and lack of bargaining power. Many other countries like Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Australia, Bangladesh,

Austria, Brazil, Canada, China etc. also have minimum wages legislations.

As per the provisions of the Act, both Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages. The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, is secured through the officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in the Central Sphere while in the state sphere, the implementation is ensured by the state enforcement machinery. The officers of these machineries conduct inspections of the establishments regularly and also investigate complaints and whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages they advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages. In the case of non-adherence, they file claim applications and take legal action as per provisions in the Act against the defaulting employers.

(c) and (d) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Supply of Spurious and Sub-standard Pesticides and Seeds

1030. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of spurious and sub-standard pesticides and seeds has become rampant by unscrupulous traders;

(b) if so, whether officials of the Plant Protection Division of the Government had conducted a raid recently in the capital and if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the Government would consider imposing stiffer penalty to such traders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Reports/complaints about supply of spurious and sub-standard pesticides and seeds come to the Ministry from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir. Officials of the Plant Protection Division of the Government drew eighteen samples of different pesticides from Indira Market in Delhi. Fourteen samples were found to be satisfactory and four samples misbranded. Action has been initiated in cases of misbranded samples as the law.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Provision of enhanced penalties with graded punishment commensurate with the severity of the offence i.e. mild punishment for unintentional or minor or first time petty offences, medium level punishments for second time offences and severe and deterrent punishment for grave and serious violations.

World Bank aided Community Forest Management Projects

1031. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched community forest management projects in certain States with World Bank assistance;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals from certain States including Orissa to launch such projects with World Bank assistance in their respective areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken on each such proposals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have recently launched the "Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project" with an estimated project cost of Rs. 625.43 crores, with the assistance of the World Bank. The development objective of the project is to "reduce rural poverty through improved forest management with community participation". The project has three main components, a) establishing an enabling environment for community forest management, b) forest management, and c) community development.

(c) to (e) The Government have received proposals for participatory forest management projects seeking World Bank assistance from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. These projects are designed to achieve improved forest management with

people's participation. The Government have posed these projects to the World Bank. No decision on these projects has been taken by the World Bank. The Government have also received a proposal from the State of Orissa for "Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project" seeking assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The project has been referred back to the State for seeking certain clarifications.

Sale of Fertilizers

1032. SHRI AJOY CHKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of fertilizers had fallen considerably during the Kharif season due to severe drought experienced in several parts of the country and as a result the agricultural production too is likely to decline; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The sale of major fertilizers in the country viz Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP), were lower by approximately 6%, 20% and 15% respectively in Kharif, 2002 over the Kharif, 2001 due to drought in several parts of the country. As per the first advance Estimates the production of foodgrains is placed at 90.64 million tons during Kharif 2002 against 111.51 million tonnes during Kharif 2001.

Integration of IA and AI Operations

1033. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom India has bilateral agreements and flights being operated to and from there;

(b) the salient feature of these agreements;

(c) whether India fully utilises its capacities with all the countries;

(d) if not, whether the Indian Airlines also proposes to start operations to such countries;

(e) whether the Government propose to integrate the operations of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) India has so far entered into Air Services Agreements with 97 countries. These agreements provide the basic legal framework for operation of scheduled air services between India and the country concerned.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Indian Airlines is presently operating to 13 countries physically.

(e) and (f) As per the existing policy, for commencement of international operation on a new route/sector or expansion thereof, the first right of refusal would be with Air India, which will have to be exercised within a given time frame. If Air India does not exercise the option or does not intend to do so, this could be offered to Indian Airlines. Efforts are also made to avoid competition between the national carriers to the extent possible.

Effects of Consumption of Firewood on Forest Cover

1034. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) the annual fire wood production vis-a-vis consumption during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the consumption rate is much higher than the production rate;

(c) if so, whether such situation results in the depletion of forest cover; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to a study of Forest Survey of India, in 1996 the requirement and supply of fuel-wood in the country is of the order of 201 and 115 million tonnes respectively. However, no such study has been conducted during the last three years so far on the State-wise annual fire wood production vis-a-vis consumption.

(c) Increase in biotic pressure on forests does have an adverse effect on forest cover.

(d) Various measures taken to increase forests in the country are:

- (i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by States/UTs from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.
- (ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Guidelines to all States/UTs have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (v) A protected areas net-work has been established.
- (vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

New Airports in Madhya Pradesh

1035. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct airports at Bandubgarh, Balaghat, Nimach and Chindwada in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the funds earmarked for these proposed airports;
- (c) the amount released for the purpose; and
- (d) by when the construction of these airports are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Airstrips at Bandubgrah, Balaghat, Nimach and Chindwada in the state of Madhya Pradesh do not belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). At present, AAI has no plan to construct airports at these places.

[Translation]

Water Treatment Plant for Pushkar Sarovar

1036. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to set up a water treatment plant for cleansing of the polluted water of the famous pilgrim spot Pushkar Sarovar in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which the scheme is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for restoration of Pushkar Sarovar for consideration under the centrally sponsored scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Accidents Prone Mines

1037. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Mines Safety has conducted any survey for identifying mines prone to accidents;

(b) whether many mine accidents have taken place recently in various ancillary companies of Coal India Limited; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Directorate General of Mines safety in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Directorate General of Mines Safety prepares a list of accident prone coal mines every year on the basis of severity index which is based on the total manpower employed and accident rate of the coal mines during the reference year.

(b) 12 fatal and 65 serious accidents causing death of 12 persons and injuries to 73 were reported in various ancillary companies of the Coal India Limited during the period August-October, 2002.

(c) Directorate General of Mines Safety inquires

into all the accidents and suitable actions are taken to fix the responsibility of the mine management and also to improve the safety in the mines. Following actions are also taken:-

- (i) Warning to the delinquent.
- (ii) Suspension of the certificate.
- (iii) Modification in the method of working.
- (iv) Action by the management against their employees on the basis of finding of the Directorate General of Mines Safety.
- (v) Prosecution in the court of law.

[English]

**District Level Monitoring Committee
for Drought Relief**

1038. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked all the drought hit States to form District-Level Monitoring Committees for providing smooth relief and to launch Food for Work Programme immediately;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued a number of directions to the States to meet the drought conditions in every affected area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of States that have set up the said committees so far;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the relief is not percolating down to the drought affected victims;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) District-level Monitoring Committees are envisaged under the Schemes of Ministry of Rural Development including the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana from the Special Component of which Food for Work Programme to provide drought relief is financed. Union Agriculture Minister has also requested the State Chief Ministers to associate Members of Parliament and other elected representatives

with these Committees. No formal feed back is so far available in the matter.

(e) to (g) No specific complaints have so far been received in the matter.

**Grants Under Ambulance/
Shelter Scheme**

1039. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants released under the ambulance and shelter schemes separately since July 1, 2002;

(b) the details of instalments pending under each scheme at present; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Since July 1, 2002 a total amount of Rs.71,46,839 under Shelter House Scheme and a total amount of Rs. 7,93,511 under Ambulance Scheme have been sanctioned. The details of the beneficiaries along with the amounts sanctioned are furnished in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) There are ten cases of assistance for shelter houses and five cases of assistance for ambulances, which are awaiting release of assistance/instalments. Details of such cases are given in the enclosed statement-II. The required documents and stipulated inspection reports in respect of these cases were received recently. The process of sanction/release of assistance as per the prescribed procedures is already on.

Statement-I

Shelter House Scheme

S.No.	Name of the Organization	Amount (In Rs.)
1	2	3
1	Dushkal Gauseva Samiti Pali, Rajasthan	7,20,000/-
2	P.F.A. Agra.	11,16,000/-
3	Dayodaya Pashu Sansthan Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh	7,20,000/-

1	2	3
4	Akhil Bharatiya Maharshi Dayanand Gaushala, Rohtak	7,25,125/-
5	Dayodaya Pasu Seva Samiti, Seoni (MP)	10,68,750/-
6	Hari Gramodyog Sansthan, Post Hetarpur, Aligarh, UP.	9,57,565/-
7	Ashurali Vivekananda Samiti, West Bengal	9,23,649/-
8	Chandigarh Animal Welfare & Eco-Development Society, Chandigarh	9,15,750/-
Total		71,46,839/-

Ambulance Scheme

S. No.	Name of the Organization	Amount (In Rs.)
1	Shri Krishna Gau Seva Sansthan, Rajasthan	3,43,511/-
2	Gram Vikas Sansthan, Mathura	4,50,000/-
Total		7 93 511/-

Statement-II*Number of Pending Cases under different Schemes*

S.No.	Name of the Organization	Name of the Scheme
1	2	3
1	People For Animals, Ghaziabad	Shelter
2	SPCA, Jammu	Shelter
3	People For Animals, Lucknow	Shelter
4	Manipur Tribal Welfare Association, Manipur	Shelter
5	Gaushala Baba Phullu Sadh, Jind	Shelter
6	Shri Gaushala Dairy, Datta, Hissar	Shelter
7 & 8	People For Animals, Gurgaon (Animal Hospital, Sadhrana)	Shelter & Ambulance
9	People For Animals, Kendrapara	Shelter
10	Shri Marudhar Jain Kesari Gaushala, Pali, Rajasthan	Shelter

1	2	3
11 & 12	SPCA, Kashmir	Shelter (Maintenance) & Ambulance
13	Circle of Animal Lovers	Ambulance
14	People For Animal, Thoubal, Manipur	Ambulance
15	Youth & Women's Voluntary Organization, Imphal East Distt.	Ambulance

Renovation of Old Domestic Terminals

1040. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to renovate the old domestic terminals at all the airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Renovation of old terminal building at domestic airports is a continuous process and is taken up regularly depending upon the requirement, conditions and availability of financial resources. Domestic Terminal 1-B Indira Gandhi International Airport, and terminals of Ranchi airport, Ahmedabad airport, Calicut and Bhavnagar airports have been taken up for modifications. A canopy is provided on the city side of Terminal 1-B at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai, Trivandrum International Airport and Patna airport. Flooring is done at Patna and Goa airports. Aerobridges are being provided at Patna and Goa airports. Extension of domestic block including canopy at Mangalore airport is nearing completion. Flooring of the Domestic Terminal has been relaid at Calicut Airport. Renovation and Expansion of old terminal building at Vijayawada, Trichy, Gaya and Madurai Airports have been completed.

Schemes/Programmes of Agricultural Universities

1041. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes of agricultural and technology universities funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Union Government in Gujarat;

(b) the funds allocated therefor during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any mechanism for evaluating their achievements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) All India Co-ordinated Research Projects, National Agriculture Technology Projects, and Development and Strengthening of State Agricultural Universities are the schemes/ Programmes implemented by Gujarat Agriculture University funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Union Government in Gujarat.

(b) The Funds allocated during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are Rs. 674.80, 1864.17 and 1231.83 lacs respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Quinquennial Review is done by the teams consisting of external members. They evaluate the achievements of the funded schemes/programmes.

Evaluation of Cooperative Institutions

1042. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry have been evaluating the performance of the cooperative institutions to ensure that they are being run as per the aims and objectives and there are no irregularities and complaints about their functioning;

(b) If so, the number of times the Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and NAFED inspected by the Central Registrar during the last three years so far and the type of irregularities, found in those societies; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Cooperation is a State subject and the cooperatives registered under the concerned State Cooperative Societies Acts are being controlled by the concerned State Governments. The Central Government is administering Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act (MSCS Act) under which Societies with the objects to serve the interest of members of more than one State are being registered and these societies are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the MSCS Act through audit, inquiries, elections, inspections etc. It is however pointed out that under the new MSCS Act 2002, the Central Registrar has no suo-moto powers of audit, inquiries and inspections.

(b) and (c) As pointed out above, under the new MSCS

Act, 2002, the Central Registrar has no suo-moto powers of inspections and inquiries. However, under the old MSCS Act 1984, the Central Registrar had got the Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF inspected through the authorized officer during the year 2001-02. No cognizable irregularities were revealed.

[Translation]

Facelift of Airports in Four Metros

1043. SHRI SATYAVRATA CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertaken face-lift of the airports in all four metropolitans to bring them at par with international standards;

(b) if so, the shortcomings identified by the Government; and

(c) by when the said task will be completed alongwith the expenditure proposed to be incurred on each of these airports?

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

(b) and (c) Modification of the Terminal Building of the four metro airports is a continuing process. The restructuring of the metro airports through private participation is expected to upgrade the facilities at metro airports to world class standards. In the mean time, works like modification to Terminal-1B and 2B at IGI Airport at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 54.77 crores, City side canopy at Terminal-2B and Modification of International Terminal Building at Kolkata at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 11.24 crores and extension of Terminal Building, Aerolink on airside at bay No.26 and covering of atrium for increased areas at Chennai airport at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 88.44 crores have been taken up. Certain work have already been completed and the rest of works are expected to be completed by March, 2004.

[English]

Production of Foodgrains

1044. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out strategies to double the foodgrain production in the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether additional funds have been allocated for the same;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for increasing the yield of paddy and oilseeds through the use of Most-Modern Technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to double the foodgrain production in the next ten years.

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

(d) and (e) All the states including Tamil Nadu are being given assistance under Macro Management scheme for increasing the production of foodgrains, which includes paddy also. Under the programme an amount of Rs.42.00 crores has been allocated to Tamil Nadu during the year 2002-03. In addition, for increasing the production of oilseeds, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is also being implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu under which an amount of Rs.4.50 crores has been allocated to Tamil Nadu during 2002-03.

Tax Multiplicity in F.P.I.

1045. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring in bills aimed at addressing the industry's complaints of tax multiplicity regulation and standards;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to achieve another five percent growth in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted by the Government for proposing legislative and other changes for preparing a modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations.

(b) and (c) In a study got conducted recently by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries through National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) a growth rate of 10.1 per cent for food processing industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan has been projected in case the GDP grows at 8 per cent per annum.

Mercury Contents in Water near Union Carbide Factory

1046. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ground water sources near the former Union Carbide Factory contains high levels of mercury which is hazardous to health, rendering it unfit for human consumption as per the news report appearing in the Times of India dated September 30, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the mercury and toxic contents of this water indicating the central aid if any, sought by State Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to secure damages from the former Union Carbide Factory for polluting the ground water?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) has conducted two surveys for the assessment of quality of ground water in 11 different locations around the Union Carbide premises during October 2002. In two of the samples, mercury concentration was detected to exceed the desirable limits of drinking water quality prescribed under BIS 10500:1991.

(c) and (d) The Gas Rahat & Punarvas Vibhag, Government of Madhya Pradesh is coordinating activities relating to the remediation of the contaminated sites. On the initiation of MPPCB, studies have been conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) regarding assessment of contaminated areas and the recommendations have been submitted to the Gas Rahat & Punarvas Vibhag, Government of Madhya Pradesh for necessary action. Further, the state department is taking possible steps for the safe disposal of waste lying within Union Carbide premises.

[Translation]

Facilities to Ground Water Scientists

1047. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water scientists of the Central Ground Water Board demanded from the Government the same facilities as are provided to the other scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scientists working in the Ground Water Board and the details of the differences existing in their pay-scales, promotions etc. in comparison to the other scientists; and

(d) by when the Government propose to rectify the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government have received representations from time to time inviting attention to the grievances of the Scientists working in Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). These grievances mainly relate to delayed promotions of Scientists working at various levels. These grievances are looked into and action is taken to remedy them, wherever necessary in consultation with other concerned department/agency e.g. Department of Personnel and Training.

(c) At present 362 Scientists are working in Central Ground Water Board and are getting pay scales and other benefits at par with other scientific departments of the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Discovery of Scriptures

1048. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain scriptures unearthed in November, 2001 are reported to have been recently recovered from INTACH godowns of Khajuraho;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in reporting the finding to ASI;

(c) the action the Government propose to take against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the measures proposed to check such recurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter was reported to the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal Circle by the Collector, Chhattarpur on the 15th July, 2002 after the seizure of the sculptures who reported the matter to the Director General subsequently.

(c) and (d) A Heritage Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector comprising members from various local bodies is in position and the local police authorities have stepped up vigilance in the region. Appropriate action would be taken against guilty as per law.

Proposals from Kerala to Promote Tourism

1049. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private organisations, agencies, trusts or NGOs from Kerala have submitted several proposals to the Union Government relating to tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken and amounts sanctioned and utilised, project wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has been receiving proposals from different private organisations/NGOs for development of tourism in the States including Kerala.

According to the guidelines there is no scheme in the Department of Tourism under which funds for tourism projects can be sanctioned to such agencies.

During the last three years, 40 projects at a cost of Rs.2170.00 lakhs have been sanctioned to the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala.

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

in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the State of Kerala.

In pursuance of the proposals received from the State Tourism Department of Kerala, during the current financial year 2002-2003, a Southern Travel Circuit -(Backwater and Beach Circuit) - Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon- Trivandrum (Kovalam) for the development of tourism in Kerala has been considered. Bekal has also been included in the Western Circuit (Konkan Riviera circuit).

[Translation]

Office Expenses in Ministry of Steel

1050. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by various departments and public sector undertakings under his Ministry during each of the last three years on publicity, advertisements, hotels, hospitality, catering, inaugurations, functions, meetings, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign) STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bills (especially air-conditioners and cooler bills) and other office expenses separately under each head;

(b) whether the Government propose to initiate any drive for economy in expenditure under above head;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare Schemes for Workers of Unorganised Sector

1051. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers benefited from the various schemes being run by the Government for unorganised sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose special cess on the employers for the welfare of workers in unorganised sector; and

(c) if so, the benefits is likely to be accrued to the workers therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government have set up Welfare Funds to provide social security and welfare measures to certain categories of workers i.e. beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers under the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976; the Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and the Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981. These funds are used to provide various kinds of welfare measures to the workers such as health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. During the year 2001-02, about 63.5 lakh patients were attended, 3.8 lakh scholarships awarded and sanction for construction of 8432 houses given under these Welfare Funds. The Government have also launched Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 in identified 50 districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. About 1.01 lakh agricultural workers have been covered during the year 2001-02. In addition to this, Janshree Bima Yojana is in operation since 2000 to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorganised workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. Further, the Government is also implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/ Departments. Some of such schemes are: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Sampooma Grameen Rojgar Yojana, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-Nepal Treaty

1052. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to utilize the potential of northern tributaries of Ganga flowing from Nepal and Indo-Nepal treaty on the integrated development of Maha Kali River was signed and after various deliberations of the Indo-Nepal Joint Group of Experts it was decided to set up a joint project office at Kathmandu and field offices in the country to prepare Detailed Project Report;

(b) if so, whether these offices have since been set up; and

(c) if so, the locations with their composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Project Office - Pancheshwar Investigation (JPO-PI) was set up on 10.12.1999 and after carrying out necessary field investigations this was closed on 31.07.2002.

(c) JPO-PI was set up at Kathmandu (Nepal) along with a Divisional office at Tanakpur (India) which comprised of officers/staff in the field of engineering geology, administration, accounts etc.

Induction of Directors in IA

1053. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Directors have been inducted into the Indian Airlines at a time when the Airlines is suffering with regular losses; and

(b) if so, the number of Directors inducted into the Indian Airlines in the recent times indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Ten (10) posts of Directors have been filled up in the year 2002. These posts have been filled up by Indian Airlines by promotion from the cadre of General Managers, the immediate lower cadre, in Indian Airlines.

[Translation]

Construction of Building on EPF Land

1054. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the status of building to be constructed on the Employees Provident Fund land in Wazirpur Industrial area in Delhi as on October 31, 2002;

(b) whether any work has been commenced so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of action taken against the officers found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The

construction work has commenced and the work of piling of foundation and water tank has already been completed.

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

[English]

Reforms in Agriculture Sector

1055. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the State Governments for undertaking reforms in agriculture sector including in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry held any meeting with the representatives of State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the State Governments have agreed with the Central Government's proposal; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide proper guidance and support in terms of technology and infrastructure to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Government of India in consultation with State Government from time to time introduces reforms in Agriculture Sector including Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism for enhancement of Agricultural production and productivity. In pursuance to this objective, regular meetings, conferences, discussions are held with the State Governments periodically. The State Government have undertaken a series of reforms in the agriculture.

(e) For dissemination of Information & Technology, the farmers are guided through extension net work, trainings, visits, media demonstrations, trade fairs etc. Government is also keenly pursuing various policies for development of infrastructure in rural areas including power, irrigation, transport and communication, construction of godowns, cold storages, provision of marketing facilities.

[Translation]

Schemes for Welfare of Fishermen

1056. SHRI RAM RATI BIND:

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India earns foreign exchange of Rs.6.5 crore by exporting fish every Year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have allowed foreign trawlers for fishing unabatedly in the Indian sea, which jeopardises the livelihood of the fishermen;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are planning to curtail the right of stay of the fishermen in Jambu Island;

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

(f) the details of the programmes implemented by the Government for the welfare of fishermen?

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

[English]

Demand for Announcement of Minimum Support Price

1057. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and some other States have demanded early announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy and certain other crops including some concessions for farmers in drought hit States;

(b) if so, the details of the demands put forth by the States; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The State Governments of Punjab and other States had asked for early announcement of Minimum Support Prices (M.S.Ps) for Kharif Crops including paddy, fixation of higher M.S.P. of paddy (Rs. 570-850), Coarse Cereals (Rs.530-878), Pulses (Rs.1450-2261), Groundnut-in-shell (Rs.1460-1983), Cotton (Rs. 1875-3400), payment of bonus etc.

(c) The Government announced the Minimum Support Prices of various Kharif Crops for 2002-03 Season taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (C.A.C.P), the views of State Government and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors considered important for fixation of Minimum Support Prices Keeping in view the failure of monsoon in various parts of the country during June-August, 2002, the Government announced Special Drought Relief Prices for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season. The Special Drought Relief Prices are over and above M.S.Ps. already announced for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season. A statement showing Minimum Support Prices and the Special Drought Relief Prices fixed by the Government for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum support price and special drought relief price for Kharif crops of 2002-03 season

(Rs. Per quintal)

Crop / Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Price	Special Drought Relief Price
1	2	3	4
Paddy	Common	530	20
	Grade-A.	560	20
Jowar		485	5
Bajra		485	10
Maize		485	5
Ragi		485	5
Tur (Arhar)		1320	5
Moong		1330	5
Urad		1330	5
Groundnut-in-shell		1355	20

1	2	3	4
Soyabean	Yellow	885	10
	Black	795	10
Sunflowerseed		1195	15
Sesamum		1450	5
Nigerseed		1120	0
Cotton (Kapas)	F-414/H-777/ J-34	1675	20
	H-4	1875	20

[Translation]

Trolley Scam

1058. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has registered a criminal case and fraudulent act against a private company - TDI International Private Limited for violating the contract for supply of trollies at five International Airports and thereby causing pecuniary loss of Rs. 21.5 crores to the AAI;

(b) whether this scam has taken place through active connivance of certain officials of the Authority;

(c) whether the Government have since fixed any responsibilities; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken against the above company and the officials involved?

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

(b) to (d) The CBI has yet to submit its report. It is not possible, at this stage, to indicate the details of the erring officials of Airports Authority of India and their culpability and also the details of the action proposed to be taken against them and the company.

[English]

Completion of Terminal Building at Lilabari Airport

1059. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Terminal Building at Lilabari Airport has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of total cost and the extent of cost escalation, if any;

(c) whether any airlines have proposed to operate flights from here with the completion of terminal building; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The new terminal building complex at Lilabari airport has already been completed. The total cost is Rs. 18.45 crores which includes Rs. 1.58 crores towards cost escalation. M/s Alliance Air is operating 2 days per week flight on Guwahati-Lilabari-Guwahati sector using B-737 type of aircraft.

[Translation]

Extinction of Species of Birds and Animals

1060. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to mode of census of birds and animals in the country;

(b) the names of species of birds and animals at present in the country;

(c) the details of species of birds and animals which have been on the verge of extinction during the last five years, and thereafter, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save species of rare birds and animals in the country alongwith the funds made available for the purpose and spent during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Estimation of population of birds and animals is done by following methods:

- i. Direct visual count.
- ii. Interpretations of evidences like droppings, pug-marks, number of calls, number of kills etc.
- iii. Photo-trap method.
- iv. Capture, release and recapture.
- v. Radio-telemetry.

(b) It is estimated that there are more than 89,451 species of animals including birds in the country which will constitute a long list. However, names of important species

of animals and birds have been listed in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) No species has reached the verge of extinction during the last five years. However, there has been alarming decrease in the number of vultures in the country during this period.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to save the rare birds and animals in the country include:

- i. Hunting of all wild animals and birds has been banned under Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972.
- ii. Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as national parks and sanctuaries. Some of the important wetlands have also been notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
- iii. Regular patrolling of the area to control poaching and illegal trade in wild animals and their products is done. Cooperation of other enforcement agencies and international organisations is also taken in this regard.
- iv. Management of the wildlife habitats IS done on scientific lines for betterment of wildlife.
- v. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments

for effective management of national parks and sanctuaries.

- vi. Scientific research for monitoring population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.
- vii. Transfer of wildlife management technology to field managers through training and workshops.
- viii. Creation of awareness about the importance of Wildlife conservation.
- ix. Action to implement the recommendations of the international workshop on vultures has been initiated.
- x. Implementation of Coimbatore Charter arrived at the Conference of State Ministers of Environment & Forests at Coimbatore on 29th and 30th January, 2001 to mitigate the problem relating to wildlife conservation.
- xi. National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.

State-wise details of release and utilisation of funds for development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and wildlife conservation during the last 5 years and thereafter are furnished in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Funds Released and Utilised under the scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" during IXth Five Year Plan and thereafter (31.10.2002)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1997-98	Utilisation	1998-99	Utilisation	1999-2000	Utilisation	2000-01	Utilisation	2001-02	2002-03 (As on 31.10.2002)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	43.39	42.13	50.72	39.18	87.54	95.37	186.07	184.60	88.595	74.43
2	Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	Nil	57.91	10.94	50.983	95.42	121.12	141.80	160.465	57.93
3	Assam	54.62	Nil	58.05	77.455	53.44	59.38	317.205	169.14	70.55	127.25
4	Bihar	6.00	17.15		Nil	27.85	18.90	21.02	24.57	4.52	-
5	Chhattisgarh									36.94	25.45
6	Goa		4.63	11.07	9.45	21.305	22.80	10.50	14.45	78.43	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Gujarat	17.005	24.61	13.80	13.00	22.105	26.80	65.27	40.01	127.20	37.92
8.	Haryana	14.57	17.76	37.20	17.90	21.55	42.90	28.35	3.27	15.64	18.75
9.	Himachal Pradesh	61.50	60.30	49.80	57.69	47.46	42.20	165.30	164.54	11.235	63.10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	124.70	18.07	70.00	84.60	5.55	25.09			26.00	99.90
11.	Karnataka	78.17	62.04	84.12	84.48	100.319	98.44	307.18	290.298	388.26	473.65
12.	Kerala	49.29	53.86	49.35	48.84	59.975	56.795	102.62	82.242	81.50	146.20
13.	Madhya Pradesh	195.67	120.89	35.93	73.44	152.203	167.12	182.195	194.931	99.38	105.30
14.	Maharashtra	48.845	34.24	27.783	27.99	123.43	131.43	90.96	93.235	153.368	61.19
15.	Manipur	13.50	13.50	19.64	16.64	13.28	16.28	41.784	10.00	26.81	26.00
16.	Meghalaya		Nil	Nil	12.45	Nil	Nil	66.36	44.99	27.95	41.00
17.	Mizoram	13.48	10.34	8.45	11.04	12.30	8.85	102.31	132.52	128.55	125.50
18.	Nagaland	15.29	12.67	9.00	11.62	9.70	9.70	31.85	29.00	43.13	76.00
19.	Orissa	34.22	61.72	68.73	10.00	94.74	14.35	3.50	83.93	70.265	57.20
20.	Punjab	14.03	9.38	8.65	0.56	11.57	17.19	26.39	17.178	29.60	
21.	Rajasthan	82.34	91.98	89.52	24.93	66.54	65.32	116.00	153.679	73.00	199.68
22.	Sikkim	12.51	13.12	11.00	6.96	12.00	25.20	97.45	N.A.	30.45	87.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	61.284	60.02	74.63	72.20	61.18	68.61	89.83	103.79	75.23	69.75
24.	Tripura	29.81	8.53	-	21.00	19.97	13.10	21.90	28.60	46.41	49.40
25.	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	99.75	89.57	78.93	117.81	127.85	144.60	136.15	79.815	122.55
26.	Uttaranchal									38.13	68.38
27.	West Bengal	69.69	58.19	72.96	70.35	55.20	60.29	90.22	102.14	180.945	161.46
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.56	Nil	-	18.02	22.00	9.12	50.00	33.07	25.59	0.47
29.	Chandigarh	12.00	Nil	-	12.00	28.00	20.00		8.00	18.40	14.00
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli									6.01	15.25
31.	Daman & Diu										
32.	Lakshadweep										
Total		1212.537		934.883		1298.00		2479.984		2342.068	2404.71

Total amount Released during IXth Plan 8267.472 lakhs

Total amount Utilised during IX Plan 5421.583 lakhs

Allocation for Xth Plan Rs. 350 crores

Funds Released and Utilised under the Scheme "Eco Development in and around National Park and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves" during IXth Five Year Plan - State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl No	State	Fund Released 1997-98	Utilised	Fund Released 1998-99	Utilised	Fund Released 1999-2000	Utilised	Fund Released 2000-2001	Utilised	Fund Released 2001-2002	Utilised
1	Andhra Pradesh	25.399	10.20	40.020	54.60	44.534	44.13	33.548	33.80	69.595	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.998	12.80	15.229	9.98	13.820	13.61	31.83	39.50	45.153	
3.	Assam	10.250		42.34	24.50	32.00	3.50	45.51	94.92	43.81	11.05
4	Bihar		-	15.00		38.39	32.00	28.99	-	33.86	-
5.	Gujarat	-		-	-	9.64	-	26.22	12.95	32.56	
6	Himachal Pradesh	58.40	11.50	-	2.13	86.84	105.49	66	63.70	131.346	104.30
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.49		-		13.70	-	-		-	-
8.	Karnataka	34.65	24.19	20.35	-	73.80	77.67	209.02	96.84	339.34	
9.	Kerala		60.058	70.55	61.532	36.45	44.327	153.439	64.962	138.27	-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	51.33	8.00	65.89	44.717	63.277	47.677	126.53	107.54	231.974	247.71
11.	Maharashtra	7.435	7.377	41.880	31.833	96.153	34.558	27	37.81	26.40	57.08
12.	Manipur	4.750	4.75	10.400	10.40	10.110	10.11	21.445	12.77	9.15	-
13	Meghalaya							21.52	16.06	17.106	-
14	Mizoram	10.500	10.50	2.00	-	64.55	14.77	118.05	110.25	226.83	56.78
15.	Nagaland	-	-	10.00	-	8.00	13.00	23.25	13.00	28.45	28.45
16.	Orissa	45.775	31.165	22.60	9.094	12.00	20.516	56.16	30.00	42.60	31.04
17.	Punjab	9.140	-	10.20	-	-		-	-	12.272	
18.	Rajasthan	36.93	31.53	53.44	11.54	16.74	-	-	39.20	80.20	-
19.	Sikkim		-	5.85	-	32.63	-	29.60	30.63	26.225	
20	Tamil Nadu	4.12		18.10	-	31.96	-	6.30	1.53	6.38	
21	Tripura			44.40	-	-	29.223	20.00	20.00	44.346	
22	Uttar Pradesh	41.453	13.95	101.860	10.00	66.51	35.95	113.74	76.91	118.00	
23	West Bengal	66.525	41.725	41.39	39.60	48.889		153.00	134.36	121.953	
24.	Jharkhand									12.56	
25.	Uttarakhand									82.00	
26	Chhattisgarh									24.70	
Total		414.5		634.499		799.993		1311.152		1966.07	

Funds Released and Utilised under "Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development Scheme" during IXth Five Year Plan - State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Fund Released 1997-98	Utilised	Fund Released 1998-99	Utilised	Fund Released 1999-2000	Utilised	Fund Released 2000-2001	Fund Released 2001-2002
1.	Madhya Pradesh	45.00	90.19	350.00	177.84	201.08	130.14	200.00	300.00
2.	Karnataka	25.00	-	-	25.00	68.50	68.50	64.65	100.00
3.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.00	-
4.	Orissa	40.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		110.00	90.19	350.00	202.84	269.58	198.64	310.65	400.00

Funds Released and Utilised under "Project Tiger" during IXth Five Year Plan and thereafter - State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Fund Release 1997-98	Utilised	Fund Released 1998-99	Utilised	Fund Released 1999-2000	Utilised	Fund Released 2000-2001	Utilised	Fund Released 2001-2002	Fund Released 2002-03 (as on 30/10/02)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.70	10.51	18.01	16.051	29.036	27.118	45.00	52.538	21.00	10.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	14.94	47.68	22.45	30.590		32.607	28.505	82.76	35.875
3.	Assam	45.08	29.33	35.00	8.29	87.290	18.115	156.10	81.42	46.00	65.00
4.	Chhattisgarh									35.00	20.00
5.	Bihar	36.75	32.515	153.99	116.757	165.952	58.749	87.077	0	50.00	25.00
6.	Jharkhand								109.013	75.625	18.00
7.	Karnataka	25.00	25.00	69.34	69.34	167.079	116.499	193.36	239.104	181.434	100.00
8.	Kerala	34.95	32.62	39.19	35.033	43.865	38.89	50.00	-	50.00	50.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	133.778	115.58	225.125	204.89	332.160	207.105	433.567	270.003	472.18	416.00
10.	Maharashtra	60.53	53.79	110.74	89.90	134.765	116.665	167.931	118.72	209.231	153.855
11.	Meghalaya			-				1.50			
12.	Mizoram	12.45	11.85	9.85	6.80	21.430	10.43	27.58	-	20.495	53.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Orissa	49.30	40.45	67.65	39.75	84.450	31.34	83.31	-	126.81	
14	Rajasthan	149.885	132.035	472.265	123.803	222.595	137.755	299.705	271.671	170.319	119.00
15	Tamil Nadu	45.60	45.60	32.50	25.19	58.780	39.16	60.315	-	16.00	50.00
16	Uttaranchal								-	181.825	50.00
17	Uttar Pradesh	125.012	124.56	199.75	180.47	234.23	197.12	181.655	-	67.40	32.75
18	West Bengal	58.95	53.92	179.985	142.22	137.140	115.60	98.18	384.2717	142.176	80.00
Total		807.985	408.415	1660.875	518.233	1749.162	1114.546	1917.887		1948.495	1278.19

Statement showing year-wise position of Funds Released and Expenditure under "India Eco-Development Project" during IX Plan and thereafter

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	Released during 97-98	Expenditure during 97-98	Released during 98-99	Expenditure during 98-99	Released during 99-2000	Expenditure during 99-2000	Released during 2000-01	Expenditure during 2000-01	Released during 2001-02	Expenditure during 2001-02	Released during 2002-03 (as on 30/11/2001)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Rajasthan	50.00	17.640	158.000	41.470	150.000	255.820	531.28	437.773	227.50	329.29	400.00
2.	West Bengal	377.00	174.605	457.700	305.399	512.800	771.060	459.390	560.960	848.63	500.50	150.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	50.00	42.840	365.870	217.436	417.720	297.750	322.940	461.440	643.79	477.20	195.45
4.	Bihar/ Jharkhand	50.00	-	89.985	61.145	200.000	126.786	125.00	265.376	325.67	262.00	0
5.	Gujarat	360.00	278.200	161.000	242.900	689.200	557.580	658.73	591.990	300.00	407.74	315.00
6.	Kerala	449.50	127.650	378.950	418.730	402.570	441.130	561.81	620.390	704.41	597.00	0
7.	Karnataka	50.00	59.990	432.000	377.560	955.15	709.59	425.85	725.850	950.00	867.40	500.00
	Total	1386.50	700.945	2043.505	1664.94	3327.44	3159.716	3085.00	3489.075	4000.00	3441.49	1580.45

Funds Released and Utilised under "Project Elephant" during IXth Five Year Plan and thereafter - State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl No.	State	Fund Released 1997-98	Utilised	Fund Released 1998-99	Utilised	Fund Released 1999-2000	Utilised	Fund Released 2000-2001	Utilised	Fund Released 2001-2002	Fund Released 2002-03 (as on 30/10/02)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	18.90	15.30	30.21	20.37	11.86	11.86	46.30	42.666	31.00	35.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	10.08	-	19.303	3.55	89.81	78.00	56.00	35.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Assam	-	-	29.60	29.25	25.15	-	45.00	19.50	94.50	70.00
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	-		40.00	40.00	26.00		5.00		22.69	45.00
5.	Karnataka	51.79	45.65	40.00	32.09	85.00	85.00	51.00	26.00	81.00	60.00
6.	Kerala	76.87	69.39	143.40	141.75	63.55	51.80	66.05	64.24	82.00	75.00
7.	Meghalaya	12.31	-	-		20.68		35.73	14.90	30.00	35.00
8.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-		1.00	1.00		
9.	Manipur	-	-	-		-	-	1.00	-	-	
10.	Nagaland	-		11.00	11.00	40.00	40.00	35.17	35.17	72.13	35.00
11.	Orissa	48.40	47.18	-		25.00	3.64	29.75	0.97	102.03	70.00
12.	Tripura		-	-			-			2.00	
13.	Tamil Nadu	30.60	30.40	69.28	67.61	48.21	22.21	50.00	24.00	40.00	55.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	111.95	109.45	95.00	95.00	155.806	99.99	100.00	24.20	125.14	80.00
15.	West Bengal	84.72	77.42	78.44	48.44	76.011	61.80	79.04	65.317	95.00	50.50
Total											645.50

[English]

Financial Assistance to Agriculture Engineering Graduates

1061. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to Agricultural /Agriculture Engineering Graduates for their self employment;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have identified any specific banks to implement this scheme;

(d) if so, the name of such Banks; and

(e) the details of funds cleared so far for this programme?

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

and (b) A new Central Sector Scheme "Establishment of a Network of Agri Clinics & Agri Business Centres" was launched during 2001-2002. This Scheme was envisaged as a self employment scheme for graduates in agriculture and allied subjects with a view to supplement and strengthen the existing government machinery in agricultural extension by harnessing the vast potential of trained agricultural graduates, who are unemployed, in providing expert services and advice to the farmers on cropping practices, adoption of technology, crop protection, technical and other specialized services which will enhance agricultural productivity. The scheme will assist agricultural graduates and graduates in subjects allied to agriculture in setting up Agri clinics/Agri business ventures in identified activities.

(c) and (d) There is no specific bank identified to implement this scheme. Local banks will appraise the Projects proposals submitted by the graduates under the scheme, and if the Project proposals are found to be viable by the local banker, loan under the scheme shall be advanced to the graduate concerned. This is basically a Banking Scheme, where loan shall be disbursed as per

existing RBI norms. Loan under the Scheme shall be refinanced by NABARD.

(e) A sum of Rs.1 crore has been released during the year 2001-2002 for implementing the training component of the scheme.

Safety Supervision in Mines

1062. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over safety supervision in mines to the private agencies rather than modernizing and strengthening the Directorate General of Mines Safety; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Enforcement of Environmental Laws

1063. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government are of the view that there is need for better monitoring and a more effective enforcement of the environment related regulations in the energy sector;

(b) if so, whether the norms prescribed for mitigation of the adverse environment effects of energy production are yet to be met;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(e) whether his ministry has prepared a report on financial performance of power sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Monitoring of control of pollution in Power Plants including enforcement of environment related regulations is ensured through the Regional Offices of the Ministry and the concerned State Pollution Control Boards. The prescribed norms include compliance with the emission and effluent standards by the thermal power plants, use of beneficiated coal containing ash not more than 34%, to augment/renovate existing Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) in a time bound manner and utilisation of fly ash. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to the Thermal Power Plants for compliance of the notified pollution control norms.

(e) and (f) The Planning Commission publishes Annual Report on the working of State Electricity Boards (SEBs). As per this Report the gap between average cost of supply of electricity and average tariff has increased from a level of 50 p/kwh in 1996-97 to 110 p/kwh in 2001-02. The estimated commercial losses with subsidy of the SEBs have increased from Rs. 2,725 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 24,837.22 crores in 2001-02 (Annual Plan).

Employment Assurance Programme

1064. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The details of financial allocation made under Employment Assurance Programme to the North Eastern States during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the amount actually spent on the said programme State-wise, during the above period;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details of funds released and utilized under the Employment Assurance Scheme in the North-Eastern States during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Employment Assurance Scheme being a continuing Scheme, the allocated funds not utilizing during a financial year are carried forward to the next year upto 15% of the total available funds.

Statement

*Financial and Physical Performance Under Employment Assurance
Scheme (EAS) during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 in North Eastern States*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Opening Balance			Total Funds Released			Total Available Fund			Expenditure		
		1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1225.72	201.63	239.70	959.00	1062.48	652.30	2184.72	1264.11	899.57	1360.57	721.85	298.20
2	Assam	3600.72	1771.29	2590.04	6701.11	6315.31	15344.34	10301.83	8086.60	17956.60	9369.96	5880.31	12103.40
3	Manipur	426.95	107.48	0.00	410.48	478.58	523.72	837.43	586.06	523.72	766.44	126.38	0.00
4	Meghalaya	460.57		197.84	294.31	500.88	1035.87	754.88	500.88	1233.71	465.47		974.54
5	Mizoram	24.35	307.81	36.77	635.49	244.48	538.18	659.84	552.29	576.11	354.90	517.00	475.54
6	Nagaland	330.96	4.42	26.48	432.62	961.52	695.06	763.58	965.94	721.54	748.31	639.74	171.61
7	Sikkim	15.02	11.66	2.98	557.10	613.84	384.60	572.12	625.50	388.17	361.33	625.09	170.00
8	Tripura	0.00	0.00	214.55	1201.46	1616.30	2221.59	1201.46	1616.30	2436.14	1201.46	503.94	2396.72
Total		6084.29	2404.29	3308.36	11191.58	11793.39	21395.66	17275.87	14197.68	24735.56	14628.44	9014.31	16590.01

[Translation]

Promotion of Food Processing Industries

1065. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the bumper production of fruits in each State of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the number of food processing industries in the States is much less and does not commensurate with the production of fruits there;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote food processing industries in the States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) Data regarding fruits produced State-wise including in Himachal Pradesh in the country is

maintained by the National Horticulture Board. Number of food processing industries set up in the State depends on a number of factors including available marketable surplus, price of such raw material, availability of trained manpower, demand for fresh and processed products, etc. It has been estimated on the basis of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955, that the percentage of fruits and vegetables processed in the country is under 2% of the market arrivals.

For promotion of food processing industries, Government have taken up the tasks of strengthening infrastructure, providing assistance for technology upgradation, modernisation/expansion of existing units, providing support in Backward and Forward Linkages and through assistance in training human resources. Himachal Pradesh falls under the category of difficult area and is entitled to higher scale of assistance compare to the rest of the country.

Further, Government has taken steps in formulating draft Policy for Food Processing Industries create enabling environment, develop appropriate legislative framework to guide the sector and also recommend rationalised tax regime for the same.

Funds for Development of Horticulture

1066. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds spent by the Government for the development of horticulture during the last three years. State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the target of the development of Horticulture achieved as a result thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to the States particularly Maharashtra and Rajasthan for the purpose during the current financial year. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State-wise details of funds released to various State Governments for promoting horticulture during the last three years, including funds released under macro-management schemes during 2001-02 under which horticultural development programmes were also taken up is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Annual targets for horticulture production are not being fixed. However, the production of horticulture has been registering consistent increase as per the information given below:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
1998-99	145.16
1999-2000	149.93
2000-01	152.50

(c) The funds allocated to the Governments of Maharashtra and Rajasthan for implementing various Central Sector Schemes for horticulture during the current financial year is Rs. 4840.85 lakhs and Rs. 517.50 lakhs respectively.

Statement

Funds released to various State Governments for Promoting Horticulture

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1560.22	204.25	2250.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	195.35	41.35	219.50

1	2	3	4	5
3	Assam	42.55	21.44	523.50
4	Bihar	26.55	31.42	1800.00
5	Jharkhand	-	-	1095.00
6	Goa	150.05	21.62	200.00
7	Gujarat	346.40	216.71	1900.00
8	Haryana	262.88	97.38	1620.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	93.28	45.87	1800.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	266.73	132.38	900.00
11	Karnataka	3111.00	354.94	5850.00
12	Kerala	1426.32	177.74	2315.54
13	Madhya Pradesh	473.70	140.34	5000.00
14	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1339.02
15	Maharashtra	3573.80	385.97	9000.00
16	Manipur	145.78	45.03	345.00
17	Meghalaya	59.96	39.02	204.74
18	Mizoram	148.69	42.89	722.00
19	Nagaland	196.82	45.25	779.80
20	Orissa	1809.13	285.38	1487.00
21	Punjab	59.40	75.23	1035.00
22	Rajasthan	535.26	213.15	5252.00
23	Sikkim	220.55	55.96	425.00
24	Tamil Nadu	1572.53	213.92	4500.00
25	Tripura	91.42	38.87	630.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	507.91	162.48	7501.00
27	Uttaranchal			1400.00
28	West Bengal	45.85	35.41	2500.00
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	24.96	22.94	90.00
30	Chandigarh	5.00	0.88	50.00
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11.41	6.10	135.00
32	Daman & Diu	11.00	5.07	45.00

1	2	3	4	5
33	Delhi	6.30	13.38	-
34	Lakshadweep	17.09	5.01	90.00
35	Pondicherry	11.00	20.62	135.00

[English]

FPI in Public and Joint Venture

1067. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- the details of the food processing units running in the public sector and in joint venture as on date;
- the number of food processing units which are earning profits and incurring losses separately;
- the names of the processed food items being exported and the details of their major importers; and
- the targets of export in term of quantity during the last three years and current year and the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) There is no central public sector undertaking in the food processing sector. Details of units in the joint venture sector are not being maintained.

(b) The details are not maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(c) Meat and meat products are mainly exported to Malaysia, Philippines, Egypt, UAE, Jordan, Angola, Iran, Oman, Georgia and Lebanon.

Main markets for marine products are China, UAE,

Chinese Taipei, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Bangladesh, France, Lithuania, Portugal, Italy, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Thailand, Australia, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece and Canada.

Main markets for dairy products are Bangladesh, Egypt, UAE, Oman, Malagasy RP, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Yemen, Angola, Kuwait, USA, Germany and Nepal.

Main markets for Fruits & Vegetables (both fresh and dried, etc.) are Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Reunion, Indonesia, Nepal, France, USA, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, Germany, Australia, Italy, Sudan, Egypt, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Greece, Netherlands, Antil, Yemen Republic and Israel.

Main markets for whiskies are UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Netherlands, Nepal and Singapore.

Main markets for flours and meals of oil seeds are Sri Lanka, Japan, Indonesia, Korea DP Republic, Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Philippines and Korea RP.

Main markets for natural gums, resins and oleoresins are USA, Mexico, Italy, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Korea RP and Indonesia.

Main Markets for Vegetable saps & extracts are USA, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Netherlands, South Africa, Australia and Mexico.

(d) In view of the varied nature of the products involved, targets were fixed with reference to value. According to APEDA, New Delhi, targets for exports are available for the last two years only. The details of exports achieved during 1999-2000 and the targets set and the exports achieved since 2000-2001 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(in Rs. Crores)

Item	1999-2000	2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	993.64	965.00	1345.54	1265.00	1100.57
Other Processed Foods	1494.49	1270	1798.03	1200.00	1780.07
Grand Total	2488.13	2235	3143.58	2465.00	2880.64

(Source: APEDA, New Delhi)

Deal for Carbon Project

1068. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has struck a deal worth Rs. 10 million dollars for carbon projects in the carbon markets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF) of the World Bank and the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) signed an agreement on October 21, 2002 which entails IDFC to present suitable projects that it believes would be eligible for carbon financing to PCF for consideration after endorsement by Government of India. According to IDFC, the figure of US\$ 10 million refers to the amount that PCF expects to be able to provide as Carbon Financing for such projects.

Decline in Occupancy in Hotels

1069. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether hotel occupancy in Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata witness a decline as compared to other major cities during the last two years;

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

(c) the extent of loss of revenue to the Government exchequer in those cities; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There has been a general decline of around 2% in the occupancy of hotels in the country during 2001-02, including hotels in Delhi and Kolkata. Except Chennai, which registered an increase in the average occupancy during 2000-2001 as compared to the previous year.

(b) Details of average occupancy are as follows:

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Kolkata	52.9%	66.7%	61.7%
Chennai	58.7%	75.1%	65.0%
Delhi	60.1%	59.3%	55.9%

(Source: FHRAI)

The 11th September 2001 incident, the global economic slowdown, the attack on Indian Parliament in December 2001, the South Asian security scenario and the Indo-Pak standoff led to the decline in hotel occupancy.

(c) The estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2000 registered an increase of 5.3%, whereas there was decline of 4% during 2001.

(d) Various fiscal and financial incentives such as tax exemptions, concessional customs duty on imports etc. are available to approved projects and classified hotels. Besides this, a Special Tourism Promotion Task Force has been set up to boost the growth of tourism in the country. Integrated Development of Identified Tourist Circuits, providing Market Development Assistance to the tourism industry, creating an India Tourism brand and its positioning, etc. are some of the measures taken to improve the situation.

Pending Insurance Claims of Farmers of Punjab

1070. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Insurance claims of the farmers of Punjab lying pending for the last three years and the current year;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to settle the claims expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Punjab is not implementing the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Therefore, the questions of pending claims etc. under crop insurance do not arise.

Engagement of Apprentices in Industrial Establishment

1071. SHRI G.S. BAŞAVARAJ Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial establishments are

increasingly ignoring the mandatory obligation to engage apprentices under the provisions of the Apprentices Act;

(b) if so, whether quotas have been fixed for apprentices in each unit in proportion to skilled personnel employed by the unit;

(c) whether the Government are considering to initiate legal proceedings against the defaulting establishments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Some industrial establishments do not engage apprentices as per quotas fixed under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961. At All India level, the percentage utilization of seats vis-a-vis quota fixed for trade apprentices has been varying between 71% to 73% during the last three years.

(b) Quotas have been fixed for apprentices in each unit on the basis of prescribed ratio of trade apprentices to workers other than unskilled workers in each designated trade and having regard to the facilities available for apprenticeship training in the unit.

(c) and (d) Legal proceedings under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961 are initiated by the Central Government against the defaulting establishments in Central Public Sector and by the respective State/UT Governments against the defaulting establishments in the State/UT Public Sector and Private Sector. During the last 6 months, Show Cause Notices have been issued to 6027 defaulting establishments by Centre & States under Sections 30 & 31 of the Apprentices Act.

[Translation]

Fall of Steel Prices in International Markets

1072. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reduction in the prices of various items of steel products/ scraps in several steel plants due to fall of steel prices in the International markets recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of items of products/scraps produced by Bokaro Steel Plant facing slump in prices and the items unaffected with the decrease in price during the last one year and as on October 31, 2002; and

(d) the existing norms to raise/reduce the prices of steel product scraps?

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

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

(c) In the last one year there has been no reduction in ex-works listed prices of steel items produced by Bokaro Steel Plant except minor inter-se adjustment.

In the last one year following items of steel scrap faced a slump in prices:

1. HR Sheet cuttings of CRM
2. DD HR Pickled coil
3. DEF CR Varying thickness
4. DEF CR Slit coil (MG)
5. DEF GP Coil (MG)
6. DEF GP sheets/cuttings
7. DEF GC sheets/cuttings
8. Head end cuttings of HDGL/CAL
9. Mixed Gauge HR Plates
10. Mixed Gauge HR Sheets

In the last one year following items of steel scrap remained unaffected with the decrease in price during the last one year and as on 31.10.2002.

1. Cobble plates
2. Slab and cuttings
3. Slab cut pieces
4. Thick plate cuttings
5. MS thick plate
6. HR. plate/sheet cutting of HRM
7. DEF HR coil
8. DEF cold rolled unannealed coil
9. CR coil end scrap
10. CR coil end sheet

11. Unannealed coil and scrap
12. Coil ends from tandem mill/pickling/sitting lines
13. HR gas cut sheets
14. DEF cold rolled unannealed cut sheet

(d) After decontrol of steel items in 1991-92 as part of the process of economic liberalisation, Government does not fix prices of any of the steel products/scrap. The prices are determined by respective steel producers based on factors such as demand for a product, level of competition, number of suppliers, availability including imports, level of inventories with customers, international price movements influencing export prospects of particular products etc. The rates of scrap are recommended by a committee constituted for this purpose.

[English]

Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994

1073. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have effected a change in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 which raises the investment limit for new projects from Rs. 50 crore to 100 crore;

(b) if so, whether the ministry has identified around 16 categories of industry for the relaxation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is likely to make the process simpler and quicker; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India through a Notification No.S.O.632 (E) dated 13th June, 2002 brought out certain amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) of 27th January, 1994 including raising the investment limit from Rs.50 crores to Rs.100 crores for 16 categories of new projects listed under Schedule-I of the said EIA Notification. The list includes infrastructure, thermal power, nuclear power and river valley projects also. The details of 16 categories of development projects are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The procedure for environmental clearance is reviewed from time to time in order to further streamline

the process and make the decision making process simpler, time bound and more transparent.

Statement

List of 16 categories of development projects

1. Nuclear Power and related projects such as Heavy Water Plants, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Rare Earths.
2. River Valley projects including hydel power, major irrigation and their combination including flood control.
3. Ports, Harbours, Airports (except minor ports and harbours).
4. Petroleum Refineries including crude and product pipelines.
5. Chemical Fertilizers (Nitrogenous and Phosphatic other than single super-phosphate).
6. Petroleum Complexes (Both Olefinic and Aromatic) and Petro-chemical intermediates such as DMT, Caprolactam, LAB etc. and production of basic plastics such as LDPE, HDPE, PP, PVC.
7. Exploration for oil and gas and their production, transportation and storage.
8. Synthetic Rubber.
9. (a) Primary metallurgical industries (such as production of Iron and Steel, Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead and Ferro Alloys).
(b) Electric Arc Furnaces (Mini Steel Plants).
10. Chlor alkali industry.
11. Viscose Staple fibre and filament yarn.
12. Storage batteries integrated with manufacture of oxides of lead and lead antimony alloys.
13. Thermal Power Plants.
14. Highway Projects
15. Pulp, Paper and newsprint.
16. Cement

Reduction of Interest Rate of EPF

1074. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision regarding reduction of interest rate on the EPF has been taken by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The matter is still under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance. The finalisation is likely to take some more time.

Closure of Industries

1075. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries declared closed during the last three years in the States including Gujarat;

(b) the number of affected workers due to these closures, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to rehabilitate the affected workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) State-wise information, as provided by the Labour Bureau, on the number of industries declared closed in the last three years and the workers affected due to these closures, is enclosed.

(c) Safeguards are provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to protect the interests of workers affected by such closures. A scheme for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings has also been introduced from 2001-02 with a thrust on self-employment of the rationalized employees.

Statement

State-wise Number of Closure and Workers Affected During 1999-2002

State/UT	1999 (P)		2000 (P)		2001 (P)		2002 (JAN.-SEP.) (P)	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	2	114	3	393	-	-	2	226
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	1	21	-	-	1	39	--	--
Bihar	3	90	-	-	-	-	--	--
Goa	4	163	6	326	7	403	-	-
Gujarat	14	272	25	999	43	1,353	22	1,073
Haryana	2	187	4	262	1	20	1	62
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	6	186	5	255	1	15
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	3	2,237	9	624	7	220	6	343
Kerala	9	293	9	367	9	695	5	90
Madhya Pradesh	9	1,552	-	-	-	-	1	29
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	5	350	8	498	2	130	1	14
Punjab	51	8,202	1	22	1	91	-	-
Rajasthan	5	269	4	348	1	49	3	311
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	2	630	3	737	7	417	-	-
Tripura	18	139	7	104	7	199	1	35
Uttar Pradesh	13	559	31	6,356	39	7,127	-	-
Uttaranchal*					5	437	-	-
West Bengal	10	463	5	426	-	-	-	-
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	3	75	-	-	10	150	1	12
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	5	91	17	256	6	14	1	5
Grand Total	159	15,707	138	11,904	151	11,599	47	2,302

A = Number of Units Closed

B = Number of Workers Affected

- = Nil

-- = Not Available

(P) = Provisional

* = Labour Bureau has started furnishing information in respect of Uttaranchal from 2001.

Protection of Holy River 'PAMBA'

1076. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to protect the holy river 'PAMBA' in Kerala from environmental degradation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for abatement of pollution of river Pamba in Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs.272 crore under the National River Conservation Plan. Due to constraints of availability of funds for new project in the X Five Year Plan, the State Government has been asked to prioritise the works on the basis of pollution load and resubmit the proposal. The revised proposal has not been received from Government of Kerala so far.

Development of Aquaculture

1077. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by experts in the conference of development of sustainable aquaculture in the country held at Chennai in August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken on the recommendations;

(d) whether the Government have decided to change National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's (NABARD) funding policy regarding aquaculture;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Aquaculture Authority organised an Expert Consultation on Development of sustainable shrimp aquaculture in India during August 2002 at Chennai when a number of recommendations emerged for the sustainable growth of shrimp culture in India through development of suitable research programmes for disease resistant brood stock, micro level planning of aquaculture farming, proper

environmental assessment and monitoring, setting up of laboratories for health management, improved access to banking and financing mechanisms, legislative support for regulatory measures and through popularisation of good management practices in shrimp farming.

(c) Action on the major recommendations have been initiated in the Tenth Plan Schemes by the concerned organisations/agencies. The Aquaculture Authority set up on the directives of the Supreme Court has also taken up suitable steps to create awareness among shrimp farmers on best management practices.

(d) and (e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has already reopened the refinance facility for units undertaking brackishwater aquaculture in accordance with the guidelines of the Aquaculture Authority. Also NABARD has agreed to extend refinance support to the units willing to set up Effluent Treatment Plants. State level workshops would also be organised by NABARD to apprise the bankers on this matter.

(f) Question does not arise.

Funds for Compost Plant

1078. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds for setting up of compost plant for production of compost from bio-degradable waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand this scheme so as to benefit more farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Ministry of agriculture has provided funds for setting up of 30 mechanical compost plants for production of compost from biodegradable municipal waste for use as manure to the extent of Rs. 20 lakh during VIII Plan and Rs. 50 lakh during IX Plan. The State wise and year wise funds released for setting up of compost plants under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers" during VIII and IX Plan is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively. Besides Ministry of Environment & Forests has also funded 3 projects for preparation of compost from Municipal Solid Waste as per details given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) The scheme of Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers under which funds are provided for compost plants is being continued during Xth Plan under

Macromanagement of Agriculture - supplementation/ complementation of States Efforts through Work Plans' which envisages that States/UTs can continue to pursue this programme through their work plans.

Statement-I

Funds released for setting up of Compost Units under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers during 1993-94 to 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1	Tamil Nadu	20.00(1) Nagarcoil	Nil	70.25(5) Tambaram, Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore & Pollachi	Nil	Nil	90.20(6)
2	Kerala	20.00(1) Neyyatinkara (Trivandrum)	Nil	20.00(1) Muvattupuzha (Ernakulam)	Nil	Nil	40.00(2)
3	Madhya Pradesh	10.00	10.00(1) M.P. Agro. Bhopal	20.00(1) M.P. Agro. Gwalior	Nil	Nil	40.00(2)
4	Punjab	Nil	20.00(1) Abohar	Nil	Nil	Nil	20.00(1)
5	Assam	Nil	20.00(1) Jorhat	Nil	Nil	Nil	20.00(1)
6	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	20.00(1) Faizpur (Jalgaon)	Nil	Nil	20.00(1)
7	Delhi	Nil	Nil	20.00(1) Azadpur	Nil	Nil	20.00(1)
8	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	20.00(1) Sidalagatta, Kolar	20.00(1) Ramanagaram	Nil	40.00(2)
9	Rajasthan	Nil	20.00(1) Hanumangarh	20.00(1) Chittorgarh	Nil	Nil	40.00(2)
10	Andhra Pradesh	3.35	Nil	16.65(1) L.B. Nagar, (Ranga Reddy)	Nil	Nil	20.00(1)
11	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	20.00(1) Bodhgaya (Gaya)	Nil	20.00(1)
12	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	20.00(1) Karaikal	Nil	20.00(1)
Total		53.35(2)	70.00(4)	206.85(12)	60.00(3)	-	390.20(21)

N.B. Figures in brackets indicate the No. of Municipalities assisted under the scheme.

Statement-II

Funds released for setting up Compost Plants under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers' during the IX Plan (1999-2000 to 2000-2001)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Locations	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1.	Karnataka	(i) KCDC, Bangalore	50.00(1)		74.52(2)
		(ii) M/s Sunrays Compost, Bangalore	24.52(1)		
2.	Maharashtra	(i) Thane Municipal Corporation	50.00(1)		125.00(3)
		(ii) Aurangabad Municipal Corpn.	50.00(1)		
		(iii) Nasik Municipal Corporation	25.00(1)		
3.	Meghalaya	Shillong Municipal Board	50.00(1)	-	50.00(1)
4.	West Bengal	Calcutta Municipal Corporation	50.00(1)	-	50.00(1)
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	-	50.00(1)	50.00(1)
6.	Delhi	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Bhalaswa)	-	50.00(1)	50.00(1)
Total			299.52(7)	100.00(2)	399.52(9)

N.B. Figures in brackets indicate the No. of Municipalities assisted under the scheme.

Statement-III

Projects funded by Ministry of Environment and Forests for Municipal solid waste management.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has sanctioned following 3 projects with a total cost of Rs. 133.30 lakh.

- (i) Municipal solid waste management project - Nagar Nigam, Ghaziabad. (amount sanctioned Rs.55 lakhs)
- (ii) Pilot Plant for solid waste management in Hyderabad City, - Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad. (amount sanctioned Rs.55.3 lakhs)
- (iii) Pilot Project for solid waste management in Shimla - Member Secretary, H.P. SPCB. (amount sanctioned Rs.25 lakhs).

Golf Tourism

1079. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote golf tourism;

(b) if so, whether such sectors have been identified in the country;

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

(d) the plan drawn up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) In order to promote golf tourism the Department of Tourism had recently organized two golf championship in Delhi in April & September 2002. Apart from this a brochure on golfing facilities in India is being brought out by the Department of Tourism.

Establishment of Backward Linkages by NDDB

1080. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has established backward linkages with farmer's organisations and vegetable growers to arrange high quality vegetables and fruits for their outlets;

(b) if so, the names of the States where NDDB set up such linkages; and

(c) the date on which these are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Fruit & Vegetable Unit, Mother Dairy Food Processing Ltd. a subsidiary unit of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has established backward linkages.

(b) The States where the said linkages have been set up are Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The linkages are already functioning.

[Translation]

Assistance under Taj Trapezium Programme

1081. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have stopped financial assistance for the ongoing drinking water and sewerage schemes in Agra, Mathura and Vrindavan cities of Uttar Pradesh under Taj Trapezium Programme;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A set of projects under the Taj Protection Mission Scheme have been approved by the Union Government which includes water supply project for Agra, Mathura-Vrindavan but does not include any sewerage project. The Union Government has been regularly releasing funds for the approved projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Misappropriation in CCRT Centre

1082. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale financial misappropriation has taken place in CCRT centre and is still continuing;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into irregularities in the said institution and take appropriate action against erring officials;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Various charges of financial and other irregularities were levelled by the then Chairman, Centre for Cultural Resources & Training (CCRT) against, Director General (presently under suspension), CCRT. The Government had also received allegations against the then Chairman of CCRT. After considering the issues the Government has ordered an enquiry into the various allegations. The details of the allegations, which are to be enquired into is enclosed as statement. Once the Enquiry Report is received appropriate action will be taken.

Statement

- 1.0 To examine the professional and educational qualifications and date of birth of Shri Surendra Kaul, Director General, CCRT (under suspension) and to determine whether there is any fraud or inconsistency in the record.
- 2.0 To examine the circumstances under which Shri Surendra Kaul was appointed as Director General, CCRT and whether required rules and procedures were followed in this matter.
- 3.0 To examine the circumstances under which work relating to the construction of temporary toilets, approval for appointment of Consultant by CPWD, work relating to sewerage and water connection as well as Electric Room and landscaping of new building complex were awarded by DG, CCRT and whether rules and procedures of CCRT were followed in this regard.
- 4.0 To determine whether there was any insubordination and non-cooperation on the part of Shri Surendra Kaul with regard to making available certain records demanded by the Chairman.
- 5.0 To examine Medical reimbursement claims of Shri Surendra Kaul and other Officers of CCRT preferred in 2001-02, 2002-03 and assess whether there has been any irregularity in reimbursement of such claims.
- 6.0 To examine the system for maintenance of files in CCRT and determine whether due care and caution is being exercised by the D.G., CCRT with regard to the maintenance of files and records.
- 7.0 To examine the circumstances under which the work

relating to production of two films i.e. Maha Kumb and Journey to the Mountain God was awarded to private parties and whether there were any irregularities in this regard and in regard to payments made.

8.0 To review the existing rules and procedures of the CCRT with regard to reimbursement of TA/DA claims of the Chairman and members, and whether these rules and procedures have been followed while reimbursing claims of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of CCRT during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date); and whether there have been any irregularities in this regard.

9.0 The circumstances under which Shri O.P. Tiwari has been nominated to the Building Committee of CCRT and whether any vigilance enquiry is pending against Shri Tiwari in his parent office i.e. Ghaziabad Development Authority when he was nominated to the Building Committee of CCRT".

[English]

Funds for Agriculture Departments

1083. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Report No.6 of 1999-2000 has stated that funds released to States are not reaching the State Agriculture Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the unspent amount lying with the States and the reasons for not releasing the funds to the State Agriculture Departments; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism at the Centre to ensure that funds released to States reach the State Agriculture Departments within 15 days of their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Committee in its Report No.6 of 1999-2000 that has expressed concern in many important on-going schemes particularly in crops and horticulture sector, plan funds have not been utilized in full as some States have unspent balances from the previous years, thereby resulting in less release of funds to them. The Committee have also been informed that some State Agriculture Departments are not

receiving funds from their respective State Finance Departments in time. The Committee are of the view that this is a perennial problem and some concrete measures are required to be taken in this regard. The Committee recommend that the Department should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and ensure that funds released to States, reach the State Agriculture Department within 15 days of their release. The names of States who lag behind in implementation of schemes should be invariably given in performance budgets and the States who have performed well be rewarded by higher allocation.

(c) An amount of Rs.282.51 crores was lying as unspent balance as on 1.4.2002 with the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The central assistance is released to the State Government through Inter Government Adjustment Advice issued by the Pay & Accounts Office, through the Central Accounts Unit of Reserve Bank of India at Nagpur. The Agriculture Department and other concerned departments in the States obtain approval of the Competent Authority of the State Government for sanction of their Scheme and release of funds in accordance with the procedure laid down by them. The reasons for not releasing the fund expeditiously include, among other thing, procedural delays and financial problems of the states.

(d) In order to ensure expeditious release of funds to the State Agriculture Department, a special cell has been created in the Office of CCA at Krishi Bhawan for the receipt of Sanction Orders regarding release of central assistance to the States/UTs. The Pay and Accounts Office are sending Inter Government Adjustment Advice to the RBI through Speed Post to avoid delay in release of funds. Monitoring of the Implementation of the Schemes is also done regularly by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

[Translation]

Report of National Cattle Commission

1084. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cattle Commission has expressed apprehension regarding extinction of indigenous breeds of animals in its report submitted on July 31, 2002;

(b) if so, the breeds of animals which are on the verge of extinction;

(c) the details of the recommendations of National Cattle Commission implemented by the Government;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to identify and protect the breeds of cows;

(e) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "1967 mein govansh par gathit pahale aayog ki report gayab" appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated August 5, 2002;

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

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

[English]

Conditions Imposed by Developed Countries during Earth Summit

1085. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the main success of the developing countries at the recent Earth Summit at Johannesburg was to prevent imposition of social and environmental conditions by developed countries on the developing ones; and

(b) if so, the details of such conditions sought to be imposed on the developing world and the Indian stand taken on each such conditions?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Industrialized nations made a serious attempt to impose disguised trade barriers in the nature of eco-labeling, life-cycle analysis criteria, and inclusion of core labour standards of ILO. In a determined bid, India with the support of other like-minded developing countries succeeded in deleting these references from the text of the 'Plan of Implementation'.

Damage to Ecology by MNCs

1086. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards Hon'ble Supreme Court's observations that the Multi National Companies (MNCs) should be made to pay for the damage caused by them to India's ecology while promoting their business by painting advertisements on rocks in Rohtang-Manali pass area; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government for recovery of penalty and restoration of these rocks?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 26-9-2002 in Interlocutory Application No.780 of 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has directed payment of Rs.1.00 Crore by the advertisers including Multi National Companies (MNCs) who had put up advertisements on rocks in Kullu-Manali-Rohtang region, for restoration of the area. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has been given the responsibility of overseeing the repairing work of the damage done.

[Translation]

Pollution in Delhi

1087. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the three Thermal Power Stations in Delhi are discharging nearly 300 tonnes ash and suspended particles in the atmosphere of the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 30 percent people including children of the capital are suffering from respiratory and heart diseases due to inhalation of polluted air; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) It has been estimated that all the three thermal power plants in Delhi emit 23.7 tonnes/day of the particulate matter (Fly ash). This estimate is

based on installation of high efficiency Electro-static precipitator (ESP) to meet the limit of 150 mg/nm³.

(c) No conclusive data is available relating to respiratory and heart diseases due to inhalation of polluted air only.

(d) Delhi Pollution Control Committee has asked all the three power plants to further bring down the emission of the particulate matter to 50 mg/nm³, for which the three power plants have taken initiatives to improve the efficiency to meet stringent limits.

[English]

Animals' Population in Kaziranga National Park

1088. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a week-long survey of the Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park has been conducted in July-August, 2002 to determine the population of Elephants and Rhinos therein;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the number of each specie of wild animals in these parks and their comparative figures with the earlier three survey-counts; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to protect and promote these species in their natural habitat?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to State Government of Assam for protection and scientific management of Kaziranga National Park and Manas National park. The steps taken to protect and promote Elephants and Rhinos in their natural habitats include:

- (i) Vigorous patrolling by armed forest staff
- (ii) Development of infrastructure like road network and patrolling paths.
- (iii) Establishment of anti-poaching camps.
- (iv) Establishment of wireless communication network.

Production of Rice

1089. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice production during 2001-2002 exceeds the output of the pervious year by about 8%;

(b) if so, the details of rice production in actual terms in the last two years respectively;

(c) whether the additional rice production will be stored in private warehouses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the Fourth Advance Estimates of agricultural production as on 27.6.2002, the production of rice during 2001-02 is estimated at 91.61 million tonnes which exceeds by about 8 per cent the production of rice estimated at 84.87 million tonnes in 2000-01.

(c) and (d) Food Corporation of India also deals with such rice stocks which are procured for the Central Pool, and stores such stocks in either owned or hired godowns.

Pension Scheme for Workers of Unorganised Sector

1090. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Pension Scheme for ensuring social security of labourers in unorganised sector as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated October 27, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the details of new labour welfare schemes evolved by the Government for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has launched Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana- 2001 in 50 identified districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. The Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Report has recommended a new pension system for the unorganised sector. A Group of Ministers has been formed to consider the recommendations of OASIS Report and further action would be initiated on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

(d) The Tenth Plan document is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Penalty Under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

1091. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions laid down for levying penalty for the crimes committed against Wildlife;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the fine/punishment under the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 to discourage people from committing such crimes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some State Governments have also proposed to raise the fine/punishment for such crimes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Penalties for crime against wildlife are imposed as per the provisions of Section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002 which, inter-alia, seeks to enhance the amount of fine/punishment has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20th November, 2002. The proposed amendments relating to enhancement of fine/punishment have been made in consultation with the State Governments.

[English]

Suspension of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

1092. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Cultural Resources and training is under suspension presently;

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

(c) the steps being taken to make the Centre functioning properly?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Accidents in Steel Plants

1093. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in all steel plants particularly in Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years and current year 2002;

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

(c) the details of losses suffered and damage to the plants as a result thereof, plant-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for modernisation of steel plants during the last three years and current year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Details of number of reportable accidents which occurred in the public sector steel plants including Bokaro Steel Plant, during the last three years and 2002 are as under:

Year	Reportable accidents in	
	Bokaro Steel Plant	Other Public Sector Steel Plants
1999	37	518
2000	71	476
2001	60	419
2002 (Jan.-Oct.)	45	245

(b) Various steps have been taken by the concerned steel plants to avoid accidents, which inter alia include review of overall safety performance, organising specialized programmes at plants and corporate levels, imparting safety training to target group of employees, carrying out safety inspections, round the clock surveillance of major capital repairs/shutdown and inclusion of safety provisions in Standard Operative/Maintenance Practices.

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

(d) SAIL had undertaken Modernisation programmes at its three Units, viz. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL). Under the Modernisation programme, energy efficient Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) technology for steelmaking, has been adopted in place of obsolete Open Hearth Furnaces at Durgapur and Rourkela. Further, Continuous Casting facilities have been provided in all the three plants.

With a view to injecting the desired level of technological dynamism in the steel industry, Government have encouraged foreign technology induction both through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and through foreign technology collaboration agreements. No prior permission of Government is required for FDI in Steel Sector.

Committee to Promote Tourism

1094. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Travel and Tourism Council has recommended that India needs a makeover plan for tourism and the makeover must begin with the Government setting up a cabinet committee headed by the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other recommendations made by the WTTC;

(c) whether all political parties have attended the meeting called for the purpose;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have examined the suggestions made in the meeting; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to develop tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has recommended that in the decision making process on tourism, the highest political office in the land needs to be involved in order to provide effective control and guidance. The other recommendations of WTTC for the growth of tourism in India are as follows:

- (i) Augmentation of airline seat availability.
- (ii) Simplification of visa procedures.
- (iii) Privatisation of existing airports.

(iv) Correcting the image of India.

(v) Opening of more international airports.

(vi) Upgradation of basic tourist facilities.

(vii) Evolving uniform taxation systems.

(viii) Leveraging private sector funds and skills to maintain and market India's heritage.

(ix) Marketing single ticket for all national heritage sites; and

(x) Opening up accommodation sector.

(c) The recommendations were discussed in a Retreat organised by the WTTC in Agra between August 23-25, 2002 in which some Members of Parliament belonging to different parties, prominent Heads of media, leading opinion makers and members of the Government connected with the travel and tourism industry were present.

(d) In view of the existence of Group of Ministers on Tourism Industry & Trade, National Tourism Advisory Council and the Standing Committee of Secretaries for Tourism, it is felt that there is no need to constitute a Cabinet Committee. The advice and inspiration from Prime Minister on the question of tourism development is also taken from time to time.

(e) The steps are as follows:

Development of 'Hubs' in which elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, efficient and effective management and healthy environment are synthesised with a view to ensuring that a tourist to India should get physically refreshed, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated and on return 'should feel India within him'.

- 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.
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.

- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism
- Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration good governance and also of social and cultural values.
- Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.

Development of Historical Sites/Monuments

1095. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken up a massive programme for development of historical sites/monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of sites/monuments that would be protected in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka alongwith the total amount allocated to them during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(d) whether the State Governments particularly Karnataka has sought additional amount from the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Under the Tenth Five Year Plan period, Archaeological Survey of India has identified 753 Centrally Protected Monuments for structural, conservation, chemical-preservation and environmental development.

(c) The Monuments included in the perspective plan for conservation/development in the States of Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka are 39 and 46 respectively

The expenditure incurred/allocation made for the conservation/development of the protected monuments is as under:

	Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
Expenditure (in lakhs)	2001-02	136.00	194.45
Allocation (in lakhs)	2002-03	272.03	383.73

(d) and (e) The Archaeological Survey of India does not have any scheme for providing assistance to the State Governments for development of historical sites/monuments.

Development of Tourist Circuits

1096. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to identify a travel circuit for connecting Madurai in Tamil Nadu due to its historical importance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the State of Tamil Nadu. In the current year a circuit connecting Madurai has not been identified for development.

In pursuance of the proposals received from the State Tourism Department of Tamil Nadu, a project to develop Mamallapuram as a Tourist Destination in Tamil Nadu has been taken up.

Fruit and Vegetables Outlets of N.D.D.B.

1097. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of fruit and vegetables at Mother Dairy outlets has deteriorated;

(b) if so, whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is aware of this declining quality;

(c) the steps the NDDB propose to enhance the quality of their products;

(d) whether NDDB is not able to supervise its large network;

(e) if so, whether there are plans to give contract of selling vegetables and fruit outlets to certain agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No Sir. The quality of fruit and vegetables at Mother Dairy outlets is as per the standards laid down by the Company which aims at total consumer satisfaction.

(d) No, Sir. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) through its subsidiaries such as the Mother Dairy Foods Processing Ltd. is able to supervise its large network.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Foodgrain Production during Rabi Season

1098. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for foodgrain production during the Rabi season 2002-03 and actual production made;

(b) whether the targets have not been achieved;

(c) If so, the percentage of shortfall in the estimated production of foodgrain in Rabi 2002-03; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The target of foodgrain production for the Rabi season 2002-03 is 109.52 million tonnes. It is too early to make an assessment of the foodgrain production during Rabi 2002-03 because the sowings have not been completed so far.

Profit by AI

1099. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India earned a profit during 2001-2002 after incurring losses for six years; and

(b) if so, the extent of profits earned and losses suffered by Air India during each of the last six years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Air India has incurred loss during the last six years. The details are as under:

Year	(Rs. in Crores):
1995-96	271.84
1996-97	296.94
1997-98	181.01
1988-99	174.48
1999-2000	037.63
2000-2001	044.40

During the year 2001-2002, Air India made a profit of Rs.15.44 crores.

Repealing of Land Acquisition Act

1100. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is a demand from noted Environmentalists for repealing of Land Acquisition Act in order to save the ecology, environment in forest areas of the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Report Card

1101. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has published its three year report card; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry does not publish any three years report card. However, Annual reports are regularly published which include, information among others, on various activities undertaken by it. A Tourism Policy has been formulated recently to generate new dynamism in the development of tourism in the country. Other initiatives taken during the last one year are:

- To synthesise the elements of tourism, culture and clean civic governance and to create new hubs which would act as a pace-setter for the entire country.
- To present to the country a new work culture and result-oriented style of governance.
- To give special emphasis on domestic tourism and to create a vast infrastructure.
- To give special attention to remote, backward and rural areas.
- To evolve a framework in which public and private sectors effectively coordinate their activities and establish workable linkages.
- To provide a new deal for ancient and protected monuments and to bring new monuments/sites of historic and cultural significance under protection.
- Promoted India as a Conference Tourism destination.

**Social Security for Workers in Informal/
Unorganised Sector**

1102. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have prepared a database on informal/unorganised sector workers;
- (b) if so, the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have finalised a proposal to launch a "Social Security Card" to all workers in the informal unorganised sector;
- (d) if so, the details of the scheme; and
- (e) the targets for the first three years of this

scheme and the names of the States which are likely to be implemented the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Database on organised and unorganised labour are primarily obtained through Population Census, National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training. The database is mainly used for planning and policy formulation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Raising of Ground Water Level in Rajasthan

1103. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his ministry has received any proposal from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to raise the ground water level in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any funds would be allocated for implementation of proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources sanctioned 18 schemes on recharge to ground water for implementation in the State of Rajasthan during the IX Five Year Plan, under its Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water. A sum of Rs. 91.72 lakh was released for completion of these schemes. The details of the schemes and their present status are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Recharge Projects approved by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)
during IX Plan in the State of Rajasthan*

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Present Status
1	2	3
1.	Scheme for construction of subsurface barriers (SSB) at Makhar and Bhagoli village on Kantli river, District Jhunjhunu.	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done.

1	2	3
2	Scheme for construction of roof top/pavement rain water harvesting structure for artificial recharge in the office building of CGWB, Western Region, Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done
3.	Roof top/pavement rain water run off harvesting at Sinchai Bhawan, Jaipur	Construction work is in progress.
4.	Roof top rain water harvesting at Chief Minister's residence Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done
5.	Roof top rain water harvesting at Governor House, Raj Bhawan, Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done
6.	Roof top/Pavement rain water runoff harvesting structure at Rajasthan High Court Jaipur	Scheme dropped
7.	Roof top/pavement rain water runoff harvesting structures at State Secretariat (part-I & part-II), Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done.
8.	Roof top runoff harvesting artificial recharge structures part of Institutional building of MREC, Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done
9.	Rooftop/pavement rain water runoff harvesting at Vitta Bhavan, Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done
10.	Roof top/pavement rain water runoff harvesting at Reserve Bank of India, Ram Bagh Circle, Jaipur	Construction work is in progress
11.	Roof top rain water harvesting structure at Ground Water Department Building premises, Jaipur	Scheme completed and monitoring of ground water levels is being done.
12.	Concept plan for project design and implementation of Roof Top/ pavement rain water runoff harvesting structures at officers training school (OTS, Nehru Bhawan), Jaipur	Construction work is in progress
13.	Artificial recharge at College of Technology and Engineering (CTAE), Udaipur	Construction work is in progress
14.	Concept plan for project design and implementation of Rood Top/ Pavement Rain water Run-off harvesting structures premises of PHED, Head office (New building), Jaipur	Tendering of work is in progress
15.	Artificial recharge scheme site Palasara, District Sikar.	Tenders floated
16.	Artificial recharge scheme of Prithvipura, District Sikar	Tenders floated
17.	Artificial recharge scheme of Ajabpura, District Sikar	Tenders floated
18.	Concept plan for project Design and Implementation of roof top/ pavement Rain water run-off harvesting structure at Collectorate (I), Jaipur	Tendering of work is in progress

Construction of Upper Tunga Bhadra

1104. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka is going ahead with the construction on the Upper Tunga Bhadra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any prior permission has been sought from the Central Water Commission for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) There is no project named Upper Tunga Bhadra taken up by the Government of Karnataka. Probably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Upper Tunga Project on the Tunga River near Shimoga, which envisages construction of a new dam with a canal for a length of 330 km at 100 metre downstream of the existing Tunga Anicut taken up by the Government of Karnataka to provide annual irrigation of 80,494 hectare in Shimoga, Davangere and Haveri Districts, the latter two districts being drought prone. The work on the dam and canal are in progress.

The project was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in its 79th meeting held on 24th May, 2002 and the Committee decided to defer the project till all the matters regarding environmental clearance is sorted out with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Amendment in Constitution to Resolve Water Disputes

1105. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the Constitution for empowering the Union Government to resolve inter-State river water disputes;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering for supervision and control of all the dams and reservoirs of inter-State rivers for equitable distribution of water; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-

VARTY): (a) At present no such proposal is before the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stand-by Scheme

1106. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign airlines have a system of "Stand-by" for passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines also propose to adopt the similar "Stand-by" scheme for providing better facilities to the passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Under "Stand-by" scheme prevalent in foreign countries, discounts are offered by the carriers against seats going vacant at the time of departure. Stand by passengers are accepted at the last minute at the airport to ensure that high-yield passengers are not denied booking/seats. However, no foreign airline is following the "Stand-by" scheme in India.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Indian Airlines has introduced promotional/discounted fares to ensure optimal utilisation of capacity.

Recommendations of Earth Summit on Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1107. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Earth Summit held at Johannesburg, South Africa has reviewed the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and the steps taken for relief of the victims and for their long term rehabilitation; and

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations made in the Earth Summit in this regard?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

National Cultural Fund

1108. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount available at present under National Cultural Fund instituted in 1996;

(b) the amount given to each State from this fund;

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to set up similar cultural fund in their respective States;

(d) if so, whether the Government will give I.T. exemption for the contribution made under the State Cultural Fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The total amount available at present under the National Culture Fund is Rs. 9.45 crores.

(b) The funds are allocated project-wise depending upon the Memorandum of Understanding signed with different Corporate Houses, private bodies and individuals, etc. The NCF does not allocate funds State wise.

(c) No Sir, any initiative in this regard, will have to be taken by the State Governments based on their own requirements.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Direct Taxes have received suggestions from certain State Governments for providing 100% deduction in respect of donations made to State Cultural Funds. However, 100% deduction has been restricted to only Central Funds or those funds of the State Governments having the objective of disaster management or medical relief only. In any case, State Cultural Funds can apply to the concerned Commissioner of Income Tax for claiming 50% deduction on donations made.

Withdrawal of Conditional Clearance to BT Cotton

1109. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the failure of the BT Cotton and BT Maize planted in Rajasthan as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated November 7, 2002;

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

(c) whether the various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have requested for immediate withdrawal of the conditional clearance to commercial planting of BT Cotton;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure representation of such NGOs in the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) etc. for protection of public interest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Bt Cotton is the first and only transgenic crop approved by GEAC for commercial cultivation in India. The three approved hybrid varieties (Bt MECH-162, Bt. MECH-184, Bt. MECH-12) are presently under cultivation only in six states namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Some non-governmental organizations have expressed apprehension about cultivation of Bt Cotton. Some of the fields where these hybrid varieties are being cultivated, have recently been monitored by a sub-committee constituted by this Ministry. The report indicates that the performance of Bt. Cotton is satisfactory. The fourth Bt Cotton hybrid (MECH-915) variety suitable for cultivation in northern states (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan) has not been approved by the GEAC.

(e) The GEAC is a statutory body comprising of Experts (subject specialist) and representatives from the respective line Ministries. In the interest of public, the Ministry is regularly organizing workshops and meetings.

Shifting of Patna Airport

1110. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested his ministry to shift the Patna Airport from the present location in view of the fact that the same is within the proximity of Raj Bhawan and other VIP residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) In pursuance of recommendations of Court of Inquiry of Alliance Air B-737 accident, the Government of India have considered construction of a Civil Enclave at Behta Air Force Station, Patna. After discussion with Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, Government of Bihar and Airports Authority of India it was felt that the State Government should consider possibility of providing additional land at Patna Airport for runway extension or alternatively land for construction of a new runway. If both these options are not possible, the State Government should consider providing 100 acres of land free of cost for construction of Civil Enclave and upgradation of runway/ other facilities at Behta Airport. State Government should also strengthen and widen national highway No. 30 from Patna to Behta for smooth flow of traffic.

[English]

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6030/02]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and

English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year, 2000-2001 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2000-2001.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6031/02]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6032/02]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Water Policy - 2002 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6033/02]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6034/02]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shatrughan Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy-2002, (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 6035/02]

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Sir, where is the hon'ble Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the permission to Shri Santosh Gangwar to lay the Papers against the name of Shri Shatrughan Sinha.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: He is in the other House. That is why I am laying it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister was to make a statement. What happened to that? What time will he make a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: He will make a statement at 2 o'clock today.

Now, item no. 6.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MECON Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2002-2003.

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MECON Limited, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the MECON Limited, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6036/02]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) of the item (2) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6037/02]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Officers of Parliament (Pension, Housing and Medical Facilities to the Spouse of the Speaker of the House of the People, Dying While Holding such Office), Rules 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 535(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2002 under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 together with corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only published in Notification No. G.S.R. 592 (E) dated the 23rd August, 2002

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6038/02]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railways Safety for the year 2000-01 under section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6039/02]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 656(E) in Gazette of India

dated the 19th September, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6040/02]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1017(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 19th September, 2002 regarding Reconstruction of Central Apprenticeship Council to meet the requirement of the Apprentices Act, 1961 issued under sub-sections (1 and 2) of the said Act, together with an corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only published in Notification No. S.O. 1094(E) dated the 17th October, 2002.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6041/02]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6042/02]

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Bank's Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Bank's Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Bank's Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 6043/02]

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Twenty-Ninth to Thirty-Second Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:-

- (1) Twenty-ninth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Pricing and Availability of Drugs/ Pharmaceuticals';
- (2) Thirtieth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Production of Oil and Gas';
- (3) Thirty-first Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Evaluation of Guidelines of Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs)'; and
- (4) Thirty-second Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Indian Farmers' Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)'.

These Reports were presented to the Hon'ble Speaker on 17th October, 2002 under direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker when the House was not in session. Hon'ble Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[English]

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Fifty-Third Report

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Fifty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce on the functioning of National Productivity Council.

12.05 hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Closure of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we move on to the Calling Attention, notice of which was given by Shri Sunil Khan.

If he is not there, then, Shri Basu Deb Acharia may call the attention of the Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of closure of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, thereby affecting the agricultural sector in the Eastern Region, particularly in West Bengal and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited were referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and in November 1992 were declared sick by the BIFR under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

The revival packages formulated in April 1995 for the rehabilitation of HFC and FCI envisaged a limited revamp of some of their units, while the revamp of Haldia Project of HFC and Gorakhpur unit of FCI was not found to be technoeconomically viable. The requirement of fresh investment for revamp of the functional units of HFC and FCI was

estimated at Rs.465 crore and Rs.1736 crore, respectively. These proposals were later reviewed and reformulated by an Expert Group under the leadership of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited. The Expert Group had put the requirement of fresh investment for the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI at Rs.2638 crore and that for the revamp of Namrup, Durgapur and Barauni units of HFC at Rs.869 crore. In addition, various other financial reliefs and concessions in terms of write off of Government of India loans and accumulated interest aggregating to Rs.5006 crore were envisaged to make these packages viable.

On the basis of the report of the Expert Group, the Government decided in October 1997 on the revival package only in respect of Namrup units of HFC.

The revamp of the Namrup units of HFC involves an estimated fresh investment of Rs.509.40 crore as per revised cost. The revamp project is under implementation with effect from 2.11.1998 and the Government has so far provided a budgetary support of Rs.322 crore. For the year 2002-03, a budgetary provision of Rs.200 crore has been made. The Namrup units have since been demerged from HFC into a new company under the name of "Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited" with effect from 1.4.2002.

Revised comprehensive rehabilitation proposals in respect of the remaining units of HFC and FCI based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers appointed for the purpose, were considered by the Cabinet on 18.7.2002 and 5.9.2002 and it has been decided to close down HFC and FCI, excepting Jodhpur Mining Organisation of FCI. While taking this decision, the technology as well as feedstock related issues in the context of cost of production and the likely impact on the budget, and availability of urea in the country were taken into account.

It may be stated that the BIFR has ordered for winding up of FCI on 2.11.2001 and that of HFC on 12.12.2001. Both the companies have filed appeals against these orders of BIFR before the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). While the appeal of FCI has been dismissed by the AAIFR, that of HFC came up for hearing on 15.11.2002 and has been reserved for orders. As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the BIFR has forwarded its opinion for winding up these two companies to the High Court of Delhi.

In implementation of the decision of the Government to close down HFC and FCI excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation, these companies have offered Voluntary

[Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa]

Separation Scheme (VSS) to their employees. An estimated amount of Rs.691 crore is required for offering VSS to the 10596 employees of these two PSUs, which is being met entirely from the budgetary support by the Government.

Hon. Members have raised the issue of impact of closure of these units on the agricultural production in the eastern region particularly in West Bengal. At the time of closure none of the units of FCI and HFC were in operation. The Haldia Fertilizer Project of HFC, though mechanically completed in 1979, could never be commissioned. The operations of Durgapur unit have remained suspended since 1997. The operations of Barauni unit of HFC and Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI have been suspended since 1999. The Gorakhpur unit of FCI was shut down in 1990. The Sindri unit is lying closed since March, 2002. Of the various units of HFC and FCI, only the Sindri unit of FCI was in production during the last three years and even this unit produced only 3.06 lakh MT, 2.37 lakh MT and 0.76 lakh MT during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively, which was equivalent to 1.5 per cent, 1.24 per cent and 0.38 per cent of the urea consumption in the country. Thus the production or non-production of urea by the units of FCI and HFC had no significant impact on the availability of fertilizers in the country.

The fertilizer industry has been delicensed and there are no restrictions on the setting up of new fertilizer projects in the country by any company. Fifteen major fertilizer projects have been set up or are under implementation during the Ninth/Tenth Plan period.

In addition, from the year 2005-06 onwards, 16.52 lakh MT of urea from Oman-India Fertilizer Company is expected to become available which the Government is committed to buy back on a pre-determined long term fixed price.

So far as availability of urea in different parts of the country, including the States in the Eastern region, is concerned, adequate supply is ensured to all the States at uniform Statutory Sale Price and no State is allowed to suffer from shortage of fertilizers. Based on the above, the decision to close HFC and FCI will have no impact on the agricultural productivity in the Eastern region, including in West Bengal. Government will ensure that in future also, fertilizers remain available in various parts of the country adequately.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the question of revival of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was raised on the floor of this House a number of times. This question was raised during the last Session only and while replying to the questions raised

during the Calling Attention Motion, the Minister did not, at any point of time, mention about the closure of these units.

Sir, I have not seen in any case of closure that after a decision of the Group of Ministers, within three days, the Cabinet hurriedly decided to close the seven units of the Hindustan Fertiliser and the fertiliser Corporation of India.

I would like to know from the Minister what attempts, in the past, were made to revive all these units. He knows that a number of suggestions were made to re-start the production. The production in the Gorakhpur unit was stopped in 1990; in Barauni unit, the production was stopped in 1999; in Durgapur, the production was stopped in 1997; and in both the units at Talcher of Orissa and Ramagundam of Andhra Pradesh, the production has been stopped since 1997. Talcher and Ramagundam units were using coal as feedstock for manufacturing the urea. Even though we have abundant coal reserves, we have phased out all our coal-based units.

The Minister has stated that there would not be any crisis of fertiliser in the Eastern Region after phasing out all these Units starting from Gorakhpur to Ramagundam. Today, there is no crisis because we have surplus stocks. West Bengal is a State where growth in the fertiliser consumption in comparison to other States is much more. It is about eight per cent every year. The consumption of fertiliser in West Bengal alone is 10 lakh tonnes. It was last year's figure. Today, there is provision of freight subsidy but there is a proposal to phase out the freight subsidy. Once the freight subsidy is phased out, the farmers of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand will get fertiliser at a higher price. It is because fertiliser will be brought from Western India and from Punjab. He was able to save his unit, although that unit was also incurring losses. But he could not do anything for West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The TDP has given an alternative proposal to convert that unit into a power producing unit. But what will happen to all these units?

Sir, the first public sector unit of our country is the Sindri Fertiliser Unit. It was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India in 1952. We still remember what he said while inaugurating this unit. He said that he was not inaugurating a fertiliser factory but he was inaugurating a temple of modern India.

This Government is now bent upon not only destroying *masjids*; they are also bent upon destroying the temples of modern India. We are closing down our indigenous units. Whereas we are closing down our public sector fertilizer units, we are going to have a joint sector unit in Oman from where we will bring fertilizer! This is the policy of this Government. And how hurriedly it is being done!

In regard to HFC, still the AAIFR has not given its final verdict whereas in the case of FCI it has given its final verdict. The Minister should clarify to this House as to when AAIFR has reserved its verdict, how has the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers given instructions under his direction that workers of Barauni, Sindri and Durgapur will have to vacate their quarters within one month? How inhuman this Government has become! Children are studying in schools, but the Ministry has issued very strict orders that all the schools should be closed down. Where would the children go in the middle of the academic session?

They have now introduced a VSS, Voluntary Separation Scheme.

[Translation]

Separate yourself if you do not leave by Dec. 20, you will be terminated. Order has been issued. Water supply stopped.

[English]

How inhuman this Government is! Workers are still staying in their quarters. They have issued orders that water will not be supplied to their quarters. They have already asked DPL, Durgapur Projects Ltd., which is supplying power to the colony, to stop supplying power to the colony. How inhuman this Government is! When AAIFR has not given its final verdict, how have you issued orders that workers will have to opt for VSS within 20th December, failing which all the workers will be terminated? They will not get the benefit of VSS; they will get money under the Industrial Disputes Act, which will be much less than what they will get under VSS. I would like to know from the Minister as to why so hurriedly the Government of India has taken such a decision.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a letter to the Fertilizer Minister as well as to the Prime Minister and Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows it. The IDBI has an agreement with ONGC. We have abundant reserves of coal-bed methane in Raniganj and Jharia coalfields. This has been already explored. The Government of West Bengal had appointed a Working Group to examine the possibility of using the coal-bed methane for industrial purposes. They have given a very positive report. The Government of West Bengal has been planning for using the coal-bed methane with some private company belonging to the NRIs from the United States. A pipeline will be laid and the gas supply will be possible by April, 2003. Can this Government not wait for six months?

If the coal-bed methane is used for manufacture of urea, what will be the production cost per tonne of urea? It will be one-third of what will be the production cost with the use of methane. We are importing methane. Hindustan

Fertilisers is not being allowed to import methane. They will have to import methane through IOC. And IOC is supplying methane. ...*(Interruptions)* Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you may speak after I conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, though my name is not there in the list. I would like to say, on behalf of Trinamul Congress, that we are supporting whatever he is saying for the cause of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know that everyone will support except the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, your time is over. Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is inhuman to stop supply of water and power and closing hospitals and schools. I would like to know whether the Government will keep the decision of closure in abeyance for at least six months as requested by the Government of West Bengal so that coal-bed methane (CBM) will be utilised for the production of urea and thereby the Durgapur unit as well as the Sindri unit could be revived. It is because abundant CBM is also available in all the underground coalmines of Jharia coalfields and Barauni unit can also be revived.

My demand is that the Government of India should put a hold on the implementation of the Cabinet decision, the decision should be reviewed and these units should continue to function till the proposal of the Government of West Bengal for using coal-bed methane is finalised.

I would also request the Minister that he should withdraw the inhuman circular for stopping supply of water and power as well as closing down of schools and hospitals. Where will the patients go if hospitals are closed? I also demand that VSS should be changed to Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). If any worker wants to opt for VRS, they may do so and go. Why should there be Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS)? I demand a positive reply from the Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Basudeb Acharia ji, please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask question only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking question only but before that I want to speak one or two lines on this subject.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Sir, it is highly gracious of you that this matter has been allowed to be raised in this House. I want to submit that it was reported about the factories at Barauni, Sindri, Durgapur, Gorakhpur and Ramgundam that the Government would make them functional. This triggered a wave of joy and happiness throughout the country. But now a sense of unrest and panic has gripped the country in general and the State of Bihar in particular ever since it has been decided to close these factories down. A "Bandh" in Bihar has been observed. 'Dharnas' and Satyagrahas are continuing. The people belonging to all the political parties have decided to fight it out. A memorandum was given to the Prime Minister and the former Finance Minister Mr. Yashwant Sinha but the Government is persisting with its anti-people and anti-farmer activities. The country is unhappy and a sense of distress and indignation prevails throughout the country on account of this

I want to ask specifically from the Government whether an 'Expert Committee' was instituted which studied the matter and held the factories at Sindri, Barauni, Durgapur, Gorakhpur and Namroop as viable and recommended that they could be rehabilitated and can be restarted with a little investment. I want to know from the Government why the factory at Namroop only was restarted and the rest of them were untouched while the same committee held them viable and recommended them to be restarted. It is my first question.

Secondly, 'Kribhco' the cooperative organization wanted to take over the factory at Gorakhpur and restart it. This matter was taken up in the cabinet but it was torpedoed by the vested interests. You have manipulated to shelve the proposal of KRIBHCO now you have decided to lock it up. I want to know about the forces behind the Government taking such decisions. Tell this House clearly what is the reality and the reasons why you turned down the proposal put forward by the 'Kribhco'.

Third, similarly they want to close down P.P.C.L., the only Phosphate Company at Amjher. We want to know why the Government are going against the public opinion while mass movement has started. All farmers, labourers have been discouraged as they will not get fertilizer and how cultivation will be possible without fertilizer? When the farmer is the backbone of this country then why the Government are taking anti-people, anti-farmer decisions against their aspirations. He is being discriminated against. The people of Jharkhand, Bihar and Bengal are asking that you have started Namroop factory but why not those at Durgapur, Barauni, and Sindri. Why the Government are practicing discrimination? In the case of P.P.C.L., Gorakhpur, we all M.P.'s are unanimous. Unrest and resentment prevail there.

It will lead to massive and violent protests. The Government should make the situation clear in this regard and tell the House. In addition to this they are not accepting the recommendations of their own committee and undermining them as there will be advantageous to the farmers. Our stand is that the Government do make all things clear and inform the House why they are going to take such wrong decisions? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, the hon. Minister, I think, has stated many things but he has not clarified the real position. As per the Report of the Working Group on Fertilizer for Tenth Plan, there is a huge supply gap for urea. I am giving some figures which will justify my stand. Firstly, the projected demand of urea for 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 is 2,27,93,000 tonnes, 2,35,59,000 tonnes, 2,72,91,000 tonnes, and 2,81,22,000 tonnes respectively.

As per the Report of the Working Group on Fertilizer for Tenth Plan, the estimated indigenous supply for the years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 is 2,10,55,000 tonnes, 2,11,71,000 tonnes, 2,11,71,000 tonnes and 2,11,71,000 tonnes respectively. The Minister is, saying that the Government is trying to set up a fertilizer plant in Oman. As per the Report, the supply for Indo-Oman project for the year 2004-2005 would be 13,07,000 tonnes.

The supply in respect of the year 2005-06 will be 14,52,000 tonnes; in respect of the year 2010-11, it will be 14,52,000 tonnes and in respect of 2011-12, it will be 14,52,000 tonnes. So, the total supply will be the same in respect of all these years. This means there will be a supply gap. From 2005-06 to 2011-12, there will be a gap in supply to the extent of 55 lakh metric tonnes. How will this gap be filled up? Certainly, the Government will depend on the import of fertilizers. As a result of it, initially the farmers may get some fertilizers at low cost. When all the fertilizer factories are demolished in our country, the importers will increase the price of fertilizers. It will impose a serious burden on our farmers.

It is not only that. The most important thing that should be noted here is that the foundation of our country's self-reliance will be seriously demolished. We will have to depend on the foreign agencies. So, the political and economic independence of our country will be seriously shattered and affected. Therefore, I want a clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard.

It is not only that. Our hon. Minister has stated that the

fertilizer industry has been de-licensed. He has stated that so many private investors will come forward for making investment in this industry. *...(Interruptions)* This is a very important point. Till date, the Government has not announced any fertilizer policy. What will be the feedstock? Is it naphtha or fuel or gas or coal? This is a very important point. This issue has not been finalised. How will the private investors come forward for making investment in the fertilizer industry? So, till the fertilizer policy is not announced, no closure should be taken into consideration. There is a possibility of having gas in the Eastern Region. About the coal-based method, an agency has been fixed and exploration will start very soon. So, even the Durgapur and the Haldia units can be fed by the gas. It is not only that. The ONGC and another Korean company have started exploration of gas in Mynamar. Initially, it has been found viable. All the gas will be transported to Halida through the submarine pipelines. It is their project. So, Haldia will have the gas in future.

It is not only that. The ONGC has already taken a policy for transportation of gas from Tripura via Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government is evincing interest in exporting gas to India. So, in this situation, if West Bengal does not have a fertilizer industry, our people will suffer much. In West Bengal, about ten lakh tonnes of urea is required to cater to the needs of the people. So, I do not know how these gaps will be filled up. At the same time, the Government has issued a notice for the closure of the units of HFC. But they have not taken into consideration where the students will go. Some of the students are studying in classes five and six. Where will they go? Therefore, my proposal is that till the completion of their studies, nobody should be evicted from the quarters. *...(Interruptions)* This is very important issue. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down, please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: The Government is selling our country to the importers. Our agriculture is affected. The Government is demolishing the country's self-reliance. *...(Interruptions)* Therefore, I plead that the VSS would be withdrawn and the workers should be allowed to have VRS. Also, the closure notice should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir. Please give me too an opportunity. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given notice. Why did not you give notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If your notice is for the Zero Hour, you can put questions.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Further, the Chief Ministers of all the States should be consulted and there should be negotiations in this regard. Till that time, no workers should be affected.

The matter is subjudice. So, how is the Government going in for closure of these units? I want a clarification on this from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First let him sit please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: See friends, one thing you all must understand.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): One-minute sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me for a minute. The discussion is going on under Rule 197 and a notice is required to be given for the discussion and only those members who have given notices may ask questions and seek clarificatory explanation from the Minister. Since this is linked to your constituency, this is why I can permit both of you to ask one question only. First, you ask.

[English]

I am doing this as a special case

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, you are opening a Pandora's box.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am allowing them to ask a brief question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that while in the year 1999 farmers were easily getting fertilizer from Barauni factory located in Bihar along the northern part of river Ganges. You have said today that we have stocks available

[Shri Rajo Singh]

in India and the farmers will not be prey to scarcity, then I would like to know in view of the facts more than two thousand people were working there and farmers were being provided with fertilizer, at a valued cost, are you ready to reconsider it. In haste, you reported everywhere, took up the matter with the Cabinet, informed the Supreme Court that there was an expert committee. They had said that it could be revived by providing financial package and it can be made operational. Did you ever think of the expert committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Why did not you think in this regard and if so, whether you are willing to make it operational again?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you that following the decision taken by the Cabinet a group of seven ministers was formed which will submit its report. Whether the group of seven ministers has ever convened any meeting and has taken any decisions? If so, please let us know?

MR. SPEAKER: One of those Ministers has become Speaker. You please ask questions.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fertilizer factory at sindri was set up during the tenure of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and at that time, Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the Minister of Industry. The factory set up during that period is still running in profit. Now there are reports that it is likely to be closed. Its closure is being proposed by the Group of Ministers while the factory is still running in profit. The people are agitated over this. My question is how it will be resolved?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister why a decision has been taken to close down the Pyrite units, which is a fertiliser unit at Amjhor in Rohtas district of Bihar which is known as P.P.C.L and the deposits of pyrite sufficient for 100 years lie buried there, even if 4000 tonnes of pyrite is extracted everyday from there. Moreover, the government has introduced V.R.S. there. ...*(Interruptions)* Although, this discussion is not on P.P.C.L., but still I want to draw your attention towards that.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I apologize to you though there is no fertilizer unit in my constituency, but I would like to speak generally in the interest of the whole country

[Translation]

I would like to put a question to the Minister. When you were the Industry Minister, we had seen your decision about workers/ How you had taken personal interest in saving the public sector.

Every company of fertiliser in India will be closed, be it Barauni, Durgapur, Haldia, Sindri or Kharagpur. The domestic market of India is going to face extinction after GATT agreement and economic reforms. I am not against economic reforms, but in its name and in the name of disinvestment, the public sector industries and undertakings are being sold and no alternative arrangements are being made. Consequently domestic industry is struggling for its survival.

MR. SPEAKER: Mamata ji, just ask your question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Whatever I have said is very serious. The entire market of India has been captured by China. China has not only captured the entire markets of Nepal and Bhutan, but has also taken control of the market of Bangladesh. We must give protection to the domestic industry. Fertilizer units are part of domestic industry and if N.T.C. units and Jute industries are closed, then how will our domestic industry survive. Therefore, I want to know

[English]

is the Minister going to reconsider the decision and to review the Disinvestment Policy to protect the interests of our people and the domestic industry in our country?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ramvilas Paswanji, you know that I am giving permission as a special case to ask question, so please ask your questions only.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in two sentences only. I had been sent to jail for protesting against the closure of industrial units at Barauni and Sindri. Hundreds of workers of Lok Janshakti Party had been arrested and sent to jails in this connection. Raghuvansh Babu is here. I would request him to ask the government of Bihar not to indulge in such things in the interest of the people.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): This matter pertains to the Government of India. You should ask them.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government of Bihar has filed cases against our peace loving workers of Lok Janshakti Party as they resorted to Rail Roko agitation. Since it is the matter of the State, I am requesting him to ask the Government there to withdraw those cases. There

is no factory left in Bihar after creation of the State of Jharkhand. All the factories have been closed. There is neither sugar mill nor any other industry. Only Barauni fertiliser and Barauni thermal Power Plant have remained there. The other is Sindri Plant, which has gone to Jharkhand. The Government have taken a decision to close them down also. There is a lot of resentment among the people. It is not a matter of any party, whether it is the BJP, Congress, Lok Janshakti Party, RJD or the Communist Party. All agree that these industrial units should not be closed. I want to warn the Government that the social concept and the welfare concept in the name of disinvestment should not become a thing of past. Slogans are raised for removing unemployment but they are adding to unemployment through such acts.

Dhindhsaji, I want to tell you that it's very unfair. These people are giving their own verdict about the direction in which the county is heading. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have also observed that it when you are not in chair. I want to warn the government and also request you to direct the Government to review its decision of closing down the factories located in Barauni and Sindri. The Government should stop snatching away people's employment or else it will give birth to a new type of terrorism and they will be squarely responsible for it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the last question. Thereafter, Mr. Minister would reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Everybody here, including the Members belonging to the ruling party, is very much concerned about this decision, which will have serious consequences. Therefore, I take it that the Government will consider it in a serious manner. Let the Prime Minister come and make an announcement that this will not be given effect to. ... (Interruptions) Let him come. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Population-wise Bihar occupies tenth position at the national level. Prior to the creation of the Jharkhand state there were two fertilizer units in Bihar - one in Barauni and the other in Sindri. Both the factories used to cater to the needs of the local populace. We fail to understand as to why the Government embarked on a decision to close down both the fertilizer companies and why it's bent upon generating an atmosphere of panic and terror in the state, that in all its likelihood will result in

chaos and the people will be left with no option but to take to the streets in protest against the injustice being perpetrated on them. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask your question.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I am just giving an account of the ground realities already prevailing there. When Ram Vilas Pawanjee sits on that side, he tends to forget everything. However, when he sits on opposition benches his memory becomes sharp and he recalls everything. ... (Interruptions) What we mean to say is that we will fight it out with them, we will oppose it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Suppose they don't accede to your demands? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: If it is so, we will also join the opposition benches as you did. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I wish to put forth my point of view in a very candid manner. If the Government wants to sell off everything by way of disinvestment then they should make an announcement to the effect as to and when they shall put the country on sale? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, may give his reply now.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can start your reply.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand. The issue was an important one; this was why I allowed seven members to ask questions. I can't allow everyone of you to ask questions because thereafter very little time will be left for taking up the zero hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANSARPUR): Sir, whereas there is a total production of 30,000 mt. tonnes of Urea, how is it possible to make 3,30,000 tonnes of urea available to the farmers there at the same price? This has caused chaos and turmoil in the whole of Bihar. ... (Interruptions) These mills should again be made

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

operational otherwise we will stage a protest march upto Parliament street. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not an ordinary question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Look, if you persist, then it will not be possible to conduct Zero Hour today. If you wish, you may continue to discuss this issue only.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The people are not able to appreciate what Disinvestment is all about. Therefore, there should be transparency in this exercise. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, this Ministry should be renamed as "Rashtriya Sampatti Becho Mantralaya" (Department for disposal of National Assets) so that the element of confusion may not creep into the people's mind. ...*(Interruptions)* The public is being misled. ...*(Interruptions)*

This Ministry should be renamed as "Rashtriya Sampatti Becho Mantralaya" so that this point may be driven home to the public as to how the country is being put for sale. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, you are not taking your seats. I want to make one thing clear to you that I can run the House the way you all decide and desire. Why don't you understand the simple fact that only three speakers were to speak on the subject. I allowed seven additional speakers to advance their views and ask questions. The issue on which only three Members were to speak, I allowed ten members to ask questions as I thought that it was an issue of enormous significance. Please try to appreciate the gravity. I attached to the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question in this connection. This issue is related to my Parliamentary Constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue is of great significance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is very important, but does it mean, that there will be no reply by the Minister. I can adjourn the House at one O'Clock as per the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want a reply from the hon. Minister, I would adjourn the House at one O'clock, and all of you will miss the reply of the Minister. So, please let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL):

Sir, in Kerala, there is a special need. ...*(Interruptions)* In FACT, 8,000 workers are employed. ...*(Interruptions)* I have been permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, the Fertilizers factory in Gorakhpur has been closed down since 10th June, 1990. Three former Prime Ministers assured during their visit to Gorakhpur that the factories located at Gorakhpur won't be closed down. Yet, the Govt. of India took a decision to close it down and the employees/workers working there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Every matter is important and it is important for every Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: I am giving the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have given a detailed reply on the calling attention motion. I respect the sentiments of the hon. Members very much. This is true that late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehruji had laid foundation of these public sector undertakings, which was a new experience that proved successful to a great extent. But gradually their condition became such that they started running into losses. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me as I am talking about making them earn profit.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA. U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, is he entitled to criticise Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for introducing these Public Undertakings? What does he mean? If he is bungling all through and if he is selling away all the industries, is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's policy responsible for that? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: This was their policy, that is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, generally I seldom make a speech. You sell away the undertakings of the country and the country should be a silent spectator to it. I know how to abide by the rules. The whole world knows that a country should be self-reliant in respect of foodgrains, then why the fertiliser factories of the country are being closed down. It is being said that we would make fertiliser available by importing it from other countries. The country is being sold away day in and day out and the whole country is silent.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, I respect Shri Chandra Shekhar ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I also respect him, but the sellers of the country will not be respected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 8000 workers have been thrown out for no fault of theirs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, if he does not want to listen, it is his will.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You give the reply, all will listen. Hon. Minister, you address the Chair and give the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a reply from the hon. Minister, please be seated. You asked and the hon. Minister heard. Now why are you speaking? The hon. Minister will speak, will you not hear him? You can not dictate as to what he should speak. You are a senior member.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): We want to hear the Minister's reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand your sentiments. If you do not want to hear the reply of the hon. Minister, you can put this question before the House through other way. If you are reluctant to hear the reply of the hon. Minister, I would not take the time of the House. I think that after permitting so many people to speak on such an important question I should also permit the hon. Minister to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, being the Chairman of this committee I had myself made a recommendation. We want to ask just one thing whether you want to run these undertakings or not? ...*(Interruptions)* Tell us this much only. If they do not want to run these, then ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, I request you to speak looking towards the Chair.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a decision has been taken, at the outset I would like to tell why this decision was taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We want to know the problem. We all know he visited. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: I had told in my statement that these undertakings had been running into losses since 1992. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the reply of hon. Minister will be recorded nothing else will go on records.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you need not look that side, please look at me and reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please look at me and reply. You have to always address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: In this way no one would be able to understand what I say.

MR. SPEAKER: I am hearing your speech, I am understanding everything.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. That is why we are walking out from the House.

13.03 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you can see the sentiment of the House. This should not be treated as a routine matter. You have allowed considerable opportunities to all the Members because of the importance of the matter vis-a-vis the national economy. ...(Interruptions) Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that he should ask your kind permission to go and consult the Prime Minister and then come and ask the Prime Minister to come and give a specific answer. The entire House is concerned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please go ahead with your answer. You are replying on behalf of the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You convey the sentiment of the House to the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Today we are not discussing disinvestment policy, if he wants a discussion on it then I can request the Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions) The position regarding the two companies and reasons for taking the decision to close them down, I want to answer these questions in detail. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not reply in detail, make it short.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please tell us whether you would revive them or not.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: How can I reply if you will not let me speak.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI, NORTH-EAST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister wants to reply but he does not want to listen. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Why don't you give a direct reply.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: We know the history, we want a reply on whether the Government would reconsider the decision or not. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: I can only give you the latest position. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were heavy industry Minister yourself. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, you had been a Minister. You know that you should not interrupt when the Minister is replying. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: I want to talk about the apprehensions in this regard. Firstly, the farmers should get urea. I have said that there will not be any shortage of urea in any part of the country. ...(Interruptions) Secondly, it is an era of globalisation and competition. We have the report of the group of Ministers. If we make efforts and revive it, we will find that it is not less than 13 thousand rupees per metric tonne.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep silence in the House. Let the Hon. Minister reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please reply only to the specific points. I want to conclude this debate. Please go ahead with the reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about CBMP?

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: A survey and test is being carried out in this regard.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The survey has been completed.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: I have not got any answer in this regard from Coal Ministry and Oil Ministry. We do not have any report. I want to assure that they will not be closed down permanently. We are bringing in long term new fertilizer policy. TRC had also recommended this and you were also in it when you were a Minister and now we are making it group based so that expenditure is reduced, the Government's money is saved and the farmer can keep his subsidy. That is why retention price would not be more than ten thousand on ten thousand five hundred per metric tonne. It can be more than 13 thousand rupees after revival then how will the loss of 3-4 thousand rupees be compensated. It is not that we are closing down new factories. We have projects of RCF in Thai, Kribhco in Hazira and Ifco in Nellore. We have these projects to meet any shortage. It is a good thing that Reliance is coming with a new gas project in the East.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It has come out in open that they are working in favour of Reliance. The secret has leaked. Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri factories are being neglected while Reliance is being favoured.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, he has issued a notice. It is not running on losses, it is running on profits.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Our best policy is gas based. We will give preference to east wherever we will get gas. New projects will be initiated in East. We will launch new projects wherever such factories are being closed if we will get gas for feed stock.

I can assure you if we will find gas and new projects are initiated then we will launch them in these areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on this issue is over.

Now, I go to 'Zero Hour'. Shri Chandrakant Khaire to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. That is why, we are walking out.

13.11 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Our Party is not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. That is why, we are walking out.

13.11 ¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shivraj V. Patil and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very decent man. Please sit down. I will allow you to speak.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 23rd of the month at 4 O'Clock in the morning the legislators of N.C.P attacked the house of Narayan Rane Ji in Maharashtra. His house at Kanakwali was set on fire. ...(Interruptions) His hotel and petrol pump was also set on fire. Before this incident some dispute was going on regarding election of Gram Panchayat in Kalsuli Village during which an activist of NCP was killed. Shiv Sena strongly condemns this act. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir this incident has no relation with this because the house of Raneji is situated 20 Kms away from that place. His house was attacked deliberately. I would like to request the hon'ble Home Minister to visit that place and dismiss the State Government after assessing the situation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji please be seated. Mohan Rawaleji, it's your turn to speak. Are you associating?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, Shri Prakash Paranjpe and Shri Kirit Somaiya, all of you may associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR) :Mr. Speaker. Sir, farmers have staged a dhama in Muzaffamagar because they are not being paid adequate prices for sugarcane by the mill owners, due to which the farmers are pushed to the verge of starvation. ...(Interruptions) The cattle are dying of starvation because there is no fodder as the sugarcane crop has not been reaped. Atrocities are being committed on the farmers throughout the State. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This issue has been discussed recently. You may ask questions as and when the hon'ble Minister will give a statement. I will allow you to speak because it is a serious matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to ask questions when the hon'ble Minister makes a statement. All hon. Members may take their respective seats.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given a statement that such an incident can occur. The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who is also the Home Minister has supported this incident. ...(Interruptions) Such an attack on the house of the leader of opposition is condemnable in Democracy. Here we give due regard to the leader of opposition but the house of the leader of opposition has been set on fire there. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker Sir, Narayan Raneji had also rang up the Chairman in connection with the incident but the latter did not lift the phone. Had he picked up the phone, Narayan Raneji's house would not have been set on fire. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Aditya Nathji, now it's your turn to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want that the NCP Government is squarely responsible for what has

happened and therefore it should be dismissed. ...(Interruptions)

13.15 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mohan Rawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13.15½ hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at two minutes
past fourteen of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice of adjournment motion in connection with the attack on Raghunath Temple. ...(Interruptions) I humbly request you to allow me to make my submission. ...(Interruptions) I have given notice of adjournment motion therefore I may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that the hon'ble Home Minister is making a statement on this issue. It is a serious matter. I would like the Home Minister to make a statement on it. But before this I would like to get some bills introduced. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested me to do so. Therefore, first we introduce two three bills then the Home Minister will make a statement.

[English]

14.03 hrs.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO
VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II-Section 2. dt.
25.11.02.

beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

14.03½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - LAID

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6044/2002]

[English]

14.04 hrs.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking (excluding the specified undertaking) of the Unit Trust of India to the specified company to be formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, and the transfer and vesting of the specified undertaking of the Unit Trust of India in the Administrator and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking (excluding the specified undertaking) of the Unit Trust of India to the specified company to be formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, and the transfer and vesting of the specified undertaking of the Unit Trust of India in the Administrator and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

14.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) ORDINANCE - LAID

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): On behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6045/2002]

[English]

14.05½ hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II-Section 2. dt 25.11.02.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II-Section 2. dt 25.11.02.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

14.06 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - LAID

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): 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, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6046/2002]

[English]

14.07 hrs.

*STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
RE: ATTACK ON RAGHUNATH MANDIR, JAMMU

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, terrorist groups being mentored from across the International Border/Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir have struck once again -- this time on the famous Raghunath Temple of Jammu. These terrorists have demonstrated their total lack of concern for the overwhelming yearning for peace demonstrated by the people of Jammu and Kashmir when they braved violence and exercised their right of vote in the recent Legislative Assembly elections. The terrorists have simultaneously shown their disdain for international opinion and the efforts of various countries which have been trying to apply moral and diplomatic pressure to end cross-border terrorism in India.

In the last three days, there have been a series of attacks by terrorists, chief among which were a suicidal attack in CRPF camp at Pamposh Hotel Complex, Srinagar on 22nd November and targeting the Jammu-bound Army convoy through an IED near Jawahar Tunnel on 23rd November. These and the present attack on Raghunath Temple makes one speculate whether it is a mere coincidence that this spate of terrorist incidents has occurred just when the process of Government formation has been completed in Pakistan. The spurt of violence also follows the release by Government of Pakistan of the Chief of LeT; Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed. After his release, he vowed to continue the "Jehad" in Jammu and Kashmir and gave a

* (Also placed in Library. See No. LT. 6047/2002)

public call to step up terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Monitoring of the communication network of terrorists indicates that the Jammu attack is the handiwork of Al Mansooran which is a cover organisation of the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

The present incident has been aimed at innocent civilians at a public place of worship. Earlier in March this year also, the terrorists had carried out an attack on the Temple in which five persons were killed. The three terrorists responsible for that assault were also eliminated.

According to reports, late on Sunday evening, two terrorists appeared at Raghunath Mandir Chowk, Jammu. One of them forced entry into the Mandir Complex and hurled grenades, thereby creating panic in the area. People started running helter skelter. Taking advantage of the situation, the terrorists mingled with the crowd and entered Raghunath Mandir. When confronted by a CRPF constable, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire, killing him on the spot and causing casualties to a number of others including civilians. However, the *Pujaris* managed to close the sanctum *sanctorum*, forcing one of the terrorists to take shelter on the periphery of the *sanctum sanctorum*. The CRPF personnel guarding the temple laid a cordon to prevent the escape of this terrorist. The operation at Raghunath Temple had culminated with the elimination of the terrorist hiding in the Mandir late on 24th November evening.

At the same time, the second terrorist escaped in the melee towards Panjbakhter Road, opened fire and lobbed grenades. This place is located just a few hundred metres away from Raghunath Temple where another Shiv Mandir called *Rupaya Wala Mandir* is located. Alert JKP personnel closed the doors of the Shiv Temple, preventing entry of the terrorist. The terrorist resorted to firing from a congested area adjoining this *Shiv Mandir*. The area was then cordoned off and this terrorist was killed this morning (25th November).

The State Government has intimated that at the time of the earlier terrorist attack on the Raghunath Mandir in March, 2002, the complex was guarded by 2/8 Guard of SSB personnel, besides local police for frisking etc., which was subsequently replaced by one platoon of CRPF. This was further augmented by deploying one section each of CRPF at Raghunath Chowk and Hari Market entry points of the temple. In addition, local police are deployed also at various check points in and around the temple.

In this terrorist attack on 24th November, 12 persons including one policeman, one CRPF *jawan* and one militant

were killed. Around 52 persons sustained injuries. One more injury to a Deputy SP occurred in the Shiv Mandir incident today (25th November) when the second terrorist was killed.

Today (25th November) morning, His Excellency the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, hon. the Chief Minister accompanied by the Deputy Chief Minister and senior officers visited the encounter site and the hospital and took stock of the situation. Hon. the Chief Minister also took a meeting with senior police officials yesterday to take further measures for strengthening security in the State particularly in the Jammu region. A meeting of prominent citizens is also being held by the hon. Chief Minister at Jammu to seek co-operation of people in fighting terrorism in the State.

As a precautionary measure curfew has been imposed in Jammu town.

Government has also sent a team including, Shri I.D. Swami, Minister of State for Home and Director General, CRPF to Jammu today.

The above incident is part of a deliberate design to create a communal divide in J&K. The people of the State, we are sure, will defeat these designs.

Government remains committed to provide all assistance to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in its fight against terrorism.

May I ask all Members of the House to join me in strongly condemning the incident and those responsible for it and also in offering condolences to the families of those killed in the incident and in reiterating the country's resolve to take all possible steps to combat and to defeat the scourge of cross-border terrorism in all its forms.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, we from the Congress Party have given a notice for Adjournment Motion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give us also the opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our's is the Adjournment Motion. I want your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are all aware that on such Statements, in our House, normally permission is

not granted for asking questions. But this being a serious issue - I cannot call it a first of its kind - I am sure the whole country has taken a serious note of this issue and therefore, a few Members may be allowed to ask a few questions on this as a special case.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Those who have given notice for Adjournment Motion, will they be allowed?

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have given notices for Adjournment Motions will definitely be allowed to ask questions.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to associate myself absolutely with the words of condemnation that the Home Minister uttered in his well-considered statement. I also share his political analysis behind the attack that took place last night and this morning. We would like to compliment our security personnel - be they local policemen, CRPF and others - who displayed great skill, bravery and alacrity in minimising the damage by the terrorists.

It is a part of the diabolical design by Pakistani agencies to get the people in Jammu and Kashmir divided on religious lines. The Government of Pakistan has been pursuing this line all this decade, and there is a pattern to all this. They have, of late, chosen to concentrate on places of worship. In fact, they have been doing this for years. It began with Hazratbal some years ago; they did this with regard to Char-e-Sharif; then Raghunath Temple itself; then Akshardham, and again Raghunath Temple.

The Common Minimum Programme, on the basis of which the new Government has just been formed, enjoins upon the Mufti Government to cooperate with the Government of India absolutely in countering terrorism, which is imported from Pakistan. As we all know, Jammu and Kashmir is not a provincial problem, nor is it a party problem. It is primarily and ultimately a first-rate national problem. It has been a long-standing issue. It is burning even now. Therefore, I agree with the approach outlined by the Home Minister in pleading that we adopt a consensual approach. However, I would like to mention - not by way of mere complaint but by way of friendly forewarning - that we all resist this temptation of getting into a partisan debate on this issue.

Yesterday, Shri I.D. Swami - who is generally a soft-spoken, mild-mannered gentleman - was tempted to say that the soft line of new Government has already begun to show up its negative, adverse effects. I think it is too short a period. I know the BJP is a babble of tongues. At least, the Home Ministry should not become a tower of tongues.

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

I wish he were here. Of course, he is on his visit to Jammu and I am sure, the Home Minister will be good enough to clarify. I think we must not indulge in this blame game. It will go on and on. After all, long before this new election took place, long before the new Government was formed, we had an attack in March, as the Home Minister was good enough to remind all of us, on Raghunath Temple. This attack took place in spite of the fact that there was a platoon and many other policemen in the temple, because they adopted tactics of infiltration which all terrorists are known to be doing all over the world.

As we have also seen in the last few years, the Pakistani agencies have always utilised the *Ramzan* period. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are aware that it is only a clarificatory question that you have to ask.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We have also seen, Sir, that in the last three to four years, the forces of Pakistan have always tried to disturb the peace during *Ramzan* period. Our Prime Minister was good enough to declare unilateral cease-fire. Even so, they never respected it. In 2000 *Ramzan* period; five major incidents took place; in 2001, three major incidents took place; and this year again, they are continuing with their effort.

Sir, now, we need to draw a distinction, while combating terrorism with all the force and will at our command, between the terrorists, hard-boiled terrorists, hardened criminals who indulge in such vicious acts and some leaders of the alienated youth on the one hand, and also a distinction between the leaders of these alienated youth and the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir. Unless we keep this distinction before our eyes, we will be getting confused in our approach.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am asking the question.

[English]

Sir, I would like to know from the Home Minister whether the new Government of Jammu and Kashmir has done anything without the clearance of the Central Intelligence Agencies.

I would also like to know from the Home Minister

whether any practical obstacles have cropped up in the unified effort that is to be mounted in combating terrorism.

I hope that the Home Minister will be able to shed light on this matter.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I express my condolence and sympathy towards the families of those who were killed by the terrorists in yesterday's attack on the Raghunath Temple and also express condolences on behalf of this House. I would like to know from the respected Home Minister through you as to what happened to the strong will power of the Government which has been mentioned time and again in course of talking of fighting terrorism in this very House. The recent incident that has taken place in J&K has only outlined the failure of the commitment of the Government of India and the State Government to fight terrorism. The terrorist incidents at present in India is terrorism sponsored from across the border. The Government lack will power to stamp it out. This Government is working as a mere puppet of America. Our Indian army had been posted along the border in the scorching heat of the sun for six months. The Government did not proceed even a single step to teach a lesson to Pakistan, the breeder of terrorism. When America directed this Government to de-escalate. The Government yielded to terrorism under American pressure having recalled the army. The temple of Akshardham was attacked, it was an attack on the temple of liberal Hindus. The Raghunath temple has come under attack twice and not once. Even this Parliament the holy shrine of democracy has been attacked and the legislative assembly of J&K has also been struck.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Home Minister how long will they keep sitting inactive. How long will Pakistan go on subjecting us to terrorist strikes on daily basis by adding and abetting terrorism and you will keep viewing it like a silent spectator? Even now if you fail to take steps timely in the direction of rooting out terrorism; I would like to put it forth frankly, that if you do not, take any steps to teach Pakistan a lesson, this country and the coming generations will not spare you. I want to know through you Sir, from the hon'ble Home Minister how long will they continue to dance to the tunes of America the, breeder of terrorism and will come forward to teach Pakistan a lesson—the originator of cross border-terrorism? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have given notices for adjournment motion will be given first opportunity.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I condemn the incident at Raghunath Temple, which was an attack by the terrorists.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a specific question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We strongly condemn yesterday's terrorist attack by the terrorists on the Raghunath temple. Our stand on it is that it is an attempt on the part of Pakistan to foil the initiatives of the new State Government of J&K aimed at ending alienation and bringing the people in the main-stream and keeping J&K united. It is their conspiracy and that is why such incidents are taking place the Government is being criticised. The statement delivered by the Minister of State for Home yesterday, will not improve the situation but we want to know about the steps the Government of India is going to take for further strengthening the hands of the State Government there. What is the concept of the Government?

What the Government of India intends to do. We have time and again been raising the point in the House that there should be a uniform policy about Kashmir. We have been hearing of pro-active policy but the Government never specified it. We have been repeatedly saying that terrorism prevails in Kashmir. The Government should tell about the steps it wants to take for addressing the problems faced by the people there, as yet no steps have been taken recently. Will the Government think over it without any further delay? We wish a joint effort by the Central as well as the State Government. The responsibility of the Central Government is greater.

[English]

As it is cross-border terrorism.

[Translation]

Our question is what concrete steps the Government of India is taking in this regard.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Basically, I associate myself with whatever has been said by my colleague Shri Reddy ji.

[English]

I will ask a pointed question; I will not make a speech

MR. SPEAKER: I will appreciate it.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I have to say to the hon'ble Home Minister that now ten years have passed. On such issues whether it might be temple or Masjid or from Charar-e-sharif to this grievous attack at this stage in Jammu after the attacks on the Amarnath pilgrims and the Akshardham temple wherein unarmed people have been killed, we end up paying ritual homages and expressing our sorrows. I would like to draw the attention towards a comment as to what the people think of you at the international level?

When the Indian Parliament came under attack, the US President George W. Bush had remarked.

Some one asked, ...

[English]

"Will they act now?"

He replied*

"They will not act even now." ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove those words from the record. Those words should be removed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): Sir, those words should be removed from the record. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those words have already been removed.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It is not an issue of party point, otherwise would not have spoken. It is not an issue of your Government or our Government. ... (Interruptions) The issue is that the country is bleeding. How long will it be tolerated? This incident has followed Akshardham. What specific steps will he take for the security of the temples and mosques? This is I want to know from the hon'ble Home Minister. There will yet be another attempt tomorrow to divide the country and in the name of 'cross-border terrorism' uttering this one word you cannot steer clear of it. Fully realizing my responsibility as an MP I want to say that an impression has been formed abroad of our's being mute spectators. We have remained so after such a tragic incident and we lack in guts.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, any derogatory statement about the Head of a State belonging to a different country may not form part of the record as that does not help either them or us or help the cause.

MR. SPEAKER : You are absolutely right. Keeping that in mind, I have removed that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): In spite of various attempts by the terrorist groups to destabilise the situation, create confusion and thwart the democratic process, elections have been completed in the State. But even after the completion of electoral process and formation of new Government in the State, the attacks have been continuing. Even yesterday there was an attack on the Rural Development Minister who was in his constituency and the attack on the temple was a few metres away from the place where the Chief Minister and other important Ministers stay. This is not an isolated case of an attack on the temple. This is the second attack on the same temple itself and that has to be condemned.

There was a move yesterday to organise attacks on Ministers, on residences of Ministers as also on other places. I would like to know whether the Union Government had any Intelligence Report about the general attacks by suicidal groups as also suicidal attacks on individual Ministers. If there was any such Intelligence Report, what sort of assistance was proposed to be provided or actually provided to the State Government? I would also like to know whether after the formation of new Government in the State, coordination between the Union Government and the State Government has been continuously monitored by the Home Ministry or not. Is there any lacuna or lapse, as is evident from what has happened yesterday, which would have contributed to the failure of the Intelligence?

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (KOLKATA SOUTH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my thanks to you for giving me a chance to speak on this subject. It is true that whenever such a situation arises in the country, it's necessary to have an assessment of its political fall out in the interest of the country and the public as well.

Today our country is facing terrorism. It is because cross border terrorism is a new concept.

[Translation]

What are they having? They have got everything. They have equipments, fake Ration Cards. At times, our people have also helped them but not for the cause of terrorism. They run their business by forming relationship with our people and by fattening their purses from external sources. It is a fact that sometimes when things favour a political

party it voices its protest otherwise it does not speak against any terrorist incident. It is also true that all of us collectively speak in the House whenever any big terrorist incident happens.

[English]

I will request that the Chair should move a resolution to condemn this type of terrorist attack as also the attitude of Pakistan and other terrorist organisations which are trying to destabilise our peace and unity.

[Translation]

It is true that you gave us a chance to seek clarifications but do not forget India is a democratic country and it is our right. Pakistan is ruled by a dictator sans any responsibility, credibility, accountability or transparency while our country is democratic where there's transparency. These days suicidal squads are operating from there due to which we failed to save Indira Gandhi Jee, Rajeev Gandhijee and Beyant Singh Jee's lives. Terrorism triggered off from Punjab and North East sometime back in the past and has now spread over to Kashmir. Earlier, there was an attack on Parliament. There are terrorist strikes on temples and innocent people are killed, our army personnel are killed but everything is buried in oblivion.

[English]

We are one and we are together. This message should go to the world. A message should go to the world that if they give support to Pakistan, we are not going to tolerate. Secondly, until and unless Pakistan stops cross border terrorism, it should not get any funds from the United Nations or from other funding organisations.

[Translation]

Pakistan should get no fund at all for whatever funds flow to Pakistan in the name of development from America, United Nation or UNICEF, the whole of the amount is spent on cross border terrorism. They are getting hundreds of crores of rupees. Today they have attacked our temple, tomorrow they will target our Gurudwaras and then our Churches. They will definitely target our Cinema Halls and our Parliament. We can't provide security to one and all. Since Parliament is in session, it is essential to revive and update the Intelligence service.

[English]

I would like to know whether the Government is going to take up this matter with the world front which has been constituted for fighting terrorism. India should ask the world front whether it will take care of Pakistan which is giving

money, supplying arms, and also giving training to terrorists to destabilise India. If they do not stop Pakistan, India should not keep quiet.

[Translation]

India will have to show their might and strength and if need be, we will die fighting, but not spare our enemy. Their aim is to launch frequent attacks on us and divide Hindu-Muslim. No true Muslim would like to see a communal divide between Hindus and Muslims, especially in the month of Ramzaan. We are glad that our colleagues from CPM spoke that 90 percent responsibility rest with the Central Government but I would like to know as to how fake ration cards are issued? I am of the opinion that both state and the Central Government should act together to combat this menace. At the same time, I would like to add that the Central Government should take strong action.

[English]

Mr. Home Minister, will you take strong action? We are not going to tolerate this type of terrorist attacks. If there is a need, you have to be assertive and our Government has to be assertive. We are one with you. Whatever you have stated in your statement should become part of a resolution and the same should be passed unanimously in this House. I hope everybody will support you in this matter.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House and the entire country condemns this horrible and brutal killing of innocent people. The whole of the House pays its homage to the brave jawans, innocent citizens and pilgrims who lost their lives in this incident. The entire country and whole of the House has taken a pledge to fight against cross border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. The new Government have come to power in Pakistan and the way they are promoting Lashkar-E-Toiba men and the way these men are claiming responsibility for killing innocent people in India, it appears that Pakistan is hell bent on doing anything destructive to cause a divide and trigger off communal riots in India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we join hands together and resolve today to fight Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, then such incidents can be encountered. Respected Mamatajee has rightly remarked that the way America is adopting double standard in respect of Terrorism, is totally unacceptable to us. They are defining terrorism differently. For western Pakistan they have different definition and for eastern part they after another definition and in the case of Kashmir,

they define terrorism again differently. Now the double standards adopted by America has been exposed. Pakistan puts the money and weapons received from America to destructive use in Kashmir. Whether it is coming via Bangladesh or through some other route, doesn't matter much. The point is that Pakistan is using all these resources to promote terrorist activities in Kashmir. If America claims to be honest, they must condemn the terrorist activities being perpetrated by Pakistan and should ask them to behave.

In the present scenario, the Govt. with Mufti Sahib as its head is being provided with all sorts of assistance by the Govt. at the Centre but I was taken by surprise when some of our colleagues referred to Swami Sahab's statement. This is not the right time to exchange allegations but it is sad that when Raghunath temple was being attacked yesterday and innocent people were being killed, it was also being watched and heard on Television that Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) will not be enforced in Kashmir. This statement was again made in the Legislative assembly was there any point to make such statement at such crucial time? The point I am inclined to make is that the need of the hour is to fight terrorism; and not POTO. Terrorism should be on hold and not POTA that should be on hold. I am aware that no Chief Minister of any state has the right today that he or she will not execute any Central law in his or her state. What we wish to arrest that no such message should make its way beyond the boundaries of the country as are supposed to encourage terrorists and weaken our military force. Is it necessary to give statements that cases will be framed against all those people who are fighting against terrorists? How will you frame cases against them? Is it high time to handicap our army men by raising the slogans of Human Rights? Today, the need of the hour is that the whole country should stand by those Valiant soldiers who have been fighting against terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Are you aware of feeling of the family members of the people working in Kashmir. The members of their families always feel insecured and terrorised and tremble with fear. Merely a thought of some telegram carrying bad was shiver them.

Only 16 CRPF personnel and many others were killed. The members of their families are always caught in the web of terror. They do have someone to be taken care of. We wish to undertake dialogues. Of course, dialogue should take place but it's not the appropriate time to hold dialogues. Therefore whoever resorts to criticism of the Govt. that it's doing nothing except scoring points in taking political mileage should refrain from making such remarks as it will have its adverse effect. It has been said in the house as to why Pakistan is not taken to task? I do remember, when we

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

proposed to attack the terrorist camps running in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), our colleagues, went on to say that we are creating war mania. The country will be ruined, if we go to war. Let's not have double-standards. In such a scenario, if Mufti Saheb needs any help, he should approach the Central Government. I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to call him to New Delhi and he should come. The entire country should join hands and come together and resolve fight back the Pakistan sponsored declared proxy war and let us not give any message that in all its likelihood, soften our stand.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly, I condemn the killing of innocent citizens by the terrorists and express my condolence towards the families of the victims. As far as the statement of Home Minister is concerned, he has made such statements many times. When he asked for cooperation of the House cutting across the party lines every party stood up to support the Government and even today I extend my full support. We are a part of country's supreme Panchayat, i.e. Parliament and the public wants to know the truth from us. We are betraying the public if we are keeping facts from them.

I do not agree with the first point of your statement that international community is looking down upon these incidents. Right from the beginning the Government have been trying to fight terrorism with the support of international community. We have always objected to this. Later on you changed your statement and said that we would fight terrorism on our own. You have said in the House that the international community has looked down upon the incidents of terrorism, it does not carry any sense therefore it should not go on record.

As far as the international community is concerned, I have said in the House and outside the House also and the hon. Prime Minister had accepted that he committed a mistake. It came out into light when Parliament was attacked. The opposition had extended its support at that time and it is doing so even now but how could the Government keep it a secret that they have sent officials to hold negotiations with a terrorist group secretly, why was it done and why was the opposition not taken into confidence. About the Government of Kashmir's decision, please keep in mind that you are the ruling party at the Centre and Congress too can not shirk its responsibility. Congress was the largest party. Discussions have been going on for weeks with Shri Mufti and the supporting parties to form the Government and to arrive at an agreement but was it given in the agreement that the terrorists would be released? Terrorists were released. The Government never took us into confidence. When people of Huriyat were released, the

Central Government did not take the opposition into confidence. Today, both the Governments are responsible. Please do not make excuses. We will support you and your Government. We will extend every kind of support the Deputy Prime Minister desires but what was the reason for not taking the opposition into confidence over such an important issue.

You would always need our support and help. Together we will fight terrorism. We will support you because the public is suffering and the army is deployed on the border. We would like to give you moral support and we will give it. We are against the terrorists and we will be with you in whatever action you take but it has been proved that both the governments have committed a serious mistake regarding this incident. This Government should occur the responsibility of the attacks on the Parliament, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Red Fort and Akshardham temple, and the Government is still not taking any stern action. The Government is holding dialogues with Pakistan and says that Pakistan is sponsoring the terrorism. The Government should take a decision. Why is the government misleading the public and the country? It all depends on the Prime Minister and the Home Minister but please do not mislead the country. Make your intentions clear to the public. Nothing is greater than the honour and security of the country but you play politics even in this regard. We do not want to play politics game. The Government repeatedly accept before each citizen of the country that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism. Innocent people are being killed, temples are being attacked, Parliament has been attacked but despite all these incidents the Government has not taken serious steps to deal with the situation. It is true that the Government deployed the armed forces on the borders for eight months. The soldiers shouted slogans, were felicitated by the public and were given a warm send off. But the opposition was not taken in confidence while deploying the armed forces. We were not against deploying the army at the border but nobody was consulted when the forces retreated. A meeting should have been called in this context. We have read all the 32 or 35 statements given by the Government till today, whether the opposition has not extended its support and cooperation? This is a question related to the country and not to the NDA government only. Please do not mislead the country and do not spread panic. It is true that our people are being killed but your statements have created so much panic that people are living in fear all over the country. This Government has created panic among the people of the country through its statements. When it was known that Parliament is being attacked, people were scared and there was panic throughout the country. Fear loomed large over the celebrations of 15th August and in the capitals of the States, the occasion was celebrated in fear. Everybody was

apprehensive that anything may happen. Why this kind of atmosphere is being created.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say, be it the Prime Minister or anybody else, my party will always extend full cooperation where the interest of the country is concerned. We can neither serve the country nor protect it if we will care too much for our lives. Where was the need to publicise the fact that security has been tightened and the hon. Prime Minister will give his speech from Red Fort on 15th August. It spread a wave of fear in all the capitals of the State. People used to celebrate Independence Day with so much zeal and enthusiasm but this year public could celebrate due to panic. I do not want to know how this situation arose. People like us can understand this problem. I would like to say that Mr. Mufti does not have any standing in all Government that has been formed in Jammu & Kashmir with the help of Congress. Had our party been consulted I would have suggested to arrive at some kind of an agreement with Mr. Farooq though there are lots of differences between us. That is why Congress can not shirk the responsibility. As far as responsibility is concerned, it is on both of us but we have given our full cooperation and support whenever asked for and we will continue to do so. But, for how long will the ministers in the Government continue to give such statements. I request you to keep the International community out of mind. You give statements that you will fight terrorism on your own but again look up to the International community for support.

I do not want to repeat but Mamataji also said that Pakistan is carrying out these activities. The Government has said that our image world over has improved. The Government have said before all the leaders of the opposition in an all party meeting that international image of our country in the world has improved. Where is the international image. The Government have said it before all the leaders that it has a good international image. This Government is not concerned about the image of the country, the public and your own, this Government is only concerned about the international image. Pakistan's debt has been waived and when this Government alleged Pakistan then America refuted those allegations and said that Pakistan is not involved in all this while it is definite that Pakistan had a hand in it. But America denied Pakistan's involvement in the incident.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please ask your question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You talk of international support. The world came to know about your international support recently when you failed to get a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council. Pakistan

succeeded in getting a place in the same council. This much international support you have got. May we know the name of the countries that are with you and to what extent they are with you. You gave America an unconditional support when it came under attack on 11th September that too without any formal request from their side. We do not wish to repeat the same thing but the hon'ble Home Minister would remember that in the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, we had cautioned you people not to take any such step before any request is made from their side. Like others, you also express your condolence and sympathy and refrain from inviting any opposition. Battle was to be fought somewhere else but you were turning the same to your side. You made such statements, is it not politics? It is a question of our country and it is to warn you, therefore we would like to know to what extent did you go with international community and to what extent did you get their support and how far will you get that support in future also and how long will you continue fighting this menace on your own. We will cooperate you. But you will have to admit that be the Government of this side or that side both are equally responsible for this incident.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of my party, pay my sincere homage to the people killed in the yesterday's attack on Raghunath temple and Shiva temple and to all the people who have hitherto been killed in the terrorist attacks. I hope the entire House joins me in expressing our sincere condolences to all the members of the bereaved families. I am hopeful that it will turn out to be our last condolence. Terrorism have claimed 25 thousand lives so far which includes killings of small Children, Amarnath pilgrims, soldiers guarding our border. Our army soldiers, kids and our mothers and sisters all have been killed. But how long will it continue? All of us have raised this issue. Today terrorism has hit our country. The decisive battle will be fought but the decisive battle is being fought on our territory. ...*(Interruptions)* In addition to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister has also said it. You people must be knowing but I also want to let you know as to how many people have been killed till December 13. Only yesterday you issued a warning. I want to know when your last warning will come?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some figures with me which I would like to share with the House. In 1990, the total number of terrorists killed by the Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir was 550.

Of them, the number of foreign terrorists was zero. Today in the year 2002, 1344 terrorists have been killed

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

which includes 802 foreign terrorists. That means they constitute 59.7 percent, who are these people? They are Pakistanis you have stated repeatedly that they are Pakistanis. I fail to understand as to why do you attack Pakistan? My this question needs an answer.

15.00 hrs.

Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra was just speaking that there are terrorists training camps in Pak occupied Kashmir. Will you even strike them or not? If so, when you will? Today, the entire House is with you. The entire House has expressed its feeling today, congressmen have expressed their anger. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji has expressed his feelings. Only community people have not said anything clearly for they can not say. ...*(Interruptions)* If activities in terrorist camps continue like this then when will you attack them. These are my feelings which I am expressing on behalf of Shiv Sena. My point is that terrorism has not hit Pakistan they are not affected by this menace at all. They are suffering no harms. If their people are also killed then only they will have a feeling of terror inside them. Why do not you produce such suicidal squads? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also request you. We may also be allowed to speak, please. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I strongly condemn the incidents that have taken place and I fully associate my party and myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. We convey our sincerest condolence to all the members of the bereaved families. We applaud the role of the para-military forces particularly who, in spite of very severe odds, have done their duty in an exemplary manner.

Sir, we consider that this is nothing but cowardice on the part of the perpetrators of this crime and we also agree that this is sponsored by our neighbours on the other side. This is another lesson that we have to, as a nation jointly, together, unitedly, fight against this scourge and let us not depend upon others for the purpose of standing by us at the time of serious problems that we are facing. Every country acts for her national interests. Similarly, United States of America is acting for her national interests and they have their different perceptions. Therefore, let us not be enamoured by what the President of a particular State across the seas is saying or not.

Sir, this conspiracy, which is going on, on the other side, has to be fought both on the basis of our strength and also politically. What is important here is, all the people of this country should resolve to fight it in a manner which will not only achieve the goals but also will not divide, the nation.

I agree with the hon. Deputy Prime Minister - I feel he has correctly mentioned - that Pakistan is upset at the peaceful election that has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir, belying all the apprehensions of all quarters across the country and also outside. What has been seen there recently is that religious places are being attacked more and more. The reason is obvious. This is done to create a communal divide, a religious divide and try to divide the people of this country on religious lines. This sinister game has not only to be exposed but also to be fought unitedly. I request everybody - even our very good friend Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra could not resist it - not to say or do things which will weaken the united resolve of this country. Let us not try to find fault with each other or try to take up a holler-than-thou attitude because that will not help us. A new Government has come in the State of Jammu and Kashmir after a long period of rule by another party. That Government has been very recently constituted. The Government of India has rightly expressed its resolve to render all support. So, if important people of those who are in the Government make such statements, this gives a very bad impression as if the whole objective is not to fight the terrorists there, but to find out the so-called reasons for this recurrence.

When the Akshardham incident, the serious incident, took place, there was POTA. There were all the forces available. Why did it take place? Only a few days ago, a Government says that it would not insist on the use of POTA. Does it mean only because of that Raghunath Temple incident has taken place? These types of simplistic allegations or contentions will only queer the pitch and will help the people who are perpetrating these crimes. I am sure, the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister will agree with us that whenever the question of terrorism came, in the context of Jammu & Kashmir or any other place, whenever the Opposition has been consulted, we have given the fullest support to the Government and in one voice we have stood by the Government at all times.

Only one question I would like to know, which is troubling me, in the context of the fact that very recently the Akshardham incident took place. It is also known, as has been pointed out rightly by Shri Jaipal Reddy that during this period, these religious places are being made target by those terrorists. I would like to know, knowing that Raghunath Temple is one of the vulnerable temples, of the religious places, was any special precaution taken for the purpose of protecting these religious places.

Now, the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister mentioned what is the type of force that is available now. But does he feel that it is sufficient? I am no expert. He has got the experience, he has got the advisors to advise him also. I would like to know what is the sufficient protection taken. Now considering that this is the diabolical game of the terrorists, whether proper precautions have been taken for protection of other important places of pilgrimage, religious places from now on; whether adequate steps would be taken?

I reiterate our party's support for taking all actions against the terrorists and I commend the role of Mufti Saheb as the head of the new Government that he is trying to provide a healing touch and that should be the proper approach to bring them into the mainstream.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate my party and myself with the feelings and sentiments of Deputy Prime Minister expressed in the House. What has happened in Jammu, cannot be condemned by words. No religion of the world teaches to kill innocent people. No religion, no ideology can justify the killings of innocent children, women and men inside any religious place. But besides this, I would like to tell the Deputy Prime Minister that we are not expressing grief for the first time. We have been doing so in every session, though our words may be different, but our feelings and agony remain the same. I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister how long would we go on expressing our feelings like this in the precincts of the House. The terrorists who have killed the innocent people are less responsible as compared to those who sent them for massacre. It is said time and again that Pakistan is responsible for this. But I would like to ask why any step is not taken against Pakistan? If we want to create an international atmosphere against terrorism and want to convince other nations, we are ready to go to any platform. We are ready to create atmosphere against Pakistan in the entire world. I would like to say to the Deputy Prime Minister that when an incident occurs at a religious place not only that place but the whole nation has to bear its consequences. An attempt has been made to create a rift between Hindus and Muslims by such an act. Iqbal has said:

"Mejhab nahin sikhata, aapas mein vair rakhna, Hindi hain hum vatan hai Hindustan hamara".

I would like to say this not only on myself but on behalf of the entire nation and the people. I do not like to criticise the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, because they have not got much time rather I would like to congratulate the Union Government for conducting free and fair election in

the state for the first time in the last 54 years and it deserves credit for that. You have conducted election there and gave the reins of the state in their hands. It is now their turn to decide how terrorism can be curbed?

The first question I would like to ask the Government as to how long would the terrorism go on and whether the Government can tell the house how much time will be taken to curb terrorism. Secondly we had deployed forces on the border and it remained there for six months continuously. I know the incidence of Rajasthan where our forces used to take shelter under trees to prevent themselves from scorching heat. We had deployed forces on border and withdrew them. Why we have done that, why have not we taught a lesson to our enemy? Had we taught them a lesson than perhaps we would not have suffered that we are suffering in Jammu. I would like to ask whether the Government have formulated any plan to decide to fight terrorism by convening all party meeting alongwith the Government of Kashmir and its Chief Minister

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got 15 more names of hon. Members who want to speak on the issue. I can understand that this is a very important issue. But at the same time, the seriousness of the issue should not be lost and therefore, I have permitted only those Members to speak who are leading the political parties. So, it is, according to me, not desirable that so many Members speak. After all, we have to listen to the hon. Minister also. Only a few leaders, who belong to smaller groups, are left. Like Shri Pandian, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Prabhunath Singh are there to speak. These three Members may speak and if you all agree I may be able to close the discussion and ask the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Sir, I have given a notice on this and when I met you in the morning, I was assured that I would be given time.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, since Shri Chaturvedi has given a notice and I had assured him that he would be given a chance, he would be given time to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

Rest may please cooperate, the subject may lose its importance if it is prolonged.

[English]

Those who are remaining to speak would be also requested to put specific questions only to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, on behalf of my AIADMK Party, I condemn the ghastly incident, attack by the terrorists last night, at Raghunath Temple.

When the World Trade Centre was attacked, the President of the United States, Mr. George Bush said that he would hunt down Bin Laden. What happened to Bin Laden? He is alive in Pakistan. He is masterminding the terrorist operations in the whole world. One day we see that he is there and the other day we see that he is appearing in a video cassette being sent to the United States.

Sir, the vow taken by the United States in nabbing and in hunting Bin Laden has not been fulfilled so far. Pakistan, which is the traditional friend of the United States, is waging an indirect military war through terrorists.

Sir, there is a conflict of military interest between India and the United States on certain issues. We support Iraq but the United States is not supporting Iraq. It is their enemy. When there is a conflict of military interest between the friendly countries of India and the United States, these terrorist attacks have become the order of the day and they are being carried on by the terrorists.

15.16 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

Sir, umpteen number of terrorist attacks were made in Pahalgam, Parliament and other important places like PMO. I would say that it is the time for India to take a tough military stand to attack Pakistan. Even after the election of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, they are not following the democratic values. We have debated the President of Pakistan, Shri Pervez Musharaff's diabolic attitude in this House on a number of occasions. We have exposed him at the All Party meeting convened by our Prime Minister. Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, you were also present in that All Party meeting. All the leaders of the parties attended it.

Sir, Pakistan is not going to change. It will not change. Pakistan's whole aim is to divide India on religious and communal lines because we are multi-lingual, multi-racial and multi-religious. So, I would say that the Government of India - the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister - may take a tough military stand against Pakistan at this juncture.

Sir, Pakistan has no foreign policy. We have our foreign policy. What is the foreign policy of Pakistan? Its foreign policy is only to attack India. Our foreign policy is non-aggression. We are not committing any aggression against any country. What is the mutual benefit that we have got? Sir, we are following *Panchsheel* policy. We have not deviated

from that policy. So, we are not able to pardon Pakistan's attitude on every terrorist attack against India. We cannot pardon Pakistan.

Sir, Pakistan has purchased F-16 planes from the United States about 25 or 30 years ago. Do you mean to say that the traditional friends - the United States of America and Pakistan - separate themselves? Will the United States come to the aid of India against Pakistan? That is the moot question.

Sir, George Bush has recently convened the NATO Summit. At that time, the United States has preserved its interests. It has not talked about any world interest. The NATO countries discussed about their defence treaty.

That way, it is high time that, as a whole, we, one of the largest democratic nations, have to preserve the integrity and sovereignty of India and to protect the people of India from the onslaught of terrorist attacks from diabolic Pakistan by taking a tough stand thereby exposing Pakistan at the world level. Pakistan is attacking temples to attract the attention of the world. By every attack, they want to attract the attention of the world. When they attacked Parliament, they attracted the attention of the whole world that Pakistan had waged an attack against India.

Yesterday's attack at Raghunath temple was just to attract the attention of the world because everybody in the world knows that Indian citizens are preserving temples. They go to temples; they go to churches; and they go to mosques. So, in that way, Pakistan has taken that sentiment on hand. To demolish that sentiment, to drive a wedge among different communities, especially between Hindus and Muslims, and to divide the nation, in India, the Pakistani agents have waged these terrorist attacks.

We had debated, on a number of occasions, about the ISI agents operating in India. We are not able to control all the ISI agents operating in India. There were a number of discussions in this House on cross-border terrorism, which we are not able to control. We are not able to redeem even the PoK. Even in the PoK, the ISI agents are operating. I would say that we would strengthen the hands of the Government. We have to strengthen the hands of the Government at the Centre because the Central Government is the Government, which protects the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

I would say that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has said that they will not use POTA. In my opinion, POTA was passed in this House only to use against the terrorists. POTA is for what? Keeping in mind the Jammu

and Kashmir problem and cross-border terrorism, we had passed POTA. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has said that they will not use it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will conclude now.

So, I would urge upon the Government to take a tough military stand. I would say that we have to teach a fitting lesson to Pakistan. They come; they attack; and they go. There is infiltration into India. We have not infiltrated into an inch of Pakistan. We have not infiltrated into an inch of China. We are not infiltrating into any other foreign country. But, it is in the minds of those countries that we have a soft attitude. We have a real democratic Government. Pakistan has a pseudo-democratic Government. Their Prime Minister cannot be equated with our Prime Minister. Our Prime Minister was elected on a franchise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will finish within a minute.

Let it be the last deliberation for passing condemnation against Pakistan and passing any reference about any terrorist attack. When I express our grief over the attack on the people by terrorists, at the same time, we request the Government to ensure that at least in future let there not be any recurrence of such attacks in India by terrorists.

Terrorists can be controlled only by having a terrorist's way of thinking. Diamond can be cut only by diamond. In that way, we should inculcate and develop a terrorist kind of feeling to control Pakistan.

[Translation]

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN (JAMMU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the poet of the east, Iqbal has said:

"Soonee padi hui hai muddat se dil ki basti, aah ek shivala is desh mein bana dein"

When trouble, tragedy, collusion and violence occur in the country, our poet said that we will build a new Temple and Mosque in the country from where teaching of love will be imparted.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been living together irrespective of caste, creed and colour and have sacrificed their lives for brotherhood, unity, integrity and safety of the country. No one can deny it. But the terrorists, sent by our enemies do not like it and have tried enormous tricks to break the unity, patience and brotherhood. The incidents,

that happened yesterday, is one of their tricks and it should be the last trick. But it does not seem to be like that. The experience shows that Jammu and Kashmir have been the victim of violence for the last 12 years. Hindu and Muslim want brotherhood, peaceful co-existence, unity, safety and integrity of the country but our enemy do not like it. Now the question is which path we have to follow? A lot has been said in the House. When ever attempts have been made to harm the brotherhood of Hindu and Muslim it has been clearly stated that Hindus are in majority there. There is no doubt about it. The world knows that Muslims are living in the country with a secular view particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, where people are hurt the most and need patience, understanding, tolerance and sympathy.

Sir, we want to congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister as well. In view of all the latest incidents of terrorist violence that have taken place in Doda, Jammu or within the valley, we think that someone should help us and someone should be our messiah, who can redress our grievances. We want that our voice should be heard. We are here in the Parliament for a long time, but no meeting has ever been convened to find out the solutions of this problem. We are the representatives of that State and whichever Government may be there, the Government must dwell upon the solution of the problem. In a nutshell it could be mentioned that terrorism is not coming to an end due to all this and it must be definitely eliminated. If we do not take timely action, we would not be able to contain the problem especially in a short time.

I want to request the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister to act according to his vast experience but must also take into confidence the people of Jammu-Kashmir, Members of Parliament and the Members of the State Legislative Assembly. Meetings of Kashmiris should be convened where open-hearted discussions must take place with regard to the ways to combat this menace.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that terrorist attacks have been carried out in Jammu three or four times and precious lives have been lost. I join him in condoling the loss of lives but words are not enough and can not assuage the feelings. These are the testing times for the patience, tolerance and the sincerity of the Hindu majority community of Jammu, which is the sympathiser of Muslims, and loves them, and believes in peaceful co-existence. But, the enemy does not like it because of folly. The enemy thinks that it would be able to defame India through these types of incidents. However, ultimately it would not succeed in its sinister designs, because the enemy is the killer of Muslims and their biggest enemy. The moot question is how long will all this continue.

[Chowdhary Talib Hussain]

Sir, I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Home Minister as to what should we do in this regard. The Government may please convene meetings of the representatives and hold parleys with them. It is not necessary that the people present here may be having first hand experience of things. It is quite possible that the representatives of the far flung areas, who are experiencing such incidents and are suffering the pains, could have the first hand experience of these things. They could have the experience of the former regime which continuously fought against terrorism for six years. The Government may please call the representatives of the present Government for talks. Further, ultimately what are the steps we could take to avert the threats to our unity and to curb the menace of terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)* Infiltration is not stopping. It is being propagated that infiltration is coming down and probably it might be true to some extent. I hail from the border area. However, I want to say that it is not enough to bring infiltration down, but to stamp out infiltration. I want to know whether this infiltration will stop and if so, by when this will happen.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the start of each session discussion is held on this issue and in between too by disrupting the regular business. This is not the first terrorist incident but such incidents continue to occur and debated in the House, thereby enticing the reply from the Government.

Sir, we express our condolences towards the families of those, who have been killed. No incident could be more condemnable than the incident of Red Fort, which was an attack on the history of the country, and the incident of Lok Sabha which was an attack on the soul of the country. Further, attacks have also been carried out on pilgrims and temples. The Jawans of the Army are being killed, and killings of the common man have become quite a regular thing. The Government gives statement both inside and outside the House. The statements are emotionally surcharged which is but natural. Whenever an incident occurs at a place of worship emotions run high in the villages since media has reached upto the villages. People have begun to think as to what is going on in the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Akhileshji had mentioned that the Government was bowing down before America. I believe that India is having friendly relations with America, but often such statements emanate from American side which create confusion in the country and people begin to think that probably India is following the diktats of America. Today, the people of the world must be praising the patience of India even when attacks are being carried out on the temples

and pilgrims are being killed. But, how long our patience will continue to be tested? I want to know from the Hon. Home Minister two-three things. Firstly, we want to know whether any time-frame has been fixed for this patience? Secondly, what sort of incidents the Government are waiting for to happen after which it would take firm steps? Now-a-days even the rural folk shy from visiting the temples and other crowded places. Hon. Khuranaji also dwelt upon the dubious character of America. Now-a-days terrorist incidents are being perpetrated through the money of America. Then could you please not exert pressure on America citing the friendly relationship, so as to curb the incidents of terrorism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ours is a federal polity and our security forces such as BSF, CRPF etc. have made exemplary sacrifices in apprehending the terrorists. Is the morale of our security forces not being dampened through such statements as that of the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir that the terrorists would be released. I would like to know would the Government impress upon the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir not to release the terrorists who have killed the security forces and carried out attacks on temples, mosques, and on such a sacred place as Lok Sabha. I want to know the views of the Govt. on the prevailing conditions and whether it is going to take any new steps for safeguarding the security of the country, so as to protect the country from terrorist attacks.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to engage in a prolonged argument on this occasion. Serious concerns have been expressed by our party and all other parties over the tragic incident that occurred yesterday. This has drawn condemnation from all political parties. I do associate myself with them. It is not for the first time that we are discussing such issues. Sometime back it was Akshardham then Raghunath Temple a number of persons have been killed and many other are going to be the victim of terrorist attack. In the whole spectrum of events, the same sort of strategy is seen irrespective of the persons involved therein. It is not our maiden experience. Every time we just raise our hands to give the signal that we are with the Government. The Government presents an account of the situation taking stock of the things concerned. It is followed by a debate and we are persuaded that it is the compulsion or limitation of the Government.

Today, this party is in Government, tomorrow someone else will be there. The fact of the matter is that the

Government can, hardly afford to set a deadline to push terrorism into public oblivion by exercising control over the terrorists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that terrorists have an access to every security arrangements in a clandestine manner. They know as to how many security personnel have been deputed and at which place in the temple. They just take stock of everything and having learnt every security aspects in copious details they plan their strategy and try their best to put their foul destructive mindset to action. Every initiative they undertake goes to their favour. In the first place, they strike in subsequent, we are compelled to undertake retaliatory move. The leader of opposition Mrs. Sonia Gandhi had condemned this incident. She has gone to Jammu. After taking stock of the situation, she will interact with people over there. After all these tensions in the wake of terrorist strikes at Akshardham temple or Raghunath Temple, terrorists intention has come to light that's nothing but infecting the whole of India with the virus of terrorism by creating a venomous atmosphere under which all communities of India will die fighting with one another for petty reasons. We too, have to be cautious in our expressions as well as activities lest our words or decision should prove conducive to their disastrous activities.

I just want to ask two-three questions. I do not want to engage myself in the game of allegations - counter allegations. I have some serious questions to ask that is ingrained in the being of every individual. We resorted to many measures to face terrorism. We did make laws, put Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in place. When all the limits of our tolerance was, close to be over, we resorted to mobilization of the largest-ever military deployment and deployed the army personnel ranging in number somewhere between seven to seven and a half Lac along the border for a period of 10 months. The armed forces of both the nations were in combat readiness. Whenever any such a decision is taken, it is not simple or spontaneous. The Government takes such decision with well thought-out strategy. Some military targets and political objectives form a part of such decision. I would like to know from hon. Deputy Prime Minister as to how he has taken such a decision. What the targets he had? If he does not want to make it public for security reasons, I won't exert pressure. Now that a decision to withdraw our military personnel from the border post has been taken, he can make the reasons public as to what ambitions we had in mind, what were our political objectives, what were our military targets? What has been our achievement after this ten month long exercise. One of the objective to deploy forces there to check terrorist activities and find an effective control over it. Our purpose was to

create such an atmosphere the world over that the other countries will raise strategic pressure on Pakistan to stop infiltration. Have we been able to achieve any such target yet?

There just have been some informal talks. I had already stated that I do not want to enter into the affair of accusations - counter accusations nor there is any justification of taking such move on this serious issue. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has assumed the office only one month ago. I won't mention anyone's name here. Some persons have stated outside the House that the situation there has deteriorated. Since the Jammu and Kashmir Government has declared to release some separatists from jail, he declared that he would not implement POTA.

Does this probably give us the impression that all these facts have been the key element behind triggering off terrorist activities. That apart, I would very much like to know whatever be the number of separatist released by J&K Government, whether anyone of them have been set free without consultation with the Central Government? Whether the State Government has proposed the release of these terrorists prior to making consultation with the Government at the Centre. My last and third question is whether the Government is in agreement with the fact that due to the release of the separatists group or Fidayeen attack there has been sudden eruption?

The Central Government's policy has been to pursue pro-active, hot pursuit or zero tolerance approach. We are not in favour of war but have been waiting for the last four years to embark on any firm decision to undertake further action. At the same time, we are not opposed to it either that measures be taken to mobilize international opinion in this regard. The Government should clarify whether it propose to hold any discussion to take a decision?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it comes to our notice day in and day out that Military Camps, Police, Temples, Parliament and Assemblies are being targeted by the terrorists. Election process or the process for the establishment of democracy is being initiated. This pushes the terrorists in the depression zone that the Government of their interest is not being formed. We also come to see that various experiments have been undertaken of this kind. Cease-fire was resorted to in the name of Ramzaan, armies were deployed across the border, and were withdrawn also. Besides off-beaten statements are also being made, however, terrorist activities are not being checked. Terrorist activities are not limited to Sansad only but have now caught State Assemblies and Red Fort also in its dragnet. Despite detailed discussion on

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

ISI or cross border terrorism it has continued. All of us condemn these incidents and wail, take a resolution and exhibited combined power but the problem is not being resolved. We are not aware when Minister of Home Affairs would accept this fact that how many failures go to their credit. If the country continues to move on the same track, what shall be measures and the outcome. We wish to know specifically from the Minister of Home Affairs whether the Government has taken any action to create an international mandate, if so, the brief account thereof? After the new Government coming into power in the State, whether measures have been taken to uproot terrorism, taking the State Government into confidence. Common public is law abiding. Whether dialogues have been conducted with the separatist groups in a united manner or simply it has been decided to break their hearts without exchange of views with them.

The Government should clarify its stand on this issue in a specific way. All the hon. Members have expressed concern over it and have asked of the steps being taken by the Government to uproot terrorism. We wish to ask specifically whether any action has been taken to mobilize an international mandate.

Second thing that I wish to ask whether they have made any efforts to take elected Governments at the State level into confidence. In addition, common people who are against terrorism and have reposed confidence in constitutional provisions have been taken into confidence. Is there any strategy in place to uproot terrorism or is it just a routine affair? In case of the occurrence of an incident, FIR is lodged and arrest is made. Whether you are willing to constitute a task force or launch any special campaign? Whether we are hindering you from uprooting terrorism. The country is united against terrorism but as it occurs to us, the Government is sadly lacking in will power which stops the Government from taking right action. Everybody is saying time and again that we are ready to give our all out support to uproot terrorism. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is requested to make a categorical statement on this issue or resign the post. Thus a sense of confidence will make its in-roads among the masses that the Government has been a great failure on this front and the Government cannot tolerate such events anymore. If it is just undertaken as a routine affair public would be awfully disappointed as they will be left with no choice but to shed tears over their misfortune.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, condemn the terrorist attack on the Raghunath Temple. Almost everyday now we are witnessing these terrorist attacks in a variety of places like the Parliament of India,

the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, in the Akshardham Temple etc. Just two days back the militants belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba group had planted bombs near the Sai Baba Temple in Hyderabad and fortunately for us only one bomb went off and the rest did not explode. Five persons were killed in that incident and a few others were injured.

Sir, there should be an end to this. We are all with the Government in the fight against terrorism. Every developed country, including the USA, is talking about terrorism but we are everyday witnessing the effects of this terrorism. What pressure are these developing nations putting on Pakistan to stop this terrorism? These are designs of Pakistan. They are training the youths in their country and are sending them across the LoC not only to Jammu and Kashmir but also to other parts of India. These attacks are taking place everywhere in the country. We have to put an end to this. We are with the Government on this. The law should be implemented stringently and without any compromise. The duty of the Government is to ensure life and liberty of the people of this country. Right to live is a Fundamental Right. So, the Government should act very firmly. The newly elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir should also act according to the circumstances. If they think that the Government is liberal on these issues, then such activities would increase. So, in the interest of the country, the Government of India should be in touch with the State Government to combat terrorism. Both of them should work together. That is my suggestion.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I strongly condemn the diabolical attack of the terrorists on the Raghunath Temple and the Shiv Mandir. I express my grief over this incident and I express my sympathies to the families of the victims in this incident.

Sir, we, on behalf of our Party associate ourselves with the statement made by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister. I would like to pose some questions to him.

At the present juncture, what is the plan of the Government to meet this challenge? It is true that it is very difficult to identify the suicide squads of terrorists. But it is not difficult to know that these terrorist outfits are being sponsored by Pakistan. My point is not that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please ask your question. This is not a debate. It is an extraordinary situation and so, the hon. Speaker has allowed a few clarificatory questions. You ask your question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My first question is, is the Union Government thinking of putting sufficient international pressure on the Pakistani authorities? What is the Government's plan in this regard? Secondly, in regard to the position of USA, their perceptions and their utterances in regard to Kashmir have created confusion in the past. So, what is the attitude of the Government in regard to the USA? Thirdly, whether the Union Government is thinking of making a united effort, in coordination with the State Government, to meet the challenge? We have been speaking on this issue in every Session but the situation has only deteriorated.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the very first day of this Session I gave a Notice during 'Zero Hour'. Further more, I had expected discussion under the Rule 193. The yesterday's incident is just another incident which forms only a part of the series of such incidents. What I want to say is that the continuity of such incidents is confined only to Jammu and Kashmir. The terrorism which has plagued that state is a chronic malady. Now the entire country view the terrorism or an incurable disease. I do not agree with this opinion. I think, this problem can be resolved. Many speakers have expressed their views on this issue. But when the Chief Ministers of a number of States declined to enforce POTA, we, instead of trading charges with each other, we should have discussed this matter in the House. I come from a district where extremism having leftist leaning is at its worst. I do not want to dwell on this topic but where the question of Centre-State relation is involved, it requires a thread bare discussion in the House. It is not fair on part of the head of a state to dismiss a Central rule on one hand and ask for para military forces on the other hand. We are having divergent opinions as far as fighting terrorism is concerned. We will have to sort out our differences and evolve a consensus that only we will be able to combat terrorism in a better way. There are some obvious reasons for our difference. The issue of terrorists, who infiltrate from across the border, has been discussed in the House and we have suggested various measures therefor which includes attacking these terrorists camps. And that is to be decided by the Government. But what about those people who come and stay in India for months and years, they possess their passports and we registered vehicles and finally they execute their heinous terrorist designs. This has to be taken note of by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:.. Please put your question.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: My point is that

whether the Government propose to hold a discussion in the House to sort out the problem arising out of the refusal by certain State Governments to implement the POTA in their respective states. POTA is necessary to curb terrorism. Or whether the Government, themselves, would like to implement the law?

16.00 hrs.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH (ROHTAK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will definitely put the question, but before that I would like to say something in this House.

First of all I would like to strongly condemn the incident occurred. However, this work has merely become formality in this House. Incident takes place, we observe formality and finish our duty by saying that the security arrangements have been tightened, the effective search operations are on to nab the terrorists and thereafter we put the whole thing on back-burner. Such incidents have been taking place since 1947. We lost the territory of Pak occupied Kashmir in the year 1948. We surrendered some of our area to China in 1962. We crossed across the Ichhogil Canal in the year 1965 and we returned later on, whatever we had captured. We could not have our say despite the fact, we were having one lakh prisoners of war of Pakistan in our custody in 1971. Have a look to other side of the world, a very small incident had occurred in Argentina. Had England attacked Israel after taking us into confidence? If Palestine provokes Israel a letter bit, does Israel attack Palestine after taking our consent? Did the U.S.A. seek our consent before taking action against Afghanistan? Did Russia bother to seek anyone's advice before taking action against Chechonya? Why are we depending on other countries? We took extensive diplomatic steps, when the supreme temple of our democracy i.e. Parliament was attacked. We did have some achievement also therefrom. Thereafter our army was deployed on the border, but after keeping it there for 7-8 months, we took a decision and our army returned from there. But we have not so far recognised the voice of the people there. I, being their representative would like to say that we cannot solve this issue only by making a fascinating or high sounding speech. The people are not happy to hear the fascinating speeches made in this House. I would like to ask the Government as to when we would take that step, whereas we know that who is the miscreant and who is harbouring the terrorists. There is a saying in our area which means that instead of nabbing the miscreants, we should eliminate the root cause of the militancy. Here terrorist is the miscreant in terrorism and its creator, the root cause, is Pakistan. I would like to ask only this much as to how long

[Capt. (Retd.) Inder Singh]

we should keep on waiting to check these activities of Pakistan or should we not take a decisive decision to take stringent action against it.

16.04 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINAHAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair)

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (MAHASAMUND): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as elaborate discussions are being held for a long time, I would try to express my views in brief. There are two aspects of the present issue before us, one is external and the second is internal. So far as the external aspect is concerned, many honourable members have expressed their views here wherein it has been said about Pakistan that it should be attacked. There should be war to penalise this country. Nobody can deny from this fact that our position is almost alike to that of the American forces in South Vietnam as those forces could not attack by crossing that limit, due to which they had to bear extensive loss in that war. Today, ours is also the same position.

Since both the countries are having nuclear powers, therefore, it is clear that we cannot fight war in the manner we did in olden time. It is necessary and it seems to us that gradually we have to prepare mentally for it that one or the other day we would have a nuclear war with Pakistan. We should prepare for it. Nuclear war is a separate issue, therefore, it is not proper to have open discussions in this regard. As has been mentioned that Pakistan is having its their training camps and we are having the Prithvi Missile. So we can attack them with it. We will have to keep ourselves ready for any kind of retaliation on the part of Pakistan. We can do this also.

It is a different issue as to what will happen at the international level after this we will be pressurised. It is a separate thing. But it is clear that Pakistan does not bother for any thing at all and it is doing whatever it likes. There should be a separate discussions about that issue and all the parties should be invited for this discussion. It is not very proper to openly discuss on that issue in the House, as we know as to how powerful is our enemy and how to deal with it. There are so many such things. But by having discussions with the main leaders of all the parties. We have to think as to how to deal with Pakistan. We know that in the present international scenario, the USA to serve its own end it can go to some extent to pressurise Pakistan, but it cannot exert complete pressure on that country. Therefore, we can also not be fully assured on behalf of the USA so far as the question of keeping our own house in

order is concerned, be it the attack on our pilgrims visiting Amarnath. There had been several types of attack earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shuklaji, please come to the point.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: The terrorists attack our BSF and Army Camps. But we have failed to find out their hide outs. We cannot attack those hide outs. They are having safe houses and getting shelter at different places and come out to attack despite our country being a powerful one and having large military and huge administrative machinery. What we are thinking about them and what we are doing in this regard? What is our intelligence services doing? We know that when our struggle for freedom was going on, our all the senior revolutionary leaders were. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shuklaji, please ask the question directly.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: All were caught by the intelligence continuously. But we fail to nab the miscreants migrated from Pakistan to Kashmir. Even we cannot reach their hideouts and are not able to take pre-emptive action. They manage to reach our centres and attack them successfully. Yet we sit idle. For this, I feel that we should spend more money on intelligence service in a very massive manner. I know that we cannot afford to man every house in Kashmir with an intelligence person, yet, we have to spend some more funds to beef up the intelligence service there. It can yield better results. There we should try for that.

Secondly, at physical level it seems to us that we are not putting that much force in Kashmir as we should. We should decide combing and search operation should be conducted once in two or three months in each and every house of every village of Kashmir. For that you deploy as much forces as you want and search each and every house therein. After fully identifying their hideouts, their tools or agents wherever the terrorists are hiding, can be attacked and annihilated. For that at present there is no need to keep our forces on our borders. No war is likely to take place there out of fear of nuclear war. You, may deploy as much forces as you like on the borders in front of each other, but there will be no war. You should deploy minimum forces on the border area near Rajasthan and Gujarat. We should deploy rest of the forces in Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)* I have to say this much only. I will personally discuss with Advani Sahib in this regard in detail.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you. I shall not deliver a long speech. I have been listening to all the leaders and I am asking a straight forward question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask a question straight away.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: There has been an attempt to mislead on your part. At the outset I would like to express my profuse thanks to the majorities residing in India.

Pakistan has always been hatching a plot that is why they have been sponsoring attacks on the Hindu temples so that a civil war may break out. The majorities are exercising restraint, therefore, I am all thanks for them as they do not let Pakistan's strategy to succeed. I visit villages. People have come to form an impression that the Government deliver a number of statements from time to time that they will deal with terrorism sternly but the statements prove hollow as the Government do not act at all. The country has witnessed so many terrorist attacks. First, the Parliament came under attack leading to the deployment of our troops along the border. There was enthusiasm in the people that now the Government would deal with terrorism. The six month long deployment of the Army on the border and their subsequent withdrawal has sent a message that the Government only talks of combating terrorism but actually they do not act.

Shri Mufti Mohammed Sahib has also been in the Ministry of Home Affairs of India. The terrorists had abducted his daughter and in order to secure her release all the terrorists were freed as a compromise. It was condemned all over the country. Presently he is a Chief Minister there. There is a feeling in the people as he often gives statements that he will accomplish what Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah could not and he will release terrorists.

I would like to ask the hon'ble Home Minister whether it will not lower the morale of the people. Has it not emboldened the terrorists. Will these talks meant for appeasing them be of any advantage to the country. People are asking whether the Government of India were consulted by the Government of J&K before releasing the terrorists. On the one hand we are nabbing dacoits and on the other we are releasing them, so they will again indulge in dacoity. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. I have also listened to you. I would like to ask directly from the Home Minister as to how many terrorists have been released and how many terrorist attacks have taken place during the period. As far as I am aware, the incidents of terrorist attacks have increased so much as never before ever since the new

Government have come to power. It all has emboldened the terrorists.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister whether the morale of the Armed forces has not come down when it is being said by the National Human Rights Commission that the number of the troops already deployed should be curtailed on humanitarian grounds? Today, terrorists are killing and attacking the Military and the Police forces should the army men plead for mercy on being confronted with them, saying, "Please, Sir, don't kill us we have come to see you. There are constant killings in J&K everybody, temples are being attacked, can't you mount an attack upon Pakistan. Don't you have the guts? The terrorists are sneaking into Kashmir. Will the Government empower the army to deal sternly with them? I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister the number of cases filed against the Army by The National Human Rights Commission? I would also like to ask the Home Minister whether he will assure the country as to how much forces will they keep for the safety of the temples keeping in view the increasing number of terrorists attacks on the Hindu Temples? If you keep whole of the army posted there what would happen to the rest of the country?

At last I would like to ask the Home Minister, whether he will ensure that no attacks on the temples take place and a befitting reply is given to terrorism? If the things go the same way, it may lead to a Civil war in the country. What are you going to do to avert this?

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): On behalf of the DMK Party, I strongly condemn the barbaric attack committed by the terrorists on Raghunath temple. Our deepest condolences go to the families of the deceased.

For the past few years not a single day had passed without the terrorist attack at one or the other place. How are we going to save our innocent people? We are ready to honour our friendly neighbour.

We should not expect a green signal from our neighbouring countries at the cost of innocent people. Our soldiers are ready to sacrifice their lives on the war front but not in this kind of a third-rate attack.

I urge upon the Government to put an end to it with a concrete measure.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, I am on my legs to formally condole the deaths of our brothers in the incident that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

I would just like to know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister – if it is possible within the time available to him – as to what we would be doing to assuage the feelings of the people in Kashmir so that they cooperate to see that terrorist activities are controlled and contained. I would also like to know as to what steps will be taken to see that the terrorists are controlled and contained, and as to how the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will cooperate and coordinate their activities to achieve these objectives.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, attacks are being committed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. We ask the Government.

"Kab tak karte rahenge atankwad kee ninda,

Ab band kar do Adwani Saheb, yeh tumhara dhandha,

Daal do Pakistan par yuddha ka funda,

Advani Saheb, pakar kar lao yehana,

General Musharaf ko jinda."

I mean to say that war is the only means by which Pakistan can be taught a lesson.

We all need to do this. We have been discussing it in each and every Session Attacks are continuing in J&K.

Only this much is our demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

Our demand is just merely that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a time for joke. He is cutting jokes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not cutting jokes. I am speaking seriously. We all are with you. We have been told in the House many times that terrorist attacks are continuing day in day out. It needs to be opposed and the whole of the country is with you. Despite all this our Parliament was attacked on 13 December. They could not come inside but. ...*(Interruptions)* The announcement of war against Pakistan needs to be made at the earliest. Until then terrorism will not end. When are you going to take steps for that? It is our question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA): Sir, I would like to ask a specific question. Israel is one country which faces terrorism every day, even more than India, and has been facing terrorism for a long time.

16.19 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

Even decades ago, it took a decision and went all the way to Entebbe and fought there in a foreign country. Have we been able to get some sort of cooperation from them? I am told that they are ready to cooperate with us in this grave hour. Have we tried to really establish some sort of cooperation because they can teach us a lot as to how to fight terrorism, for, fighting terrorism is not a very easy thing.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been debates several times in the House on the issue of terrorism. Though, it has been a convention in this House that no questions related to an incident are asked, once Government statement is made on the incident. Secondly, the convention of the House is that questions are asked in the form of clarifications. As the incident of yesterday was very tragic, therefore, Mr. Speaker today permitted that questions be asked and clarifications be sought but in spite of clarifications there will be a sort of debate on the question of terrorism.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute's time to speak. I have not been given time, therefore, I walk out of the House.

16.21 hrs.

(Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale then left the House.)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Had I known it, he would also have spoken. To sum up, whole of today's discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): I want to have a word.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have already started now.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I associate myself with the sentiments expressed against the wanton attack. It is not acceptable. It shall not be allowed to recur. Whatever has happened, the Government should make an enquiry; due process of law should take its course and those responsible should be brought to book. Whatever is happening shall not be allowed to continue at all.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: By and large all the statements that have been made are constructive. Whatever has been said and the analysis given on behalf of the Government about yesterday's incident, has confirmed that the incident is a part of the cross border terrorism and Pakistan is responsible for that. Sympathy has been expressed for those killed and wounded and condolences have been expressed to the members of their families. The press did not give the information that one of those killed was a Muslim Citizen and the wounded include 7-8 Muslim citizens as the people of the Surrounding areas became victims to that. Especially most of the people have been wounded not by AK-47 but from the splinters of Grenades. Two three aspects frequently emerge in this regard - first the responsibility of fighting terrorism from across the border lies mainly with the centre as Somnathji has emphasised and therefore the responsibility of checking it is not so much of the State Government as that of the Central Government. I accept this fact and that is why when Syed Mufti Mohammed Saheb had been here before taking oath of Chief Minister and called on Prime Minister and me, I had stressed this fact that as per our analysis there is two point agenda before your new government, that is going to be formed—first is to curb the cross border terrorism and second is to further the programmes for the welfare and development of the people of Jammu & Kashmir who have voted you to power. These two points are of such nature that the Central Government would want to extend its full cooperation towards their implementation and support them. I had drawn his attention towards it.

Today, this point has been raised time and again. If someone has said this, then he is merely criticising. At least in my statement, I have not criticised directly or indirectly the Government of that State. I do not say that the incident of yesterday was on account of the release of the prisoners. I believe that whichever Government might have been in power and whatever policy it might have followed in this regard, this incident could have taken place. The incidents that are taking place are there being sponsored by our neighbouring country as they are not willing to renounce their policy to carry forward the war of 1971 through terrorism. The Union Government is responsible for the security of the country. It is the resolve of the whole House to curb terrorism and if the Government of the State takes any important decision for fulfilling that resolve which affects the country's fight against terrorism, I would certainly expect that they should consult the Union Government.

Sir, I have been asked time and again whether the decisions taken are not correct or whether the decisions

have been taken in consultation with me then my reply is in negative. I have all along said that every state has got its jurisdiction. I would not object to it if the Government of the State wants to exercise its jurisdiction. Our friends from West Bengal are sitting here. I am not commenting on what's right or wrong. No one should object if a Member makes a comment on it. But at least I would not comment. One could hold one's own opinion but when it was said - "Is it not true?" Chaturvedi and Jaipalji probably asked whether it was not correct that every decision was taken in consultation with you, then my reply is in negative.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): I still stand by what I said. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): The Home Minister is saying that he was not consulted.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I said this is the context of the release of the secessionists. ... (Interruptions)
The decision was taken after the consultation with the Central Intelligence Agency. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Hon. Minister is saying that he would not interfere in their rights. But this country is a federation and if due to the wrong decisions of the Government, the pride and security of the country gets affected, then what will be the role of the Union Government at that juncture. ... (Interruptions) Whether you would not be able to do anything at that time also, that is what we want to know from you? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Today that question does not arise, that government has been formed just one month back. I know this much that before the formation of this government whatever. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule are you on a point of order?

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 356.

[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambekar]

The Congress Party which is a part of the Government ruling in the State has alleged that the Central Government has been consulted while freeing the terrorists while the Home Minister is saying that he was not consulted. I think this point should be clarified first.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not concerned.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: If he is not clarifying, I would ask Shri Reddy to stand up and say whether he is going to move a privilege motion against the Minister or not. ...(Interruptions) It should not be that the House is being taken for a ride either by the Congress Party or the BJP. It is the Congress Party which is taking the House for a ride. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This point of order does not arise out of Rule 356 because the Rule is quite clear. Therefore, I disallow your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: The BJP is saying and the Home Minister is on record that he had not been consulted. This is misleading the House and the country also. ...(Interruptions) This point should be clarified. I want to know from the Congress leader whether he is going to stand by what he is saying or going to move a privilege motion against the Home Minister. ...(Interruptions) It is not an issue which should be taken lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: You have quoted the wrong rule and therefore, I am disallowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I do not want to spoil the atmosphere in which the hon. Deputy Prime Minister started the debate and the other hon. Members responded to it.

The only information which we had received was that before releasing the detainees, the Intelligence Agency was consulted, and not the Government or the Minister. The Intelligence Agency was consulted. They might have concurred or they might not have concurred, but it was consulted. That was our information. If that information is correct, releasing the detainees becomes the responsibility of the State Government as well as, to some extent, the Intelligence Agency because it was consulted. Nothing more than that. We are not blaming any Government.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Hon. Shivraj Patil jee is an enlightened person and he is well aware of the technicalities in this regard. I was surprised when Jaipaljee and Chaturvedijee referred to this point. The Intelligence Agencies are never brought in the scene. Neither do I bring them in the scene nor anyone else should do so. ...(Interruptions) I am making it clear that the Union Government has not been consulted in this regard. I would also like to add that when some detainees were released, the Home Secretary wrote to the Government of the State not to take any step in haste in this regard and it would be better if anything is done after proper consultation. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They are getting the terrorists released. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: If you say like that, problems will arise, we do not want to come to that level. But I want to ask whether the Bharatiya Janata Party had not released the Hurriyat people, had they not talked with the Hizbul Muzahiddin. ...(Interruptions) we can ask a number of questions. ...(Interruptions) Do not say like that. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): They were not released for getting the release of the daughter of any Home Minister. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Terrorism has been bred only under your regime. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The way in which you want to hold the discussion is not good.

[English]

This is a very serious issue. People have been killed. Please think of that. Really the hon. Members have addressed this issue in a nice way. Let the same atmosphere continue. Let the hon. Minister reply.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am thankful to the whole House, something might have come up between the discussions, but overall there is unanimity that whatever incidents of terrorism are going on is not being carried out by any terrorist organisation but our neighbouring country, is sponsoring it from across the border.

[English]

Terrorist organisations are evil, but terrorist states are even more evil.

[Translation]

This fact is not yet being understood by the whole world. The world thinks that terrorism is wrong and they identified that the source of terrorism in the world is Al-Qaeda and Taleban. But the world should also recognise it that ISI is a big source of terrorism and that is a part of the establishment of Pakistan. When the Parliament was attacked on the 13th of December, I went to America on its invitation. Then I realised that they hold that terrorism is wrong.

They also accept that the terrorism being perpetrated in India is being sponsored by Pakistan, but it appears to them that the leader of Pakistan who is presently holding the reins.

[English]

He is our best bet.

[Translation]

It is right, we would not go ahead a certain limit, I am mentioning this fact because this assumption is totally wrong that India succumbs to foreign pressure while chalking out its policy. This Government does not come under any pressure. We do not accept this assumption. Mulayam Singhji is not present here, Akhileshji is sitting here, we think that whatever opinion the international community holds in context of combating terrorism is irrelevant. ... (Interruptions)

I was quietly listening to all. I would like to tell only this much that from the very beginning when we talked about combating terrorism, we thought that India would have to clinch a decisive victory over terrorism. The opinion of the international community is helpful in that. To seek the help of the international community, we drive this point home to them that they should not be in the confusion that terrorism which is pestering us today is a much distant phenomenon and this distance would save them. The Prime Minister of the country, Shri Vajpayeeji had addressed the American Congress.

[English]

"Do not think that your distance is always going to provide you immunity from this scourge of terrorism.

[Translation]

I am mentioning this fact because the effort, the Government of India is making to drive this point home to the international community, is deliberate. It is our effort that they should understand and to some extent they have

understood too. Had they not understood, they would not have exerted such pressure on them. But the pressure exerted is not upto the desired level. It is a fact that they are on one hand sponsoring terrorism and on the other hand, receiving financial assistance. That financial assistance is utilised against us. So, whatever we had to say, we told explicitly. But we have always tried to pinpoint as to what is the biggest menace to democracy. Therefore, we have constituted a joint working group with England, France, Germany. We signed extradition treaties with them also. We have also formulated a joint legal action treaty. All these efforts have got their utility but to a limited extent. Whatever major successes we have achieved till now have been accrued through our security forces, through our people. Ram Nagina Mishrajee has rightly said that the terrorists thought that in the atmosphere prevailing earlier in Gujarat, an attack on the Akshardham temple would again trigger off the flares of communal violence. Again, something would happen. This did not happen and if credit has to be given, it should be given to the people of India. Their intention became clear before the incident of Akshardham took place. The terrorists continuously attack. They had also tried to attack here but thereafter the people of Jammu-Kashmir responded in a right way. It is a matter of happiness for us.

Friends, as I have told you that my colleague Shri I.D. Swami and Shri Chamanlal Gupta, who is elected from Udhampur and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, both of them have gone there. The Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes left for Jammu short while after this incident. I will meet them tonight and talk with them in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I had gone to Washington in January, I was repeatedly asked

[English]

"Is there going to be a war between India and Pakistan?"

[Translation]

Whether there would be a war between India and Pakistan? I always replied that you were attacked on 11 September, 2001 and you said that

[English]

terrorists have declared a war on America.

[Translation]

We have been facing such attacks for the last 15-20 years.

[English]

A war is going on.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

Therefore, the terrorists attacked at Raghunath Temple in Jammu yesterday.

[English]

It is just one battle.

[Translation]

The battles which took place in earlier days

[English]

including the battle on our Parliament,

[Translation]

their intention was not good and our armed forces foiled their intentions. Had they entered the temple they could have played havoc.

[English]

We should know that in all these battles we have been successful.

[Translation]

We have been successful, we have not been defeated. But it is mentioned that as if we have been defeated. People asked that why the Government did not alert the intelligence agencies. I can say only this that there is general alertness that the terrorists intend to attack at temples or such sensitive spots. If our intelligence agencies have specific information about terrorist attack, they inform the security forces in this regard. Many times such specific information has been given on the basis of which probable terrorist actions are foiled but it is not possible always. When two terrorists armed with A K-47 come and start firing, there is no alternative but to eliminate them. In the first attack at the temple three terrorists were eliminated and in the yesterday's attack both the militants were eliminated - one in the night and the other in the morning.

[English]

These are achievements of our security forces.

[Translation]

If we win such battles one by one, then it should not be considered our failure.

[English]

We are determined even to win the war, though how that would come depends on so many factors.

[Translation]

Someone has rightly said, I would not like to say in this regard but it has been discussed repeatedly. It is correct

that at the time of deployment the plan was different. There were objectives which did not get implemented. There were some reasons of non-implementation. As Pakistan did not accept two years back that infiltration takes place from Pakistan, arms have been provided to the terrorists, we have terrorists camps and we are spreading cross-border terrorism and it said that we are not operating terrorism in Jammu-Kashmir.

[English]

There is no such thing as terrorism.

[Translation]

Whatever is happening in Jammu-Kashmir is freedom struggle. As a result of the pressure exerted on Pakistan after September 11 and particularly December 13 incidents, it had made statements publicly twice that we would not allow to emerge our area as a platform of terrorism. We will stop infiltration. The Government of India did not rely on their statement. Even then also the Government of India told the foreign countries, international community that we welcome the statement of Pakistan and it is a good statement. They say that they would not encourage terrorism. It is a good statement. But we will not rely on their statement till they do not take proper action in this regard. We have repeatedly told them for the last 6-8 months that we do not rely on it because they are not doing it in practice. They are operating terrorist activities and spreading violence in the country in the same manner as they were doing earlier. We have adequate proof about it. These activities have been increased recently. Terrorist activities had come down immediately after the election but it has been increased during the last 3-4 days. I have mentioned its reason in my statement. We do not know but we can speculate. One reason is that the main leader of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has been released and the other is the election during which they may play the card of farce however, it did complete its course from election to the formation of Government episode.

The released leader of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has publicly appealed for increasing terrorist activities. Later on, it has been confirmed. We say not only on the basis of their statements. I have made a statement that we monitor their communications in India. It has been speculated on the basis of the monitoring that Al-Mansoor, a cover name of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has done it. I felt that I should inform the hon. Members on the basis of the speculation. But I can say that the whole country is united over this issue and we will not only win this battle but we will also win the war which has been going on for the last 15 years. I have no doubt in this regard.

[English]

16.46 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Mourning the Loss of Lives of Innocent People and Deplored Dastardly Acts of Violence in the Attack by Terrorists on Raghunath Temple and Shiva Temple in Jammu

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to move a Condolence Resolution. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, in his statement has given details of the attack by terrorists on the famous Raghunath Temple and adjoining Shiva Temple in Jammu on 24th November, 2002 and condemned it.

Several hon. Members while asking clarifications have also condemned the terrorists' attack and condoled the killings.

This senseless act of violence by terrorists indicates their frustration at the successful completion of process of election in Jammu and Kashmir and their desperation to disturb the delicate balance of peace in the State.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives of innocent people and deplore in strongest terms these dastardly acts of violence of the terrorists. The House may place on record its profound sense of grief on this tragedy.

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

16.47 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

16.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to reopen Bokaro Thermal Power Station Plant 'A', Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bokaro Thermal Power Station Plant 'A' has been closed for the last two years. The Government have been suffering a loss of 3.5 crore per month and it has also affected the lives of thousands of workers.

The various issues relating to provide job to the dependents of the deceased employees of Damodar Valley Corporation, issuance of 'No Objection Certificate' for starting

development work in the unused and encroached land of CTPS and BTBS under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and to regularise the temporary labourers have been pending for years.

Many times talks were held between the undersigned and the concerned parties regarding the above issues and they got positive assurance in this regard. But some officers of the corporation are not implementing the decision taken in this regard. As a result of which a feeling of dissatisfaction against the Government is increasing among the people of my constituency. The Government is allocating funds for commissioning the new thermal power stations on the other hand efforts are not being made to commission the already established thermal power stations.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to carry out the above mentioned work in public interest.

- (ii) **Need to ensure proper maintenance of National Highway No.7 between Jabalpur and Bargi in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (SEONI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a stretch of 25 KM of National Highway No.7 between Jabalpur and Bargi is in a dilapidated condition. There are so many potholes on this highway. This stretch comes under sub-division Jabalpur. The country's largest and important highway is in dilapidated condition for the last many years. The complaints have been lodged many times and even demand has been raised in the Lok Sabha to repair the Highway but its outcome remained nil. Every year patch work is started to repair the Highway after rainy season, but its pace is slow resulting which the said work do not get completed till the next rainy season. The road is not fit for bearing the load of the traffic. Its repair work is again in progress this year also but its pace is slow.

I urge upon the Government that the Highway should be re-constructed at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to Provide Funds from Central Road Fund to Government of Madhya Pradesh for Construction of Sagar-Khuri-Beena Road in the State**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR): Sir, the Sagar-Khuri-Beena road in my Parliamentary Constituency forms a part of State highway No.14 but is in very bad shape for

the last 9-10 years. Khuri town is situated in the middle of this stretch and assumes a lot of importance from commercial, educational, industrial and agricultural point of view. Its importance increases further as Indian Oil Company has installed an oil depot just before Naryawali village on this road and Beena railway station, apart from being a junction, holds a lot of significance as Beena refinery project is coming up there. But the people travelling in small vehicles and bus passengers have to face a lot of difficulties as the road is not being maintained properly. Public works Department (PWD) of the State Government have sent a project to the Union Government to provide fund from Central Road Fund for construction of Sagar-Khuri-Beena Road in the State.

16.51 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Therefore, in view of the utility of this road, I request the Union Government, to provide fund to the State Government from Central Road Fund for construction of this 75 km. Long Sagar-Khuri-Beena road.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to release adequate funds to the Government of Karnataka for providing relief to the people affected by severe drought in the State**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Sir, Karnataka has suffered the worse drought in three decades. One hundred fifty four Talukas out of one hundred seventy five have suffered the wrath of drought and they have been declared as drought affected. This year the deficit in monsoon rainfall is 50 to 80 per cent. The Southern districts of Bangalore, Mysore, Mandya and Tumkur did not receive enough rainfall to resume sowing or nurture crops in an area spread over 18.6 lakh hectares. In fact, this is the main reason why farmers have been violently resisting release of Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu.

The major irrigation reservoirs like Krishna Raja Sagar, Hemavathi, Bhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra have recorded levels far below the average of the last 10 years. Many rivers including the key rivers Shimsa, Tungabhadra, Vedavathi, Arkavathi have gone dry and so have minor irrigation tanks.

A Central team consisting of ten persons toured the drought affected districts in groups during September 2002. Karnataka State requires Rs.600 crore for the drought relief work and I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to release this amount without any further delay.

- (v) **Need to provide financial package for revival of Brahmavara Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. in Udupi district, Karnataka**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): Sir, the ongoing recession in the sugar industry, has taken in its sweep many cooperative sugar mills functioning in Karnataka. One such sugar producing unit is the Brahmavara Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Brahmavara in Udupi District.

The Brahmavara Sugar Factory is beset with many problems. Facing funds crunch, unable to pay its workers for months together. It has also to clear the arrears in payment for sugarcane deliveries made by the farmers. Bigger sugar mills are in a slightly better position as they have bye-product lines like molasses derived IMFL production facilities and economy in operation through mass volume handling. It rests on the Centre to bailout small cooperative sugar units through a rehabilitation package financed out of sugar cess accumulations in its kitty.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Centre to come all out in addressing the problems faced by Brahmavara Sugar Factory by providing a turn-around package so that it can face the coming crushing season.

- (vi) **Need to shift some of the Offices of Central Government to Nagpur in view of increasing strain on the infrastructural facilities in Delhi**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, the tremendous increase in the population of Delhi has put a lot of strain on the infrastructural facilities in the capital. The problem is further accentuated by the increase in the number of Public Sector Undertakings having their corporate offices in the capital. The concentration of all the Central Government offices and its Undertakings besides the growth of slums have created problems of declining environmental quality and inadequate urban infrastructure facilities.

It is, therefore, the utmost need of the hour to reduce pressure on Delhi by shifting some of the offices of the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings and other bodies not immediately connected with the day-to-day working of the Government to another centrally located place.

Nagpur which is centrally located and having all the basic infrastructure-developed land, ample electric power, good air, road and rail network, trained manpower, modern telecommunication network is the most suitable place for location of these offices.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to shift the offices from Delhi to Nagpur which is also the second capital of Maharashtra.

(vii) Need for Construction of Dams in Varrah Area in Bihar to Check Recurring Flood there

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, devastating flood creates havoc every year in Bihar and claims huge number of life and property. Flood has been causing devastation in the state since 1953 as there are no dams constructed over Bagmati, Kamla and Koshi rivers in varrah area and to find out an everlasting solution to this problem of flood, dams are required to be constructed on these rivers. Though proposal of construction of dam in varrah area was made and cleared alongwith construction of Bakhra-Nangal dam in Punjab, it has not materialised as yet as a result, devastating floods come every year causing havoc. The crops are destroyed. People have suffered a loss of 20 million rupees so far. All factories have been closed down in Bihar. People are migrating in search of jobs. I, therefore, request the Government to construct dams over Koshi/Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Varrah area immediately so that a permanent solution is found to the problem of floods.

(viii) Need to Expedite Completion of Pending Projects under Drought Prone Area Programme in Banda and Chitrakut Districts of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an urgent need, to start construction work of Drought Prone Area Programme (D.P.A.P.) in Banda and Chitrakut districts of Uttar Pradesh. The incomplete construction work of D.P.A.P are being running behind schedule. Funds have not been allocated due to which projects works are not progressing and have been suspended. As a result of this, benefit of these projects are not reaching to the drought affected farmers. The need of the hour is that the Union Government should release required funds to restart the pending construction work. Besides, separate allocation should be made to disilt the ponds in villages so that farmers get much needed relief from drought. Smaller Tubewells of 4" capacity should be installed in Bundelkhand on large scale. The Government of Uttar Pradesh provides a subsidy of Rs. One lakh to farmers for installation of such tubewells but these tubewells are not installed in large number due to constraint of funds and farmers have to wait upto one year. Therefore, the Union Government should provide maximum financial assistance for this purpose also.

[English]

17.00 hrs.

(ix) Need to declare Tamil as one of the official languages of the Union

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Tamil language is one of the earliest, ancient, oldest, chaste, polished rich, unique languages with glorious tradition and culture. Its characteristics and features are varied and substantial. It has crossed the barriers of Tamil Nadu and spread many parts of the world as the mother tongue of more than 80 million population.

As such, it would be eminently suited to declare Tamil as one of the classical languages of India. I appeal to the Government of India to include and implement it as one of the Union's official languages. Let me conclude with one more emphasis that Thirukkural, which is a sacred, oldest, unique, moral code for living an exemplary life of the world, be declared as the National Literature of India.

(x) Need to take suitable measures to check distress sale of paddy by farmers in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The market price of paddy came down to Rs.350 per quintal in West Bengal. It is much below the minimum support price. There is no agency to purchase the paddy directly from the farmers so far. It is expected that the annual paddy production will cross the earlier records this year. The West Bengal Government could procure around 80 thousand MT rice last year only. The Food Corporation of India did not procure rice or paddy from West Bengal for the last few years. I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps so that FCI would procure minimum 12 lakh MT rice from West Bengal and allocate necessary funds to enable the State Government to procure at least six lakh MT rice or nine lakh MT paddy directly from the farmers. I also urge upon the Union Government to direct the commercial banks for sufficient lending to the local Panchayat bodies for developing their necessary infrastructure and post harvesting mechanism to meet the distress sale.

(xi) Need to Link Narmada-Kshipra-Kalisindh-Chambal Rivers with a view to solve Water Problem in Malwanchal, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Malwanchal area of Madhya Pradesh is

In the grip of drought for the last many years. This area has either received no rain at all or received very little rain during these years. In Ujjain-Indore division, the ground water level has gone down very low due to which water is available neither to people nor their cattle. The entire Malwanchal is bearing a deserted look. The Chambal-Kshipra-Kalisindh-Maleni rivers of Malwanchal have gone dry. In 1991-92 the State Government had conducted a survey to prepare a plan to link Narmada-Kshipra-Kalisindh and Chambal rivers with one another so that this problem is solved. There is an urgent need to implement the plan to link Narmada-Kshipra-Kalisindh-Chambal rivers. Narmada river is a perennial river. It is a flood prone river therefore to link it with other rivers is in public interest.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to clear the proposal so that Narmada-Kshipra-Kalisindh-Chambal rivers are connected with one another and adequate availability of water and greenery is ensured to Malwanchal and Hadhoti area of Rajasthan.

[English]

17.04 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF DELHI METRO RAILWAY (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE

AND

DELHI METRO RAILWAY (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item Nos.21 and 22 together.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Ordinance, 2002 (No.7 of 2002) promulgated by the President on 29 October, 2002."

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

* Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is the second Ordinance that is now being replaced by legislation. During the inter-session period, five Ordinances were promulgated. This Ordinance is one of the five Ordinances promulgated during the inter-session period.

The Government is now Dying to avoid Parliament as well as the Standing Committee and the Government is adopting the Ordinance route. I do not find any urgency for the promulgation of this particular Ordinance. What has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is that one portion of Delhi Metro from Shahdara to Tis Hazari would be operationalised in the last week of December. The trial run was started long ago. For running the Delhi Metro, an Act is required. Instead of promulgating an Ordinance, the Government should have brought a legislation before the House. It could have brought that legislation in the last Session of Parliament and thereby the Standing Committee could have got an opportunity to scrutinise the Bill. It would have then come before the House for legislation. The Government has not done that and there lies our objection. Where there is an urgency and there is no time, an Ordinance could be promulgated but in this particular case there is no justification or rationale behind the promulgation of an Ordinance.

The construction of Delhi Metro was started at least three years ago. Why was a legislation not enacted before the construction was started? Why is it that just when the Delhi Metro is to be operationalised, the Government of India has felt the necessity for having an Act for operation and maintenance of Delhi Metro?

The Delhi Metro would be operated by a Corporation where the Government of Delhi as well as the Central Government are joint partners. They have an equal share. The Central Government has a share of 50 per cent and the Delhi Government also has a share of 50 per cent. So, I would like to know whether the Government of Delhi was consulted before the promulgation of this Ordinance. Why was the Government of Delhi not taken into confidence before the promulgation of this Ordinance? I would like to know whether the draft Bill was sent to the Delhi Government and whether their suggestions were obtained and incorporated in the Bill.

I have with me the statements made by both the Chief Minister as well as the Transport Minister of the Government of Delhi.

They have stated that the Centre should have consulted the Government of Delhi before taking the decision as the Government of Delhi is also an equal partner. In the

Delhi Metro Railway project, the Centre has not consulted us even once before taking the decision to promulgate the Ordinance. This is the statement made by the Chief Minister of Delhi. Why is it so? When they have the equal share - the share of 15 per cent - why was the Government of Delhi not consulted before the promulgation of this Ordinance? What prevented the Government of India from consulting the Government of Delhi?

She has also expressed her reservation in regard to the procedure that will be adopted for fixation of fare. I would like to know whether the Government of Delhi would have any say in this regard. It has been provided in the Bill that a fare tariffs committee will be set up. But what will be the role of the State Government of Delhi? I would like to know whether the Government of Delhi would have any say in regard to fixation of tariff. It should also be clarified.

She has also stated that the Centre has not even responded to the objections raised by the Government of Delhi. What were the objections raised by the Government of Delhi? Why were the objections not taken into consideration? She has stated that the promulgation of Ordinance was unilateral decision of the Government of India.

Sir, the world over, Metro Railway are under the Ministry of Railways. First Metro was started in Kolkata. The construction of Kolkata Metro was started in 1978. The first phase of Kolkata Metro was opened in 1985 and later on it was extended up to Dumdum. Now, it is running between Tallygunj to Dumdum.

Sir, there was a debate in this very House whether Kolkata Metro should remain under the Ministry of Railways or it should be transferred to the Ministry of Urban Development. But ultimately the Government decided that Kolkata Metro should continue as part and parcel of the Indian Railways. But in the case of Delhi Metro, although it will be a company, 15 per cent share will be with the Central Government, 15 per cent share will be with the State Government and the rest is with one Company from Japan. They have the 50 per cent share. However, in the case of Delhi Metro why is it under the Ministry of Urban Development? The Railways have the expertise for maintenance and operation. It would have been better if the Delhi Metro is also under the Ministry of Railways instead of the Ministry of Urban Development.

Sir, in this Bill there are a number of provisions. Clause 86 says on Power of Central Government to issue directions:

"Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this

Act, the metro railway administration in case of the non-Government metro railway shall, in the discharge of its duties and functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time."

Then, what will be the role of the State Government? These questions are raised by the State Government. If everything will be done by the Central Government, if all the directions will be issued by the Central Government, then what will be the role of the State Government?

Clause 100 on Power of Central Government to make rules says:

- "100. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-
- (a) the form and time for preparing and sending annual report under section 12;
 - (b) the terms and conditions of the Fare Fixation Committee under section 35;
 - (c) the procedure to be followed by the Fare Fixation Committee under section 35;
 - (d) the extent of compensation payable under section 57;
 - (e) the powers, duties and functions of the security staff of the Government metro railway under section 97; and
 - (f) without prejudice to any power to make rules contained elsewhere in this Act, generally to carry out the purposes of this Act."

So, when all these procedures of Fare Fixation Committee and the procedure to be followed with regard to determination of fare, compensation payable etc. everything will be directly done by the directions of the Central Government, what will be the role of the State Government of Delhi? That should also be clarified.

I am not convinced with the necessity of promulgation of this ordinance. There was no urgency and the Government should have brought a Bill so that the Bill could be scrutinised by the Standing Committee and then come before the House. It is an important Bill because we will have a new

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

organisation like the Delhi Metro. This type of Bill should always be referred to the Standing Committee so that the members of the Standing Committee can get an opportunity to scrutinise the various Sections of the Bill and then come to the House. This method of taking the ordinance-route by this Government is not correct. What we have seen is that this Government can be called, that it is now governed by, an ordinance raj. So many ordinances are there.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): What about an ordinance on women's reservation?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They will not bring it. They will not bring an ordinance on it but where they are needed and where the ordinances are not required and where there is no urgency, in such cases they will bring an ordinance. That is why I have moved my resolution of disapproval.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the House is well aware that Delhi is getting its world-class metro. The first phase is being completed by the second week of December. A stretch of 8.3 kilometres from Shahdara to Tis Hazari is going to get inaugurated and operationalised.

When we wanted to test this facility, then we required a legal framework for that. Though we had the trial run on 17th of September, but before operationalising it we wanted to go through various checks for which the legal framework was required.

Therefore, we brought this Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Ordinance. Basically, this Ordinance, which is being converted into an Act now, is on operation and maintenance. Firstly, the railway system that has been spread over under Delhi Metro has to get the services of the Safety Commissioner of Railway and again about the claims, the Claims Commissioner has to step in. Actually, it is not correct that we hurriedly proceeded with this Ordinance. Two years back, we sent the draft Bill to the Ministry of Railways, to the Ministry of Law and Justice and to the Delhi Government in September, 2000. I want to take this august House into confidence that after 10 reminders, we got replies, especially from Delhi Government, only few months back when the issues were raised regarding tariffs as to who will decide the tariff, who will decide the fare structure. The fare structure and the tariff will be decided by a Tariff Committee headed by a judge of the High Court, sitting or retired. There will be one representative from the Government of India and there will be one representative from the Delhi Government. Therefore, the Delhi Government is also participating in it.

Secondly, it is said that all rail-based Metros world over are under the Railways. It is not the actual situation. The world over the Metros are under different agencies. They are autonomous bodies. They are under local bodies. Least number of them are under the Railways. It is so because as the nomenclature itself suggests, Metro is a public transport system for a metropolitan, an urban conglomeration wherein we need to use different modes for a very smooth public transport system. In some of the places, it has been an inter-modal transport of rail and road. For example, in London, it is an inter-modal transport. Therefore, there is a Greater London Metro Corporation, which is not under the Railways. In some of the places, it is elevated light transport road system or rail system, ELTRS. In some of the places, sky vessels are also being used on experimental basis. Such being the case, it is not correct that Metros are always under the Railways. To the very least extent, it is under the Railways.

According to the change of rules of business in 1986, the Metro system has been transferred to Urban Development Ministry and, I feel, rightly so because in our country, we have got 35 metropolitan cities with more than one million population. Hardly, four of them have a Metro. One is Kolkata. Another is, to an extent, Chennai. To a greater extent, through local rail system, Mumbai has it and now Delhi is going to have it, but 31 other metropolitan cities do not have any Metro system.

Thirdly, it has been raised that the Union Government did not respond to Delhi Government's suggestions and queries.

According to article 246 (1) of the Constitution, all rail transport systems are subject matter of the Union Government. On the subjects enumerated in the Union List, the Union Government has the mandate to legislate and to bring Ordinances, which is what we have done in this case.

That being the case, as a matter of cooperation and courtesy, we have consulted the Delhi Government, and they had no objections on operations, like safety, claims, maintenance etc. However, they have an objection over the tariff, which I have clarified just now, and we have clarified it to them. Then, they have raised an objection over rule-making powers. We said that through this Ordinance and the ensuing Act, we are not empowering the Union Government or the Delhi Government because together, with 50 per cent equity each, we have created a unique special purposes vehicle, which is the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, which is a professional body which will run the Metro rail services, and the powers will be vested with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. They will be drafting the rules and, as per

the provision under article 246 (1), the Government will notify those rules.

I think, I have clarified the matters. Now, I will request the House to negative the Resolution and to take up the Bill for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Ordinance, 2002 (No.7 of 2002) promulgated by the President on 29 October, 2002."

"That the Bill to provide for the "operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Very soon, Delhi is going to have Metro Railway, and we are very happy about it. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those who are responsible for contributing to establish Metro Railway in Delhi.

If we really want to reduce the pressure on the transport system in the metros, it would be necessary for us to depend on something like Metro Railways. The road transport mode will not, by itself, be able to take that load. In all big cities, the Metro Railways should be established and they should be run to reduce the pressure on the surface roads.

We have a situation in the country where the rural masses are migrating to the cities, they are living around the cities, and the distances they have to cover to go their places where they work are also very long. The Metro Railways can help in this respect. The sooner we have a plan for all the metro cities in the country for having something of this kind, it will be better for us.

Having said this thing, I also would like to join my colleague sitting on the Opposition Benches in objecting to the Ordinance-route taken by the Government in making this law. They knew that the Metro Railway was going to be started very soon. It could have been possible for them to draft a Bill, present it to the Parliament, allow it to go to the Standing Committee, allow the Members of the Standing Committee to look into the provisions of the Bill and make the recommendations to the Parliament and get the Bill passed. As to why this is not being done by the Government, we are unable to understand. It is like saying that we have promulgated the Ordinance, now it is for you to decide whether you accept it or you do not accept it.

Now, this kind of a situation should not be created by the Government. Under the Indian Constitution it has been mentioned that it is the responsibility of the Legislature to make laws. The route of Ordinance is followed by the Executive to make laws. But this has to be adopted in exceptional cases, when there is no time available and the urgency is great. But you cannot have a law like this through the route of Ordinance. There are many Ordinances that have been presented to this House. We are expected to pass them. If we do not pass them, then the Government would say, 'look, we wanted to make these kinds of provisions and create facilities for the benefit of the people but the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches are not helping us'. You are steam-rolling the law. You are trying to create a situation in which you would either have the Members to accept what you are saying or that you would create a situation where you would be in a position to criticise the Members sitting on the Opposition Benches. This kind of a method cannot be appreciated by the Members of the Legislature.

Sir, the Constitution has provided that the job of making a law is that of the Legislature; the job of taking Executive decisions is that of the Executive and the job of interpreting the law is that of the Judiciary.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): The Supreme Court has also deprecated this step and has said that there cannot be Ordinances like this and those cannot be repeatedly done.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is definitely so. That is right. The Supreme Court has said in many cases that the route that the Executive is adopting of promulgating Ordinances is not expected, to be adopted by the Executive in making the laws. I do not understand as to why the Government keeps such things pending for a long time and then suddenly when the Metro has to be made operational, they come before the House after having promulgated an Ordinance to this effect. That should have been avoided and since that has not been avoided, we would like our protest to be recorded that this route should not have been followed.

You want to have a law under which you want to take action against the borrowers, against the lenders and to strengthen the Financial Institutions. All these matters, very important and complex matters in which the Members should have their say, the Government did not allow the Members to consider in a proper manner in the committee. We have created a system of Departmentally-related Standing Committees where a limited number of Members sit together and in an non-partisan and unbiased manner apply their

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

minds to the legislative proposals and come back to the House with their report and then see that a proper law is framed. But that is not being done. We register our protest in very strong words against this route of Ordinance being taken by the Government.

Sir, the approach to help the commuters should be holistic. There would be people coming from long distances by using the Metro Railway. But they would alight at different stations and would like to go either to their place of work or to their residences and that has to be done by using the vehicles on the roads. Now, if there is no co-ordination between what the Metro Railway is doing and as to how the transport facilities on the roads have to be provided to the commuters, then the commuters would not have the kind of facilities that should be made available to them. It is exactly for this reason that it should be possible for the Government of India to consult the State Government. The hon. Minister has said in his speech that in other countries, the Railways are not with the Railways alone. In some countries the Railways are with the Local Self Governments.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Not the Railways, the Metro Railways are with the Local Self-Governments.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, the Metro Railways are with the Local Self-Governments.

Why should this Metro Railway not be with the State Government? What is the difficulty in giving it to the State Government? I can understand this Ministry building the railways or helping the people who are in the job of building it, in excavating the ground and laying the rails, in acquiring the land and all those things. I do not understand as to how this job can be better done by this Ministry!

The Railway Ministry could have done it better than this Ministry. As far as construction of Metro Railway is concerned, this Ministry is better placed. As far as running and maintaining the Metro Railway is concerned, this Ministry is not on an equal footing with the Ministry of Railways. Then, why is this activity retained with this Ministry? Why is it that this Ministry is coming before the House with this Bill? Expertise in this field does not lie with this Ministry. Expertise in this field lies with the Ministry of Railways.

If it was thought not necessary to give this activity to the Ministry of Railways, why was it not possible for the Union Government to give it to the State Government, if the State Government is willing to take it up? There are many State Governments, which are not willing take this activity upon themselves. In the case of Calcutta Metro, probably the Government wanted that the Calcutta Metro should be

given to the metropolitan authorities in Calcutta. Yet, they were not willing to take it up. Supposing some Government in a metropolitan city is willing to take up this activity, why should it not be given to them? The Union Government has made provisions in law under which they will not only be giving this activity to Government agencies, they, will be giving it to non-governmental agencies also. If they can give it to non-governmental agencies, why cannot they give it to the State Government?

If they are not going to give it to the State Government, we do not mind. Probably the State Governments would not have enough funds, enough machinery to provide all the facilities that are required to be provided for running the Metro Railway in a proper manner. We can understand that and we are not insisting on that. However, should it not be necessary for the Union Government to consult the State Government while giving directions to the Railway Administration as to how they should run it? The Union Government has the authority to give directions. They are holding a particular portion of the share in this activity. In the same fashion, the Delhi Government is also having a share in this activity. They have also contributed to it. Why should the Union Government not consult the State Government before giving directions which are of very great importance and far-reaching consequences? The State Government need not be consulted everyday. But, why should the Union Government not consult the State Government in giving directions to Metro Railway administration as to how they should manage the Metro Railway?

If the Delhi Government is asking for this kind of a right, I think they are not wrong in doing so because they are answerable to the people. If the Metro Railways do not run properly, the people are likely to go to Delhi Government and say, "You are sitting here, you are our representatives, why are you not helping us?" That kind of a stand, people are likely to take. Why should the Union Government not help them and provide a forum where they can sit together, they consult one another and then can give directions. The last word will be given by the Union Government. So, why should they not consult the State Government in giving directions?

The Union Government has retained with itself the right to give directions to the Metro Railway Administration. It is not taking into account the fact that there is a State Government here which should be consulted, and which, in the first instance, is responsible to the people living in the metro. Why should it not be done? It should be done, but it has not been refused to be done.

I am sorry that the Minister has come with this Ordinance before us. Now, it is in the form of a Bill before us. If the Government wants to amend it, they can amend it. They can amend it now; they can amend it later on. But should the Union Government not assure us on the floor of the House that since the Metro Railway is meant for the people living in this Metro city, the Government in this Metro city will be consulted when directions of far-reaching character are given to the Administration by the Union Government?

At least, that can be done by you now. If that is done, I think, it will solve the problem to some extent. It is not going to be binding. But the consultation should be done. They would explain to you their difficulties; they would explain to you as to how they will be able to help you; and they will explain to you as to how they can contribute. Why should it not be done? We are, all the time, talking about decentralisation of power and this and that. Why this kind of consultation with the State Government with respect to the Metro Railways should not be done, we fail to understand.

My basic point is that if you want to adopt the holistic approach to the problem of transportation, then consultation with the Delhi Government as well as other local authorities also will be useful.

Now, there are certain provisions in the law which talk about non-governmental railways. What does that mean? We would like to understand it. What is your intention? Up till this time, the Railways have been with the Government. Are you going to create a situation in which the Railways will be given to the non-governmental agencies? Are you thinking of privatising the Railways as such? And, if you are taking that route, you please come before the House not in this manner but you come directly to us and tell us that you are going to privatise the Railways, and let the Members explain their points of views, and then you can take a decision. But you are not doing it.

You have a law in which you are talking about the non-governmental railways. What does that mean? Now, if I understand correctly, non-governmental railways means the railways which will be run not by the Government but by some other agencies. But why are you doing it? Where is the non-governmental railways in the country? If it is run by the corporation, well, that is not totally non-governmental. But if it is run by the private person, and if you have to take that decision, you take that decision. But take that decision consciously. You please do not come to this decision through backdoor. That is not correct.

You are building the Metro Railways and you would like to hand over this Metro Railways to some private agencies, you would like them to run it. If they do not run it properly, you would say that "What can we do? We gave it to them, but this happened and that happened. So, it did not succeed, and the people are suffering. Let them suffer."

In U.K. the Railways is privatised. But today's position of U.K. Railways is such that they are thinking of re-nationalising the Railways. Privatisation has not helped the Railways in U.K. If you think that privatisation of Railways can help in India, do it; but do it consciously; do it after assessing all the pros and cons relating to it; do it in a proper manner and not in a haphazard manner. Do not come to this conclusion through backdoor. This is a backdoor entry into the privatisation of Railways.

We are not opposed to privatisation as such. We are opposed to the wrong kind of privatisation; we are opposed to the idea of building our Railways with the funds given by the Government agencies and then handing over the Railways to some private agencies. Now, if you think that the panacea for all the ills with which the country is suffering is privatisation, that is your view. That is not our view. Privatisation is necessary in certain areas; and privatisation has been done. We are not opposed to it but we do not think that the privatisation is the panacea. Privatisation is not the only solution which can do away with the ills with which our country is suffering. If that is your view, you come directly, but do not come in this fashion through the backdoor. It seems that you are trying to come to this conclusion through the backdoor.

Now, I come to my last point. You have said that this Metro Railways is going to be one of the best Railways. But I would like to request you, Mr. Minister, and the authorities concerned with it that let everything be best. Let the Administration be done in the best possible manner.

Please do not follow the beaten track. You invent some new methods of administration and management; and all the new equipments that are required for this purpose should be given to them. The Railway Administration that you will provide, the equipments that they would have, should remain relevant at least for 25 years to come. If you are following the beaten track and if you are going to give them the kind of equipments which are used by the Railways now and the kind of administration with which the Railways are managing, I am sorry that in the city of Delhi and in other cities also, it is not going to be very helpful in the near future.

So, this is an occasion when you can do it. If you do not do it now, you would not be able to do it in the future.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

It is easier for you to have modern methods of management and administration now and it is easier for you to have all the modern equipments required for management, operation, maintenance etc. now; and it would not be possible afterwards. Sometimes, we just follow the old methods, and after 2-3 years we come to the conclusion that it is not helping and then we want to modernise it, which does not help.

The cost that would be involved in modernising it after 2-3 years will be much more than the cost of modernising it now, at the beginning itself. So, let this issue be very carefully examined by the experts and let us go by the advice given by the experts in providing the best possible management. If you can invent a management which is not available anywhere in the world also, let us have it. Let us use all the latest gadgets, equipments and instruments for providing facilities to the people who will be travelling by this railway. If you do it, you would have done a great service and that itself will help all other modes of transport in the country.

This is a Bill to which it is not possible for anybody to object. All the provisions of the Bill cannot be objected to. But to some ideas and to some concepts, we do have objections and we have expressed those objections. But this Bill deserves to be passed and I think, it will be passed by the House.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill. Delhi is the capital of India. The population of Delhi was 40 lakhs in 1960 and today it is around one and a half crore. People come to Delhi from different regions like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, etc. to earn their livelihood. Poor persons can not buy houses in posh colonies so they live in slum areas, resettlement colonies, unauthorised colonies and colonies of the middle class in Delhi. There is no proper transport arrangement in Delhi to take people to their work places. The transport system of Delhi has gone off the rails. I represent East Delhi. One-third population of Delhi resides in East Delhi. Shri Shivraj Patil has asked why this Bill has been brought in such a hurry. You should ask the public of Delhi what problems they are facing in going to their work places. In view of the population of Delhi, there should be around 15 to 20 thousand buses in Delhi but the Congress Government has not been able to provide more than 4000 buses. People are hassled, they can not reach their destinations. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not objecting to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: I am coming to that. I am explaining the necessity of promulgation of this Ordinance. The transport system in Delhi is totally failure. All the MPs from different parts of the country very much belong to Delhi too. Lakhs of people of their States reside in my constituency.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You too belong to our State.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Yes, I belong to your state. But I would like to say that Delhi Government has not been able to improve the transport system. DTC is in such a bad condition that its employees are really hassled as they are not being paid. If Metro is also entrusted to them then Delhi would be at the mercy of God. I would like to say that you can ask your workers that the system of electricity, water and transport has failed miserably in Delhi, your Government might make some improvements in this direction. The Government of India has put in efforts to initiate Delhi Metro Rail and brought in the ordinance in a hurry and today they have introduced this Bill. I would like to congratulate Shri Anant Kumar ji on behalf of Delhi's public.

I remember we were given very few passes on 17 September when the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Lal Krishna Advani had gone to inspect the coaches imported from Korea. Had Mr. Patil visited Shastrri Park in Wazirabad Road where these coaches were kept, he would have seen that almost 20000 people were restless to see Metro Rail. Metro rail is really beautiful. The Government of India deserves to be applauded. Such beautiful coaches have been imported from Korea which have the capacity to carry 1500 people and more such coaches will be brought. I would like to say that there is no proper transport system in Delhi. Metro Rail may prove to be a boon in Delhi. I have read about the rates of tickets in the newspapers which have been kept between 4 rupees to 7 rupees. I would like to state that Delhi is spread over 1400 kilometers and there is a need to spread the metro network a little bit more in Delhi. According to our scheme 60 kilometer long line is to be completed by 2005 and in that too, the line between Tis Hazari and Shahdara is to be completed first and it falls in my constituency. Its length is about 8 kilometers. The range of tickets i.e. 4 rupees to 7 rupees is reasonable and the time taken to reach the destination is only 7 minutes. People face many problems in going to their work places in this

densely populated city. That is why I want to congratulate Shri Anant Kumar ji who is our Urban Development Minister for starting Metro rail in my constituency from Tis Hazari to Shahdara. I do not want to go into the question of what would have been better to have it started by the Ministry of Railway or the Ministry of Urban Development. The public of Delhi is not concerned in this regard. The issue is that there should be proper arrangement to take the poor populace of Delhi, the public residing in slum areas to their work places and that can definitely be achieved by Metro.

Sir, there is a lot of air pollution in Delhi. You would remember that earlier, it was difficult to stand at the cross roads even for one minute. Now it has improved due to CNG but now Delhi is very polluted. Metro rail will not only be time saving but it will also bring down the level of pollution. It has been said that Government of Delhi was not consulted with regard to Metro. I have a letter with me in which it has been stated that the Government of India sent this proposal to the Government of Delhi on 26 September 2000 and it could not give its opinion for one and a half year. It shows their concern about the public of Delhi. Had Government of India not showed its concern then the people of Delhi would not have got this facility and there would have been no flicker of hope that has risen now.

Through you I support this Bill and want to say that the Government of Delhi was taken in confidence. It has been said right now that the Government of Delhi has been included in the Tariff Committee. Rates have been fixed with their consultation. It is not right to say that the Government of India did not consult the Government of Delhi. They were consulted properly. While our Deputy Prime Minister, Urban Development Minister took part in the inspection programme on behalf of the Government of India, the Lt. Governor and Chief Minister of Delhi was also there.

Transport Minister was present there. By looking at the congregation over there and the Ministers present there, it did not appear that there were any differences between the Union Government and the Government of Delhi. The Government of India have constructed Metro Rail for the benefit of the public of Delhi. I especially want to congratulate the hon. Minister as Metro Rail has been started in my constituency first. As it has been started from my constituency that is why I have given my name to speak on this subject.

Sir, I would like to tell that BJP formed Government after Delhi Assembly elections in 1993. At that time, Madan Lal Khurana ji was Chief Minister and I was a member of the Cabinet. We formed this scheme during that time and we constituted Delhi Metro Rail Corporation at that time. This step was taken by us to improve the transport system

of Delhi. Today the Congress Government is trying to mislead the public by saying that the operation of Metro Rail should be given to Delhi Government. Metro Rail is a Government of India's undertaking. It is there in Kolkata also. There also its control is in the hands of Government of India. It is operating in Mumbai also. There also Government of India is operating it. That is why its charge should be in the hands of Government of India.

Sir, the Government of Delhi is not making a correct statement that it has not been involved in this work. I would like to say that the Government of India has consulted the Government of Delhi on every issue. It does not seem that the Union Government have discriminated against the Delhi Government in any way.

Sir, as I stated earlier, it will involve investment of approximately 12 thousand crore rupees in making Metro Rail line stretching to the distance of 62 kilometres. In the beginning, its estimated cost was to the tune of Rs.10 thousand crore but has since been mopped up to Rs.12 thousand crore. The first Metro Rail is slated to run from Shahdara to Tis Hazari. This area falls within the circumference of my parliamentary constituency. Similarly the net of Rail lines will be put in place from Chandani Chowk to Shahrara. That area falls in the constituency from where Mr. Vijay Goel Jee has been elected in parliamentary election. I wish to inform the House that our Prime Minister's birth day falls on December the 25th. Let me put my sincere request forward to dedicate this Metro Rail on the auspicious occasion of his birthday. For this specific gorgeous act I wish to request the Hon'ble Minister not only on my part but also on behalf of all the elected representatives as well as the Delhites to dedicate the rail line of Metro Rail to the nation from Tis Hazari to Shahdara. Hope the Hon'ble Minister will definitely pay head to our sincere request.

Sir, I want to inform the House through you that the population of East Delhi exceeds 40 lakh. We had put forth a proposal to lay down one more Metro Rail line from Dilshad Garden to Barakhamba Road via Vivek Vihar, Hargovind Enclave, Pratap Vihar and Vikas Marg - but the Congress Government of NCT Delhi in Power dropped the proposal and that caused a sense of anger in the minds of people living in Delhi. I have to place the demand that a proposal to construct Railway line on this route must not be put on the back burner rather it should be completed. Only then, the transportation system in Delhi may improve. Sticking to the same line, a railway track originating from Tis Hazari to Dilshad Garden via Shastri Park, Gokulpuri, Nand Nagari be constructed. I certainly do hope that the Central Government will continue to make efforts to translate this proposal into reality. Hopefully, the Central Government will

[Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari]

exhibit the same degree of interest in exhausting its potentialities by considering over the proposed plans to put the proposed lines into the reality zone as has been visibly true in the completion of the first Metro-Rail project.

The Deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. L.K. Advani too, expressed concern over it in a meeting held in Kutch and desired to make it operational shortly. I want to request through you that action should be taken in this perspective on an urgent basis. I must say that an Advisory Committee must be constituted for its functioning in which a few people be made members under the leadership of Lt. Governor, Delhi and the Members of Parliament as well as MLA may also find space in the list of its Members and in this way, a Committee may be formed to oversee the functioning of Metro Rail.

18.00 hrs.

I would like to submit that if it gets statehood by your Lt. Governor, an advisory committee should be constituted over the leadership of the then Governor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is six and two-three orators are yet to advance their views. This is very important Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is no commitment that everyday we would sit beyond 6 o'clock. The agreement was only for three days and that is over.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, Members of the Committee are here. Today we got engaged in one subject suddenly that went up to quarter to five o'clock. Normally, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. we would pass two or three Bills. If discussion does not take place, how can the Bill be passed? I am not saying that all the Bills should be passed; but at least let this Metro Railway Bill which is under consideration of the House be passed today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Tomorrow we can continue. There is discussion under rule 193 tomorrow at 4 o'clock and before that this Bill can be passed.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: There is some other business than discussion under rule 193 to be transacted tomorrow. Therefore, please cooperate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, Sir. Tomorrow you can take it up.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Why are you doing so? What have you to do? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You conduct the proceedings of House everyday even after six. ...*(Interruptions)* The question of sitting late after normal hours was scheduled to be for three days only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You sit in late after normal hours on daily basis that is why you have a problem. Those who don't sit are not faced with any such problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We really sit everyday. Can you tell me on which day I didn't sit late? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Tiwarijee, since you are going to conclude your speech, you please let it pass. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time of the House is extended with the consensus of the House.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: I conclude my speech.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am standing here to speak on the Metro Railway Bill placed by the Urban Development Minister. I take it as my duty to express my happiness that another metro railway is coming up in a city other than Kolkata. Side by side, I would like to demand that it is very much required by other metro cities also, apart from Kolkata and now Delhi, because, as already raised by the hon. Member Shri Shivraj V. Patil, in all the metro cities are now getting congested. The whole traffic system in all the metro cities is very much congested. Therefore, metro rail is very much required in other metro cities also. This is my first demand.

I would like to make two more points. When the hon. Minister spoke on the disapproval resolution, he said that the world over metro rail is not maintained by the Railways; it is maintained by the local bodies and autonomous bodies also. I may agree with him in this regard. But my point is that the Government is trying to go to local and autonomous bodies, but unfortunately not to the State Government. They are avoiding the authority of the State Government. Why are they doing this?

Secondly, the Minister also said that for fare structure

there would be a Tariff Committee headed by a judge. There will also be one member from the State Government and one member from the Government of India side. My question is whether it is enough. I suppose one Member each from the State Government and the Government of India is not a proper representation on their behalf. So far, it is not according to our unique federal structure.

Now, I fail to understand two things. It is already mentioned at the time of discussion as to what was the urgency to promulgate an Ordinance. When the Winter Session was to commence very shortly, the Ordinance was promulgated. It was only to bypass the Standing Committee. It is a big Bill and if it would go to the Standing Committee, it will scrutinise all the pros and cons of the Bill. But the Standing Committee is not in a position to discuss it now due to the promulgation of this Ordinance. Therefore, it should not be the practice of the Government to bypass the Standing Committee or the proper procedure. This has already been mentioned in this august House. Even the Supreme Court has told on various occasions that it is not fair for the Government to do so.

Secondly, I would like to know why Delhi Metro Rail should be under the Ministry of Urban Development. This has been discussed earlier everywhere and the Minister has already told as to why it is not under the Railways. But it is the question of expertise. This should come under the Ministry of Railways. So far as maintenance and operation is concerned, it is the question of expertise and this responsibility lies extremely upon the Ministry of Railways. The expertise is very much inadequate with the Ministry of Urban Development. It is already said so by the Minister in the Bill. The first line of the Statement of Objects and Reasons mentions about the inadequacy of expertise and others. So, there is no expertise with the Ministry of Urban Development Ministry to manage this Metro Rail but they are going to operate the system. I doubt the expertise of Ministry of Urban Development. The Minister himself knows this point. My question is, why is the Government doing so.

Thirdly, the project is implemented by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited. There is foreign collaboration also. The participation is 15:15 and it is discussed at length here as it relates not only to the State Government of Delhi but also to the Central Government. And it is related to the unique system of the federal structure of the country. I suppose, without the co-operation of the Delhi Government, it is not possible to maintain the Delhi Metro Rail. So, it is better to consult properly on time with the Government of Delhi.

I have gone through different sections of the Bill and

I find that they are trying their best to accumulate all the powers in the hands of the Government of India. It is against the concept of decentralisation of powers. So, I would like to say that it should be considered in a proper manner.

So far as safety in the Metro Rail is concerned, there is a big discussion throughout the country. What about the safety in our Railways? We are discussing it everytime when there is an accident. But I am not talking about other Railways. But so far as it is under the Ministry of Urban Development, we have little experience. The Kolkata Metro Rail is run by the Railway Department. People are talking about the safety measures taken by the Railway Department of the Government of India in Kolkata. We have seen that it is not up to the mark. Everytime, we are discussing as to how it can be made better, but unfortunately, the Railways is not in a position to do it. Proper safety is not there for the passengers of the Kolkata Metro Rail.

I do not know what will happen once the Metro Rail is started after 25th December. Nobody knows. I suppose one dark day will come. I want that it should not happen. I do not desire that. So far as the safety is concerned, we should take proper care. There is a lot of confusion in this Bill so far as safety is concerned. The Minister, in his opening remarks, told that a Safety Commissioner has been appointed from the Railways. I do not know about that. I am not clear about this. The Metro Rail is a unique system in our country. I very much agree with Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Shivraj V. Patil that it is a unique system. I must say that the lacunae in this Bill should be addressed properly.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Hon. Chairman, Sir, Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill, 2002 deals with a very important issue. We have to support it. At the time of giving funds also, we had requested that as the traffic goes on increasing in the metros, we have to somehow or the other see that all the metropolitan cities are helped in the same way in order to reduce traffic problems and also the pollution problems.

18.12 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

Now, it has come to Delhi. I am not very particular about who is going to operate this Railway, whether it is the Railways or the Ministry of Urban Development or the State Government. But it requires people of very high expertise who can operate and maintain it. They should see that it is run properly in the larger interest of the people. The safety of the people is very important. There are different methods

[Shri B.B. Ramaiah]

in different parts of the world. In London the system is different. From point to point the charge varies. In New York it has been standardised. In Paris the system is different. The system should be simplified and it should be remunerative in terms of operations. It should be accident free. This should serve the purpose for which it has been started. This Metro Railway should be taken proper care and it should be up to the mark. I do not know how it is being operated in Kolkata. However, the system that is being adopted in different countries should be taken into consideration and they should try to give best services to our people.

I also request that the hon. Minister should see that in Chennai, in Bangalore and in other cities where the traffic has become a big problem, where the metro railway has become absolutely necessary, this system should be extended. I wish you will do that.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Metro-work is on fast track in Delhi. This train will run on pillars over the ground. Earlier we carried the impression that Metro Trains will run underground. I happened to travel by Metro Rail in Kolkata that moves underground. Tiwarijee has rightly remarked that in case of the population of the town growing out of proportion, such projects should be started. It's also true that the population of Delhi was merely 4 lakh in 1912 which has now increased to the tune of 1 crore and 44 lakh. This does include our people in large numbers and it is they only that will mostly Commute by Metro Rail. All such people are engaged in some on the other work and will certainly travel from one place to other. As we have witnessed in Delhi, Traffic jam has turned out to be the order of the day. Patil jee was rightly saying that when there is heavy traffic, and pollution is in place, the only way to avoid the trouble is to run the Metro-Rail.

Many Hon'ble Members have condemned the ordinance regime and to promulgate the ordinance to this cause the Hon'ble Minister was giving clarification to promulgate this ordinance. We are not against Metro Railway. The Government have issued ordinance straight forward. In the first place a bill should be introduced, it should have been well considered earlier. All of us are in support of the proposal that metro rail should come in place and it should not only be limited to Delhi only but also include other Metropolitan towns to streamline the transportation system. At no point we are in protest. But he was saying that Delhi Government is running out of funds. Then how will it be able to run them? Who will inaugurate it? To go by a

statement coming from Delhi Government, the President of India was to inaugurate on the other hand, the BJP MPs are saying that either the PM or Advanijee will perform this auspicious work. All these things have been published in the newspaper that causes confusion in the minds of people. The reason being that, ordinarily both Delhi Government and the Government of India share it equally. On what basis they are going to claim that Government of India has done substantial job in the completion of this project they were citing examples of other countries in India. While Kolkata is already under the Ministry of Railways for what reason you are bent placing it in the hands of Urbans? Whether the Department of Railways is not functioning successfully in Kolkata? Some of its experience inputs were driven home from those areas where it was left to be had. One thing will have to be clarified as to why it's to be displaced. One reason that everybody knows is the exposure inputs expertise bears significance for those working in Kolkata. How was it that it slipped into the Urban bracket? This fact needs to be clarified. At one place the term Government Metro Rail mentioned. This question of being Government or non Government entity was raised by Patil Saheb. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has given a statement that he is not willing to undertake the process of privatisation in all other things he is working a privatisation move. We do not know when will Reliance take it over. Whoever subscribes to it, let it be in place, that is why we find clarification from the Government on this front. The real issue relates to the public and fare to be charged from them. Why aren't public representatives involved in scheduling fare structure? Commuters are the public and they are aware of the hurdles they are likely to face. Therefore, the reason why no Public representatives have been included, needs to be clarified? For what reason are they bent on exempting public representatives?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is anti-public representative Government. They can not afford to include a public representative. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This should be amended since no public representative appears in it. People will commute by train. Senior citizens students belonging to lower income bracket and those earning their subsistence through wages to the tune of around Rs.1000-1500 per month as well as the unemployed group have to commute. If they travel from one place to the other, the whole of their earnings will be spent on travelling only as a result of it, it will be difficult for them to survive. What sorts of arrangement are being made at the Governmental level to work off such problem. We want to know this.

The last question is of security. We are witnessing

that terrorists are intruding into the temples. Parliament has been attacked. Now the point to be considered is that, this train will run underground/below earths crust, hence, the question of security is vitally significant and it's not being put in place under the control of the Minister of Home Affairs. Wherever there will be disturbances, Pakistan and the ISI will be held responsible for it. Simply, imposing blame on others will not serve the purpose. That is why we want to make its stand clear and focus on safety measures as well to strike out the possibilities of accidents because in a number of cases, of train-mishap the buck is passed to the State Government and the argument is advanced that bridges these are not in proper condition. But security of passengers may be at stake or, the security of passengers is an area of grave concern. What sorts of precautionary measures have been taken by the Government on this front? We are working very cautiously, however, things would have been much better, had this work been entrusted to the Department of Railway. Hence, the point to be considered is to devise things to benefit the public. Metro-Railway is set to be inaugurated on December the 25th but how long will it take to complete the remaining work. The remaining work should also be completed at the earliest. ...*(Interruptions)* We are opposed to the work wherein mistakes have been committed. We don't oppose Metro. We fall in line with the Government on the construction of Metro Rail. This will facilitate smooth traffic. People won't have to wait at Red lights because there is wastage of time there. Indeed, it is such a work that deserves appreciation. We support this move. We will just appreciate the Government making philanthropic gesture.

With these words, I offer my sincere thanks to you. You are pursuing the right path and this bill should be passed.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank all the hon. Members across party lines, starting from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, our veteran parliamentarian Shri Shivraj Patil, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri B.B. Ramaiah, Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari and to everyone for supporting the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill.

I would like to clarify one or two things very briefly. The Metro Railway does not belong either to the Ministry of Urban Development of the Government of India or the Government of Delhi *per se*. It belongs to Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, which is formed under the Companies Act. The Ministry of Urban Development is only a holding Ministry. Who runs the Delhi Metro? It is run by DMRC, the experts deputed from the Ministry of Railways and international experts.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: But who will give directions?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I will come to that.

Then, a point was raised as to who will have the rule making power. Though this power vests with the Government of India, we have decided that all the rules would be made by DMRC Only in which five Directors will be appointed by the Government of India, another five Directors will be appointed by the Government of Delhi, the Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation is a very reputed expert who built Konkan Railway for this country and the Chairman will be the Urban Development Secretary. Therefore, it is professional body which will make the rules which will just be notified by the Government of India due to constitutional provisions.

Secondly, since there are five nominees each from the Government of India and the Government of Delhi, there will be day-to-day consultations and discussions. It is not a once-in-a-while consultation. There will be day-to-day consultations among themselves. Actually, the Government of India or the Government of Delhi *per se* will never intervene in professional matters.

Sir, I entirely agree with the House that such matters should not be brought through Ordinance. But in this case, a Draft Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill was prepared in, 2000. We circulated it to the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Law and Justice and Government of Delhi in September, 2000.

We sent 10 reminders. We got their responses only from September, 2001 and as late as September, 2002 from Delhi Government.

I want to take the House into confidence that this is one of the projects in the country which is happening before the schedule. That means, what we used to complete in five years, we are completing in four years; what we were to complete in seven years, we are completing in five years. With that speed, the metro is moving. It is getting commissioned before the scheduled time. Therefore, we needed to rush in an Ordinance for this purpose.

I do not want to go into the details. But I want to assure the entire House and, through this House, the people of Delhi and the people of the country that this metro by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is a special purposes vehicle under the Companies Act. Therefore, we have called it a non-governmental railway because it neither belongs to the Union Government nor to the State Government. But as a special purposes vehicle, there is nothing to do with railway

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

privatisation and the intention of the non-governmental railway in this Bill. This is only specific to this metro railway because it is under the Companies Act. It has nothing to do with the Railways or the Railway Act. I want to assure the hon. Members about that.

Secondly, the material used for the track, for the rolling stock, for the signalling and for all the purposes in this metro is of the global standards. It is of cutting edge technology. Therefore, the matter of comfort, the matter of security and the matter of safety will be of the highest order. I want to give this assurance to the House. I request all of you to ride this world-class metro from 25th onwards. There is a 'seeing is believing' statement. But here I am not saying seeing is believing, but it is 'riding is believing'. Therefore, you can experience the quality of metro.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): Will you be giving free passes to the MPs?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We will be requesting all of you for a special ride.

Lastly, the Union Government has put in its contribution not only through equity but also by taking the dollar-rupee variance and giving the sovereign guarantee for more than eighteen-and-odd thousand crores of rupees which have come from the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation. We are celebrating the 50th year of Indo-Japanese relationship. This also is hailed as a great tribute for Indo-Japanese cooperation in its Golden Jubilee Year. That being the case, once again, I thank all of you for your wholehearted support. Do you want to ask any question?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Thank you very much. I have a point. Clause 86 reads as follows:

"Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the metro railway administration in case of the non-Government metro railway shall, in the discharge of its duties and functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time."

Now, this is a question of giving the direction, and the Central Government has that authority to give the directions. Here the contribution is certainly made by the Union Government. We would rather like to call 'Union Government' and not 'Central Government' because the word 'Central' is not used in the Constitution. It is only the Union Government.

The Union Government's contribution is there. The Union Government makes a big contribution. But the State Government also is making the contribution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is in equal share.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: An equal contribution is made by the two governments. So, the Central Government is allowed to give the direction. Why should there not be: 'in consultation'? Your word will be final. But their word will not be final. You do not even want to consult them.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: That is not the intention of clause 86. I request Shri Patil to read the proviso to that clause. It says:

"Provided that the metro railway administration - which includes five Directors of Delhi Government - shall, as far as practicable, be given opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Where is it that he is reading?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Proviso to clause 86.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Oh yes. All right.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, it is already there.

I request all of you to support consideration and passing of this Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am not convinced with the reason that he has given for promulgation of the Ordinance. What was the urgency? He has stated that the draft was circulated in the year 2000 to various organisations, State Governments, Ministry of Railways and others and their views are received only in September. I would like to know whether this draft was prepared after receiving all the views. When the draft was prepared without promulgation of Ordinance, he should have come with a Bill.

I would like to know what prevented him from bringing a Bill. Why the Government had to promulgate Ordinances one after the other when there is no urgency? The Delhi Metro will be operationalised only on 25th of December. Before the end of this Session, the House could have passed the Bill and the legislation could have been enacted. There was enough time. So, there was no reason for promulgation of Ordinance.

Secondly, as the point has been raised by Shri Shivraj Patil regarding the privatisation, he said just now that Metro Rail neither belongs to the Central Government nor to the State Government. It is a non-Governmental organisation. Is it not a private organisation, if it is a non-Governmental organisation? How it has to be run?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It will be run by DMRC. The thing is that now we are coming out with many SPVs (Special Purposes Vehicles) for speedy implementation and professional management. Take, for example, the case of the Bangalore International Airport. The Bangalore International Airport has a stake of 13 per cent of Central Government, i.e. the Airports Authority of India, 13 per cent of the Government of Karnataka, that is the Karnataka State Infrastructure Development Corporation and 74 per cent comes from an international consortium of Zurich International Airport, Seimens and Larson & Toubro.

But here in this case, with our equity, a large sum of amount is raised from the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation. According to the Railways Act, when it is a Governmental Railway, it means the holding of that equity is held by the Railways through Government of India and run by the Railways. Here it is not so. Here it is a Special Purposes Vehicle which is known as Delhi Metro Rail Corporation under the Companies Act, which will hold the equity and which will run the whole Railway under it. Therefore, it is known as non-Governmental Railway. That is the only intention. That does not have anything to do with the privatisation of Railways or allowing private participation in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Further, actually, the Urban Development Ministry is preparing an Urban Transport Policy. Within the next few months, the Urban Transport Policy will be out because, as all of you said, that the only way forward is the Metro Transport Systems throughout the country to come out of pollution, to come out of congestion, to come out of traffic jams, etc. For that you require the State Government, the Union Government as well as the private parties to come together. But this Bill does not portend to that. Further, in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is the future programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In future we will again come to Parliament not through this Ordinance and not through this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Why do you not have this provision in this Act? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Non-governmental railway does not belong to Railways. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Minister, 15 per cent share is now with the Union Government, 15 per cent share is with the State Government and the rest of the amount is coming from the Japanese consortium. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: As a loan.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The responsibility of refunding the loan would lie with both the Central Government and the State Government. When the entire loan will be refunded, what will be the share of the State Government and the Central Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It belongs to both the Union Government and the Delhi Government on 50:50. But the point is, according to the Railway Act, only the railway held by the Railways is a governmental railway. Therefore, to come out of that technical jargon of the words, it has been used as non-governmental railway. That is all. The intention is only to that extent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will it be under the Government of India? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Of course, both the Union Government and the Delhi Government will be equal partners. I am clarifying this with the fullest responsibility at my command to this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Are you assuring the House today that in future the share of the Government of India will not be disinvested and will not be privatised? Please tell us. I am asking this question because we have the experience of the British Railway. The British Railway was privatised. Now, they are rethinking, reviewing their decision and again the British Railway is re-nationalised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I can only say humbly that this non-governmental railway through a SPV, Delhi Metro Railway Corporation belongs to the Government of India and the Government of Delhi together. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is corporatisation of the Railways. It is a step towards privatisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Corporatisation is a step towards privatisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Lastly, one thing that I would like to clarify is that once the Metro Railway will be ready by 2007, then it will be catering to the Delhi people to the extent of 20,000 buses that means, 50 per cent of the traffic on Delhi roads will be off; pollution will be off by 50 per cent. Not only that but I would also assure this House with the fullest responsibility that this is the most safe, affordable and user-friendly transport system that the country has. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are not opposing or objecting to that. We are all for Metro not only in Delhi but also in other metropolitan cities. We also want that the original plan for Calcutta Metro should also be implemented from Ramrajatala to Salt Lake. Only a part of Calcutta Metro has been implemented and operationalised.

Sir, we are not against Delhi Metro but we are against this Ordinance route. I am not still convinced about the urgency for promulgation of this Ordinance. That is why, I am not withdrawing my Resolution and I am pressing it. But I am not against Delhi Metro. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am requesting the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution. When such a senior Member like Shri Basu Deb Acharia asks me, I am ready to give the chronology of events from September 2000, when the Draft Bill was prepared, when the Draft Bill was circulated, what were the dates of ten reminders and all those things.

Let us not go into all those details.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is an internal matter. It is a matter among the Ministries. How is this Legislature to treat it ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I agree with you. But all these things cause delay. Therefore, I am taking the House into confidence, and I request him to kindly withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: All right, I withdraw the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 105 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 105 were added to the Bill

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long
Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.42 hrs.

*Then Lok Sabha adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Tuesday
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