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Thursday, July 26, 2001
Sravana 4, 1923 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Thirteenth Session



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
New Delhi

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 26, 2001/Sravana 4, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House is aware of the sad and sudden demise of one of our esteemed colleagues, Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

Shrimati Phoolan Devi was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Mirzapur Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

She was also a Member of Eleventh Lok Sabha representing the same constituency during 1996-97.

She served as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on Food & Civil Supplies and Labour and Welfare.

Smt. Phoolan Devi's life held mirror to the contemporary socio-political system. She fought for the cause of the poor, the exploited, the downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society.

Her tragic end came when she was shot at on 25 July, 2001 at her residence at New Delhi at the age of 38.

No words are sufficient to condemn this senseless and cowardly act of violence which has cut short a budding political career.

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

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

WTO Conditions for use of Pesticides

*61. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the various sanitary phytosanitary conditions of W.T.O. with regard to use of pesticides;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have apprised the users of those conditions and made efforts to reduce the use of such pesticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) W.T.O. has not prescribed any specific conditions with regard to the use of pesticides. However, modalities/guidelines have been prescribed under Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement which has been signed by the members of W.T.O. for the assessment of risk and determination of appropriate levels of sanitary and phytosanitary protection concerning food safety, animal and plant health. For increasing the awareness about W.T.O. and Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement among the users, the matter has been discussed in Conferences/Workshops/Seminars to which State Chief Ministers/Agriculture Ministers/Senior officials of State Govts./UTs/Non-Government/Farmers Organizations etc. were invited.

In order to reduce the use of pesticides in the country, Govt. has been reviewing the effects of the use of various pesticides. As a result of that 37 pesticides have already been banned/restricted for use in the country. With a view to restricting the use of pesticides, Government have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection. The IPM encompasses use of various methods viz., cultural, mechanical, biological and need-based use of safe chemical pesticides/bio-pesticides by the farmers. Since 1994, 1,072 Master Trainers, 28,459 Agricultural Extension Officers and 2,03,032 farmers have been trained on IPM through 33 Session Long Training Programmes and 6,733 Farmers' Field Schools in rice, cotton, oilseeds, pulses,

vegetables, etc. As a result of these efforts, there has been a reduction in the use of pesticides in agriculture from 61,357 MT, (Technical Grade) during 1994-95 to 46,195 MT (Technical Grade) during 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Agricultural Sector

*62. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the responsibility of implementation of official language 'Hindi', its propagation and promotion lies with the Government and particularly with his Ministry being in direct contact with villagers and farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has been doing its work, research and bringing out literary publications in Hindi and its library keeps 50 per cent Hindi books in accordance with the Official Language Act;

(c) whether the Members of the Hindi Advisory Committees are nominated as Supervisors to the Official Language Implementation Committees;

(d) if not, the reasons for not implementing the Annual Programme of one year for progressive use of Hindi even in thirty years due to which the same programme is repeated again and again; and

(e) the concrete steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture is conscious of the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963 and the Rules framed thereunder and their implementation.

(b) The four departments in the Ministry of Agriculture i.e. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Department of Food Processing Industries bring out their publications in Hindi from time to time. The Hindi books are also being purchased but at present target of 50% is yet to be achieved.

(c) For implementation of the Official Language Act, 1963 and Rules and orders issued thereunder, each of the four departments in the Ministry of

Agriculture have constituted their own official language implementation Committee (OLICs). The department of Agriculture and Cooperation have also constituted a Hindi Advisory Committee on 16.3.2001. It has been decided to have a Joint Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture. Action will be taken to nominate some non-official member of Hindi Advisory Committee as observer to OLICs, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Department of Official Language (DOL).

(d) and (e) Continuous efforts are being made to implement the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language. The meetings of the OLICs are convened once in every quarter on regular basis. Progress of the use of Hindi in official work of all sections is reviewed in these meetings and follow up action is taken to ensure the implementation of the Official Language Act and the Rules framed thereunder. Also, on the spot Hindi inspections of various sections and attached/Subordinate offices of the department are also conducted from time to time.

[English]

Repeal of MRTTP Act, 1969

*63. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Competition Bill to replace the MRTTP Commission by a new body;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the new body is likely to be different from the MRTTP Commission; and

(d) the time by which the said bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Government intends to introduce the proposed bill in Monsoon Session, 2001.

Statement

The salient features of the proposed Competition Bill are as under:—

1. The Bill mainly covers the following aspects:

- (i) Prohibition of anti-competitive agreements;
- (ii) Prohibition of abuse of dominance;
- (iii) Regulation of Combinations (acquisitions, mergers and amalgamations of certain size);
- (iv) Establishment of Competition Commission of India (CCI);
- (v) Functions and powers of CCI.

2. The objectives of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets in India, to protect the interests of consumers, and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by the participants in market in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

3. The Proposed Law will not have application to:

- (i) Government Departments and enterprises performing sovereign functions.
- (ii) Policy making aspects of Governmental activities (decision making by Ministries/Departments/ Offices of Central Government or State

governments)/Local Bodies—like reservation for SSI, preference in procurement from SSI units/ PSUs and such similar policies.

- (iii) The proposed Law will also provide for exemption of certain classes of enterprises and international agreements from the applicability of the Act by way of specific notifications.

4. The Law would curb those practices, which would have an appreciable adverse effect on Competition. The proposed Law identifies three such ways in which such practices could occur, as under:

- (a) Anti-competitive Agreements: (Horizontal Agreements, Vertical Agreements) can be inquired into by CCI which could impose a penalty of an amount upto 10% of its average turnover in the last 3 years for the offence.
- (b) Abuse of dominant Position (The criteria for deciding the dominant position is broad than one included in MRTP Act). Enjoying a dominant position will not be a crime but its abuse will be a crime.
- (c) Elimination/reduction of competitors in market achieved through acquisitions, amalgamations or mergers (The proposed Law is not against every acquisition, merger or amalgamation, but it refers only to those acquisitions, mergers and amalgamations which are of a certain prescribed size—size in terms of (a) assets or (b) turnover. Acquisition, merger or amalgamation would become 'Combination' when:

Nature of Combination		Group Status	Crite- rion	Value	
(a)	Acquisition by enterprises	No	Assets	In India	> Rs. 1,000 Cr
		Group		World over	> US\$ 500 Million
			Turn	In India	> Rs. 3,000 Cr.
			Over	World over	> US\$ 1500 Million
(b)	Acquisition by individuals	Group	Assets	In India	> Rs. 4,000 Cr.
				World over	> US\$ 2 Billion
			Turn	In India	> Rs. 12,000 Cr.
(c)	Mergers/ amalgamations		over	World over	> US\$ 6 Billion

5. The proposed Law provides for an adjudicating relief machinery by way of establishing the Competition Commission of India (CCI) which would be a Quasi-Judicial Body. CCI will have a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than ten other Members, as may be specified by the Central Government.

6. The CCI will have the following powers:

- to issue "Cease and Desist" Orders.
- to grant such interim relief as would be necessary in each case.
- to award compensation.
- to impose fines on the guilty.
- to order division of dominant undertaking.
- power to order de-merger.
- power to order costs for frivolous complaints.

In addition to the adjudication function, the CCI will have the roles of advocacy, investigation, prosecution and merger control.

7. The Statutory Regulatory Authorities can make reference to CCI for advice.

8. The proposed Law provides for the post of Director General (and a host of his deputies in various places) to assist the Competition Commission in its inquiries. Unlike in MRTP Act, the Director General will not have powers to initiate investigations suo motu.

9. **Reasons for repeal of MRTP Act:** In view of the policy shift from curbing monopolies to promoting competition, there is a need to repeal the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. Hence, the proposed Competition Law to be brought in, aims at doing away with the rigidly structured MRTP Act. The Competition Law proposed is flexible and behaviour oriented. Other reasons are as follows:

- (a) MRTP Act is based on the pre-reforms scenario whereas the new Law will be based on the post-reforms scenario.
- (b) MRTP Act is based on the size as a factor whereas the new Law will be based on the structure as a factor.
- (c) MRTP Act had 14 per se offences negating the principles of natural justice whereas the new Law has 4 per se offences, all the rest subjected to rule of reason.

(d) MRTP Act provides for Registration of agreements as compulsory whereas in the new Law there is no requirement of registration of agreements.

(e) Under the new Law, dominance per se is not bad but only the abuse of dominance is considered bad whereas under the MRTP Law, dominance itself is bad.

(f) Combination Regulations mentioned in the Bill, ensures that Competition is not reduced. Combinations are not regulated by MRTP Act.

(g) MRTP Act has powers only to pass "Cease and Desist" orders and did not have any other powers to prevent or punish, whereas the Competition Law contains punitive provisions.

(h) MRTP Act does not vest MRTP Commission to inquire into cartels of foreign origin in a direct manner. The proposed Competition Law seeks to regulate them.

(i) The Concept of "Group" under the MRTP Act had wider import and was unworkable whereas the concept has been simplified in the proposed Law.

10. The proposed Law provides for a Competition fund which shall be utilised *inter-alia* for promotion of competition advocacy, creating awareness about competition issues and training in accordance with the rules that may be prescribed.

11. Pending cases pertaining to Unfair Trade Practices other than those relating to tie in sales, purchases or cases falling under clause (x) of sub-section (1) of section 36A, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1969 under the repealed Act shall stand transferred to the National Commission constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Derailment of Mangalore-Chennai Mail

*64. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai bound Mangalore-Chennai Mail was derailed over Kadalundi rail bridge near Kozhikode in Kerala on June 22, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured as a result of this accident;

(d) the compensation paid to the relatives of those killed and to the injured;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such type of incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) On 22.6.2001, while 6602 Mangalore-Madras Mail was passing through Kadalundi station, 10 coaches derailed on the Kadalundi Bridge out of which five fell into the river, while some coaches were partially in water, two were fully submerged in the river. The accident occurred in Palghat Division of Southern Railway. 52 passengers lost their lives and 314 received injuries as a result of this accident.

(d) Compensation claims for train accidents are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. No claim has been filed so far. Compensation shall be paid soon after the claim cases are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal, Ernakulam which has jurisdiction over the place of accident. However, ex-gratia announced by Minister for Railways amounting to Rs. 92.47 lakhs has been paid to the next of kin of deceased and injured passengers so far.

(e) and (f) Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, who functions under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation, has taken up statutory inquiry into this accident. His Final Report into the cause of the accident is awaited.

(g) The important steps taken by the Government to check accidents in future are listed below:

- (i) Rebuilding of distressed and some of the obsolete types of bridges have been planned.
- (ii) Railways have been advised to impose speed restriction wherever considered necessary.
- (iii) Availability of system to carry out the under water and underground inspection of bridges is being explored in the world market.
- (iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

[Translation]

Area of Land Affected by Floods

*65. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of crops affected by floods every year;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government for providing interim relief to meet the flood situation;

(c) the amount spent on flood affected areas by the Government every year; and

(d) the amount allocated to flood affected areas during 2000-2001, State-wise and the measures being taken to check these floods?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Floods do cause damage of varying magnitude to property including crops. On the basis of reports received from the States, rains/floods during 2000-2001 caused damage to crop area in 34.79 lakh ha.

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake necessary rescue and relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. Availability of funds exists with the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking such measures. The Government of India and the State Governments contribute to this fund in the ratio of 3:1. A *Statement* indicating release of Central share of CRF during 2001-2002 to the States is Annexed. The Governments of Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Orissa have sought additional Central assistance, in the wake of floods.

(c) According to the Central Water Commission total expenditure incurred on flood management works (Central Sector+State Sector) upto the end of 8th Plan was Rs. 5032.13 crore and the anticipated expenditure upto March, 2001 is Rs. 8236.22 crore, as per figures compiled on the basis of 10th Plan proposals by the States/Union territories and the Planning Commission. Also, assistance provided from CRF and from the NCCF, as the case may be, is utilized for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of the natural calamities, including floods.

(d) The Central Water Commission have stated that the total amount allocated to States under Flood Control Sub-sector, according to Planning Commission, including Central Sector for 2000-2001 is Rs. 798.76 crore.

Statement

State-wise Details of release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund During 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7798.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.50
3.	Assam	3996.00
4.	Bihar	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	2163.00
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	11701.49
8.	Haryana	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3424.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
11.	Jharkhand	—
12.	Karnataka	2936.00
13.	Kerala	5956.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4932.00
15.	Maharashtra	12380.00
16.	Manipur	—
17.	Meghalaya	—
18.	Mizoram	—
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	6465.75
21.	Punjab	—
22.	Rajasthan	12225.75
23.	Sikkim	495.34
24.	Tamil Nadu	—
25.	Tripura	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13521.06
27.	Uttaranchal	—
28.	West Bengal	—
Total		88468.50

Pending Power Projects for Generation of Power

*66. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects pending for generation of power;

(b) the shortfall in the target of power generation during the Ninth Plan due to this;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to start thermal power plant at Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) At present, there are 21 thermal power projects which are under construction in the country which include 3 in the Central Sector, 8 in the State Sector and 10 in the Private Sector. Similarly, there are 35 on-going hydro power projects, of which 12 projects are in Central Sector, 20 projects in the State Sector and 3 projects are in private sector.

(b) The details of capacity addition targets fixed for the Ninth Plan and the likely achievement are given in statement enclosed.

The targets for power generation are fixed annually at the beginning of each financial year. The target and also the achievement during the first four years of the 9th Plan and also during the fifth year (till June, 2001) are as follows:

(In BUs)

Year	Target	Achievement	% achieved
1997-1998	429.000	420.622	98.0
1998-1999	450.000	448.380	99.6
1999-2000	469.000	480.011	102.3
2000-2001	500.700	499.450	99.8
2001-2002 (Upto June, 2001)	129.984#	124.923	96.1

#Target of 530 BUs for 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) Haryana is pursuing the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Project. According to the information furnished by Government of Haryana, 1107 acres of land has since been acquired for the project and majority of the statutory clearances have been obtained. The project is proposed to be executed in two phases. For first phase RFQ (Request for Qualification) had already been floated but RFP (Request for Proposal) is pending awaiting clearance from Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC). This phase is based on coal and is proposed to be executed in the Private Sector.

In the second phase, the Government of Haryana proposes to use natural gas as the basic fuel for which matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of natural gas. This phase is proposed to be taken up for construction by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Statement

Targets fixed for Ninth Plan

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

Likely achievements in Ninth Plan

	(In MW)			
	Central Sector	Private Sector	State Sector	Total
Thermal	3294	6497.0	5030.47	14821.47
Hydro	540	86.0	4092.20	4718.20
Nuclear	880	0.0	0.0	880.00
Total	4714	6583.0	9122.67	20419.67

[English]

Sale of Useable Items as Scraps

*67. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scrap mafia in many places manage to force railway officials to sell useable items at scrap rates;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent connivance between the mafia and officials?

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

(b) Several vigilance checks have been conducted. Case of sale of useable item at scrap rate by railways by force of mafia has not come to light.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rigorous vigilance checks have been conducted and monitored.

Scrapping of Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

*68. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have scrapped the allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies to the Special Category cases debarring the benefits to economically backward classes, Freedom Fighters and Scheduled Castes enterprises etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore the allotment of agencies to these classes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per the existing policy, the reservation for the dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is as under:—

(i) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
(ii) Physically Handicapped (PH)	5%
(iii) Defence Category (DC)	8%
(iv) Paramilitary/Police/Government personnel (PMP)	8%
(v) Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
(vi) Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	2%
(vii) Open (OP)	50%

33% dealerships/distributorships in each of the above categories are reserved for women belonging to that category.

As per the guidelines, selection of dealers/distributors is going on, including the reserved categories.

Preliminary Report on Capital Market Scam

*69. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has taken cognisance of SEBI's preliminary investigation on capital market scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government has taken cognisance of SEBI's preliminary investigation report on capital market scam and has ordered inspection of books of accounts and other records of 94 companies under the provisions of Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956. The inspections are in progress. Further action will be initiated on receipt of inspection reports.

Drought Affected States

*70. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts hit by drought in different States, during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for disbursing compensation to the farmers and relief to the drought hit States in the country;

(c) the estimated loss and damage to crops, cattle and human life;

(d) whether any starvation death/suicides/migration has taken place in the drought hit areas during the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the names of States identified as chronically drought affected and the central aid sought and given for drought relief measures, State-wise;

(g) whether a central team has been formed to visit the affected State to assess the situation; and

(h) if so, the details of the report furnished by the team and the remedial measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Governments, parts of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan are facing drought like situation. 1 district in Uttaranchal is facing water scarcity conditions. A statement-I indicating State-wise details of number of districts, human & cattle population and cropped area affected, in the wake of drought, is enclosed.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake necessary rescue and relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Availability of funds exists with the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRPF) for taking such measures. The Government of India and the State governments contribute to this fund in the ratio of 3:1. In addition, assistance has been provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of drought. A Statement-II indicating release of Central share of CRF during 2001-2002 and assistance provided from the NCCF, to the States is enclosed. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

(d) and (e) Some migration of labourers do take place in the wake of drought. No reports on starvation deaths have been received from the drought affected States.

(f) to (h) The Government of Rajasthan had reported drought like conditions during last three years and the Governments of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh have reported drought like conditions during last two years. Central Teams visited these States and the details of assistance sought and provided from NCCF to these States during 2000-2001 is indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Assistance Sought	Assistance Provided
1.	Gujarat	1974.23	85.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	495.64	40.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	795.42*	35.00
4.	Rajasthan	2367.80	85.00

*Includes requirement for Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh.

Statement-I*State-wise details of Number of Districts, Human & Cattle Population and Cropped Area Affected by Drought*

State	Districts affected (Nos.)	Population Affected		Cropped area affected (lakh ha.)
		Human (In lakhs)	Cattle	
Chhattisgarh	12	94.08	32.40	11.36
Gujarat	23	291.00	107.00	13.50
Himachal Pradesh	12	48.64	NR	0.88
Jammu & Kashmir	15	NR	37.98	4.00
Karnataka	18	55.01	28.71	16.22
Madhya Pradesh	32	127.10	85.78	39.52
Maharashtra	26	454.99	2.58	45.00
Orissa	28	119.50	65.54	11.00
Rajasthan	31	330.41	399.69	89.47

NR-Not reported.

Statement-II*State-wise details of Release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund During 2001-2002 and Assistance Provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)*

			(Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Chhattisgarh	2163.00	4000.00
2.	Gujarat	11701.49	8500.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	3424.00	1898.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	2320.00
5.	Karnataka	2936.00	—
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4932.00	3500.00
7.	Maharashtra	12380.00	—
8.	Orissa	6465.75	3500.00
9.	Rajasthan	12225.75	8500.00
10.	Uttaranchal	—	—
Total		56227.99	32218.00

Note: In addition, from NCCF amounting to Rs. 2700.00 lakhs to Gujarat, Rs. 1894.00 lakhs to Chhattisgarh, Rs. 2272.00 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 1462.00 lakhs to Orissa and Rs. 2897.00 lakhs to Rajasthan have been approved for release to these States.

**Chief Minister's Conference on Impact of WTO
Agreement on Agriculture**

*71. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the Chief Ministers was held in Delhi to discuss the Catastrophic impact of World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement on Indian agriculture and food management;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the light of the decisions of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation organised a Conference of Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister on 21st May, 2001, at New Delhi to discuss issues relating to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Food Management. The Chief Ministers of 12 States and Union Ministers of Agriculture, Finance, Commerce and Industries, Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission) participated in the Conference, besides representatives of other States and Union Ministries:

Discussions were held on the following agenda items:

- Agriculture Production Strategies : Diversification, post-harvest interventions and value addition;
- Removal of restrictions of movement and stocking of food and agricultural produce;
- Operation of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955 as applied to food and agricultural produce;
- Decentralization of procurement and distribution;
- Impact of WTO on Indian Agriculture.

The Conference provided an opportunity for a frank exchange of views and sharing of concerns and suggestions. The Prime Minister, during his concluding remarks, called for awareness building measures in order to remove misconceptions relating to WTO. He announced the constitution of a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers to consider issues concerning agricultural strategies, food management and promotion of agricultural exports in the wake of WTO Agreement on Agriculture.

The first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agricultural Exports was held on 6th July, 2001, where the following agenda items were discussed:—

- (i) Enhancing the efficiency of procurement and reducing the cost of distribution of foodgrains under PDS through decentralized and active involvement of the States.
- (ii) Implementation of the Food for Work Programme and Grain Bank Scheme.
- (iii) Review of Essential Commodities Act and Control Orders to ensure free movement.

An Inter-Ministerial group has been constituted by the Standing Committee to work out modalities of Food for Work Programme and Grain Bank Scheme. The Group is expected to submit its report in four weeks. On restructuring of the system of procurement of foodgrains, it was decided that the Government of India would work out a detailed proposal in consultation with the States. There was general consensus that restrictions on movement of foodgrains need to be removed and that controls on trade of foodgrains need to be reviewed.

With regard to building of awareness on WTO related issues, a series of State-level meetings are planned, two of which have already been held.

Support Price for Crops

*72. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers' Conference held in May this year took note of the fact that the system of support price and procurement had been confined to only two crops i.e. wheat and rice and that coarse-grains, pulses and edible oils had been neglected;

(b) if so, the strategy evolved to diversify the support price and procurement mechanism to these crops; and

(c) the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) At Chief Ministers' conference held on 21st May, 2001 some of the State Governments mentioned the need for procurement of coarse cereals, pulses, etc., under price support scheme. However, at present, a total of 25 major agricultural commodities are covered under the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement mechanism already exists for all

these commodities. In case of fall in prices of these commodities below the MSPs, the nodal agencies, designated for respective commodities, are required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement. As a result of this mechanism, large quantities of oilseeds, copra and coarse cereals, in addition to wheat and rice, were procured during the years 2000-2001 pursuant to the decline in their prices. The procurement of wheat and rice by the public procurement agencies, namely, Food Corporation of India (FCI) is, however, very large because procurement is undertaken not only for price stabilization reasons of these commodities, but also for maintaining buffer stock and for public distribution system (PDS). This is not the case with other commodities covered under the MSP scheme.

Amendment in Contempt of Court Act, 1971

*73. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed the gravity of the situation arising out of the increasing number of contempt cases throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring amendments in the present Contempt of Courts Act in order to bring transparency in administration of justice and in view of increasing number of contempt cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, pendency of contempt cases in High Courts is given in the statement enclosed. Government from time to time have written to all High Courts and State Governments to expedite the disposal of cases, including contempt cases.

(b) and (c) Various provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed by the Government in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up by the Government to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for the present.

Statement

Pendency of Contempt cases in High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	As on	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	31/12/2000	0	31981	31981
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31/12/2000	1857	0	1857
3.	Bombay	30/06/2000	230	78	308
4.	Calcutta	30/06/2000	2707	0	2707
5.	Delhi	31/12/1999	2209	186	2395
6.	Guwahati	30/06/1999	1533	22	1555
7.	Gujarat	31/03/2000	6287	101	6388
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30/09/2000	38	2	40
9.	J & K	30/06/2000	3576	39	3615
10.	Karnataka	31/12/2000	1941	40	1981
11.	Kerala	31/12/2000	652	0	652

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31/12/2000	898	52	950
13.	Madras	30/09/2000	899	0	899
14.	Orissa	31/12/2000	2303	0	2303
15.	Patna	31/12/2000	5756	130	5886
16.	Punjab & Haryana	31/12/2000	2812	63	2875
17.	Rajasthan	30/09/2000	1212	19	1231
18.	Sikkim	31/12/2000	1	2	3
Grand Total			34911	32715	67626

Discarding of German Coaches

*74. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have imported passenger coaches from Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these German coaches in the Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express have been discarded within one month;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the factor responsible therefor;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to put these coaches in use;

(h) whether the Railways have taken up the matter with the German firm; and

(i) if so, the response of the German firm thereto?

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

(b) Total 24 coaches comprising of 19 Air-conditioned chair cars, 2 Executive Air-conditioned chair cars and 3 Power cars have been imported under the supply contract with M/s. ALSTOM LHB, Germany.

(c) No, Sir. The Shatabdi rake made up of new German coaches has been only temporarily withdrawn.

(d) These new coaches were withdrawn as a measure of abundant precaution on account of four cases of uncoupling which occurred on run after their introduction.

(e) Yes, Sir. An inquiry was conducted by Railway in association with the representatives of coach manufacturer and coupler supplier.

(f) These initial investigations pointed towards some snags in the centre buffer coupler mechanism. Further detailed examination is being carried out by experts from Railways and the suppliers to identify the exact cause and remedies thereof.

(g) The matter was taken up with the Suppliers who are under contractual obligation to provide warranty replacements for defective parts. These coaches will be put back into service after the identified defects are rectified satisfactorily.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) The firm has responded promptly and a team of experts from Original Equipment Manufacturers is currently stationed at New Delhi. They are investigating and rectifying defects found to recommission these coaches.

Free Legal Aid to Poors

*75. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether free legal aid is being given to the poor and weaker section of the society in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons who were provided free legal aid during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed therefor;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to raise the present ceiling limit for the provision of free legal aid;

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the details of target fixed for providing legal aid through court-oriented legal aid programme during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing number of people provided free legal aid during the last three years viz. 1998, 1999 and 2000, State-wise, is enclosed.

(c) Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 prescribes the criteria for giving legal services. Following persons are entitled to legal aid/legal services:—

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a women or a child;

(d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;

(e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or

(f) an industrial workman; or

(g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

(h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

(d) and (e) In the first Annual Meet of the State Authorities established under the Act, it was resolved to raise the income ceiling from Rs. 9,000/- per annum as originally provided under the Act, to Rs. 25,000/- per annum by State Government(s) and Rs. 50,000/- if the case is before the Supreme Court. The Central Government has enhanced the ceiling limit to Rs. 50,000/- per annum.

(f) No target as yet has been fixed.

Statement

*Number of Persons Benefited through Court oriented Programmes for the last three years viz., 1998, 1999 & 2000
(Based on the information provided by the State Legal Services Authorities)*

S.No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of persons Benefited during the year			Grand Total (Col. Nos. 3 to 5)
		1998	1999	2000	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,623	1,584	1,268	4,475
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	50	—	50
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	1,680	1,457	558	3,695
5.	Goa	—	—	93	93
6.	Gujarat	1,393	2,306	2,252	5,951
7.	Haryana	332	1,054	1,519	2,905
8.	Himachal Pradesh	178	303	232	713
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	371	935	1,563	2,869
10.	Karnataka	1,050	1,778	1,814	4,642
11.	Kerala	717	701	604	2,022
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26,298	31,738	33,722	91,758
13.	Maharashtra	5,204	4,873	3,258	13,335
14.	Manipur	—	2	—	2
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	1,376	926	1,942	4,244
17.	Nagaland	—	1,610	1,262	2,872
18.	Orissa	1,023	1,923	1,610	4,556
19.	Punjab	1,591	1,824	1,707	5,122
20.	Rajasthan	1,999	2,465	2,747	7,211
21.	Sikkim	4	46	247	297
22.	Tamil Nadu	39,705	43,823	70,080	1,53,608
23.	Tripura	23	18	45	86
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2,217	4,54,617	4,47,204	9,04,038
25.	West Bengal	2,600	1,700	1,544	5,844
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	29	103	229	361
27.	Chandigarh	258	685	1,031	1,974
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	3	5	8
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	4,855	4,421	3,970	13,246

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	928	802	1,121	2,851
33.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	343	603	345	1,291
Total		95,797	5,62,350	5,81,972	12,40,119

Suicide by Weavers

*76. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidence of suicides committed by weavers in Andhra Pradesh and other States of the country;

(b) if so, the number of weavers who had committed suicide so far along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have sent any team to the affected States to assess the situation;

(d) if so, the composition of team, the areas visited by them and the outcome of visit, State-wise; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government to help the weavers community in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As per reports received, over a period of two years, about 30 powerloom weavers of in and around Sircilla division of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh committed suicide due mainly to the following reasons:—

- (i) High incidence of indebtedness.
- (ii) High power tariff and lack of uninterrupted power supply.
- (iii) Prevalence of disease.
- (iv) Poor marketability of end products i.e. low quality fabric due to obsolete and low technology looms.

(c) to (e) Two high level teams of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India visited Hyderabad and Sircilla in Andhra Pradesh. The composition of the first team was as follows:—

- (i) Minister of State for Textiles, Government of India.
- (ii) Minister of State (Home), Government of India.
- (iii) Minister of State (Urban Development), Government of India.
- (iv) Development Commissioner for Handlooms.
- (v) Joint Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Government of India.
- (vi) Additional Textiles Commissioner, Government of India.
- (vii) Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Hyderabad.

A second team was sent in follow up of the recommendations and consisted of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Additional Textiles Commissioner, Government of India. The main recommendations concerned:—

- (i) Technological upgradation of looms in the cluster;
- (ii) Provision of linkages for yarn procurement, product development and marketing, including export.
- (iii) Provision for training and other extension support for upgradation.
- (iv) Provision of yarn at more affordable rates.

The follow up action which lay with this Ministry has been taken viz.:

- (i) Supply of yarn through NTC as an interim measure in Sircilla;
- (ii) Staff has been deputed to begin the Extension Counter in Sircilla to the Powerloom Service Centre in Hyderabad;
- (iii) A team has been sent from the South Indian Textile Research Association (SITRA) to provide technical assistance to the above Extension Counter;
- (iv) The Powerloom Export Development Council (PEDEXCIL) has taken action for the enrollment of members to set up a Powerloom Centre Development Committee (PCDC) in Sircilla.

Creation of Safety Funds

*77. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khanna Committee report has estimated that amount of Rs. 15,000 crore is required to make the rail journey accident free in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have set up non-lapseable railway safety fund to replace overaged tracks, bridges, rolling stock and signalling system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the resources from which the said fund is likely to be generated; and

(f) the funds likely to be provided during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Railway Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired judge of Supreme Court, in Pt. I of its Report has stated that Indian Railways' present inventory of overaged assets transmuted into money terms is Rs. 15,000 crores. Committee recommended that in the interest of safety, the Central Government should provide a one-time grant

to the Railways so that arrears in renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gear are wiped out within a fixed time frame. The recommendation of the Committee has been accepted by the Ministry of Railways with implementation subject to availability of funds. Part-I of RSRC report has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

(c) to (f) Setting up of a non-lapseable Safety Fund as well as the related aspects such as the sources from which the fund is to be generated, the amount to be provided in the current year etc., are receiving the attention of the Government.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Nepal on Tourism Development

*78. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Nepal as a joint effort to promote tourism at religious places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has not signed a bilateral agreement with Nepal for promotion of tourism.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

[English]

All India Judicial Service Cadre

*79. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to SQ. No. 173 dated August 3, 2000 regarding All India Judicial Service Cadre and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision to create an All India Judicial Cadre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said service cadre is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The matter relating to the creation of an All India Judicial Service cadre is still under consideration of the Government. Most State Governments and High Courts have supported the proposal.

Consequent upon the creation of three new States viz. States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal and also three new High Courts, necessary consultations are being made with them in this regard.

Creation of an All India Judicial Service will require a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under article 312 of the Constitution of India. Hence, no definite time frame can be given.

Energy Efficiency of CNG

*80. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the energy efficiency of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is lower than that of diesel and in the long run CNG will turn out to be costlier auto fuel;

(b) if so, whether the fall in the output of natural gas from ONGC wells poses a major constraint in converting the entire transport fleet in Delhi from diesel to CNG mode;

(c) whether there are also serious limitations in supplying CNG along highways and in places where the pipeline network does not exist;

(d) whether the Government propose to decide about providing alternative fuel for transport system in Delhi as the deadline fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is fast approaching; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The studies conducted by R&D centre of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) indicate that energy efficiency of CNG is lower as compared to diesel. As regards CNG becoming a costlier option in long run, it will depend upon various factors like availability, handling and infrastructure cost, duties/subsidies, cost of conventional fuels etc. in free market scenario.

(b) The fall in the output of natural gas from ONGC wells will effect the allocation of natural gas to IGL for the purpose of CNG supply to the city of Delhi.

(c) It is technically possible to supply CNG along the highways through light commercial vehicle (LCV) fitted with cascade. However, this is not very convenient and the cost of providing CNG through cascades is higher than that of CNG supplied through on line stations.

(d) and (e) Government have already started supplying diesel with 0.05% sulphur content to the NCR of Delhi w.e.f. 01.07.2001. Submission has also been made before the hon'ble Supreme Court that diesel with 0.05% sulphur content may be considered 'clean fuel'.

Visit of Textile Delegation to Pakistan

597. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a textile delegation has recently visited Pakistan so as to evolve mechanism to protect their interest in the textile sector against the moves by the European Union; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No delegation sponsored either by the Ministry of Textiles or Textile Export Promotion Councils has visited Pakistan in the recent past.

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

MSP for Agricultural Products

598. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of price policy adopted by the Government for fixing up minimum support price of different agricultural produces;

(b) the details of present support price of all agricultural and horticultural produces, item-wise;

(c) whether support price of every item is adequate to cover the cost of production;

(d) if not, the mechanism adopted for fixing up the minimum support price adequately;

(e) whether any dissent at national level has been received; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (f) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage high investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces each season support prices for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India

(paddy, wheat & coarse cereals); Jute Corporation of India (jute); Cotton Corporation of India (cotton); NAFED (pulses and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities fixed in recent years is enclosed.

The Government decide on the support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of MSPs. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers various important factors, of which, the cost of production is the most important factor. The cost of production covers not only paid-out costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur any cash expenses.

Sometimes certain State Governments do not agree with the price recommendations of CACP and the State Government of Maharashtra have, in particular, suggested a meeting with the States and CACP for discussions on methodology of cost estimation. This is under examination.

Statement

Minimum Support Price (According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Paddy	Common	380	415	440	490	510	
		Fine	395	—	—	—	—	
		Superfine	415	—	—	—	—	
		Grade 'A'	—	445#	470	520	540	
2.	Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra & Ragi)		310	360	390	415	445	
3.	Maize		320	360	390	415	445	
4.	Wheat		475*	510x	550	580	610	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Barley		305	350	385	430	500	
6.	Gram		740	815	895	1015	1100	
7.	Arhar		840	900	960	1105	1200	
8.	Moong		840	900	960	1105	1200	
9.	Urad		840	900	960	1105	1200	
10.	Masur (lentil)		—	—	—	—	1200	
11.	Sugarcane @		45.90	48.45	52.70	56.10	59.50	
12.	Cotton	F-414/H-777	1180	1330	1440++	1575++	1625++	
		H-4	1380	1530	1650	1775	1825	
13.	Groundnut-in-shell		920	980	1040	1155	1220	
14.	Jute		510	570	650	750	785	810
15.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		890	940	1000	1100	1200	
16.	Sunflower Seed		960	1000	1060	1155	1170	
17.	Soyabean	Black	620	670	705	755	775	
		Yellow	700	750	795	845	865	
18.	Safflower		830	910	990	1100	1200	
19.	Toria		855	905	965	1065	1165	
20.	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. per kg.0	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	19.00	20.50	22.50	25.00	26.00	
		Light Soil (L2Gr)	22.00	23.50	25.50	27.00	28.00	
21.	Copra (Calender Year)	Milling	2500	2700	2900	3100	3250	33.00
		Ball	2725	2925	3125	3325	3500	3550
22.	Sesamum		870	950	1060	1205	1300	
23.	Nigerseed		720	800	850	915	1025	

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

Classified into two categories for the MSP purpose instead of existing three varieties from Kharif season of 1997-98.

* Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 60.00 per quintal payable upto 30th June, 1997.

x Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00 per quintal payable from 01.04.98 to 30.06.98.

++ For J-34 variety also.

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

Import of Meat and Meat Products

599. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Animal Husbandry has noted any foot-and-mouth disease in animals and written to the Law Ministry that since meat and meat products were freely imported after quantitative restrictions were removed, there is an urgent need for regulating imports of meat and meat products for reasons of food safety to ensure that it does not bring disease into the country; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the suggestions made by the Law Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In wake of the removal of quantitative restrictions on import of a number of animal products, Government of India felt the need to protect the human and animal health through adoption of appropriate measures. Since the Livestock Importation Act, 1898, did not enable the Central Government to regulate the import of Animal products which could bring in diseases that could adversely effect the human and animal health in the country, the Government of India decided to amend the said Act. Since the matter was of urgent nature and Parliament was not in session an Ordinance drafted by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs was got promulgated on 5-7-2001 after following the due procedure.

[Translation]

Distribution of Cotton Seeds

600. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton seeds distributed to the farmers particularly in tribal and scheduled caste areas in various States particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the details of varieties of cotton seeds under cultivation in the country;

(c) the total production of cotton in the country, particularly in Maharashtra during each of the last three years; and

(d) the assistance and technique proposed to be given to Maharashtra by the Union Government to enhance the production of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The total requirement of certified/quality seeds of all farmers, including tribal and scheduled castes, during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 2.87, 2.61 and 2.66 lakh quintals respectively. The State-wise details as reported by the States, including Government of Maharashtra, at the time of Zonal Seed Review Meetings held in connection with each sowing season during these years are indicated in enclosed statement-I. Government of Maharashtra has reported that the following quantity of cotton seeds was distributed to farmers in tribal and Scheduled Caste areas of the State:—

Kharif '98	19,994 quintals
Kharif '99	16,999 quintals
Kharif '2000	16,965 quintals

(b) The details of varieties/hybrids of cotton seeds under cultivation in the country are indicated in enclosed statement-II.

(c) The total production of cotton in the country during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 10851.4, 12287.1 and 11643.7 thousand bales of 170 Kgs. each respectively. The production of cotton in Maharashtra during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 1753.1, 2618.9 and 3099.2 thousand bales respectively.

(d) In order to increase production and productivity of cotton, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely "Intensive Cotton Development Programme" has been implemented since 1972-73 in cotton growing States, including Maharashtra. This has been modified/merged in the Technology Mission on Cotton under which the Government of India provides Central assistance for the following components on sharing basis:—

- (i) Production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds.
- (ii) Distribution of certified seeds and setting up of delinting machines.
- (iii) Demonstration of production technology etc.
- (iv) Integrated Pest Management, Demonstration-cum-Training and related activities.

(v) Distribution of Plant Protection Equipment and setting up of bio-agent laboratories.

(vi) Farmers' training.

(vii) Water saving devices like sprinkler/drip.

(viii) Contingency for monitoring etc.

For 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 829.88 lakhs has been allocated to Maharashtra as share of Government of India for implementing the Programme.

Statement-I

Distribution of Certified/Quality Seeds of Cotton

(Qty. in Lakh Qtls.)

Name of State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	0.19	0.22	0.22
Gujarat	0.45	0.48	0.63
Haryana	0.45	0.51	0.34
Karnataka	0.10	0.09	0.07
Madhya Pradesh	0.06	0.05	0.04
Maharashtra	0.84	0.76	0.78
Orissa	0.01	0.01	0.01
Punjab	0.16	0.03	0.08
Rajasthan	0.56	0.42	0.44
Tamil Nadu	0.04	0.04	0.04
Uttar Pradesh	0.01	NEG	0.01
Total	2.87	2.61	2.66

Statement-II

Details of Seeds of Cotton Varieties/Hybrids

Sl.No.	Variety/Hybrid	State
1	2	3
1.	Abhaditha	Karnataka
2.	AKA-081	Maharashtra
3.	AKA-5	Maharashtra

1	2	3
4.	AKA-8401	Maharashtra
5.	AKA-84635	Maharashtra
6.	AKH-4	Maharashtra
7.	AKH-7	Maharashtra
8.	Anjali	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Bikaneri Nerma	Rajasthan
10.	Cotton-6669	Rajasthan
11.	DCH-32	Karnataka
12.	Dhaval	Maharashtra
13.	DHY-286	Maharashtra
14.	Digvijay	Gujarat
15.	F-1054	Rajasthan
16.	F-1378	Punjab
17.	F-414	Haryana
18.	F-505	Haryana, Rajasthan
19.	F-846	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan
20.	G. Ageti	Rajasthan
21.	G. Cot. 13	Gujarat
22.	G. Cot 21	Gujarat
23.	H-1098	Haryana, Rajasthan
24.	H-1098(1)	Rajasthan
25.	H-117	Haryana
26.	H-777	Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
27.	H-974	Haryana, Rajasthan
28.	HD-107	Haryana, Punjab
29.	HD-123	Haryana, Rajasthan
30.	HHH-81	Haryana
31.	HS-6	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan
32.	JKCH-44	Rajasthan
33.	JKCH-666	Rajasthan
34.	JKCH-9	Rajasthan

1	2	3
35.	JKCH-99	Rajasthan
36.	K-2	Madhya Pradesh
37.	L-604	Andhra Pradesh
38.	LD-327	Punjab
39.	LH-1556	Punjab, Rajasthan
40.	L-900	Punjab, Rajasthan
41.	LHH-144	Punjab
42.	LRA-5166	Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
43.	LRK-516	Maharashtra
44.	Maljhiri	Madhya Pradesh
45.	MCU-5	Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu
46.	Narasimbha	Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra
47.	NH-452	Maharashtra
48.	NHH-44	Andhra Pradesh
49.	PA-183	Maharashtra
50.	PA-32	Maharashtra
51.	RG-8	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P.
52.	RS-875	Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
53.	RST-9	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P.
54.	Savitha	Andhra Pradesh
55.	Short Staple	Meghalaya
56.	Tapti	Madhya Pradesh
57.	V-797	Gujarat
58.	Varalaxmi	Karnataka
59.	Vikram	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Y-1	Maharashtra
Cotton Hybrids		
1.	CAHH-8	Maharashtra
2.	DCH-32	Maharashtra

1	2	3
3.	H-10	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
4.	H-4	Gujarat
5.	H-6	Gujarat, Maharashtra
6.	H-8	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
7.	JKHY-1	Madhya Pradesh
8.	JKHY-2	Madhya Pradesh
9.	MBCRH-104	Maharashtra
10.	MBCRH-106	Maharashtra
11.	MBCRH-2	Maharashtra
12.	NBHB-11	Madhya Pradesh
13.	NHH-44	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
14.	PH-316	Maharashtra
15.	PKVHY-2	Maharashtra
16.	PKVHY-3	Maharashtra
17.	Research	Gujarat, Maharashtra
18.	Sabita	Orissa

Passenger Amenities

601. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Yatri Suvidhaon Se Vanchit Pradesh Mein Daur Rahi Passenger Trains" appearing in the Hindustan, Patna edition, dated April 7, 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings and to provide amenities to passengers?

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

(b) Passenger trains running in Patna area are cleaned and maintained regularly at Base depot. Despite thefts and considerable vandalism of coaches by anti-

social elements in this area, railways provide regular inputs to keep the passenger amenities in good condition. Some of the steps taken by Railways to improve passenger amenities in Patna area are as under:

- i. Renovation of 11 passenger rakes out of 12 since April 2001 to renew the interiors in good condition in addition to regular upkeep.
- ii. Augmentation of 6 rakes by total 47 coaches to provide more travelling capacity.
- iii. Signages improved at Patna, Danapur, Patna Sahib stations recently for passenger convenience.
- iv. Water chillers installed at Patna junction.
- v. Punpun station on Patna Gaya line improved.
- vi. Raids conducted by Railway Protection Force in areas around Patna to recover stolen aluminium fittings.

[English]

Oil Extraction from Wells

602. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the oil is not extracted from a large number of wells;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to make those oil wells functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At any given point of time, in an oil field, some oil wells will be non-flowing mainly due to reasons like downhole problems, reservoir considerations, surface facilities status, maintenance etc. The sick wells are taken up for "work over" operations, priority-wise, based on expected revival of production potential.

(c) Work over jobs are being carried out or are planned to revive these wells depending upon the techno-economic feasibility. The process of servicing, repairing and reviving of non-flowing oil wells is a continuous one.

Amount Outstanding against SEBs

603. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many State Electricity Boards owe 80 per cent of the total outstanding of nearly Rs. 2000 crores to the Railways regarding transportation of coal to their power plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to realise this huge outstanding amount from the State Electricity Boards as on date;
- (d) whether some power houses have even refused to pay the current payments in addition to the outstanding amount; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir. Total money owed to Railways by State Electricity Boards and Power Houses to end of May 2001 is Rs. 1785.35 Crore which is 66% of total outstanding of Rs. 2703.81 Crore.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The steps taken by the Railways to recover money from State Electricity Boards and Power Houses include:

(1) State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of 'Prepayment of Freight' as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials of State Electricity Boards and Power Houses.

(2) Pursuant to Government's decision on 07.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 134.80 crore has been received by Railways up to 31.03.2001.

(3) Adjustment of outstanding from State Electricity Boards against traction bills.

(4) Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance and Chief Ministers of

concerned State Governments at various levels including that of Minister of Railways, urging early steps for clearance of the dues.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, some power houses have shown their inability to meet their current payments due to serious financial crunch.

Statement

Names of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses from whom recovery of dues is to be made

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State Electricity Board/ Power Houses	Outstanding dues as on 31.5.2001
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	23.21
2. Assam State Electricity Board	1.90
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	3.43
4. Delhi Vidyut Board	139.35
5. Gujarat State Electricity Board	178.35
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	34.62
7. Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.31
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	21.87
9. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	7.66
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	207.95
11. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	75.49
12. Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	17.80
13. Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	22.75
14. West Bengal State Electricity Board	26.10
15. Badarpur Thermal Power Station	975.62
16. National Thermal Power Corporation	46.19
17. Damodar Valley Corporation	2.20
18. Private Power House-Sabarnati	0.55
Total	1785.35

Telescopic Benefit of Fare

604. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of berths/seats available in different classes in Kalka-Howrah Mail (2312) and Paschim Express (Slip Coach Service to Kalka, Chandigarh);

(b) whether telescopic benefit of fare is not available to passengers boarding these two trains at Chandigarh for Howrah and Mumbai respectively or any station en route;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of berths/seats reserved/earmarked for Chandigarh and Kalka respectively on these two trains?

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

(a) and (d) The total number of berths/seats available in coaches ex. Kalka & Chandigarh by 2312 Kalka-Howrah Mail and Ex. Chandigarh by 2926 Amritsar-Mumbai Paschim Express in various classes and for different destinations is as under:—

Train	1AC	2AC	3AC	SL
2312 Kalka Mail	10	158	64	576
2926 Paschim Exp.	—	—	64	216

Out of these, the number of berths which are available at Kalka and Chandigarh are as under:—

Train No.	1AC	2AC	3AC	SL
2312 Kalka-Howrah Mail				
Kalka	8	112	50	432
Chandigarh	2	46	14	144
2926 Paschim Express				
Kalka/Chandigarh	—	—	64	216

(b) Telescopic benefit of fare is available to passengers boarding these two trains at Chandigarh for Howrah and Mumbai respectively or any station en-route.

(c) Does not arise.

Allocation for Construction of Railway Lines

605. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for construction of new lines during each of the last three years and current year alongwith the name of States to which each of the new lines belong zone-wise;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred on each new lines;

(c) the rate of return estimated from each of the new lines;

(d) whether the construction of any new lines have been frozen;

(e) if so, the date by which the construction work is suspended and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the construction work is likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Conservation of Monuments/Museums

606. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of museums conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the maintenance being provided by ASI in these monuments/museums is satisfactory;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the maintenance work of these monuments/museums is likely to be completed; and

(e) the amount spent on maintenance of each monument and museum during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India is maintaining 33 site museums as per details given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India maintains its protected monuments and site museums in the best manner possible under the available resources and infrastructure. The maintenance of the monuments/museums is an ongoing process and works are taken up as per their specific requirements subject to the overall availability of funds.

(e) The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the maintenance of over 3600 monuments in the country. While most of the monuments receive attention for normal maintenance annually, a few hundred are selected for special repairs each year. The amount allocated for these purposes in the last three years, and proposed for 2001-2002 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Museum	State	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) 1998-1999	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) 1999-2000	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) 2000-2001	Proposed Expenditure 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Aihole Museum	Karnataka	1.00	1.00	1.75	6.00
2.	Amaravati Museum	Andhra Pradesh	3.53	5.30	6.50	5.00
3.	Arch. Museum, Red Fort	Delhi	4.24	5.04	3.78	15.00
4.	Badami Museum	Karnataka	2.20	2.00	6.00	7.00
5.	Bijapur Museum	Karnataka	0.90	2.50	4.10	7.00
6.	Bodhgaya Museum	Bihar	1.50	2.50	4.50	5.00
7.	Chanderi Museum	Madhya Pradesh	2.15	1.00	2.00	3.00
8.	Chandragiri Museum	Andhra Pradesh	2.95	—	4.00	5.00
9.	Fort Museum, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	5.01	5.90	7.50	9.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Goa Museum	Goa	3.50	6.20	5.00	8.00
11.	Gwalior Museum	Madhya Pradesh	6.05	7.00	4.55	5.00
12.	Halebid Museum	Karnataka	0.41	0.54	1.00	4.00
13.	Hampi Museum	Karnataka	1.22	3.00	4.00	8.00
14.	Hazarduari Museum	West Bengal	7.50	11.00	11.98	15.00
15.	I.W. Memorial Museum	Delhi	3.58	2.21	6.80	20.00
16.	Kalibangan Museum	Rajasthan	5.00	6.40	5.99	15.00
17.	Khajuraho Museum	Madhya Pradesh	2.85	1.88	2.00	4.00
18.	Konark Museum	Orissa	31.5	6.30	4.00	8.00
19.	Kondapur Museum	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	1.50	2.50	2.00
20.	Lothal Museum	Gujarat	2.50	2.00	1.46	12.00
21.	Mattancherry Museum	Kerala	2.35	3.00	1.10	5.00
22.	Nagarjunakonda Museum	Andhra Pradesh	9.45	13.00	16.50	15.00
23.	Nalanda Museum	Bihar	5.75	8.00	20.00	15.00
24.	Purana Qila Museum	Delhi	6.17	3.36	3.96	6.00
25.	Ratnagiri Museum	Orissa	2.00	2.00	4.00	7.00
26.	Ropar Museum	Punjab	4.75	2.50	3.50	7.00
27.	S.S. Sangrahalaya, Red Fort	Delhi	15.10	8.43	17.74	15.00
28.	Salimgarh Museum	Delhi	—	1.05	2.15	5.00
29.	Sanchi Museum	Madhya Pradesh	0.80	2.50	8.00	8.00
30.	Samath Museum	Uttar Pradesh	12.35	15.35	14.40	15.00
31.	Taj Museum, Agra	Uttar Pradesh	0.99	0.96	2.88	9.00
32.	Tipu Sultan Museum	Karnataka	3.80	11.53	7.00	8.00
33.	Vaishali Museum	Bihar	2.48	1.50	3.30	7.00

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Circles	Expenditure 1998-1999	Expenditure 1999-2000	Expenditure 2000-2001	Expenditure Sanctioned Till Date
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Agra	341.98	181.80	171.57	155.00
2.	Aurangabad	153.01	127.00	145.70	295.00
3.	Goa (Mini Circle)	24.70	43.99	39.77	50.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bangalore	102.13	135.53	141.32	120.00
5.	Bhopal	157.00	189.00	172.00	105.00
6.	Bhubaneswar	54.66	79.06	80.00	95.00
7.	Calcutta	69.99	102.80	100.77	85.00
8.	Chandigarh	192.49	179.09	163.00	100.00
9.	Chennai	96.17	112.37	125.80	110.00
10.	Delhi	341.98	320.50	219.96	130.00
11.	Dharwar	68.99	88.40	106.74	105.00
12.	Guwahati	91.03	100.42	137.68	125.00
13.	Hyderabad	84.84	107.38	136.29	125.00
14.	Jaipur	122.00	166.00	174.69	105.00
15.	Lucknow	124.00	121.47	125.54	95.00
16.	Patna	112.00	120.20	134.01	105.00
17.	Srinagar	78.00	95.91	112.60	80.00
18.	Thrissur	54.00	65.12	79.50	70.00
19.	Vadodara	88.88	99.88	115.67	145.00

[English]

**Competition in World Market for
Handloom Sector**

607. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn any strategy to meet the competition in World market for Handloom sector in relation to phasing out of multi-fibre agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export of cotton handloom fabric has declined during 2000-2001 in comparison to 1999-2000;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Textile Policy 2000 aims to

strengthen & encourage the handloom industry to produce value added items, assist the industry to forge joint ventures, and to promote and develop the exclusiveness of handloom products to secure global markets. Emphasis is being given, *inter-alia*, on increasing exports through promotional efforts, publicity, market studies, exchange of designers/weavers etc. Efforts are being made to enlarge the base and increase interaction with the existing and emerging markets and improve the quality of the product through design support, better processing & dyeing, packaging etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for decrease in the export of Cotton Handloom Fabric are low unit value realisation and fall in demand for certain specific products in the international market.

(e) The remedial measures being taken to improve export, *inter-alia*, are as under:

- (i) Participation in International fairs/exhibition and Buyer-Seller Meets by International agencies/ITPO and EPCs.

- (ii) Inviting the foreign delegation/buyers to interact with the manufacturers/exporters to understand the infrastructural facilities available at the manufacturing end.
- (iii) Frequent seminars and interaction with the exporters to educate them about quality, design, information technology and scope in new markets.
- (iv) Dissemination of information through Website about colour trend, design etc.
- (v) Development of exportable varieties by converting traditional handloom items.

Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel

608. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a scientific study Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel is better than CNG;

(b) if so, whether the diesel which is available in Delhi is far cleaner from the diesel used in Europe and in some European countries and sulphur contents in diesel has been reduced to 0.005 percent terming as Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel whereas in Delhi it has been reduced to 0.05 percent terming it as Low Sulphur Diesel and not Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Suitability of any auto fuel like petrol, diesel, CNG depends on various factors like type of vehicle, its engine technology & design, maintenance requirements, performance, reliability, costs, local conditions etc.

(b) and (c) In Delhi, the diesel specifications are as per Bharat stage-II norms (equivalent to EURO-II norms) in which the sulphur content is 0.05% max. In Europe the fuel specifications are as per EURO-III norms (sulphur content is 0.035% max. are yet to be developed/tested in the country and ultra-low sulphur diesel is therefore not required at present.

Inspection of Companies

609. SHRI PRABHUNATH SNGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspection of the companies registered with the Government is to be carried out under section 209A of the Companies Act 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these inspections are carried out on regular basis;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the department of company affairs has ordered inspection of Zee, HFCL, DSQ and KP firms books;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the outcome of the inspection and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Provisions of Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956 empower the Registrar of Companies and any other officer of the Government duly authorised by the Central Government to conduct inspection of books of accounts and other records of companies. Inspection of companies is ordered on the basis of newspaper reports, references received from other Government Departments, suggestions made by the field organizations of the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) after scrutiny of the documents filed by the companies with the Registrar of Companies, complaints from investors, directors of the companies concerned and also on the basis of suggestions made in the inspection reports.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir, the Department of Company Affairs has ordered inspection of books of accounts and other records of Zee, HFCL, DSQ and several KP firms under Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956. The inspections of these companies are in progress. Further action will be taken on receipt of the inspection reports.

Transfer Policy

610. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any transfer policy for the employees working as Reservation-cum-Inquiry Clerk in various zones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railway employees holding sensitive posts and who frequently come into contact with public and/or contractors/suppliers are required to be transferred every four years. The category of Enquiry-cum-Reservation Clerks is included in the sensitive categories. In order to avoid large scale dislocation of staff, periodical transfers are, as far as possible, effected without involving a change of residence of the staff concerned, so long as the fundamental objective of such transfers can be achieved by transferring such staff to a different location in the same station or to a different station in the same urban agglomeration.

However, staff detected to be indulging in malpractices or having figured in substantiated vigilance cases are required to be transferred on inter-divisional/inter-railway basis.

Setting up of Silk Technology Mission

611. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to set up a 'Silk Technology Mission' to plan strategies and monitor the implementation of programmes;

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

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka is considering to take steps to improve the quality of silk yarn;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has launched any scheme to improve the quality of cocoon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e)

The Government of Karnataka has prepared a programme for expansion of bivoltine sericulture and overall development of the sericulture industry in the State. This programme includes the introduction of several technologies which have been developed in recent years by the Central Silk Board and aims to produce international quality of silk yarn with significant increase in productivity at all stages of silk yarn production. One of this productivity stage includes the weight and quality of the cocoon.

The projections for the X Plan for the sericulture sector prepared by the Ministry have taken this programme of the Government of Karnataka into account, and have been projected in consultation with the States.

Appointment of Consolidators in ITDC

612. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint Consolidators at different places to feed additional business into ITDC hotels; and

(b) if so, the number of existing Consolidators and the additional Consolidators proposed to be appointed including the name of places of appointment and the criteria for their appointment?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Government does not appoint Consolidators for ITDC.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pre-Examination training to OBC for Examination

613. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway employees belonging to O.B.C. category are being provided pre-examination training facility for appearing in Group 'B' examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no reservation for OBC candidates in promotion to Group 'B' posts. Reservation is provided for SC and ST candidates only. Pre-promotional mandatory coaching is provided only for SC and ST candidates.

[English]

Implementation of Technology Mission on Cotton

614. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing Mini Mission (MM-III & IV) under Technology Mission on Cotton;

(b) if so, the number of new/improved market yards sanctioned under the Scheme so far, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed for time bound implementation of MM-III & IV under the Technology Mission on Cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Textiles is implementing Mini Mission III relating to improvement in market infrastructure and Mini Mission IV relating to modernization of ginning & pressing factories.

(b) The number of market yards sanctioned under the scheme so far, State-wise, are as under:

State	New	Improvement	Activation	Total
M.P.	01	04	01	06
Rajasthan	00	06	00	06
Gujarat	01	07	07	15
A.P.	02	02	04	08
Haryana	00	04	01	05
Karnataka	00	04	01	05
Tamil Nadu	01	02	00	03
Orissa	01	01	01	03
Total	06	30	15	51

(c) The State Governments, respective market yard authorities and the ginning & pressing factories owners are impressed upon for timely completion of development of market yard and modernization of ginning & pressing factories. Besides, General Awareness Meetings are organized in the cotton growing States where cotton growers, ginners, market yard authorities and State Government officials are requested for timely and effective completion of the projects to achieve the desired objectives of the mission.

Procurement of Palm Oil by NAFED from A.P.

615. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India has been asked by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to procure an additional 70,000 metric tonnes of palm oil from Andhra Pradesh under Market Intervention Scheme;

(b) if so, the total quantity of palm oil procured by the NAFED from Andhra Pradesh during 2000 and 2001 so far;

(c) the other States from where NAFED has been procuring the palm oil;

(d) whether the losses in the process are proposed to be shared by both the Centre and States equally; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the extent to which India has achieved self-sufficiency in palm oil production?

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

(b) A quantity of 65,000 MTs during 2000 season and 1,05,000 MTs during 2001 was approved by the Government of India under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The quantity for 2000 season has already been procured and for the 2001 season, the procurement is continuing. So far 39,301 MTs has been procured.

(c) Karnataka only.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The oilpalm plantations in India is still in the initial stages and has not achieved full maturity. Area expansion has also suffered because of heavy imports of

edible oils. Therefore, it has not been possible to achieve self-sufficiency in palm oil production.

[*Translation*]

Conference of Cooperative Ministers in New Delhi

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

(a) the subjects on which discussion took place in the Conference of Cooperative Ministers of States held in May, 2001 in New Delhi;

(b) the details of decision taken in the conference; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the resolutions passed unanimously in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Conference of State Ministers for Cooperation was held on 18.05.2001 at New Delhi to discuss the proposed National Policy on Co-operatives.

(b) The draft National Policy finalized by the Group of Ministers was discussed in the Conference. The policy was unanimously adopted by all the States. Some of the States suggested to constitute a Task Force to formulate detailed action plan for implementation of the policy.

(c) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Agriculture has been constituted for suggesting a detailed action plan to operationalise the policy. The Task Force will be functional after approval of the policy by the Cabinet.

Illegal Transporting of goods by Catering Staff

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the catering staff of the contractors in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains are indulging in illegal transporting of goods/parcels from one place to another;

(b) if so, whether surprise checks are conducted from time to time in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last one year;

(d) the number of persons found guilty and the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check such type of practice?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Besides daily checking by Train Superintendent/Ticket checking staff, Zonal Railways officials at different level conduct periodical surprise checks in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express Trains. However, no such instances have come to notice so far.

Railway Projects

618. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new rail projects started during the Ninth Five Year Plan/likely to be started during the current year in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the total amount likely to be spent on these projects and the estimated cost thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete these projects within the stipulated time?

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

(a) No new rail project has been started during the IX - Five Year Plan in Jammu and Kashmir. No new projects are likely to be started during the current year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Budget for Agriculture Sector

619. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full estimated budget funds were released in the agriculture sector during the last three years;

(b) if not, the details of the amounts released against the budgeted figures;

(c) the role of financial advisors deployed in the Ministry;

(d) whether the financial advisors in the Ministry of Agriculture have not properly advised the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to improve the financial system for the support of agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and

(b) The details of Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure in respect of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Food Processing Industries for the last three years are given at enclosed statement-I.

(c) The details of role of Financial Advisors are given at enclosed statement-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Department	Year	Budget Estimate			Revised Estimate			Actual Expenditure		
		Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	1998-99	1956.00	3066.57	5022.57	1378.41	3863.93	5242.34	1358.88	3863.46	5222.34
	1999-2000	1956.00	4580.85	6536.85	1492.00	4585.84	6077.84	1471.90	4579.12	6051.02
	2000-2001	1965.00	4190.97	6155.97	1692.0	4447.81	6139.81	1666.07	4441.81	6107.88
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	1988-89	381.90	144.39	526.29	210.60	188.03	398.63	170.24	186.18	356.42
	1999-2000	381.90	106.89	488.79	225.00	200.88	425.88	207.30	197.81	405.11
	2000-2001	300.00	111.50	411.50	230.00	158.72	388.72	213.40	155.37	368.77
Indian Council of Agricultural Research	1998-99	530.67	450.77	981.44	444.50	532.16	976.66	444.50	532.16	976.66
	1999-2000	573.00	608.79	1181.79	503.50	794.38	1297.88	503.50	794.38	1297.88
	2000-2001	628.95	765.29	1394.24	549.50	760.73	1310.23	549.50	760.73	1310.23
Department of Food Processing & Industries	1998-99	44.10	4.72	48.82	30.80	4.46	35.26	30.00	4.19	34.19
	1999-2000	47.00	4.66	51.66	40.00	4.46	44.46	34.89	5.50	40.39
	2000-2001	50.00	5.00	55.00	50.00	15.70	65.70	50.00	14.86	64.86

*Provisional.

Statement-II

The Internal Financial Adviser will be in overall charge of Budget and Accounts Section in addition to the Internal Finance Section. It will be his duty:—

- (i) to ensure that the schedule of preparation of budget is adhered to by the Ministry and the Budget is drawn up according to the instructions issued by Finance Ministry from time to time;
- (ii) to scrutinise budget proposals thoroughly, before sending them to Ministry of Finance;

- (iii) to see that complete departmental accounts are maintained in accordance with the requirements under the General Financial Rules. It should, in particular, be ensured that the Ministry not only maintains account of expenditure against the Grants or Appropriations directly controlled by it but also obtains figures of the expenditure incurred by the subordinate offices so that the Ministry has a complete month to month picture of the entire expenditure falling within its jurisdiction;
- (iv) to watch and review the progress of expenditure against sanctioned grants through maintenance

- of necessary Control Registers and to issue timely warnings to Controlling authorities share the progress of expenditure is not even;
- (v) to ensure the proper maintenance of the Register of Liabilities and commitments as required under the G.F.Rs. to facilitate realistic preparation of budget estimates, watching of book debits and timely surrender of anticipated savings;
 - (vi) to screen the proposals for supplementary demands of grants;
 - (vii) to formulate the foreign exchange budget for the Ministry and to process individual cases for release of foreign exchange in accordance with the instructions issued by Department of Economic Affairs from time to time;
 - (viii) to advise the Administrative Ministry on all matters falling within the field of delegated powers. This includes all powers other than those devolving on a Ministry in its capacity as Head of Office. It has to be ensured by I.F.A. that the sanction issued by Administrative Ministry in exercise of delegated powers clearly indicates that they issue after consultation with I.F.A.;
 - (ix) to identify, in particular, specific savings in cases of creation of posts and to maintain a Register for this purpose;
 - (x) to scrutinize proposals for re-delegation of powers to subordinate authorities;
 - (xi) to keep himself closely associated with the formulation of schemes and important expenditure proposals from their initial stages;
 - (xii) to associate himself with the evaluation of progress/performance in the case of projects and other continuing schemes, and to see that the results of such evaluation studies are taken into account in the budget formulation;
 - (xiii) to watch the settlement of audit objections, Inspection Reports, draft audit paras, etc.;

- (xiv) to ensure prompt action on Audit Reports and Appropriation Accounts, Reports of Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings;
- (xv) to screen all expenditure proposals requiring to be referred to Finance Ministry for concurrence or comments; and
- (xvi) to ensure regular and timely submission to Finance Ministry of quarterly staff statements and other reports and returns required by Finance.

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

620. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crop insurance scheme has been implemented entirely in Orissa;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the delay in the implementation of the decision of the Union Government the farmers could get the remunerative prices of their crop and also get the benefit of insurance at the time of natural calamity or in any other loss; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Orissa State implemented the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) since its inception i.e. Rabi 1999-2000 season.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no delay in the implementation of NAIS in the State as the scheme has been implemented in accordance with prescribed time schedule.

The NAIS is a yield guarantee scheme and as such it has nothing to do with price risk. On the basis of yield data furnished by the State Government, if the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area during the season falls short of specified threshold yield, all insured farmers growing that crop in

the defined area deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and become eligible for payment of claims.

Extension of Rewari-Ratangarh-Degana Passenger Train upto Delhi

621. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to USQ. No. 417 dated November 20, 1997 regarding Demand of Mail train and state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that metre gauge Jodhpur-Delhi Mail running for more than four decades between Jodhpur and Delhi via Degana, Ratangarh and Rewari was first diverted in 1994 and then withdrawn totally;

(b) if so, whether since then persistent demands have been made from various quarters including general public to run a metre gauge mail train between Delhi and Degana via Rewari and Ratangarh in place of Jodhpur Mail;

(c) if so, whether the Government have turned down all these demands on the plea that it is not feasible to do so;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to extend the 1RRD/2RRD Rewari-Ratangarh-Degana passenger train to Delhi Sarai Rohilla as the gauge conversion between Rewari and Degana is not progressing at all; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Introduction of a new metre gauge train between Delhi and Degana via Rewari & Ratangarh or extension of 1RRD/2RRD Passenger trains upto Delhi Sarai Rohilla is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, a sleeper class slip coach is running between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Degana by 4 DR/4710-4709/1 DR trains for the passengers of Degana-Rewari desirous of travelling to Delhi.

[Translation]

Damage to Bio-Diversity

622. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy damage is caused to bio-diversity in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to prevent the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Over the years, the overall India's ranking in the global biodiversity remains unchanged. However, some loss of biodiversity had been happening due to the spread of high yielding crop varieties, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation etc. In the case of quatic biodiversity, some loss also had been happening due to over fishing, use of illegal method of fishing and water pollution from various industrial and urban activities.

(b) and (c) Government has taken several steps to contain or reduce damage to biodiversity. In agriculture, ex situ conservation efforts have been and are being undertaken in respect of plants, animals, fish and agriculturally important microorganisms under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Department of Agricultural Research and Education. The National Bureaus of Plant, Animal, Fish and Agriculturally Important Microorganism have been established with a mandate to undertake surveys, collections and ex situ conservation activities with specific emphasis to endangered species. The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi is one of the largest such ex situ conservation facility in the world. Further, emphasis is also being laid through Mission Mode Programmes launched on collection and conservation of biodiversity of plants, animals and fish under the National Jai Vigyan Mission on Collection and Conservation of Plant Biodiversity under the National Agricultural Technology Project. In case of all other biodiversity, the in situ and ex situ conservation efforts have been made under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The question does not arise, Sir.

[English]

Classification of Natural Rubber

623. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural rubber has been classified as an industrial product in the WTO agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any efforts to get the natural rubber recategorised into agricultural product;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, India has stressed the need for the rationalization of the product coverage of the Agreement by including primary agricultural commodities like rubber. The said mandated negotiations are under way.

(d) Question does not arise.

Funding of Agricultural Projects by Foreign Countries

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

(a) the details of agricultural projects being funded/proposed to be funded by the foreign countries, State-wise, with particular reference to Punjab;

(b) the present status of such ongoing agricultural projects in Punjab;

(c) whether any fresh projects seeking external assistance has been received from any State Government; and

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

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

Electrification of Barasat-Hasnabad Railway Section

625. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification of Barasat-Hasnabad section under Sealdah division of Eastern Railway was scheduled for completion by March, 2001;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) The work is targeted for completion by March, 2002 and at present progressing satisfactorily.

Survey for Mainaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar- Jogighopa Rail Line

626. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of a new rail line from New Mainaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar to Jogighopa via Dhubri has been taken up;

(b) whether this work has been started;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started along with the funds allocated for this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Survey for construction of new rail line from New Mainaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar-Golakganj-Gauripur-Jogighopa has been completed. This alignment passes through Gauripur near Dhubri.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The final location survey has been taken up. An amount of Rs. 10 cr. has been allocated for this project during 2001-2002.

(d) Does not arise.

**Strengthening of Agricultural Credit
Stabilisation Fund**

627. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to strengthen the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation fund in the States; and

(b) the details of the Central allocation made and the actual funds released under Centrally sponsored scheme to Agriculture Stabilisation Fund for the use of State Cooperative banks during the last three years, State-wise with particular reference to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) In order to strengthen the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation fund maintained at State Cooperative Bank level, central assistance is released to the State Governments in the ratio of 75% grant and 25% loan to meet the gap in the optimum level of the Fund.

(b) Under the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund Scheme no state-wise allocation of funds is made. Funds are released on the basis of proposals received from the States. Details of funds released under the scheme are given in the Statement attached. The scheme has now been subsumed under Macro Management Mode from the year 2000-2001. The State Governments are required to incorporate this component in their work plan for release of funds under the scheme.

Statement

*Financial assistance provided to States under Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund Scheme
during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.00	200.00	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	36.50
5.	Delhi	—	—	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	—	226.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	—	60.00	—
12.	Kerala	10.00	40.00	40.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	—	—	—
15.	Manipur	—	10.00	—
16.	Meghalaya	—	10.00	7.50
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	—	—	—
20.	Punjab	50.00	60.00	200.00
21.	Rajasthan	60.00	40.00	40.00
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
24.	Tripura	—	20.00	50.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	40.00	60.00	100.00
26.	West Bengal	—	—	—
Total		400.00	500.00	700.00

Stock Loss MS and HSD

628. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of actual stock loss MS and HSD has been observed by resident officers on each Jubilee and Coco pumps throughout the country, pump-wise;

(b) whether actual pay order/draft making charges are being reimbursed to operators contractors of such outstationed petrol pumps;

(c) whether the stocks cash etc., at such pumps are being got insured by Oil Corporations;

(d) if not, the responsibility fixed for losses against fire and looting;

(e) whether remuneration of operators is sufficient to cover cost of salary and wages under the Minimum Wages Act; and

(f) if not, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per Maintenance and Handling Contract policy for Jubilee and COCO Pumps, losses upto 0.59% in MS and 0.15% in HSD is absorbed by the Company and losses

exceeding these limits are being recovered from the Contractors. Information about pump-wise stock loss of MS & HSD is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Quilon-Kuttipuram National Inland Waterway

629. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made regarding construction of Quilon-Kuttipuram National inland waterway;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Kollam to Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara canals in Kerala having a total length of 205 kms is a National Waterway. Champakara canal, Udyogmandal canal and Kochi-Edappalikota section of West Coast Cana are presently being used for navigation by mechanized vessels. National

Waterway from Kollam to Kottampuram is being maintained by carrying out dredging, providing day navigational aids and conducting hydrographic surveys, repair and modifications of locks, widening of narrow sections of the waterway. Action for land acquisition and construction of terminals at 11 locations has been initiated. Dredging in Kochi-Alapuzha stretch has been completed. One Survey Launch has been constructed and is being utilized for conducting survey and 24 hours navigation facility has been approved.

(b) An expenditure of approximately Rs. 41.15 crore has been incurred in NW-3 till March, 2001.

(c) Approved capital works are expected to be completed during the 10th Plan period.

Supply of Fertilizer at Cheaper Rates

630. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to assist small and marginal farmers by way of providing them fertilizers at cheaper rates particularly in Bihar;

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

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government fixes the farm-gate price of Urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer, and indicates the Maximum Retail Prices for decontrolled fertilizers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex Fertilisers. In case of Single Super Phosphate (SSP), indicative MRP are fixed by the respective State Governments.

To enable sale of fertilizers at the prices announced by the Government subsidy is given in case of urea under the Retention Price-cum-subsidy Scheme (RPS), while in the case of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, concession is paid under the Scheme of Concession on sale of decontrolled P&K fertilizers. The benefit of subsidised prices of fertilisers is available to all farmers including small and marginal farmers in Bihar as well as all other parts of the country.

Methane Gas in Raniganj Coal Belt Area

631. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed between the Government of West Bengal and ONGC to explore the methane gas in Raniganj coal belt area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) has been granted by the Government of West Bengal to Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in North Raniganj area. Accordingly, ONGC has carried out preliminary geological investigation and has taken up drilling of four cost-effective slim holes for initial assessment of CBM potential in the PEL area.

[Translation]

Conversion of Residence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad into National Museum

632. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the parental house of the first President of the country, Dr. Rajendra Prasad into a national monument/museum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The ancestral house of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, located at Jiradei in District Siwan (Bihar) has already been declared a protected monument of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India and is being maintained as per archaeological norms.

[English]

Report on Cyclone In Orissa

633. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any reports from the Government of Orissa on Super Cyclone hit Orissa in September and October, 1999;

(b) if so, the central assistance provided towards relief operation, rehabilitation package, restoration and reconstruction activities;

(c) whether an Orissa cyclone Reconstruction Authority has been set up under a senior Cabinet Minister to co-ordinate reconstruction activities in the State; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated/spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Government of Orissa had sent reports on loss of life and damage to property in the wake of super cyclone of October, 1999.

(b) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 amounting to Rs. 42.50 crore was released to the State for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. In addition assistance of Rs. 828.15 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released to the State in the wake of floods and cyclones including the super cyclone.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa had set up the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority to coordinate the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the cyclone affected areas. Details of funds utilized so far is not available.

Conservation of Monuments in Tamil Nadu

634. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of conservation work executed in various sub-circles of Chennai Circle during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated and spent for protecting the same during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve and restore the ancient heritage buildings of Historical importance in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu and also from the Chennai Corporation with regard to the conservation of some of the popular ancient buildings and forts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The detail of the conservation works executed by various sub-circles of the Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, the funds allocated and expenditure incurred in the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Monuments	Allotment	Expenditure
1998-1999	52	Rs. 53.90 lakhs	Rs. 63,71,646/-
1999-2000	52	Rs. 69,82,000/-	Rs. 65,83,661/-
2000-2001	52	Rs. 65,00,000/-	RS. 76,04,498/-

(c) The conservation of centrally protected monuments is an on going process.

(d) and (e) The Archaeological Survey of India had received a request a few years back from the Chennai Municipal Commissioner for undertaking repairs of the office building of the Corporation (also called Ripon building) as a deposit work. The Archaeological Survey of India had conveyed its inability to undertake the work in view of its own commitments.

Cargo Handled by Kolkata Port

635. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of cargo handled by the Kolkata Port during the last two years and the current year so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the capacity of Kolkata port is showing a declining trend;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being proposed by the Government for the modernisation of Kolkata port;

(d) whether the Government are considering any proposal to create additional berths to increase the volume of cargo; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The volume of cargo handled by Kolkata Port (Kolkata Dock System) during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and the current year upto June, 2001 is as under:—

(In Million tones)

1999-2000	10.31
2000-2001	7.16
2001-2002 (April-June)	1.03

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to create additional berths at Kolkata Port (Kolkata Dock System).

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of Suburban Train between Mumbai and Virar

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

(a) whether suburban train on AC/DC current has been started from Mumbai to Virar Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether same train is proposed to be extended from Mumbai to Dahanu Road;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said train is likely to be extended up to Dahanu Road?

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

(b) Suburban trains on AC/DC traction have been introduced between Churchgate and Virar with effect from 25.5.2001. Presently, two such rakes are in service.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) EMU services can not be extended beyond Virar as the section between Virar to Dahanu road is not fit for running EMUs. However, the project for development of facilities for introduction of EMU services in Virar-Dahanu Road Section and terminal facilities at Dahanu Road has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.48 crores subject to necessary clearances.

However, on completion of change over from DC to AC between Churchgate and Virar, limited number of MEMU services can be extended from Dahanu Road to Churchgate.

(e) Extension of EMU services beyond Virar can only be considered subject to clearance of above project and change over from DC to AC between Churchgate to Virar.

Foreign Loan by IRFC

637. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Finance Corporation seeks loan from foreign financial institutions;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan taken from abroad by March, 2001; and

(c) the amount of interest paid by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the rate of interest thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) has raised an export credit of US Dollar 42.4 million from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada, a syndicated loan of Japanese Yen 8.85 billion from a consortium of foreign financial institutions and an export credit of Euro 19.5 million from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany, till end of March, 2001.

(c) The amount of interest paid by IREC and rates of interest are as under:—

Year	Amount of interest paid (Rs. in crore)	Rate of interest per annum
1998-1999	1.18	3.08% (Yen Loan) 5.3% (EDC Credit)
1999-2000	15.21	3.08% (Yen Loan) 5.3% to 6.43% (EDC Credit)
2000-2001	19.75	3.08% (Yen Loan) 5.55% to 7.1% (EDC Credit) 5.43% to 5.5% (KfW Credit)

The Yen loan which was initially raised at an interest rate of 5.3% was re-financed towards the end of 1998 at an interest rate of 3.08% taking advantage of the downward movement of interest rates.

[*Translation*]

Theft of Artifacts from National Museum

638. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding theft of Artifacts from National Museum in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated May 31, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of stolen artifacts from the National Museum and the time when theft of the said artifacts came to the notice of the Government;

(c) the persons to whom responsibility of safety of and said artifacts was assigned and the action taken against them;

(d) whether the Government propose to investigate the theft of artifacts in a scientific manner; and

(e) if so, the time by which inquiry is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (e) Based on similar complaints received earlier, the Government set up a Physical Verification Committee in 1996 for physical and scientific verification of art objects of National Museum. Based on a Public Interest Litigation filed in 1997 before it, the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi had directed that the reports of this Committee may be submitted to it regularly in sealed cover. Thus, the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring this aspect closely and regularly. The reports of the Physical Verification Committee are being submitted to the Hon'ble Court regularly and, in fact, recently in December 2000 the Hon'ble Court has disposed of the above petition with the direction to the Committee to submit its reports to it regularly.

Gauge Conversion of Khandwa-Ratlam-Ajmer Rail Line

639. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Khandwa-Ajmer via Ratlam metre gauge rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Khandwa-Ajmer rail line is likely to be converted?

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

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh and Neemuch-Ratlam section are already sanctioned. These works will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources and operational priority of the lines.

A survey for gauge conversion of Ratlam-Khandwa section has also been completed and the survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the results of the survey is finalized.

A BG line already exists between Chittaurgarh and Neemuch.

[English]

**Pilot Project for Livelihood for
People of N.E. States**

640. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any specific request for pilot project to develop the live stock as a major means of livelihood for the people of North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sale of Railway Tickets by Private Agencies

641. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide railway reservation right to private agencies;

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

(c) whether the existing reservation arrangements and ticket counters are not adequate as per demand of passengers;

(d) if so, the arrangements proposed to be made in this regard;

(e) whether there is any criteria fixed to make reservation and sale of tickets by the counter Clerks during the duty hours; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) It is proposed to provide Computerised Passenger Reservation System Terminals

in Maumbai (Central Railway) and Chennai (Southern Railway) each to three travel agents authorised under Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) and Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) schemes as a pilot project.

(c) and (d) The existing reservation arrangement and ticket counters are normally adequate at normal and non-peak periods. It is only during peak season such as Summer rush, Pooja holidays and Christmas vacations, when waiting time for getting a reserved ticket is comparatively more. Additional counters at the existing reservation centers are provided to deal with such heavy demands during the peak seasons.

(e) and (f) The number of transactions dealt with by an operator depends on the nature of transaction being handled at that counter, such as issue of normal tickets, against credit cards, blank paper tickets, group tickets, military warrants, etc. As such the limit prescribing minimum number of requisitions to be handled at each of these counters has not been fixed.

DPC Offered NTPC to Purchase Power

642. SHRI C. SREENIVASÂN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dabhol Power Corporation offered NTPC to purchase its power;

(b) if so, the rates at which the power was proposed to be sold to NTPC;

(c) whether the proposed rates were very high; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. However, Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has expressed inability to absorb power to be generated by Phase-II of the Dabhol Power Project. They have requested the Government of India to take over Phase-II and arrange the sale of power to other, deficient States through its Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) No rate has been quoted by GOM.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Replacement of Railway Bridges

643. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
 SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
 SHRI A. NARENDRA:
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
 SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:
 SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
 PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
 SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
 SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
 SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
 SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
 SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY:
 SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee had recommended 12 years back that railway bridges at Kadalundi in Kerala is in danger and require major repairs;

(b) if so, the reasons for not adhering the recommendations of the expert Committee;

(c) whether the Khanna Committee had also recommended that about 262 bridges are in distress condition and these bridges be abandoned;

(d) if so, the reasons for using these bridges in violation of the said Committee report;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against those responsible for such lapses;

(g) the number of railway bridges and culverts in the country which have been declared dangerous by the experts in various zones. Division-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to repair/reconstruct these bridges alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. While the Khanna Committee report mentioned 262 distressed bridges as on 1.4.1999, they recommended for their check and rehabilitation in a time span of 5 years.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) No bridge/culvert has been declared dangerous by any expert Committee in any zonal railway.

(h) Does not arise.

Holidays in Courts

644. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of holidays observed by the courts in Delhi in a year;

(b) whether as a result of such a large number of holidays, the litigants are made to suffer and it adds to the large number of arrears in courts;

(c) whether Government and judiciary are likely to consider to reduce the number of court holidays and lessen the woes of litigants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Delhi High Court closes for 5 weeks for Summer vacation and 5 days for Winter vacation and during the period of these vacations, Vacation Benches hold their sittings for taking up urgent matters. The High Court of Delhi is observing the 210 working days in a year. The working days for the Courts Subordinate to the High Court of Delhi are 255 days in a year. The Civil Subordinate Courts remain closed for about 4 weeks in summer and 5 days in Winter. The Criminal Magisterial Courts, however, remain closed only for 10 days in Summer.

(b) to (d) The Estimates Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)

had desired a review of working days in the Supreme Court/High Courts. The examination revealed that all High Courts were normally having 210 working days in a year. Thereafter the question of working days was examined at different intervals. The matter was also referred to the Chief Justice of India on 25.6.86. The Chief Justice of India informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full Court had decided to add two more working days. The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as Judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices' Conference held in 1987.

The Department of Justice has recently requested all High Courts and State Governments to re-examine the annual vacations and working days in High Courts. Working days in the District/subordinate Courts are regulated by the High Courts.

In addition, various other steps have also been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of mounting arrears of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judges, simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of cases involving undertrials on priority.

[Translation]

Setting up of Animal Husbandry Centres

645. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Animal Husbandry Centres in all over the country for scientific development of animal husbandry in order to promote the white revolution; and

(b) if so, the present position of this proposal and the hurdles likely to be faced, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has been approved by the Government with the objective of bringing all breedable cattle and buffalo

under organised breeding programmes in ten years and providing quality breeding inputs at the doorstep of the farmer.

During 2000-2001, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur participated in the project. Proposals from West Bengal, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been received in the Department and these are being scrutinised so that assistance can be released in second quarter of the year. Other States are being persuaded to send proposal in conformity with guidelines of the scheme.

Likely hurdles include poor acceptance of AI among farmers, difficulties in creation of State Implementing Agency (SIA) by State and transfer of assets and manpower to the SIA, problems associated with cost recovery for goods and services. The Project proposal to address these hurdles in collaboration with respective States.

[English]

Capacity of Refineries

646. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of refineries alongwith their licenced capacities;

(b) the quantum of oil/petrol/kerosene refined by the refineries against their capacities during the last three years, refinery-wise; and

(c) the cost of production of the oil companies, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The information in respect of the PSU refineries is given in enclosed Statement-I & II, respectively.

(c) Effective 1.4.1998, refining sector is not under the administered pricing mechanism (APM) and the refineries are being paid prices for the controlled products based on import parity. The tariff adjusted import parity price for the month of June, 2001 have been fixed at Rs. 10939.19 per kiloliter for diesel, Rs. 8319.71 per kiloliter for petrol and Rs. 9542.98 per kiloliter for kerosene.

Statement-I**Capacity of Refineries**

As on date there are 17 operating refineries in the country as indicated below:—

Name	No. of refineries	Installed Capacity As on 1.4.2001 in MMT	Location of the refineries
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	7	36.10	Digboi, Guwahati, Barauni, Haldia, Mathura, Panipat and Koyali
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) (Subsidiary of IOCL)	2	7.00	Chennai and Narimanam
Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) (Subsidiary of IOCL)	1	2.35	Bongaigaon
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	1	6.90	Mumbai
Kochi Refinery Limited (Subsidiary of BPCL)	1	7.50	Kochi
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) (Subsidiary of BPCL)	1	3.00	Numaligarh
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	2	13.00	Mumbai and Visakh
Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (MRPL)	1	9.67	Mangalore
Reliance Petroleum Limited	1	27.00	Jamnagar

Statement-II**Capacity of Refineries**

The details of quantum of crude oil refined and quantum of petrol/kerosene production during the last three years are given below:—

(Fig. in million metric tonnes)

Refineries	1998-1999			1999-2000			2000-2001		
	Crude refined	Petrol	Kerosene	Crude refined	Petrol	Kerosene	Crude refined	Petrol	Kerosene
IOCL	30.36	2.337	2.319	32.42	2.592	2.180	33.23	2.813	2.827
HPCL	9.07	.518	.524	10.56	0.657	0.611	11.98	.858	1.042
BPCL	8.87	.939	.664	8.90	.791	.571	8.66	.844	.717
CPCL	6.75	.315	.620	7.01	.284	.483	6.63	.310	.610
KRL	7.77	.708	.533	7.83	.699	.508	7.52	.732	.740
BRPL	1.66	.049	.147	1.91	.041	.165	1.49	.068	.111
NRL	—	—	—	.21	—	.002	1.45	—	.216

Decline in Textiles Export

647. SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of different type of textiles has been on the decline since the beginning of 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, product-wise;

(c) the countries to which textiles export has fallen short of the targeted export; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per latest available DGCI&S data upto April 2001, the exports of textiles during the period January-April, 2001 amounted to US\$ 3589.7 Million as compared to US\$ 3238.5 Million during the corresponding period of 2000, recording an increase of 10.8%.

(c) The textiles export targets are not fixed country-wise.

(d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textiles exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

- (1) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of ready-made garment from the SSI sector.
- (2) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-2002 for creating clusters of excellence, i.e., apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 15 crores have also been made for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.
- (3) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted. Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS,

have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

- (4) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (5) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.
- (6) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.
- (7) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- (8) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.
- (9) Government has launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (10) The National Textile Policy 2000 has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.
- (11) A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries incharge of Textiles held on 10-04-2001 resolved to promote investment in the textile sector.

Intake of Rolling Stock

648. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were provisions in the Railway Budget for 23,000 rolling stock intake during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given order for manufacturing of wagons to any of the wagon manufacturing companies; both in public and private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Out of the budget provision of 23000 wagons in terms of four wheeler units, 17000 wagons were to be procured under Railways' own resources and the remaining 6000 wagons were to be procured under Own your Wagon Scheme (OYWS)/Build-on-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Schemes. All the wagon building units were having an outstanding wagon order to about 10000 FWUs as on 1.4.2001, including 2460 wagons in terms of four wheeler units (FWUs) ordered under +30% option clause against 2000-2001 contracts both on private sector and public sector units as per statement. Another 2000

FWUs has been ordered on Railway Workshops. Thus the total coverage for 2001-2002 requirement is about 12000 FWUs.

(d) Initially certain vigilance checks were conducted on wagons where it was found that a manufacturer had used cheaper mild steel in place of corten steel being supplied by Railways to wagon manufacturers as free supply item. In the process of inspection by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), use of mild steel in place of corten steel was detected in the factory premises of two more wagon manufacturers. Recent vigilance checks show that few more manufacturers have also been found to have used mild steel in place of specified corten steel in manufacturing of wagons. It has, therefore, become necessary to carry out more joint comprehensive checks on all wagon manufacturers in order to assess the quantum and magnitude of the problem before release of further orders. RDSO have been asked to complete the investigations expeditiously.

Statement

Pending Orders on Wagon Manufacturing Firms as on 1.4.2001

(Figs. in FWUs)

Sl.No.	Name of the firm	Spill over outstanding order as on 1.4.2001	Option Quantity 30% already exercised	Total Load as on 1.4.2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur	287.5	435	722.5
2.	Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd. Mokameh	565	217.5	782.5
3.	Braithwate & Co. Ltd., Kolkata	585	0	585
4.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Burnpur	0	440	440
5.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. Howrah	1075	297.5	1372.5
6.	Jessops & Co. Ltd., Kolkata	277.5	120	397.5
7.	Southern Structurals Ltd., Chennai	405	0	405

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Bridge & Roof, Kolkata	150	37.5	187.5
	Total Public Sector	3345	1547.5	4892.5
9.	Texmaco Ltd., Kolkata	0	150	150
10.	Modern Industries, Sahibabad	242.5	187.5	430
11.	Hindustan Development Corporation Kolkata	2457.5	0	2457.5
12.	Besco Ltd., Kolkata	960	420	1380
13.	Titagarh Steels Ltd., Kolkata	730	155	885
14.	Binny Engg. Ltd., Chennai.	2.5	0	2.5
	Total Private sector	4392.5	912.5	5305
	Total Industry	7737.5	2460	10197.5
	Developmental orders	135	0	135
	OYWS (BTPGLN)	45	0	45
	Total Industry	7917.5	2460	10377.5

Pending Cases

649. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has held the executive mainly responsible for the pendency of cases in the various courts; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make the procedure simple and quick with a view to expedite disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Chief Justice of India has never held the executive mainly responsible for the pendency of cases in the various Courts. However, His Lordship in the Law Day Address at the Supreme Court Bar Association Function held on 26th November, 1999 pointed out that inadequate Judge strength throughout the country is the singular biggest factor for huge backlog

of cases and for one billion population of this country a total number of only about 13,000 judicial officers, from the lowest level to the Supreme Court, are available.

In the inaugural Address delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Rajasthan High Court on 29th August, 1999 His Lordship stated:

"...Though it is a factor that arrears have mounted up and the judiciary cannot escape criticism but the executive is also partly responsible therefor. Besides taking their own time to fill up the vacancies, the executive has invariably failed to provide necessary infrastructure to enable the judiciary to function normally. ..."

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Amendment of procedural law is a continuous process. A Bill namely The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Parliament on 22nd December, 2000 and the same is pending before Parliament for consideration and passing. At present, there is no proposal to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. As regards Criminal Procedure Code, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April, 2001.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-2002 to serve as a model for other courts in the country. Computerisation and networking of courts will augment the capacities of courts in the country and speed up disposal of cases.

[Translation]

Renovation of Jageshwar Temple In Uttaranchal

650. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has since undertaken the renovation of Jageshwar Temple in Almorah district of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent under this head during each of last three years and proposed for 2001-2002; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The maintenance & conservation of Jageshwar Temple, a centrally protected monument, in Almorah district of Uttaranchal is a continuous process. In addition to normal maintenance, structural conservation works, are taken up as per the actual requirements of the monument.

The expenditure incurred on the maintenance and conservation of the temple during the last 3 years, is as under:—

1998-1999	Rs. 50,000/-
1999-2000	Rs. 95,926/-
2000-2001	Rs. 1,29,321/-

An allocation of Rs. 3.15 lakhs has been made for this monument for the current financial year.

Encouragement to Indian Agricultural Products

651. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that products of multinational companies are being encouraged and it is being said that the Indian agricultural products are pollutants;

(b) whether the Indian agriculture has reached on the verge of collapse as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details of the policy framed for this purpose; and

(d) the effective steps being taken to encourage the use of Indian agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No such information has been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) With a view to encouraging the use of Indian agricultural products in general and specially in the international market, the Government has taken effective steps such as provision of assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of knowhow of farmers, provision of soft loans for setting up grading/processing centres and quality testing equipment, provision of assistance for setting up laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination and freedom from bacteria and fungi, and provision of financial assistance to the exporters/growers for the development infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialized transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses). the long-term Export Policy lays stress on the promotion of agricultural exports. The Policy envisages the creation of Agri Export Zones for the and to and

development for export of specific products from a geographically contiguous area. These zones are to be identified by the respected State Government who would also evolve a comprehensive package of services such as provision of pre/post harvest treatment and operations, plant protection, processing, storage and related research and development. The agro sector would also be able to avail of the Exim Policy Scheme like Duty Exemption Scheme and Export Capital Goods Scheme. The recent Exim Policy announced by the Government, on the 31st March, 2001, also envisages the entitlement of Agri-exporters for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House on achieving 1/3rd of the threshold limit prescribed for exports of other goods.

Revival of Agricultural Product Marketing Societies

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

(a) whether the proposal of the Maharashtra Government regarding revival of the Centrally sponsored scheme of Agricultural Product Marketing Societies has been pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for revival of erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Agricultural Produce Markets which was transferred to the State Governments/UT Administrations w.e.f. 1.4.1992 on the recommendations of the National Development Council.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Coconut Industry Under Distress in Karnataka

653. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that a severe crisis is being faced by the coconut growers in certain States, particularly in Karnataka due to coconut mite;

(b) if so, the estimated damage caused to coconut and arecanut crops in Karnataka during 2000-2001 due to mite menace;

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government and the State Governments to control this dangerous disease and to compensate the growers in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of Central assistance sought and provided to these States to control this pest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Eriophyid mite of coconut infested coconut palms in Southern States including Karnataka during 1998.

(b) As reported by Government of Karnataka, about 80 lakh coconut palms are affected by eriophyid mite of coconut in Karnataka. No severe incidence of arecanut mite has been reported in Karnataka.

(c) The measures taken by the Union Government and the State Governments to control eriophyid mite are given below:

- (i) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs. 3.00 lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for developing bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures. A bio-agent called "MYCOHIT" has been developed;
- (ii) Awareness campaigns/seminars/group discussions among farmers were organised by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;
- (iii) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmental staff and farmers and developed Website to access information on mite on the net;
- (iv) An amount of Rs. 142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite, which includes 2 centres in Karnataka, viz., University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar and Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore;

- (v) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts in developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The Committee has recommended chemicals, eco friendly pesticides, microbial pesticides and identified predators.

(d) The quantum of central assistance sought and the assistance provided through Coconut Development Board to these States for control of coconut mite is given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
State	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
Kerala	100.00	30.04
Karnataka	336.37	8.90
Tamil Nadu	31.10	10.54
Andhra Pradesh	12.24	3.70

Construction of Cold Storages

654. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced any scheme to encourage construction/extension of cold storages to check post production damage to the agricultural produces;

(b) if so, the date on which the said scheme was introduced and the funds released under this scheme to the States;

(c) the broad outline of the scheme and the storage capacity created through construction of cold storages in each State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the total storage capacity of the cold storages in the country as on April, 2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is Implementing a Scheme entitled, 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through National Horticulture Board with an outlay of Rs. 175.00 crores during the IX Five Year Plan from April, 1999 to March, 2002.

(b) The Scheme was approved on 13.12.1999. No State-wise budgetary allocations are made under the Scheme as it is demand-based.

(c) Under the said Scheme, back-ended capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North eastern States is provided by NHB through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in case of projects involving loan. In case of projects fully funded by entrepreneurs from his own resources, subsidy is directly released by NHB. Since the inception of the Scheme, 312 cold storages creating a capacity of 15.26 lakh MT have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(d) The details of the total storage capacity of the cold storages in the country as on 31st December, 2000, State-wise are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

*Details in respect of progress under the scheme
"Capital Investment subsidy Scheme for Construction/
Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages
and Storages for Horticulture Produce"
during 1999-2000 to 29.06.2001*

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total No. of Projects	Total Capacity (MT)
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	35	90653
2.	Orissa	6	26500
3.	Madhya Pradesh	32	164188
4.	Andhra Pradesh	19	113530
5.	Maharashtra	11	47707
6.	Punjab	22	67811

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	14	52373
8.	Tamil Nadu	15	42534
9.	Assam	2	10000
10.	Rajasthan	24	108368
11.	Uttar Pradesh	110	713022.86
12.	Karnataka	9	28900

1	2	3	4
13.	Bihar	4	21200
14.	West Bengal	7	35200
15.	Delhi	1	1600
16.	Tripura	1	3000
Total		312	1526586.86

Statement-II*Sector-wise Distribution of Cold Storages as on 31/12/2000*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Cooperative Sector		Public Sector		Total No. (3+5+7)	Capacity in Metric Tonnes
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	164	00	00	01	39	02	203
2.	Andhra Pradesh	177	369511	06	901	19	6373	202	376785
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
4.	Assam	03	8652	00	00	16	5708	19	14360
5.	Bihar	188	592785	11	35672	01	2243	200	630700
6.	Chandigarh U.T.	06	13630	00	00	00	00	06	13630
7.	Delhi	79	102260	01	2701	16	17681	96	122642
8.	Gujarat	290	682690	16	16872	08	8184	314	707746
9.	Goa	21	1960	00	00	02	281	23	2241
10.	Haryana*	192	262424	09	13821	00	00	201	276245
11.	Himachal Pradesh	07	9141	02	767	07	6195	16	16013
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	35369	03	2134	01	46	18	37549
13.	Kerala	138	26420	06	1080	12	1680	156	29380
14.	Karnataka	79	44952	18	7456	13	2739	110	55147
15.	Lakshdweep U.T.	00	00	00	00	01	36	01	36
16.	Maharashtra	287	291973	52	19789	29	7851	368	319613
17.	Madhya Pradesh	147	562364	21	80164	06	2760	174	645288
18.	Manipur	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	Meghalaya	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
20.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
21.	Nagaland	00	00	01	1149	00	00	01	1149
22.	Orissa	59	156010	10	14000	02	1630	71	171640
23.	Pondicherry U.T.	03	53	01	130	01	17	05	200
24.	Punjab**	379	1016000	08	18824	03	14440	390	1049264
25.	Rajasthan	75	336561	09	3832	01	14	85	240407
26.	Sikkim	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
27.	Tamil Nadu	74	64585	13	9224	07	4587	94	78458
28.	Tripura	01	2000	01	2000	01	1000	03	5000
29.	Uttar Pradesh**	1046	5464000	80	238000	03	8000	1129	5710000
30.	West Bengal	325	3581800	36	172000	00	00	361	3753800
Total		3591	13525304	304	640576	150	91704	4045	14257584

*Figures as on 18.5.1999.

**Figures as on 31.12.1999.

*[Translation]***Introduction of New Trains**

655. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the new trains announced by the Government in current year's Railway Budget have started plying;

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

(c) if not, the time by which these trains are likely to be started?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 24 pairs of express train services have been announced in the Railway Budget 2001-2002. Of these, 11 pairs of trains have been introduced. The remaining 13 pairs of trains are proposed to be introduced

in the current financial year after necessary arrangements in this regard are made.

Criteria for Opening KVKs

656. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening a Krishi Vigyan Kendra;

(b) the details of Krishi Vigyan Kendras being run by the Government and Non-Governmental Machinery, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have comparatively reviewed the progress reports of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras being run by the Government and Non-Governmental machinery;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the representations received for opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in States;

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon alongwith the time frame fixed therefor; and

(g) the details of Krishi Vigyan Kendras likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The criteria for opening a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) include its location as far as possible in the central part of a district, availability of land and municipal facilities, viability of organization and technological support for implementing the activities of a KVK.

(b) Out of 261 KVKs, 71 are run by Non-Governmental Organizations. The remaining 190 are run

by State Agricultural Universities, ICAR Institutes, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and other education institutions. The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) The progress report of each KVK is reviewed in the light of location specificity of technologies, and needs and resource orientation of the farmers of the area in which the KVK is located, irrespective of implementing agency.

(e) to (g) Based on the representations received from various States, a proposal for establishment of 66 new KVKs has been prepared for implementation during the current financial year. The State-wise and location-wise details are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Host Institution-wise Distribution of KVKs in Different States/UTs

S.No.	States/UTs	SAU	ICAR	NGO	PSU	State Govt.	CU/ Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6	2	8	—	—	—	16
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
4.	Assam	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
5.	Bihar	10	—	4	2	—	—	16
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
7.	Delhi	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
8.	Goa	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
9.	Gujarat	4	—	4	—	2	—	10
10.	Haryana	8	2	2	—	—	—	12
11.	Himachal Pradesh	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	—	1	—	—	—	4
13.	Jharkhand	1	—	3	1	—	—	5
14.	Karnataka	6	1	4	—	—	—	11
15.	Kerala	3	3	3	—	—	—	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1	4	—	—	—	16
18.	Maharashtra	5	1	16	—	—	1	23
19.	Manipur	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
20.	Meghalaya	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
21.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
22.	Nagaland	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
23.	Orissa	8	4	—	—	—	—	12
24.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
25.	Punjab	9	1	—	—	—	—	10
26.	Rajasthan	23	2	5	—	—	1	31
27.	Sikkim	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
28.	Tamil Nadu	5	—	9	—	—	2	16
29.	Tripura	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
30.	Uttar Pradesh	19	2	4	—	—	3	28
31.	Uttaranchal	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
32.	West Bengal	2	1	3	2	—	1	9
Total		141	28	71	6	5	10	261

NB: SAU—State Agricultural University; ICAR—Indian Council of Agricultural Research; NGO—Non-Governmental Organization; PSU area—Public Sector Undertaking; CU—Central University.

Statement-II

List of Districts Identified for Establishment of New KVKs

State	Districts			
1	2			
Assam	1. Dibrugarh 4. Sibsagar	2. Barpeta 5. Bongaigaon	3. Nalbari 6. North Cachar Hills	
Andhra Pradesh	7. Krishna			
Arunachal Pradesh	8. Lower Subansiri 11. Tirap	9. West Kamang	10. Lohit	
Bihar	12. Madhepura 15. Rohtas	13. Saran 16. Khagaria	14. Gopalganj	

1	2		
Chhattisgarh	17. Kawardah	18. Jaspur	
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	19. Silvassa		
Haryana	20. Sirsa	21. Bhiwani	22. Mahendergarh
	23. Rohtak	24. Panchkula	25. Jhajjar
	26. Fatehabad		
Himachal Pradesh	27. Kangra		
Jammu and Kashmir	28. Budgam	29. Srinagar	30. Rajouri
	31. Doda		
Jharkhand	32. Palamau		
Madhya Pradesh	33. Betul	34. Dhar	35. Panna
	36. Sehore	37. Neemuch	38. Narsinghpur
Maharashtra	39. Hingoli	40. Nandurbar	41. Bhandara
Manipur	42. Bishnupur	43. Senapati	
Meghalaya	44. West Khasi Hills	45. East Khasi Hills	
	46. East Garo Hills	47. Jaintia Hills	48. Ri-Bhoi
Mizoram	49. Chhimtuipui		
Nagaland	50. Phek	51. Mokokchung	
Orissa	52. Jasuguda	53. Deoghar	54. Jaipur
Sikkim	55. North	56. South	57. West
Tamil Nadu	58. Perambalur	59. Tiruvarur	
Tripura	60. North Tripura	61. Dhalai	
Uttar Pradesh	62. Baghpat	63. Bulandshahr	64. Ghazipur
	65. Pratapgarh	66. Unnao	

[English]

Target for Visit of Foreign Tourists

657. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have targetted an increase in the growth rate of inflow of foreign tourists in to the country during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified various sectors for getting special funding in the Tenth Plan to meet such target;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to give more emphasis to human resource development in the tourism sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to have trained personnel in all spheres in the tourism sector in the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Tenth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. Targets for growth of inflow of foreign tourists, identification of sectors for special funding and human resource development for providing trained manpower will be dealt with after the issues are deliberated in the Steering Committee and Working Group on Tourism for the Tenth Five Year Plan which have already been constituted.

[Translation]

Theft in Railway Stations

658. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of theft cases at the railway stations involving more than Rs. 50,000/- during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which thieves were arrested and luggage or money recovered alongwith the number of cases yet to be solved and the date by when these are lying unsolved;

(c) the number of railway employees found involved in these thefts; and

(d) the details of the action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) 'Policing' being a State subject, the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Railway Police (GRP). As the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police, the information being asked in the question is not available with this Ministry.

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

New Power Projects in the Country

659. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 227 on February 22, 2001 regarding new power projects in the country and state:

(a) whether the information has been collected by the Ministry;

Year	Quantity (Million Metric Tonne)	Average Published Platts Prices	
		for Dubai (\$ per barrel)	for Brent (Dated) (\$ per barrel)
1999-2000	44.989#	20.54	21.77
2000-2001	74.119*	25.98	28.13

* Provisional Figures

Excludes Crude Imported by JVC/Private Parties.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Gap between Import and Consumption of Crude Oil

660. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the sale-quantity of entire range of petroleum products was 90.1 and 90.2 metric tonnes respectively during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if not, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether there was a big gap between the imported quantity of crude oil during the said period;

(d) if so, the quantity of crude oil imported during the said period; and

(e) the rate of crude oil prevailed in those years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Information about Sale of petroleum products during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given below:—

Year	Quantity (Million Metric Tonnes)
1999-2000	97.1
2000-2001	96.8*

(c) to (e) Information about Import of Crude Oil during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given below:—

Food Processing Units

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

(a) the number of food processing units in the organised and unorganised sectors in the country; and

(b) the manner in which the Government promotes these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, as such, information in respect of the number of food processing industries in the country is not maintained centrally. However, as per the latest Annual Survey of Industries for year 1997-98, there were 31415 food processing factories in the factory sector.

(b) The Department under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of loan or grant-in-aid for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries.

[English]

Support to facilitate Food Processing Industries

662. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries set up in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Union Government provide support to facilitate overall growth in food processing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information on the number of food processing industries set up State-wise is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of the processed food sector in the country. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), which are project oriented and not State specific, financial assistance is extended to Non-Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector. In the budget 2001-2002 Excise Duty has been brought down from 16% to Zero level for processed fruits and vegetables. The Plan Schemes have been modified to provide grant to private sector enterprises against soft loan extended till now.

Rural Crafts Melas In Bihar

663. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to organise Rural Crafts melas in Bihar to promote Handicrafts in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have any programme to organise seminar under technology upgradation scheme for Jute Industry at Katihar; Kishanganj in Bihar during 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import/Export of Agricultural Products

664. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long term policy in regard to import and export of agricultural goods/products under W.T.O. agreement has been made;

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

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of Indian farmers?

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

(b) The long-term Import Policy on agricultural commodities has the following salient features:

- Import of agricultural products like wheat, rice, maize, other coarse cereals, copra and coconut oil have been placed in the category of State Trading. The nominated State Trading Enterprise will conduct the imports of these commodities solely as per commercial considerations.
- Care has been taken to ensure a level playing field to domestic producers *vis-a-vis* imports. In conformity with the "National Treatment Principle" of GATT, imports have also been made subject to the following domestic regulations;
 - Import of all food products will be subject to compliance of all the provisions of Food Adulteration Act and Rules thereunder;
 - Import of meat and poultry products will be subject to compliance of all the provisions of Meat Food Product Order;
 - Import of tea waste will be subject to compliance of Tea Waste (Control Order);
 - No import of textile material using the prohibited dyes like azo dye shall be allowed. For this purpose, a pre-shipment inspection certificate has been made mandatory.
 - To ensure that import of agricultural products do not lead to unwanted infiltration of exotic diseases and pests in the country, it has been decided to subject import of primary products of plant & animal origin to 'Bio Security & Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Permit' to be issued by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. This permit will be based on import Risk analysis of the product to be conducted on scientific principles, in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures.

The long term Export Policy lays stress on the promotion of agricultural exports. The Policy envisages the creation of Agri Export Zones for the end to end

development for export of specific products from a geographically contiguous area. These zones are to be identified by the respected State Government who would also evolve a comprehensive package of services such as provision of pre/post harvest treatment and operations, plant protection, processing, storage and related research and development. The agro sector would also be able to avail of the exim Policy Scheme like Duty Exemption Scheme and Export Capital Goods Scheme. The recent Exim Policy announced by the Government, on the 31st March, 2001 also envisages the entitlement of Agri-exporters for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House on achieving 1/3rd of the threshold limit prescribed for exports of other goods.

(c) In addition to the safeguards envisaged by the new EXIM Policy, in order to regulate the indiscriminate imports of agricultural commodities, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture already provides for suitable calibration of the applied rates thereon within the bound rates and initiation of trade remedial measures including anti-dumping action, imposition of countervailing action or safeguard action under specific circumstances provided under the Agreement. India has also demanded the elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries and separate safeguard measures in its negotiating proposal to further insulate the domestic farmers against the surge of subsidized and indiscriminate imports of agricultural products into the country.

[English]

Target of Additional Power from NCES

665. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target of 20,000 MW during the next 10 years as against the initial target for additional power from these sources of 10,000 MW;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the said target;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to provide matching funds to the State Governments to help the State Governments to initiate projects for the generation of power from NCES; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement, the target for power generation from non-conventional energy sources remains as 10%, or 10,000 MW, of the additional power generation capacity to be installed in the country upto 2012. The draft of the Policy Statement is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Power generation capacity based on non-conventional sources will mainly come from commercial projects set up through private investments, financing through financial institutions and banks, and international financing mechanism. Budgetary allocations are also envisaged in the Central and State Plans for setting up non-conventional energy projects for power generation.

Amendment in Evidence Act

666. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend section 155 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to do away with the provision relating to prior sexual history of the victims in case of sexual assault of rape;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws has recommended deletion of sub-section (4) of section 155 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The recommendations of the Law Commission are under examination by the Government in consultation with the State Governments/Union territory Administrations as the Indian Evidence Act falls under the Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

Scheme to Preventing Famine Condition

667. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a long term scheme to avoid frequent famine conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for this scheme and the details of the programmes being run thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is adequate availability of foodgrains in the country and no report on famine conditions have been received. Foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates have been allocated to Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Orissa and Rajasthan for distribution in the drought affected areas. In addition, about 15 lakh MTs. of foodgrains have been allocated to the drought affected States free of cost under Food for Work Programme.

[English]

Maintenance of Taj Mahal by Private Sector

668. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have handed over the task of preservation and up-gradation of facilities at the Taj Mahal to a private company;

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

(c) the terms and conditions thereof;

(d) whether this was done after a competitive bidding;

(e) if not, whether the agreement between the two parties observe transparency;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Archaeological Survey of India still have the actual authority for upkeep and maintenance of the monument;

(h) if not, whether the awarded company has the necessary technical expertise to upkeep and maintenance of the Taj Mahal;

(i) if not, the reasons for giving responsibility for maintenance to it; and

(j) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (j) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Hotels Company Ltd., under the aegis of the National Culture Fund which enables private individuals, public/private sector/corporates to fund projects for conservation of monuments, which is executed by the Archaeological Survey of India alone. However, creation of tourist-related facilities and improvement of the environment around the centrally protected monument can be promoted directly by these agencies under strict terms and conditions laid down by the Archaeological Survey of India.

[*Translation*]

Gauge Conversion of Himatnagar-Chittaurgarh Railway Line

669. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for gauge conversion of Himatnagar-Chittaurgarh via Udaipur rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the time by which the gauge conversion is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir, survey for gauge conversion of Himatnagar-Udaipur is in progress. As regards Udaipur-Chittaurgarh, work of gauge conversion of meter gauge line into broad gauge is already in progress and will be completed in the coming years as per the operational priority and availability of resources.

The estimated cost of conversion of the entire line would be known once the survey is completed.

Loss to DMS

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

(a) whether DMS has been suffering heavy losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce overheads by professionalising the DMS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to stop manufacturing of all products except liquid milk;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The deficit during 1998-99 & 1999-2000 were Rs. 57.7 crores and Rs. 55.7 crores respectively. However, after price hike of Delhi Milk Scheme milk the deficit during 2000-2001 was Rs. 7.8 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, DMS is adopting professional approach in different areas of operations such as marketing, transportation and plant operations.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Setting up of Kerala High Court Bench at Trivandrum

671. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Permanent bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum, Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any report has been received by the Union Government from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As Such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Setting up of New Bottling Plants

672. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies propose to set up more bottling plants in the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified for setting up of such bottling plants and the total investment to be made therein;

(c) the target date of completion of such bottling plants and their capacities; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the existing capacities of various bottling plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG. LPG bottling plants are located nearest to the consumption centres with a view to achieving maximum transportation economies. In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by Oil Industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity in the country from 5595 TMTA as on 1.4.2001 to 8070 TMTA by the end of 9th plan (2001-2002). The commissioning of a bottling plant usually takes about 24 months time from the date of land takeover. Cost of bottling plant also varies from location to location depending upon the cost of land and other allied factors.

Power Crisis in the Country

673. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power sector in the country is in dire straits and needs immediate attention in order to avoid a total crisis;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken/propose to take any concrete steps to save the power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to increase power generation capacity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The major problems of the power sector are poor financial health of the State Government power utilities, theft of electricity, extremely high transmission and distribution losses, irrational tariff structure, inadequate distribution network etc. The Government has taken a pro active role to bring about reforms in the power sector and some of the major initiatives include the following:

1. The Government promulgated the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance in April, 98 to pave the way for creation of Regulatory Commissions both at the Centre and the States in order to rationalise electricity tariff.

2. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the States of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh and Orissa for initiating power sector reforms in lieu of special concessions which would be extended to them.

3. In the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, some of the major resolutions which were adopted include the following:

- Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
- Full metering of all consumers had been targeted for completion by December 2001. Special efforts would be made to complete the programme.
- Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through creating profit centres with full accountability, handing over of local distribution to local bodies, privatisation of distribution etc.
- Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focussed towards the distribution sector.
- Current operations on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

- State Electricity Regulatory Commissions may be made functional in the next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions need to be implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by Court order.
- Subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.
- The Centre and the States need to take suitable decisions regarding increase in outlays for the 10th Plan. Priority should be given for investments at those locations which produce the cheapest power specially for hydro projects and pit head thermal generation. CEA has estimated the requirement for an additional 100,000 MW of generating capacity by 2012.
- The evolution of a National Grid for inter-regional transfer of power needs to be taken up on priority.

(d) The energy shortage in the country during 2000-2001 was 7.8% while the peak shortage was 13%. To improve availability of power and generation capacity and to make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken:

1. Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.
2. Promotion of measures for demand side management.
3. Renovation and modernisation of existing old generation units.
4. Promotion of inter State and inter regional power transfers.
5. Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
6. Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.

Renovation of Nirpalani Temple

674. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the front mandapa of the Nirpalani Temple near Pudukottai in Chennai Circle was renovated with the stone pillars and stones belonging to some other dismantled temple relating to a different period;

(b) if so, the details of conservation and renovation work done at the Temple;

(c) whether the conservation and renovation work was checked by the Director (Conservation);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any departmental enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the current status of the probe;

(g) whether the Government have constituted a Conservation review Committee to monitor and check the conservation and renovation works done in different circles; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The entire Nirpalani Temple near Pudukottai was conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India by using the original material of the ancient structure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Works executed in the circles are checked on a random basis as and when feasible.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Archaeological conservation works are executed and monitored as per existing norms. There are adequate in-built mechanisms to check the conservation works carried out in different circles.

[Translation]

Production Rate of Wheat and Rice

675. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production rate of wheat and rice is different in various regions of the country;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum production rate of the above foodgrains along with the name of the State;

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibilities to increase production rate in the areas where the rate is low; and

(d) if so, the names of such regions and the likely maximum production rate to be increased in such regions alongwith the scheme of the Government for these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production rates or productivities of wheat and rice are different in different parts of the country. The productivity of crops depends on a large number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, application of inputs, level of investment and management skills. Since these factors vary a great deal from State to State, so does the productivity. The maximum and minimum productivity of rice and wheat alongwith the names of corresponding States during 1999-2000 are given as under:

(Kg./Hectare)

Crop	Maximum	Minimum
Rice	3278 (Tamil Nadu)	822 (Delhi)
Wheat	4696 (Punjab)	805 (Karnataka)

(c) and (d) To increase the production and productivity of various crops such as rice and wheat, a number of steps had been taken by the Government. These included, *inter-alia*, implementation of centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat Based Cropping System area were under implementation since 1994-95. Under these programmes, 425 blocks in wheat producing States and 1200 blocks in rice producing States were identified. The blocks so identified were those where productivity rates of these crops were lower than the respective States' averages. Incentives to farmers were being provided on certified seeds, implements used and upgradation of technical skills through training and organizing production technology demonstrations under these programmes. In addition, seed minikit programme on rice and wheat and propagation of new technology is under implementation with a view to popularize newly evolved varieties/hybrids.

Subsequently, the Government had sub-summed 27 schemes including the ones mentioned above into Macro Management scheme of agriculture for supplementation/ complementation of States' efforts through work plans

which gives flexibility to States to adopt crop production technologies suited to their agro-climatic conditions, address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture. Implementation of this scheme will boost the agriculture growth. However, productivity differentials will remain for the variation in factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, application of inputs, level of investment and management skills.

[English]

Use of LPG/CNG for Vehicles

676. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the use of LPG and CNG for all type of vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give subsidy on the LPG cylinders to be used in the vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have taken a decision to allow use of LPG as an automotive fuel for 4 wheelers with fixed fuel tank. CNG has been allowed as a transportation fuel for all kinds of public transport vehicles including three wheeler autos, as per Supreme Court's decision.

(c) and (d) The price of auto LPG would be at market determined prices.

Assistance to Drought Affected People in the Country

677. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the villages/districts and number of people affected due to drought in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh during last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also made any assessment regarding damage of cattle due to drought in those areas during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any scheme has been launched to give work to the drought affected people in those States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the details of States severely affected due to scarcity of drinking water/loss of paddy crops; and
- (h) the assistance provided to them by the Union Government and the State Government separately as crop loss subsidiary and under poverty alleviation programme during each of the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) On the basis of reports received from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, details of districts, human and cattle population affected in the

wake of drought during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 is indicated in the statement-I enclosed.

(e) and (f) The Food for Work programme has been launched for generation of employment and about 15 lakh MTs. of foodgrains have been allocated free of cost under the scheme to the drought affected States.

(g) Parts of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan are facing drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water. One district in Uttaranchal is faced water scarcity conditions.

(h) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is released to the States every year for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. In addition, assistance was provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)/ National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the States, in the wake of drought. Details of Central share of CRF and assistance from NFCR/NCCF released to the drought affected States during last 3 years is indicated in the statement II. The items and norms of relief assistance provides for giving input subsidy to small and marginal farmers for damaged crops. Details of assistance provided by the States is not available.

Statement-I

State-wise Details of Number of Districts, Human & Cattle Population Affected by Drought During 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

S.No.	State	Districts affected (Nos.)	Population affected	
			Human (In lakhs)	Cattle
1	2	3	4	5
1998-1999:				
1.	Kerala	14	NR	NR
2.	Madhya Pradesh	7	43.75	43.84
3.	Orissa	19	12.33	NR
4.	Rajasthan	17	199.86	281.73
5.	West Bengal	10	25.24	NR
1999-2000:				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	413.00	125.00
2.	Gujarat	17	250.00	71.33

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Himachal Pradesh	12	NR	NR
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	NR	NR
5.	Karnataka	21	220.00	49.52
6.	Madhya Pradesh	7	26.64	34.28
7.	Manipur	5	NR	NR
8.	Mizoram	3	NR	NR
9.	Rajasthan	26	262.00	345.60
10.	Tripura	4	NR	NR
11.	West Bengal	10	NR	NR
2000-2001:				
1.	Chhattisgarh	12	94.08	32.40
2.	Gujarat	23	291.00	107.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	12	46.64	NR
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	NR	37.98
5.	Madhya Pradesh	32	127.10	85.78
6.	Maharashtra	26	454.99	2.58
7.	Orissa	28	119.50	65.54
8.	Rajasthan	31	330.00	399.69
Total		375	2916.13	1682.27

One District in Uttaranchal facing water scarcity conditions.
NR — Not Reported.

Statement-II

Details of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) Released and Assistance provided from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the Drought Affected States, During 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of the State	Central Share of CRF Release			Assistance Provided from NFCR/NCCF		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99 (NFCR)	1999-2000 (NFCR)	2000-01 (NCCF)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.30	107.69	148.54	—	75.36	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	20.60	—	—	40.00
3.	Gujarat	116.12	121.05	131.14	—	54.58	85.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	22.42	23.37	32.61	—	—	—
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.39	17.09	26.18	—	73.42	—
6.	Karnataka	34.81	36.29	42.52	—	17.09	—
7.	Kerala	46.08	48.04	55.93	—	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	42.49	44.29	46.98	—	38.86	35.00
9.	Maharashtra	56.73	44.36	117.90	—	—	—
10.	Manipur	2.06	1.61	1.56	—	4.93	—
11.	Mizoram	1.05	1.10	1.12	—	6.00	—
12.	Orissa	40.77	42.50	103.65	—	—	35.00
13.	Rajasthan	148.92	155.25	196.00	21.98	102.93	85.00
14.	Tripura	3.74	3.90	1.41	—	5.34	—
15.	Uttaranchal	—	—	7.10	—	—	—
16.	West Bengal	42.69	44.50	75.83	—	—	—

[Translation]

Hydel Power Projects in U.P.**Electrification of Itarsi Jn Katni Jn. Rail Line**

678. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work between Itarsi junction and Katni junction is incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the electrification work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, electrification of this section has not yet been considered.

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

679. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hydel power projects under execution in Uttar Pradesh since 2000, till now;

(b) whether the State Government has been provided funds by the Union Government to make the hydel power projects more useful;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) According to Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, the following hydel projects are under execution in Uttar Pradesh since the year 2000 till now:—

1. Belka (3 MW)
2. Babail (3 MW)
3. Sheetla (3.6 MW)

While work on Belka and Babail projects has been completed and they are likely to be taken on commercial load w.e.f. 31.8.2001, the work on Sheetla is likely to be completed by March, 2003.

LPG Connections in Rural Areas

680. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to issue LPG connections in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the total number of connections proposed to be issued during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have decided to release 1.3 crore new LPG connections throughout the country including rural areas during the current calendar year through the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.

Development of Gas and Petroleum Sector

681. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out some long-term plan for the development of Gas and Petroleum Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to develop these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) A long term vision document titled "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" has been prepared by a group of Ministers constituted for this purpose, consisting of Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. India Hydrocarbon Vision — 2025 encapsulates Government's long-term policy for Exploration, Refining, Marketing Infrastructure, Gas and all other related matters in the Hydrocarbon sector and

would serve as a road map for development of the Hydrocarbon sector for the next 25 years.

[English]

Shortfall in Ninth Plan Outlay by GAIL

682. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortfall in Ninth Plan outlay approved for Gas Authority of India Limited;

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

(c) the initiative being taken by the Government to reduce the shortfall?

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

(b) Against the approved plan outlay of Rs. 6417.95 crore in the Ninth Plan for GAIL, the estimates as per mid term appraisal and current estimates are Rs. 5149 crore and Rs. 5146.71 crore respectively. This shortfall of around Rs. 1302 crore in the outlay is mainly due to non commissioning of proposed power plants and delay in materialization of investment in Joint Ventures and also revision in the completion schedule of Petronet LNG Limited's LNG terminal at Dahej.

(c) Actual expenditure vis-a-vis plan outlay is reviewed periodically.

Modernisation of Powerloom Sector

683. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to modernise the powerloom sector to be prepared for the international competition consequent to the phasing out of the export quota regime by 2005;

(b) whether the Government are aware that of the approximately 16.5 lakh looms in the powerloom sector, only about 50,000 are automatic shuttle looms and less than 10,000 shuttleless looms and balance are plain looms;

(c) whether a study conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry had revealed that Indian textile industry may be faced with a major crisis unless re-engineered itself with more focus on strengthening intra-industry collaborations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to tackle the main shortcomings of the Powerloom Sector of technological obsolescence, low productivity and poor quality products, and to strengthen it to face international competition, particularly in the post MFA regime, Government of India have initiated several steps, the important ones of which are:—

- (i) Coverage of powerloom machinery under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999;
- (ii) Announcement of a 'textile package' which, *inter-alia*, envisages modernisation by induction of 2.5 lakh semi-automatic/automatic looms and 50,000 shuttleless looms in the powerloom sector; and
- (iii) Strengthening of support structures for the decentralised powerloom sector by modernisation of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), setting up/upgrading Textile Testing Laboratories and setting up Computer Aided Design Centres in the selected PSCs.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The National Textile Policy — 2000 recognises the need for greater efficiencies in productivity through greater structural balance between different stages of processing and different sectors of the industry, and for this purpose proposes several measures including the rationalization of fiscal duty structure and formulation and implementation of various developmental schemes along the value addition chain.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Pilkhi K.V.K., U.P.

684. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the irregularities prevailing in certain Krishi Vigyan Kendras particularly in Pilkhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra in District Mau in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(c) the measures taken to run these Kendras smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The inquiry into the alleged irregularities prevailing in certain KVKs particularly in Pilkhi KVK of the District Mau, Uttar Pradesh is being carried out by the Comptroller of the N.D. University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad. The Comptroller has given an interim report, suggesting administrative improvements.

(c) The remedial measures are improving the management and performance of the instructional farm including demonstration units on dairying and fisheries, and utilization of residential buildings.

Setting up of 'Kisan Vidya Peeth'

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 'Kisan Vidya Peeth' in Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up 'Kisan Vidya Peeth' in Ranchi. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Ranchi during 1977 in favour of Ramakrishana Mission Ashram. The activities of the KVK include technology evaluation and assessment of its impact through on-farm testing and frontline demonstration, training of farmers, and training of extension personnel.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

686. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps functioning in Madhya Pradesh, company-wise and location-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): The details of LPG distributorships and Retail Outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in Madhya Pradesh as on 1.4.2001 are as under.

	LPG distributorships	Retail Outlets
IOC	185	389
BPC	74	218
HPC	84	198
IBP	0	38
Total	343	843

Financial Control of Railtel

687. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of Ministers has allowed the Indian Railways to retain financial control of Railtel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the optical fibre cable routes provided by the Railtel in Maharashtra;

(d) whether the Railtel are planning to provide more routes in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith routes identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of Group of Ministers the Cabinet has approved the proposal for induction of joint venture partner(s) in RailTel Corporation of India Limited keeping Railways' equity as 51%.

(c) The RailTel has so far not provided any optical fibre cable (OFC) either in Maharashtra or any other region.

(d) and (e) Railways have sanctioned OFC works in routes including those in Maharashtra. Either Railway or RailTel will be providing OFC in these routes. In Maharashtra State, following routes are planned for

provision of OFC in the first phase:

- (i) Mumbai-Vadodara
- (ii) Mumbai-Bhusawal
- (iii) Mumbai-Pune-Wadi
- (iv) Mumbai-Panvel

The following routes are planned for provision of OFC in future phases:

- (i) Bhusawal-Wardha-Nagpur
- (ii) Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur
- (iii) Manmad-Jalna
- (iv) Manmad-Ahmednagar
- (v) Chalisgaon-Dhule
- (vi) Jalgaon-Nandurbar
- (vii) Vikarabad-Parbhani-Mudkhed
- (viii) Mudkhed-Adilabad
- (ix) Miraj-Londa

Supply of Coal to HIRMA Power Project in Orissa

688. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of HIRMA Power Project in Orissa has been slowed down on account of supply of less quantity of coal; and

(b) if so, the action taken to negotiate with the Coal India Limited for the uninterrupted supply of coal for timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long term) of the Ministry of Coal, in its meeting held on December 15, 2000, granted a coal linkage of 22.4 million tonnes per annum from the Kulda and Garjanbahal coalfields of Mahanadi Coal Ltd. (MCL) to the 6 x 660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in Orissa being promoted by M/s. Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd. (earlier known as M/s. Southern Energy Asia Pacific Limited (SEAP), Hong Kong) and Reliance Power Ltd. There has been some slippage in the schedule for negotiation of the Fuel Supply Agreement for the project due to rejection of forest clearance for the Kulda mines. The promoters of the project are in negotiation with MCL for expeditious implementation of the mining projects.

[Translation]

Training of Staff in Germany

689. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officers of the Railway Board and Northern railway has been sent to Germany for training so as to operate the train properly in view of frequent accidents of train imported from Germany; and

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on this training and the benefits likely to be accrued to the Indian Railways from this training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) About 20 Railway personnel consisting of officers and staff were deputed recently to Germany and Switzerland to understand maintenance systems followed for technology similar to the new German coaches and gain specific knowledge on maintenance practices.

(b) The estimated expenditure on the training of these 20 officers is approximately Rs. 34 lakhs. The training has aided in proper familiarization of maintenance and operational personnel with modern maintenance systems on the new coach technology. The above training has also facilitated acquiring knowledge in specific maintenance practices for important sub-assemblies and systems, which have been used on Indian Railway coaches for the first time. This training forms an essential element of the process of technology transfer. The new coach technology will lead to better riding and energy efficiency with added safety features.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of State Electricity Boards

690. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to recover its huge outstanding dues from various State Electricity Boards, National Thermal Power Corporation is likely to take over inefficient thermal power plants from such States; and

(b) if so, the names of those State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)

Subject to feasibility, NTPC would be willing to selectively take over some of the existing thermal plants of SEBs in order to recover its outstanding dues. NTPC has already taken over three power stations from SEBs of UP and Orissa for settlement of old outstanding dues. The details of thermal plants taken over by NTPC in past are as under:

Name of the Power Stations	Capacity	Date of take over	Taken over from
Talcher Thermal Power Station (460 MW)	460 MW	3.6.1995	Orissa
Tanda Thermal Power Station (440 MW)	440 MW	14.1.2000	U.P.
Unchahar Thermal Power Station (420 MW)	420 MW	13.2.1992	U.P.

Presently, no further proposal is under consideration.

Security of Passengers

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

(a) whether safety and security of passengers is neglected with dacoities, robberies and many other crimes increasing in running trains including proper maintenance of the railway bridges, tracks, trains to check the accidents;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking concrete steps in these regards;

(c) whether the railway ticket examiners take money and allow passengers not holding reservation to travel in reserved compartments; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take to ensure convenience of the passengers holding reserve tickets and against the corrupt TTEs and their senior who fail to check the same?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Regular checks are done on the working of the staff by officers and supervisors of the Commercial and vigilance departments. Disciplinary action is taken against TTEs found indulging in irregularities.

[Translation]

Supply of Solar Power in the Villages

692. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide solar power supply immediately in each village of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with progress made in each State as on May 31, 2001;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with amount earmarked for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The Government is implementing a country wide Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme, under which SPV systems like solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems, water pumping systems and stand alone village level power plants are being promoted. Such systems have been installed in a large number of villages all over the country. The State-wise number of villages/hamlets, in which at least 50% of the households have been provided with solar home lighting systems or a power plant has been installed, is given in the statement enclosed.

The Ministry also proposes to undertake a new programme for the electrification of the estimated 18,000 unelectrified villages in remote and difficult areas of the country through locally available renewable energy resources, including solar energy. The programme is likely to be initiated during the current financial year and completed by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan i.e. 2012. State-wise targets and allocation of funds have not yet been worked out.

Statement

State-wise Table, showing number of villages/hamlets, in which at least 50% households have been provided with solar home lighting systems or power plants have been installed

S.No.	State/UT	Nos.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50
3.	Assam	28
4.	Gujarat	14
5.	Haryana	6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	18
8.	Karnataka	2
9.	Kerala	134
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3
11.	Manipur	8
12.	Meghalaya	25
13.	Mizoram	33
14.	Rajasthan	1210
15.	Sikkim	4
16.	Tripura	30
17.	Uttar Pradesh, including Uttaranchal	403
18.	West Bengal	437
19.	A&N Islands	21
20.	Lakshadweep	3
Total		2,434

Central Assistance for Promotion of Big Orchards in U.P.

693. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government at the Central level for the development and promotion of big orchards and schemes under which economic assistance is provided by the Government for this purpose; and

(b) the districts of Uttar Pradesh for which financial assistance has been provided for this purpose and the nature of other assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Government has been providing assistance to the State Governments including the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the cultivation of fruits through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits. From October, 2000 the Scheme has been amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme the State Governments can prioritise their activities and allocate the funds as per the potential and requirement in the Work Plans. Besides, assistance is available through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under their scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.

(b) Funds of Government of India are released to the State Government, who in turn make allocations to the Districts. During the Ninth Plan, till the year 2000-2001, Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 176.10 lakhs was provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the "Fruits" scheme. The list of Districts where the "Fruits" Scheme was implemented during the year 2000-2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of Districts in Uttar Pradesh where Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits was implemented during 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Name of District
1	2
1.	Allahabad
2.	Ambedkarnagar
3.	Agra
4.	Aligarh
5.	Azamgarh
6.	Badaun
7.	Baghpat
8.	Bahraich
9.	Ballia

1	2
10.	Barabanki
11.	Bhadohi
12.	Bulandshahar
13.	Chitrakoot
14.	Deoria
15.	Faizabad
16.	Fatehpur
17.	Firozabad
18.	Ghaziabad
19.	Ghazipur
20.	Gonda
21.	Gorakhpur
22.	Hardoi
23.	Hathras
24.	Jalaun
25.	Jhansi
26.	Kanpur Nagar
27.	Kannauj
28.	Kaushambi
29.	Kushinagar
30.	Lucknow
31.	Mau
32.	Mathura
33.	Meerut
34.	Mainpuri
35.	Mirzapur
36.	Moradabad
37.	Muzzafarnagar
38.	Pilibhit
39.	Rampur
40.	Raibareilly
41.	Saharanpur

1	2
42.	Shrawasti
43.	Siddharthnagar
44.	Sitapur
45.	Sultanpur
46.	Unnao
47.	Varanasi

[English]

**Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court
at Jalpaiguri**

694. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 198 dated February 22, 2001 regarding Circuit bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for setting up of a Circuit bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court have recommended setting up of a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The proposal involves Parliamentary legislation and is engaging the attention of the Government.

[Translation]

Filling up of Vacancies Under Sports Quota

695. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last few years vacancies are not being filled under the sports quota, particularly in the North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur despite there being a provision made by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the Sports quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Recruitment is being made against sports quota by the Zonal Railways/Production Units against the quota allotted to them regularly, as per their requirement. However, North Eastern Railway could not utilize the sports quota due to the urgent need for redeployment of surplus staff against the available vacancies.

[English]

**Review of Imposition of Excise Duty
on Garment Sector**

696. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to consider the grievances of garment sector to review the levy of 16% excise duty imposed on branded garments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to alleviate the concern of the garment sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Consequent to introduction of 16% excise duty on readymade garments, Government have considered the grievances of the industry and taken a number of measures to address the concerns of the garment sector. The new measures include extension of SSI excise duty exemption to readymade garment sector. Clearances for home consumption upto Rs. 1 crore are exempted from excise duty. Units exporting substantial part of its production and whose clearance for home consumption does not exceed the full exemption limit of Rs. 1 crore have been extended the benefit of simplified procedure for exports. Exemption has also been provided from excise duty to raincoats, undergarments and clothing accessories such as handkerchiefs, shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils, ties, bow ties, carvats and gloves. Provision for deemed credit @20% of the excise duty on garment provided for duty paid on inputs.

[Translation]

Geo-Thermal Power Plants

697. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been made by the member to the department to remove the 'geothermal power plant' which is in deplating conditions at Manikaran in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh and hand over the site to the village Panchayat;

(b) whether a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Director (Technology Division) to handover the site to the Manikaran village panchayat;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of officers attended the meeting and the expenditure incurred on payment of TA/DA in organizing the meetings; and

(d) the time by which the said site is likely to be handed over to the village panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No separate meeting was held by the Ministry to handover the project site to Manikaran village panchayat. However, a meeting was held in the Ministry to discuss various issues regarding the status, possibility of reviving the project and transferring the same to some research institutes for further research or alternatively to close down the project and hand over the land to its original owner. The meeting was attended by five officers from different organizations. An amount of Rs. 4,675/- was spent on TA/DA in organizing this meeting. As decided in this meeting, a team of experts visited the site and recommended the closure of the project and handing over the land to its original owner.

(d) The case of closing down the project and handing over the land to its original owner is under consideration of the Ministry; and the decision in this regard will be conveyed to the State Government.

Vacant Posts of Judges in High Courts

698. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in various High Courts at present;

(b) the details of efforts being made by the Government to fill up these vacant posts; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As on July 24, 2001 there were 175 vacancies (including 49 new posts) in various High Courts of the country.

(b) and (c) The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

[English]

Import of Chicken Products

699. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the imported Chicken products and chicken legs from America and other European countries are brought up on genetically modified food such as soya and corn;

(b) whether the Government is also aware that the Chickens in those countries are fed tallow to help them gain weight;

(c) whether import of chicken products and chicken legs have considerably increased during the last few months;

(d) if so, whether the Government plans to make it compulsory that such products are accompanied with a health certification system giving details of the feed on which these units have been fattened;

(e) whether Chicken food with genetically modified feed are extremely harmful for human beings; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to prohibit the import of such harmful products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As far as Government is aware, USA is producing genetically modified soya and corn. However, corn has several uses apart from being used as a feed for poultry. Hence, it is not possible to say whether the products which will be imported will be from chicken fed on genetically modified feed. Chicken fed with genetically modified feed or tallow do not become different from chicken fed with non-genetically modified feed or not fed with tallow.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) No information is available which suggests that chicken fed on genetically modified food are harmful to human beings.

(f) In view of reply to part (e) above, question does not arise.

Import of Agricultural Commodities

700. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of agricultural commodities imported during each of the last three years and in the current year so far, commodity-wise along with name of the exporting country;

(b) the quantity of these agricultural commodities produced in the country during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken to make the country self-reliant in the matter of producing agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Country-wise details of the major agricultural commodities imported during the period 1997-98 to 2000-2001 (till February) are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of the production of major agricultural commodities in the country during the last three years are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) In order to increase production and productivity in the agricultural sector, thereby making the country self-reliant in the matter of producing agricultural commodities, the Government has been implementing various programmes. With a view to providing greater flexibility to States/UT Governments in enhancing agricultural production and productivity as per their specific requirements, the Government of India has launched the Macro Management Mode of the implementation of certain Centrally sponsored Schemes.

Statement-I

Import of major agricultural products during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 (till February, 2001)

(Qty. '000' tones, Value: Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001 (till Feb. 01)		Major Countries from which imported
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
1.	Wheat	1485.78	988.98	1803.7	1164.78	690.4	412.23	4.22	2.87	Australia, France, Bulgaria
2.	Rice	0.05	0.06	6.65	5.4	27.6	24.59	13.2	17.79	Pakistan, Netherlands
3.	Coarse Cereals	1.12	0.34	2.02	1.07	181.16	114.62	30.29	15.54	China, USA, Argentina
4.	Pulses	1008.16	1194.64	563.6	708.81	203.99	273.77	245.28	366.42	Myanmar, Australia, Canada
5.	Oil Seeds	—	2.47	—	8.52	—	13.39	—	6.79	Canada, Somalia, Nepal
6.	Vegetable Edible Oils	1265.75	2764.67	2621.85	7588.93	4196	7983.87	3727.13	5611.31	Malaysia, Indonesia, Argentina
7.	Cotton raw & waste	9.97	80.65	57.4	381.11	236.14	1226.76	204.26	1131.66	Australia, South Africa, Ivory Coast
8.	Jute, raw	45.54	50.54	99.46	86.38	140.84	143.81	63.69	78.97	Bangladesh

Statement-II

The details of production of major agricultural commodities in the country over the last three years

(Million tonnes)

Commodity	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Rice	82.54	86.08	89.48
Wheat	66.35	71.29	75.57
Coarse Cereals	30.40	31.33	30.47
Cereals	179.29	188.70	195.52
Pulses	12.97	14.91	13.35
Total Foodgrains	192.26	203.61	208.87
Oil Seeds	21.32	24.75	20.87
Vegetable Edible Oils	6.20	7.26	6.50
Cotton*	108.50	122.90	116.40
Jute**	99.60	88.40	94.20

* Lakh bales of 170 kgs each.

** Lakh bales of 180 kgs each.

Demand and Supply of Power

701. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present demand and supply of power in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Delhi;

(b) the steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of power to meet their full requirement; and

(c) the steps have been taken and proposed to be taken to prevent theft of power in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April-June, 2001, the power supply position in the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Delhi is given below:—

State	Energy (MU)			
	April - June, 2001			
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%
Punjab	7135	6771	364	5.1
Haryana	4070	4031	39	1.0
U.P.	11505	10297	1208	10.5
Delhi	4980	4807	173	3.5

(b) The following steps have been taken to supplement power availability and hence to mitigate power shortage in these States:

(i) Allocation out of unallocated power (15% of installed capacity) from central sector stations in the Northern Region:

Punjab	9%
Haryana	22%
U.P.	14%
Delhi	25%

In addition to the above, 100 MW power out of the unallocated quota has been allocated on first charge basis from 1800 hrs. to 2300 hrs. to Delhi and from 2300 hrs. to 0600 hrs. to Punjab.

(ii) Assistance from neighbouring regions:

The following allocations have been made out of the import of power from Eastern Region to Northern Region:

Haryana	(100 MW)
UP	(100 MW)
Delhi	(100 MW)

(iii) Allocation from Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) unit No. 3:

Punjab 15% (33 MW)

(iv) Allocation from Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) unit No. 4:

	19 to 23 hrs.		Other hrs. of the day	
	MW	%	MW	%
Punjab	14	6.4	28	12.7
Haryana	14.5	6.5	29	13.1
Delhi	110	50.0	NIL	NIL

(c) The Power Utilities have been impressed upon from time to time to focus their attention in the following areas to prevent theft of energy.

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

In addition to the above theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the amended provisions of Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The Government of India offers financial support through Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for upgradation of transmission and Distribution network and renovation and modernisation (R&M) of power stations.

Equity Participation in Power Generation

702. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways were considering to have equity participation in power generation projects of NTPC;

(b) if so, whether modalities of such participation have since been framed up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the legal viability of the proposal?

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

(a) to (d) Railways are exploring the possibility of joint ventures with NTPC and other public/private power producers so as to obtain power at reasonable rates. The modalities of such participation have not yet been firmed up.

Amendment in National Legal Authority Service Act

703. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the National Legal Authority Service Act to create pre-litigation forums;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A major drawback has been observed in the existing scheme of organization of Lok Adalats constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As per the existing statutory provisions, the system of Lok Adalat is solely based on compromise or conciliation and if parties are not able to arrive at any compromise or settlement, the case is returned by the Lok Adalat to the concerned court for decision in accordance with law or parties are advised to seek legal remedy in a court of law. Thus, the time taken by the Lok Adalat for conciliation, further adds to the delay. If the Lok Adalat is given power to decide the cases on merits in case parties fail to arrive at a settlement or compromise, then this problem can be tackled to a great extent. Cases which arise in certain Departments rendering public utility services need to be settled urgently so that people get justice in time even at pre-litigative stage. If these cases are settled at pre-litigative stage, most of the petty cases which ought not to go in the regular courts would be settled at the pre-litigative stage itself which would result in reducing the workload of the regular courts to a great extent. Therefore, it is proposed to suitably amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide for compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases in certain areas covered by the public utility services in consultation with the concerned authorities.

(c) A Bill to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 will be introduced in Parliament as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

New Units of Power Generation in M.P.

704. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the growing power crisis in Madhya Pradesh especially after creation of Chhattisgarh State, the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for establishing new units of power generation in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are proposing to provide financial assistance to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for increasing their power generation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A proposal in respect of Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn. St. II at Birsinghpur, District Umariya (500 MW) in Madhya Pradesh has been received for Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority.

The Narmada Hydro Electric Development Corporation (NHDC), a joint venture of NHPC and Government of M.P. has been entrusted to complete the ongoing Indira Sagar Project (1000 MW) and develop the Omkareshwar Project (520 MW). Both these schemes were earlier cleared by CEA as State Sector Projects.

(b) and (c) Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) an amount of Rs. 49.55 crore (50% Grant and 50% Loan) has been sanctioned towards R&M of old power project and distribution reforms in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

Discontinuance of Train Services

705. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether operation of some express and passenger trains has been stopped from 1st July, 2001; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, train-wise?

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

(a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Import of Gas in Tankers

706. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the FICCI has urged the Union Government to import gas in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in tankers rather than through the overland pipeline route; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Suspension of Wagons Order

707. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has suspended placement orders for wagons following detection of substandard and cheaper steel use for manufacturing of wagons already supplied to the Railways;

(b) if so, the names of the companies that has supplied substandard wagons to Railways;

(c) the loss suffered by the Railways as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty companies and the officials involved therein?

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

(b) Initially certain vigilance checks were conducted on wagons where it was found that a manufacturer had used cheaper mild steel in place of corten steel being supplied by Railways to wagon manufacturers as free

supply item. This firm is M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation. In the process of inspection by Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), use of mild steel in place of corten steel was found in the factory premises of M/s. Burn Standard/Howrah and M/s. Texmaco. Recent vigilance checks show that few more manufacturers have also been found to have used mild steel in place of specified corten steel in manufacturing of wagons. These firms are M/s. Texmaco, M/s. Burn Standard/Burnpur, M/s. Burn Standard/Howrah, M/s. Bharat Wagons and Engg. Ltd./Muzaffarpur and M/s. BESCO. It has, therefore, become necessary to carry out more joint comprehensive checks on all wagon manufacturers in order to assess the quantum and magnitude of the problem before release of further orders. Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) have been asked to complete the investigations expeditiously.

(c) Loss can be quantified only after complete investigations are over.

(d) A show cause notice has already been issued to M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation. For others, investigations are on.

Computer Scam in ICAR

708. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 Members of Parliament representing major political parties, during March-April, 2001, wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, requesting repatriation of a few Indian Council of Agricultural Research officials, removed from their posts in January, 2001 for exposing a 'computer scam' in ICAR; and

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

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

(b) Appropriate action has already been taken by giving replies to the Hon'ble MPs apprising them of the facts of the case.

Financial Assistance to J&K

709. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to develop Bhag-I-Bahu (Garden) in Jammu city as national tourist centre and for other tourism projects during each of the last three years and the current year, project-wise; and

(b) the amount released and utilised by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the year 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was sanctioned for Beautification and Extension of Bagh-I-Bahu, Jammu. Rs. 40.00 lakhs have been released so far for this project. During the year 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs was also sanctioned for installation of Musical Fountain at Bagh-I-Bahu. Rs. 9.00 lakhs have been released for this project.

Details of projects sanctioned during the last three years and projects prioritised during the current financial year for Jammu & Kashmir are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Utilisation Certificate Received
1998-1999	6	192.85	108.00	28.50
1999-2000	16	306.43	176.38	124.35
2000-2001	11	419.93	161.86	85.98
2001-2002	15	541.29 (Prioritised)	—	—

Crop Insurance

710. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the premium for "Crop Insurance Scheme" has been compulsorily taken from the farmers in the States by the banks and concerned agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in case of famine (drought)/natural calamities situation in the claim covered under these insurance scheme has not been given to the farmers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have raised the premium and brought down the risk level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the provision of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is compulsory for loanee farmers for notified crops/area, banks collect premium compulsorily from them.

(b) The details of the loanee farmers covered and premium collected under NAIS are given as below:

Details	Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000
Farmers covered	554954	8216948
Premium collected (Rs. in crores)	5.10	203.41

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Insured farmers are paid insurance claims wherever there is a shortfall in yield on account of occurrence of famine (drought)/natural calamities.

The details of claims paid/payable in various States/UTs during Rabi 1999-2000 and Kharif 2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) No, Sir. The premium rates and risk (indemnity) level continue to be the same since inception of the Scheme.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of claims paid/payable in various States/UTs during Rabi 1999-2000 and Kharif 2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Claims (100%)	
		Rabi 1999- 2000	Kharif 2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	2601.78
2.	Assam	0.50	0.75
3.	Bihar	—	481.25
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	8174.58
5.	Goa	0.10	0.08
6.	Gujarat	218.02	59152.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	—
8.	Kerala	29.54	242.88
9.	Karnataka	—	213.02
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11.33	5551.32
11.	Maharashtra	73.09	10242.78
12.	Meghalaya	—	0.14
13.	Orissa	0.17	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	—	363.83
15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	0.36
16.	Pondicherry	1.27	—

Boost to Rain Fed Agriculture

711. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote agriculture in un-irrigated/semi-irrigated regions;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to boost rain-fed agriculture with effective extension service; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme drawn up for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a)

Agriculture in the unirrigated/semi-irrigated regions in the country depends heavily on rainfall and is thus synonymous with rainfed agriculture. It is characterized by low levels of productivity and low input usage. Being dependent on rainfall, crop production is subjected to considerable instability from year to year. To promote agriculture in the rainfed regions, Central Government has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of these areas through watershed approach. A large number of schemes are being implemented in rainfed areas. These include National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) and Externally Aided Projects on watershed development. These schemes were being implemented as independent centrally sponsored schemes till November, 2000, after which they have been subsumed under the macro-management mode of operation. They however, continue to be implemented as components of macro-management.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Adequate training infrastructure is available both at the Central and State level for capacity building of farmers/watershed community and implementers of the watershed programmes. Regular training on technological and managerial aspects of watershed development are being organized at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and ICAR Institutions, such as, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Central Research Institute for Dryland Areas (CRIDA), State level training institutions and State Agricultural Universities.

Provisions have also been made in the watershed guidelines to ensure that there is convergence between the on-going productivity enhancement schemes and watershed development programmes.

Use of Solar Energy

712. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake research work to explore immense potential for use of solar energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in the matter so far;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to provide better and cheaper solar stoves in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Research and development work aimed at utilizing solar energy through both the thermal and photovoltaic routes has been going on in the country for over two decades. A large number of research institutes, universities and industrial organizations are engaged in this work. The efforts made so far have resulted in the development and manufacture of a number of devices and systems for various applications. These include solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar dryers, distillation units, solar lighting systems, pumps, power plants, etc. These systems are being installed over the country under different schemes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

The Ministry is also continuing to support research projects in different institutions of the country with a view to improving the technology and reducing the costs of solar energy products. Among the major areas being studied are:

- (i) Development of thin film solar cells based on amorphous silicon and other materials.
- (ii) Development of components used in photovoltaic systems.
- (iii) Design of energy efficient buildings.
- (iv) Development of newer types of solar cookers and cooking systems.
- (v) Solar detoxification.

(c) and (d) The Ministry had been supporting the dissemination of only one type of solar cooker, namely the box cooker, under its subsidy scheme implemented till 1993-94. After the scheme was discontinued and a market orientation was given to the programme, other types of cookers including solar cookers with electrical backup and concentrating type solar cookers have become available in the country. Some of the newer designs are being supported under a demonstration scheme of the Ministry. They have the advantages of fast cooking or being able to cook a larger quantity of food. A low cost cardboard solar cooker has also been recently introduced.

Pending Railway Projects

713. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending proposals received from States and Union territories during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government in coordination with Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Foreign Financing Agencies propose to approve some of these pending proposals during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor in each case?

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

(a) Planning of Railways services or projects is made keeping a national perspective in view and taking an integrated view of traffic demands as well as of System requirements. Geographical boundaries of a State do not form a criterion for taking investment decisions. However, details of some of the proposals received from Governments of States and Union Territories during the last three years and the current year are given below:—

1. Bilaspur-Urkura : 3rd Line
2. Akaltara-Champa : 3rd Line
3. Urkura-Raipur-Sarona : Doubling
4. Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal : New Line
5. Khandwa to Dahod : New Line
6. Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi : Gauge Conversion
7. Talcher-Gopalpur : New Line
8. Talcher-Bimlagarh : New Line
9. Gopalpur-Rayagada : New Line
10. Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur & Indore : New Line
11. Beed-Parli-Ahmednagar : New Line
12. Baramati-Pandharpur: New Line
13. Kalyan-Murbad via Maishejghat to Ahmednagar : New Line

14. Panvel-Karjat : Doubling
15. Bandra-Kurla Rail Link
16. Narkatiyaganj-Bhitharwa Ashram : Gauge Conversion
17. Kiul-Nawada : New Line
18. Fazilka-Abohar: New Line
19. Ludhiana-Amritsar : Electrification
20. Jiribam-Imphal : New Line
21. Halem-Itanagar : New Line
22. Rail Link to Sikkim
23. Rishikesh-Dehradun : New Line
24. Introduction of Suburban Services in Lucknow
25. Multimodal Suburban Transportation System for Hyderabad and Secunderabad
26. Medchal-Secunderabad, Secunderabad-Shamshabad : Electrification
27. Sanatnagar-Vikarabad : Electrification
28. Emakulam-Trivandrum : Electrification
29. Shoranur-Ernakulam : Electrification
30. Construction of rail line between Alang-Bhavnagar-Tarapur
31. Gandhinagar-Moti Adraj-Kalol : New Line
32. Jamnagar-Bedi Port-Rosipier : New Line
33. Porbandar-Porbandar Port: New Line
34. Veraval-Somnath : New Line
35. Windmill Station-Bedi Port : New Line
36. Windmill-Bedi Port and Rosi Pier : New Line
37. Mysore-Mangalore and Mysore-Tellichary : New Line
38. Madikeri-Channarayapatna via Holenarasipur, Arakalagod and Kushalnagar-Channarayapatna via Konaur : New Line
39. Thalassery-Mysore, Kottayam-Punalur-Sabrimala : New Line
40. Extension of Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) Phase-II, presently under execution between Tirumayilai and Valachery upto St. Thomas Mount

41. Avadi-Sriperambudur : New Line
42. Kanchipuram-Tindivanam : New Line
43. Plani-Satyamangalam : New Line
44. Rishikesh-Dehradun : New Line
45. Extension of Circular Railway to Majerhat. Its Doubling.
46. Metro Link from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport
47. Metro Railway : Extension from Tolly Ganj to Garia
48. Metro Line between Dum Dum and Barrackpore
49. Gujaria-Gajol : New Line
50. Tarakeshwar-Arambagh-Bishnupur : New Line
51. Ranaghat-Gede & Ranaghat-Bangaon sections : Electrification
52. Barasat-Hasnabad : Electrification
53. Krishnanagar-Lalgola : Electrification
54. Katwa-Azimganj : Electrification
55. Andal-Sainthia : Electrification

(b) and (c) Proposals received from the Governments of States and Union Territories are taken due note of by the Railways. These proposals are examined and if found feasible and necessary, they are taken up subject to availability of resources. A number of such proposals have already been included in the Railway Budget from time to time. New projects to be taken up in the current financial year have already been included in the Budget for 2001-2002. Wherever required, the proposals are appraised by the Planning Commission before obtaining further clearances.

Railways are also making efforts to raise resources from multilateral and bilateral aid agencies for specific projects in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Proposals for Railway projects received from the Government of Maharashtra have been considered. Parli-Beed-Ahmednagar : New Line is a sanctioned work. Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur & Indore : New Line, Baramati-Pandharpur : New Line, Kalyan-Murbad via Malsheighat to Ahmednagar : New Line and Doubling of Panvel-Karjat section are not considered feasible at this stage.

Bandra-Kurla Rail Link, which is one of the projects included in Mumbai Urban Transport Projects-II (MUTP-II), will be considered at appropriate time. However, loan from World Bank for projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Projects-II (MUTP-II) to be executed by Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation is being processed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(d) Does not arise.

Oil Refinery at Paradeep

714. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Government of Orissa to provide land infrastructure and tax concession for setting up of Paradeep refinery;

(b) if so, the details of such demands by IOCL;

(c) the response of the State Government in this regard;

(d) the capacity and cost of the refinery; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to start commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The sale tax concessions approved by the Orissa Government in December, 1998/August, 1999 for the refinery project were subsequently withdrawn in February, 2000. To make the project viable and competitive, a package of incentives including issuance of 5% seven year maturity bonds by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to Orissa Government in lieu of sales tax, exemption of central sales tax for 30 years, exemption of entry tax on crude oil and certain other tax incentives during the construction period was submitted to the State Government. The State Government have approved in June, 2001, a package of special incentives for the project.

(d) The Government approved cost of the proposed 9 million metric tonnes per annum refinery project is estimated at Rs. 8,270. crore.

(e) The refinery is likely to start commercial production during the year 2004-2005.

*[Translation]***LPG Agencies in Bihar**

715. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

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

(a) the number of LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps functioning in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh at present, separately;

(b) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps to be set up in those States during the next few years;

(c) whether complaints of irregularities at Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Bihar and U.P. have been received by the Union Government in the past few months;

(d) if so, the action taken on such complaints; and

(e) the extent to which LPG Agencies and petrol pumps in the States are sufficient to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, in Bihar 777 Retail Outlets and 159 LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are operating. Similarly, 2314 Retail Outlets and 683 LPG distributorships are operating in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 282 Retail Outlets and 169 LPG distributorships in the State of Bihar under various marketing plans. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, 362 Retail Outlets and 591 LPG distributorships have been planned.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have investigated the complaints received against the LPG distributors and dealers and appropriate action in terms of Dealership Agreement/Marketing Discipline Guidelines have been taken against the erring distributors/dealers.

(e) It is expected that after the commissioning of LPG distributorships/Retail Outlets as per the approved marketing plan of the Government, the demand of LPG/MS/HSD in the State will be met in full.

Grant to Maharashtra

716. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to provide grant-in-aid for providing infrastructural facilities for Simhastha Kumbhmela at Nasik and Trambakeshwar in 2003-2004 has been received from the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has sought special Central assistance of Rs. 50.00 crores each during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 from the Planning Commission.

(c) The proposal is pending finalisation by the Planning Commission.

*[English]***Amendment in Aquaculture Authority Bill**

717. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for amendment to Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be introduced in the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

Retail Outlets/LPG Agencies in North-Eastern States

718. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Retail Outlets in North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals received for opening of new Retail Outlets for LPG in North-Eastern States;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and present status thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The State-wise number of retail outlets in operation in the North-Eastern States as on 1.4.2001 is given below:—

States	Number of Retail Outlet dealerships
Assam	369
Meghalaya	57
Arunachal Pradesh	33
Mizoram	14
Tripura	33
Manipur	28
Nagaland	29

There are 157 LPG distributorships pending for commissioning at various locations in the North-Eastern States.

Periodical surveys are conducted by the Oil Industry for identifying economically viable locations for setting up of LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including the North-Eastern States. All such viable locations are rostered in Marketing Plans and submitted to the Government for approval. Thereafter, locations approved by the Government are taken up for appointment of distributorships through the Dealer Selection process.

Cancellation of Luxury/Entry Tax on Silk Garments

719. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the Government of Karnataka to cancel 2 percent luxury tax imposed on silk garment and entry tax imposed on silk;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to the suggestions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) In view of National Textile Policy-2000 Union Govt. has revised strategy for sericulture and silk development in the country. Revised strategy is based upon emerging market trends, competitive WTO environment and recent advances in technology in silk sector. The revised strategy was discussed with the State Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Textiles during the All India Conference on Textiles held at New Delhi on 10/4/2001. States resolved *inter-alia* that States and UTs should seriously consider providing tax exemption for input and marketing of products in the area (among others) of cocoons and silk yarns. However no special reference is made about the luxury tax imposed by Government of Karnataka.

Agreements in Agriculture and Allied Sectors

720. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreements/MOUs signed for international cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors;

(b) the benefits including the technical cooperation, likely to come from abroad under these agreements; and

(c) the terms and conditions which the India would have to fulfil thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The details of Agreements/MOUs signed for international cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The objective of bilateral Agreements/MOUs is to exchange experiences of agricultural development between countries and to extend mutual benefit and cooperation for each others development. The experience gained by the scientists/agricultural personnel and recommendations which emerge through technical cooperation activities result in human resource development, technology generation, development of new projects and facilities.

The Agreements on plant quarantine and plant protection and in the veterinary field aim, *inter-alia*, at

the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds and spread of infective diseases on the territories of both the countries while trading in agricultural products, animal products, raw materials of animal origin and animal feed. These kind of agreements facilitate development of India's trade in agricultural and veterinary products with these countries.

(c) The Agreements/MOUs are implemented through exchange of scientists, germplasm, scientific information/ data and through collaboration projects. The agreed activities under the Agreements/MOUs are implemented through Work Plans on mutually acceptable terms and conditions. Normally under such Agreements/MOUs the cost of international air fares is borne by the sending party and the cost of local hospitality is borne by the receiving party.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
1	2	3	4

Countries with whom agreements/MOUs have been signed

1.	Australia	2.2.1996	The Umbrella Agreement between India and Australia provides for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and collaborative projects in disciplines such as soil management, veterinary sciences and overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environments in India and Australia.
2.	Algeria	25.1.2001	The Agreement aims at cooperation in the field of phytosanitary, quarantine and protection of natural vegetation.
		25.1.2001	The Agreement envisages cooperation in the veterinary field.
3.	Bangladesh	15.6.1983	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry, education, research and its application in practice, etc.
		22.1.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, production and agro-processing between the two countries through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel.
4.	Brazil	2.7.1997	The Agreement seeks cooperation in exchange of technical and legal information on phytozoosanitary situation including methods of control of plague and diseases, diagnosis techniques, handling and preparation of products and byproducts of animal and vegetable origin.
5.	Bulgaria	26.5.1994	The Veterinary and Sanitary Agreement provides for cooperation in the sphere of veterinary and medical activities in preserving both countries from penetration diseases in animals and exchange animals and products of animal origin.
		26.5.1994	The Agreement for cooperation in the area of Quarantine and Plant Protection aims at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds.

1	2	3	4
6.	Belarus	22.2.2001	The Agreement envisages cooperation in the field of Quarantine and Plant Protection with a view to prevent the spreading and penetration of quarantine pests weeds and diseases into each other's territory.
7.	China	11.4.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote scientific, technical economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of materials concerning agricultural science and technology, exchange of germplasm, seeds, seedlings and exchange of scientific and technical information, etc.
8.	Cuba	16.9.1988	The Work Plan signed on 22nd November 1996 under this Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of science and technology and agricultural research and education.
9.	Cyprus	26.3.1992	The Programme of Cooperation covers the fields of horticulture, field crops, soil fertility, fertiliser use and irrigation technology, etc.
10.	Cambodia	18.2.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to develop further the existing friendly relations between the two countries through the development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural science and technology, animal husbandry and food processing.
11.	Eritrea	31.3.1998	A Tripartite Agreement between the Government of India, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Eritrea was signed on 31.3.1998 for providing technical assistance to Eritrea in the field of agriculture under Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and as a part of South-South Cooperation initiative of FAO. It envisages Technical Assistance in the branch of Irrigation, Soil Conservation, Agronomy, Livestock (Poultry and Pig Production), Marketing (Post-Harvesting).
		1.12.2000	The MOU aims to encourage and develop technical cooperation between the two countries in the agriculture sector. In areas such as agricultural research in horticulture, crop science, fisheries, animal husbandry etc.
12.	France	6.2.1994	The Agreement covers different areas for cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and agro-food industries sectors.
13.	Greece	5.2.2001	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to develop and to promote economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of scientific and technical information, development of training, management and advisory services for agriculture, exchange of experts and consultants, joint ventures, etc.

1	2	3	4
14.	Indonesia	20.2.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various areas of cooperation in agriculture including food crops, secondary crops, rainfed farming, hybrid rice, fisheries, livestock, etc.
15.	Iran	11.11.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the fields of Agricultural Research and Education, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry, Water Management, etc.
		5.10.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of animal health, research and exchange of information on the control and eradication of veterinary diseases by organising common commissions, seminars, conferences and training courses in the veterinary field and exchange of specialists.
16.	Israel	24.12.1993	The Agreement covers areas of water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, animal science, plant protection, agricultural research, agro-forestry, etc.
		30.12.1996	The Memorandum of Intent relates to the establishment in the first stage of a demonstration farm unit on the campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in New Delhi with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmer and private sector.
17.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.5.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. It envisages joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, crop production, horticulture, plant protection, animal science, fisheries, forestry, agro-based industry, etc.
18.	Mauritius	3.6.1993	The Memorandum of Understanding covers different areas of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro processing and economic cooperation.
19.	Myanmar	25.4.1998	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors with the objective of increasing agricultural production.
20.	Mongolia	16.9.1996	The Agreement seeks to promote scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of technology, development of modern methods of bio-technology, formulation and implementation of joint research projects and establishing food processing small industries, etc.
21.	Morocco	27.2.2001	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection, to facilitate and improve

1	2	3	4
			commerce and exchange of plants and plant products, dissemination of diseases and insects that destroy plant species, etc.
		27.2.2001	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of Veterinary Sanitation.
22.	Mozambique	1.3.2001	A Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Government of India, Government of Mozambique and the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations at Rome on 1.3.2001 under the Special Programme on Food Security (SPFS).
23.	Namibia	31.8.1998	India and Namibia signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 31st August 1998 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research through exchange of scientists for study visits, training, consultancies and exchange of germplasm and scientific information.
24.	Nepal	6.12.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing including production and processing of food and cash crops, multicropping systems, fruit and vegetable development, dairy development, etc.
25.	Newzealand	15.4.1999	The Memorandum of Technical Cooperation envisages cooperation in Market Access and enquiries, phytosanitary measures reporting the detection of pests and exchange of technical and biological information.
26.	Oman	5.10.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors including joint activities and exchanges in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, dairy development, livestock, soil conservation, irrigation, etc.
		2.4.1997	The Agreement provides for development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural research and training and to improve the production technique and extension activities thereof by exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, scientific literature, etc.
27.	Pakistan	4.7.1985	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of research and education as well as development in agriculture.
28.	Panama	2.2.2001	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and cooperation in selected areas of horticulture, crop sciences, fisheries, animal sciences, agricultural extension, agricultural education and natural resource management, etc.
29.	Peru	26.5.1997	The Memorandum of Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Research Institute of Peru provides for cooperation in the fields of

1	2	3	4
			research and training and improvement of production techniques and extension thereof through exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, exchange of scientific literature, information, etc.
30.	Philippines	28.4.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Philippines covers agricultural science and technology including areas of rice production and processing, multiple cropping system, dry land farming systems, water management, agricultural machinery, horticulture, dairy, livestock improvement, etc.
31.	Russia	5.10.1995	The Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS) provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and related subjects.
		25.3.1997	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of plant quarantine and protection of agriculture and forest crops aiming at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds.
		16.4.1999	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the veterinary field with intention of prevention and elimination of animal diseases and prevention of their spreading.
		3.10.2000	The Agreement provides for economic and S&T cooperation in the field of agriculture in areas such as crop production, quarantine and plant protection, irrigation and drainage, animal husbandry, food processing, etc. through exchange visit of scientists, experts, trainees, exchange of scientific developments, joint researches, etc. of mutual interest.
32.	Senegal	16.2.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for establishment of Agricultural Development Project in Senegal by the Government of India.
33.	Syria	4.2.1983	The programme of cooperation covers the areas of plant production, research, horticulture, food processing industries, plant protection, animal production and health, soil and water management, etc.
34.	Trinidad & Tobago	24.1.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education. The areas of cooperation include livestock, water management for agricultural purposes, sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry, crop improvement, etc.
35.	Tunisia	7.10.1996	In pursuance of the Agreed Minutes of the Fifth Session of Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission (7-12 October 1996), a Work Plan was signed between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture on 7th October

1	2	3	4
			1996. It provides for technical cooperation, exchange of germplasm and scientific information, exchange visits/consultancies of scientists between India and Tunisia and training of scientists.
		5.4.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in agricultural research, crop improvement in wheat and barley, horticulture, soil conservation, dairy technology, improvement of livestock through artificial insemination, aquaculture, fish genetics and fish processing, etc.
36.	Turkey	31.2.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation between the two countries through joint activities and exchanges to be determined and implemented through mutually agreed procedures.
37.	United States of America	27.1.1996	The Agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural sciences to further cooperation among scientists from India and the United States of America in areas of significant mutual interests and benefits relating to agriculture, viz, exchange of information, ideas, skills and techniques to enhance opportunities to collaborate in solving problems of common interests relating to agriculture.
38.	Uzbekistan	2.5.2000	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in agricultural research in horticulture, crop science, fisheries, cotton and vegetable production, crop protection, animal science, agricultural extension and natural resource management, etc. through exchange of scientists, training consultancies, exchange of germplasm and breeding material and scientific literature and information.
39.	UAR (Egypt)	19.3.1998	The MOU envisages cooperation in the areas of agricultural engineering, horticultural research, animal sciences, agricultural extension etc.
40.	Vietnam	31.12.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and covers areas such as crop sciences, scientific research, animal sciences, dairy development, exchange of scientists, etc.
41.	Yemen	7.12.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing, etc.

Ring Railway Services in Bangalore

721. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4823 dated August 24, 2000 regarding Bangalore Metro Rail Project and state:

(a) whether the modalities have been finalised for construction of Ring Railway and metro rail project in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka has recently given their confirmation for sharing 2/3rd cost of a study to assess details of revenue and cost implications of the project—Inter-Modal Transport System for Bangalore. Other related formalities like finalisation of Terms of Reference for the study are in progress. Sanction and execution of the project would depend on findings of the study, acceptance of the report by State Government, other requisite clearances and availability of resources.

Discontinuance of Kalka-Amritsar Express

722. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kalka-Amritsar Express train (4535) has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to re-start the said train service;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be restarted; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kalka-Amritsar Express has been discontinued due to poor patronisation.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Restoration of Kalka-Amritsar Express is not commercially justified.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Central Food Laboratory in Bihar

723. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up central food laboratories in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Food Laboratories are set up as per provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, administered by the Ministry of Health. The Government at present do not have any proposal for setting up of Central Food Laboratory in Bihar.

(c) Four Central Food Laboratories, which are appellate bodies, have already been established for analyzing the samples of Food sent by trial Courts in the country under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Damage to Crop Due to Natural Calamities

724. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether untimely rains and natural calamities have destroyed the standing crop in various parts of the country during the current year;
- (b) if so, the quantity-wise, crop-wise and State-wise details of the damage caused to these crops;
- (c) whether the Government have rendered any financial assistance by way of relief measures for the damage caused to the farmer's crops; and
- (d) if so, the State-wise and amount-wise details of financial assistance provided to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Several parts of the country received heavy rainfall during current South-West monsoon (1.6.2000 onwards) resulting in floods leading to damage to crops. The Government of Chhattisgarh has reported damage to crops in 0.68 lakh ha., the Government of Orissa has reported damage to crop area in 7.70 lakh ha. and the Government of Kerala has reported damage to crops of about Rs. 158 crore value. The Government of Karnataka has reported drought conditions due to inadequate rainfall affecting crop area in 16.22 lakh ha.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of State Governments concerned to under-take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with financial and logistic support. Funds are available with the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking necessary measures. State-wise

details of Central share of CRF released during 2001-2002 is given in the statement enclosed. The items and norms of relief assistance provides for giving input subsidy to small & marginal farmers for damaged crops.

Statement

State-wise Details of Release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund during 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7798.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.50
3.	Assam	3996.00
4.	Bihar	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	2163.00
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	11701.49
8.	Haryana	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3424.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
11.	Jharkhand	—
12.	Karnataka	2936.00
13.	Kerala	5956.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4932.00
15.	Maharashtra	12380.00
16.	Manipur	—
17.	Meghalaya	—
18.	Mizoram	—
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	6465.75
21.	Punjab	—
22.	Rajasthan	12225.75

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	495.34
24.	Tamil Nadu	—
25.	Tripura	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13521.06
27.	Uttaranchal	—
28.	West Bengal	—
Total		88468.50

[English]

Non-Payment of Deposits by Helious Corporation Limited

725. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 14, dated November 29, 1999 regarding CLB decision in respect of Non-payment of deposits and state:

(a) whether M/s. Helious Corporation Limited, Patna, has repaid the instalments that were due up to August 31, 2000 alongwith up-to-date interest to the depositors as per Company Law Board orders dated October 7, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the CLB to ensure timely payments to the depositors by the defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) M/s. Helious Corporation Ltd. has not filed any affidavit of compliance with the Company Law Board (CLB) regarding repayment of deposits. The CLB is also not aware of repayment of instalments that were due upto August, 2000 alongwith update interest to the depositors as per Company Law Board order dated October 7, 1999.

(c) and (d) In the Order dated October 7, 1999, the Company Law Board had advised the General Manager, RBI, Deptt. of Non-Banking Supervision (Financial Companies), Patna, to ensure compliance of the order and for taking appropriate legal action against the company for non-compliance, if there was any.

However, on a petition by RBI, Patna before the Hon'ble High Court at Patna, the Hon'ble Court has passed an order on May 19, 2000 for liquidation of M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd. and has appointed the Official Liquidator, High Court, Patna as the provisional liquidator of the company.

Turnover of Shipping Corporation of India

726. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of container ships and break-up of bulk ships owned by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) the total turnover of the corporation during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the corporation intends to bring about changes in its existing set up and in the process of formulating strategies for consolidation of liner business; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. owns 4 (four) container ships and 68 Bulk ships. The break-up of Bulk ships owned by SCI is as follows:

Type of bulk ship	No. of units	DWT (lakhs)
Bulk Carrier	24	10.06
Crude Carrier	27	22.93
Product Carrier	12	4.42
Phosphoric Chemical Carrier	3	0.93
LPG/Ammonia Carrier	2	0.35

(b) The total turnover of SCI for last three years is as follows:

Year	Rs. (in lakhs)
1998-1999	2,58,227/-
1999-2000	2,60,798/-
2000-2001 (Provisional)	3,13,223/-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Frequency of Trains

727. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed to increase the frequency of trains in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these trains are likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) In the Railway Budget speech 2001-2002, frequencies of the following 9 pairs of trains were proposed to increase:—

- (1) 2313/2314 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express
- (2) 5005/5006 Gorakhpur-Dehradun
- (3) 1263/1264 Jabalpur-Rajkot Express
- (4) 5285/5286 Sealdah-Darbhanga Ganga Sagar Express
- (5) 8517/8518 Vishakhapatnam-Bilaspur Express
- (6) 7017/7018 Secunderabad-Rajkot Express
- (7) 2409/2410 Nizamuddin-Bilaspur Gondawna Express
- (8) 9773/9774 Indore-Jaipur Express
- (9) 6337/6338 Ernakulam-Rajkot-Okha Express

Frequencies of 8 pairs of above trains have been increased. The frequency of 6337/6338 Ernakulam-Rajkot-Okha Express will be increased during the year 2001-2002.

Non-Payment of Deposits by Non-Banking Finance Companies

728. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that repayment to the small depositors, investors are not done

according to the Company Law Board orders by the NBFCs;

(b) if so, the names of the defaulting Non-Banking Finance Companies;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such companies;

(d) whether CEAT Financial Services Limited is not repaying small depositors as per the instructions of CLB;

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

(f) whether Department of Company Affairs has investigated CEAT Financial Services siphoning their assets to other group companies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Crisis Management Group to Facilitate New Power Projects

729. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up crisis management group to facilitates new power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be beneficial in the construction of new power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government has set up the Crisis Resolution group under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Power on January 1, 1999 for resolving the 'Last Mile' problems of power projects and to ensure that the pending techno-economically cleared power projects are financially closed and construction started. The Group has had twelve meetings till date and addressed several issues hindering financial closure and early start of construction of power projects.

Deferred payment Guarantee by PFC to A.P.

730. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned a deferred payment guarantee to Andhra Pradesh Power Finance Corporation for its 430 MW Rayalseema Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the terms and conditions have been fulfilled before sanctioned the guarantee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Chinese firm has been awarded this bid; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and completion schedule of the said power station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) PFC has sanctioned a Deferred Payment Guarantee (DPG) to M/s. Andhra Pradesh Generation Co. Ltd. (APGENCO) to cover the foreign currency loan of US\$ 261.79 million for setting up 2x210 MW Rayalseema Thermal Power Project (Stage-II) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) While sanctioning the financial assistance to M/s. APGENCO, certain terms & conditions were specified by PFC. M/s. APGENCO is expected to comply these terms & conditions before executing necessary guarantee documents. Details of terms & conditions which are yet to be fulfilled by APGENCO are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) Based on the available information, the Equipment Procurement & Construction (EPC) contract have been awarded to a consortium of M/s. Zhejiang Machinery & Equipment Import Corporation (ZMEC) & China Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC) of China. As per the terms of contract, the power plant is expected to be commissioned within 43 months of the payment of advance by M/s. APGENCO.

Statement

Terms & Conditions which are yet to be Fulfilled by APGENCO

1. APGENCO shall enter into a PPA with APTRANSCO which shall provide for the following in addition/modification to the draft PPA provided to PFC.

- The foreign currency fluctuation on all interest, repayment and guarantee payments related to

foreign currency debt shall be recoverable as part of fixed tariff.

- The Rate of Return on Equity shall be prescribed at minimum level of 16%.
 - The guarantee charges and other financial charges shall be recoverable under tariff.
 - APGENCO shall be given deemed generation benefits upto 68.5% PLF under force majeure conditions.
 - The terms of default shall be modified so that APTRANSCO shall be considered to be in default in the event of occurrence and continuance of any non payment of any payment obligation for a period of 30 days or more for any sum due instead of the current stipulation where the period has been fixed as 60 days or more for any obligation under Rs. 30 crores.
2. APGENCO shall get the clearances obtained for the project like the APPCB clearance and the approval for chimney height revalidated to reflect the revised implementation schedule of the project.
 3. APGENCO shall undertake to bring from its own sources, fund requirement for meeting the financial charges associated with the DPG against the Foreign Currency Loan during the construction period. APGENCO shall also undertake to fund cost increase, if any, from its own sources.
 4. APGENCO shall tie up the requirement for beneficiated coal for the project.
 5. APGENCO shall finalise the investment plan for the balance period of IX Plan and X Plan and include the project in the same.
 6. APGENCO shall clear all the dues of PFC as on date.
 7. The Reform OFAP for AP shall be finalised and approved by APGENCO and the Government of AP.
 8. The following security package for the guarantee shall be created in favour of PFC:
 - Opening escrow account equivalent to 1.25 times of PFC dues.

- State Government guarantee.

- An irrevocable letter from the State Government to RBI to pay PFC from RBI account of Andhra Pradesh (which would have devolution money) and confirmation by RBI to PFC of having taken the instructions on record.

New Train between Bhubaneswar and Kuria

731. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had announced a new train between Bhubaneswar and Kuria (Mumbai) from May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the said train has started plying;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in starting the said train; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The said train would be introduced in the current financial year after necessary arrangements in this regard are made.

Export of Non-Edible Oil Cakes

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

(a) whether non-edible oil cakes are exported in large quantities to Korea, Taiwan etc. for use as organic manure;

(b) whether this manure has been proved beneficial in improving soil productivity, reducing attack of pests and improving quality, flavour, taste and colour etc.; and

(c) if so, the details of programmes in hand at present to promote use of non-edible oil cakes in agriculture and horticulture instead of exporting the same to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a)

Export of non-edible oil cakes to Korea, Chinese Taipei and other countries have been made.

(b) Non-edible oil cakes of neem, karanj, mahua etc. could be a good organic source as manure for increasing soil productivity and in some cases useful in preventing pest attack also.

(c) There is no specific schemes to promote the use of non-edible oil cakes in agriculture and horticulture. However, Government propagates the integrated use of plant nutrients through chemical fertilizers, organic manures of various types including oil seed cakes.

Exploitation of Agricultural Workers

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

(a) whether due to non-existence of a comprehensive law for the Agricultural workers, they become victims of all sorts of exploitations;

(b) whether a proposal is under active consideration for enactment of a comprehensive law in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Sir, the Government is aware of problems of agricultural workers and a proposal to enact a central legislation for regulation of employment, wages, dispute settlement and welfare measures etc. for them has been under consideration and discussed in the meetings of the State Labour Ministers and various other fora but in the absence of consensus among the State Governments, it could not be enacted.

Safety of Tehri Dam

734. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a fresh study relating to seismological aspects and safety of the Tehri-Dam in the context of protestations, not only from the

public in general but also scientists and geologists and in the context of recent earthquake in Kutch in Gujarat;

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

(c) the final decision of the Government regarding its implementation and Completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) In the wake of Bhuj earthquake of January, 2001, the Government have constituted a Committee headed by Minister of Human Resource Development and Science & Technology on 10.4.2001 to go into the concerns raised regarding seismic safety of Tehri Dam and the possible impact of Tehri Dam on self-purification quality of Ganga Jal. The Committee has held extensive discussions. The Government has extended the tenure of the Committee upto 14.8.2001 to enable the Committee finalise its report. After the report of the Committee is received, the Government shall accord its highest consideration to the recommendations made in the report.

Bio-Fertilizers as a Substitute to Chemical Fertilizers

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that according to the Experts from Indian Society of Soil Science and Indian Agricultural Research Institute, there are grave misconception about the potential of bio-fertilizers to substitute the use of chemical fertilizers as organic fertilizers alone are not sufficient to fulfil the nutrition need of the crop to sustain the productivity and when used in conjunction with chemical fertilizers they can enhance agriculture yield;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken for the use of organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Biofertilizers are considered as a supplement to chemical fertilizers and not as a substitute. Biofertilizers are cheaper source of plant nutrients which are also environmentally friendly.

Government propagates the integrated use of plant nutrient through chemical fertilizers, organic manures and

biofertilizers. Such a combination of nutrients ensures a greater sustainability to the soil and crop productivity.

Pesticide Contamination in Agricultural Products

736. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the high incidence of pesticide contamination amongst the agricultural product;

(b) whether any complaints have been received from the foreign countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agency has been asked to maintain supervision and control over pesticide contamination in agricultural produce;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the most common pesticides which remain as residues in farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Sir, some consignments of grapes exported to countries in the European Union and chillies exported to USA, European Union and Australia were found to contain residues of Quinalphos, Ethion, Chlorpyrifos, Trizophos and Cypermethrin pesticides.

(d) and (e) Various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA) and the Rules framed thereunder are administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Food (health) Authorities of the States/UTs are responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act to keep supervision on the presence of pesticides residues in different food commodities including agricultural produce.

(f) DDT, BHC, Endosulfan and Chlorpyrifos are the most common pesticides which have been detected in farm produce due to their misuse or non-observance of waiting period mentioned on the approved labels/leaflets accompanying the certificates of registration issued by the competent authority.

[Translation]

Development of Jamalpur Workshop

737. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jamalpur is the oldest railway workshop and fully equipped with the modern technology and capacity to work;

(b) if so, whether the number of workers in this workshop has come down from 22 thousand to 6-7 thousand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways have not given wagon manufacturing orders to this workshop instead of Standing Committee's recommendations to frame rules in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the full capacity of this workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Jamalpur workshop is one of the oldest railway workshops established in 1882 and has necessary equipment & infrastructure to meet the present workload.

(b) and (c) The staff strength of Jamalpur had been about 18,500 in 1960 and is about 10,500 at present. This reduction in staff strength has been on account of phasing out of labour-intensive steam loco overhauling activity.

(d) and (e) The Standing Committee on Railways had desired to explore the possibility of manufacture of wagons at Jamalpur workshop. The proposal to set up the wagon manufacturing facilities was examined. However, in view of the existing surplus wagon manufacturing capacity in the country, taking up such manufacture at Jamalpur has not been found necessary.

(f) At present, the workshop is undertaking Periodic Overhauling (POH) of diesel locos and wagons. It is also manufacturing 140 tonnes cranes, tower wagons, brake blocks and whiting jacks. The shop also undertakes POH of cranes and tower wagons. The capacity of the shop is being utilised as per the Railway's requirement.

[English]

LPG Connections to various States

738. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) the criteria for allotment of LPG connections to various States;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to give 25 lakh LPG connections for Andhra Pradesh to be distributed among women members participating in self-help groups;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to extend the same facility to the other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present, LPG connections are released by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies on demand throughout the country in existing markets, and are not allocated State-wise. The Government have decided to release 15 lakh additional new LPG connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh under 'Deepam Scheme'. Under this scheme, State Government will be required to surrender corresponding kerosene quota per month and make the necessary security deposit against the number of connections actually released on behalf of beneficiaries. The facility of release of LPG connections against surrender of kerosene quota is available for all the States.

[Translation]

Area of Land Under Cultivation of Banana

739. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in hectares under cultivation of Banana in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Banana is exported from the country;

(c) if so, the names of countries to whom it is exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any concrete action plan to promote cultivation of Banana in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The State-wise details of area under cultivation of banana is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The names of the countries to whom banana is being exported along with the value of exports is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) The Government have been promoting the cultivation of banana through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated Development of Fruits. From October, 2000 the Scheme has been amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme the State Governments can prioritise their activities and allocate the funds as per the potential and requirement in the Work Plans. Besides, assistance is being extended through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under their scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management. A National Research Centre on Banan has been established under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Trichi to work exclusively on banana, which is providing research support for promoting banana cultivation in the country.

Statement-I

State-wise area under cultivation of Banana during 1999-2000

State/UTs	Area (Hectares)
Andhra Pradesh	49000
Assam	42000
Bihar	29000
Gujarat	34000
Karnataka	61000
Kerala	28000
Maharashtra	72000
Orissa	16000
Tamil Nadu	92000
West Bengal	19000
Others	50000
Total	491000

Statement-II

List of Countries to whom Banana was Exported during 1999-2000 and value thereof

Country	Value of export (Rupees)
1	2
Australia	77,696
Bahrain	1,11,29,843
Bangladesh	4,41,382
Belgium	2,89,898
Bulgaria	13,136
Canada	12,64,335
Denmark	14,438
France	2,00,424
Germany	1,24,726
Gibraltar	22,990
Italy	17,065
Jordan	14,458
Kuwait	67,13,988
Malaysia	7,24,814
Maldives	11,00,013
Mali	37,901
Malta	1,46,50,271
Oman	66,47,873
Paraguay	10,993
Qatar	91,86,787
Russia	17,14,536
Rwanda	12,99,130
Saudi Arabia	1,45,00,999
Singapore	2,67,801
Spain	2,06,600
Sudan	1,90,252
Switzerland	34,263
Thailand	2,07,264

1	2
Togo	30,660
U.A.E.	493,22,644
U.K.	1,15,894
U.S.A.	74,08,292
Yamen Arab Republic	55,248
Total	12,80,80,920

[English]

Preservation of Monuments

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

(a) whether the Government have selected some old and ancient monuments in Delhi and other States for their restoration and preservation during 2001-2002;

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

(c) the fund earmarked therefor, monument-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Funds are allotted annually to the administrative circles of the Archaeological Survey of India for the conservation of monuments, based on the specific requirement of the concerned site/monument subject to the overall availability of resources. The allocation of funds for conservation of monuments in each circle of the Archaeological Survey of India for 2001-2002 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Allocation of funds for conservation of monuments in various circles of the Archaeological Survey of India for 2001-2002

Name of Circles	Rs. in lakhs
1	2
1. Agra	225.00
2. Aurangabad	345.00
3. Bangalore	160.00
4. Bhopal	145.00

1	2
5. Bhubaneshwar	145.00
6. Chennai	155.00
7. Calcutta	115.00
8. Chandigarh	185.00
9. Delhi	200.00
10. Dharwad	135.00
11. Mini Circle Goa	60.00
12. Guwahati	150.00
13. Hyderabad	180.00
14. Jaipur	150.00
15. Lucknow	140.00
16. Patna	155.00
17. Srinagar	100.00
18. Thrissur	115.00
19. Vadodara	195.00
20. Director (Science)	200.00
Total	3225.00

Bio-Deterioration/Bio-Degradation of Monuments

741. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of archaeological monuments affected due to bio-deterioration and bio-degradation during the last three years, Circle-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent for protecting the same during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the details of monuments affected by bio-deteriorations, cyano bacteria, algae, pigeon-pest and higher plants in Chennai Circle and the remedial action taken in this regard;

(d) whether Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram has been affected with sugar disease and the sand stone structures are fast deteriorating; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The effect of biodeterioration on monuments is fairly widespread in view of the climatic conditions prevalent in the country. However it would not be possible to quantify specific details of such monuments.

The funds allocated/expenditure incurred on the chemical treatment & preservation of the centrally protected monuments, year wise is as under:

	Rs. in lakhs
1998-1999	104.00
1999-2000	118.00
2000-2001	136.00

The details of monuments taken up for chemical treatment & preservation in Chennai Circle during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Monuments taken up for chemical treatment and preservation in Chennai Circle during last 3 years; year-wise

1998-1999

1. Sculptures of Sri Dhenpuriswara temple, Madambakkam Kanchipuram
2. Shore temple. Mahabalipuram
3. Sculptures of Rock-cut-Vishnu temple. Thirumayam, Distt. Puddakottai
4. Sculptures of Sri Narasimhaswamy temple, Namakkar
5. Sculptures Sri Agatiswara temple. Vellanur, Puddakottai

1999-2000

6. Wooden carvings & bracket figures of Sri Ramashrine. Vadakkunathan Temple, Trichur
7. Shore temple including the sculpture of colossal reclining Vishnupur Mahabalipuram.

8. Sculptures of Sri Pattabiramaswamy temple, Narasingarayan
9. Sculptures, Sri Muruganathaswamy temple. Thirumuruganpoondi Villupuram.
10. Sculptures of Sri Swayambunathaswamy temple, Kilputtur, Thiruvannamalai District.

2000-2001

11. Wooden Carving figures & stone sculptures of Sri Rama Shrine, Vadakkanathan temple, Trichur, Kerala
12. Vimana & walls below Sri Parathasarathy temple, Parthivapuram Distt. Kanyakumari
13. Sculptures of Shore temple Mahabalipuram.
14. Sculptures of Rock-Cut-Vishnu temple, Thirumaym, Distt Padakkottai
15. Sculptures of Sri Mutuganathaswamy temple, Distt Coimbatore
16. Sculpturs Erumbeswara temple, Thiruverumber, Distt. Trichy
17. Keralantakus Gopuram & compound walls, Brihadiswara temple, Thanjavur
18. Walls below Vimana, Brihadiswara temple, G.K.C. Puram Distt. Perambatur.

Amenities In Trains

742. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allot food stalls to young unemployed and reserve some quota for the females to serve better quality food and snacks to the passengers on the platforms;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) In the extant catering policy a reservation has been provided in award of small catering vending units to various disadvantageous categories viz. SC, ST, persons

below poverty line, women including war widows and widows of Railway employees, other backward classes, minorities and physically handicapped persons.

Gas Pipeline between India and Iran

743. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the proposal to lay a gas pipeline between India and Iran via Pakistan has been pending since long; and

(b) if so, the present progress made in the talk on implementing the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Iran has sent a preliminary proposal to supply natural gas to India through pipeline. An Indo-Iran Joint Committee on supply of gas to India, consisting of representatives of the Government of Iran and India has been constituted to examine all aspects of the Indo-Iran natural gas pipeline namely, the technical, economic and political aspects of various options of gas imports from Iran including on-land off-shore and LNG options. The proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Sunderbans

744. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of blocks sanctioned for the exploration of oil and natural gas in Sunderbans;

(b) the estimated cost and the names of the companies involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the exploration is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) One block, namely WB-ONN-2000/1, covering

Sunderbans and adjoining onland area in Bengal Basin, has been awarded to the consortium of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) under the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-II) for exploration of oil and gas. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has been signed on 17.7.2001 and as per the work programme given therein, the expenditure in all the three phases of exploration is estimated to be Rs. 55.67 crores. The work programme under the above contract is for a duration of seven years, divided into three phases with a walk out option at the end of each phase.

[Translation]

Opening of Rail Reservation Kiosks

745. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open rail reservation kiosks at various places in the country on the lines of P.C.O. booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The proposal for opening of rail reservation kiosks at various places in the country involves examination of various complex technical and administrative issues and hence no time frame for taking final decision in this regard can be fixed at this stage.

Sale of Contaminated Water at Railway Stations

746. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that contaminated water is being sold in the name of mineral water at various railway stations in Delhi as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' on May 3, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government are also aware that water taps at various railway stations have been damaged by the water vendors in connivance with the local railway administration; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such type of practice at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The news item published in Rashtriya Sahara on 3.5.2001 was noticed and checks were conducted. Most water taps at railway stations at Delhi were found in working condition except a few on account of some defects. However, the allegation against vendors indulging in damaging water taps could not be substantiated.

During this period 21 sample checks were undertaken. In few cases, water samples were not found upto the mark for which fines have been imposed in ten cases. Regular checks are conducted by the railway officials to check sale of spurious bottled water at railway stations. Zonal Railways have been advised to permit the sale of Bureau of Indian Standard approved packaged drinking water having ISI mark in railway premises.

[English]

Setting up of Mega Power Projects by NTPC

747. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC propose to set up mega power projects in some States where private sector have withdrawn their projects etc.;

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

(c) whether private power producers have found it tough to run power plants due to huge arrears in some States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. Mega projects by National Thermal Power Corporation

(NTPC) are being implemented in accordance with approval of Government given in October, 1998.

(b) The details of Mega Power Projects proposed by NTPC are:—

Sl. No.	Project/State	Capacity (MW)	Status	Year of completion as envisaged#
1.	Anta CCPP Stage-II, Rajasthan	650*	CEA's Techno-Economic Clearance Available	2005-06
2.	Auraiya CCPP Stage-II, U.P.	650*	projects will be taken up only after beneficiary States agree to bear cost of generation based on LNG price	
3.	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, Gujarat	650*		
4.	Jhanor Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, Gujarat	650*		
5.	Kahalgaon STPP Stage-II, Bihar	1320	CEA's Techno-Economic Clearance under progress	2007-08
6.	North Karanpura STPP, Jharkhand	1980	—do—	2008-09
7.	Barh STPP, Bihar	1980	CEA's Techno-Economic Clearance under progress.	2008-09
8.	Kol Dam HPP, Himachal Pradesh	800	Infrastructure works in progress	2008-09
9.	Cheyur STPP, Tamil Nadu	1000**	Feasibility Report to be prepared after availability of Coastal Regulation Zone clearance and MOEF's 1st stage clearance.	2011-12

*Capacity identified under Mega Power Policy is 1300 MW, proposed to be implemented in two stages of 650 MW each.

**Capacity identified under Mega Power Policy is 1500 MW. Being implemented in two phases.

#Subject to necessary clearance/tie-ups including funding tie-up.

Abbreviations:

CCPP	: Combined Cycle Power Project
CEA	: Central Electricity Authority
LNG	: Liquefied Natural gas
STPP	: Super Thermal Power Project
HPP	: Hydro Power Project
MOE & F	: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) The total outstanding dues of various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) on various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) ending 31st May, 2001 was over Rs. 30,000 crore. Such a situation may deter any prospective private power producer from setting up a power plant in a State with huge outstanding dues.

(d) The Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' conference held in New Delhi in March, 2001 resolved to constitute

an Expert Group to look into problem of mounting arrears of payments due to CPSUs. One of the reference to be recommended by the Expert Group was to recommend for one time settlement of outstanding dues. The report since submitted by the Expert Group in this regard recommends a scheme for one time settlement of dues which consists of securitisation of the outstanding dues of SEBs to CPSUs and converting them into State Government bonds with a partial waiver. This is linked to

commitments by SEBs for setting current dues, with associated penalties for non-compliance and assured access to State Government funds for recovery beyond a point. State Governments are also expected to commit themselves to a programme of reform in the power sector with some definite defined milestones and associated penalties for non-compliance. The Scheme also provides incentives for well performing States. The Scheme for one time settlement of outstanding dues has to be viewed as an integral part of an arrangement that prevent recurrence of similar defaults in future. The group has also recommended that the scheme should become effective only after consensus in its favour is obtained from participating States. It has also been felt that the validity of the scheme should remain in force till 31.3.2016.

Confirmation Status of Road Side Quota

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

(a) the existing norms to get confirmation status of waiting list in the trains of road side quota;

(b) whether the Government are aware that master chart is not displayed by the Coach T.T.E. during running of the train and passengers are bound to give bribe to the T.T.E.; and

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

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

(a) At roadside stations where computerised reservation facilities are available, the passengers can find out the status of their tickets by going to the computerised reservation offices or through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), if installed at the roadside stations.

At roadside stations where manual booking is done, passengers can ascertain the status of their tickets from the reservation counter.

(b) and (c) The reservation chart is displayed at the train originating station at conspicuous place on platform and is also pasted on each reserved coach to enable the passengers to ascertain the position/status of their accommodation. A copy of the same is carried by the coach Train Ticket Examiner (TTE)/Train Superintendent

(TS) of the train to facilitate checking/verification of bonafides of the passengers travelling and also providing vacant accommodation to RAC/waitlisted passengers. However, the passengers on RAC/waiting list can also ascertain the vacancy position from the coach TTE on train in order to have confirmed accommodation. Regular checks are conducted by Commercial and Vigilance Departments in the train to identify the irregularities committed by the train staff. Suitable action is taken under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules against the delinquent staff.

Train Accidents

749. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents occurred during the last six months, zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured and value of Government property damaged thereby;

(c) the number of Inquiry Committees appointed by the Government to inquire into the causes of such accidents;

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

(e) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(f) whether the required funds have been allocated for the railway safety during the current year;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check accidents in future?

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

(a) The number of consequential train accidents that

occurred from 01.01.2001 to 30.06.2001 is given below zone-wise:—

Zone	No. of consequential train accidents*
Central Railway	23
Eastern Railway	14
Northern Railway	38
North Eastern Railway	15
Northeast Frontier Railway	17
Southern Railway	18
South Central Railway	28
South Eastern Railway	23
Western Railway	15
Konkan Railway	2
Total	193

*Figures are provisional.

(b) In the above accidents 101 persons were killed and 439 persons were injured. There was a loss of Rs. 15.46 crores (provisional).

(c) Each and every accident was inquired into either by a Committee of Railway Officials or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, depending upon the seriousness of the accident.

(d) As per findings of inquiries, out of the 193 accidents, 123 were due to failure of Railway Staff, 38 accidents were due to persons other than Railway Staff, 3 accidents were due to equipment failure, 15 accidents were due to sabotage, 13 accidents were caused by incidental factors and 1 accident is under investigation.

The staff held responsible according to the findings of the inquiry committees are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules and the accepted recommendations implemented.

(e) Compensation will be paid soon after receiving the decree from the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(f) and (g) For the financial year 2001-2002, a Budget provision of Rs. 3621 crores has been made for the safety related Plan-heads. In addition to this, the issue of setting up a non-lapseable safety fund as recommended

by the Railway Safety Review Committee in Part-I of their Report as well as the related aspects such as the sources from which the fund is to be generated are receiving the attention of the Government.

(h) The important steps taken by the Government to check accidents in future are listed below:—

- (i) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) A pilot project of AWS on trial basis for Tughlakabad-Mathura section of Central Railway has been sanctioned on trial basis. The tender for the same has been invited.
- (iv) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (v) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- (vi) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (vii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- (viii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Penewal Trains are being used.
- (ix) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (x) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate doue rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.

- (xi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (xii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.
- (xiii) Funds being received from the diesel cess will be used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.
- (xiv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings.
- (xv) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xvi) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xvii) Steps are being taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xviii) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- (xix) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xx) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.
- (xxi) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xxii) A pilot project of Anti Collision Device (ACD) has been sanctioned for Northsat Frontier Railway. Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been started. After successful completion of this pilot project, a decision would be taken for its application on other routes of Indian Railways.
- (xxiii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

[Translation]

Chair-Car Facility In August Kranti Rajdhani Express Train

750. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chair-car facility in August Kranti Rajdhani Express has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any request/proposal to re-introduce Chair-car facility in the said train;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of over-night travel and long hours of journey, there were frequent complaints from passengers of discomfort in AC Chair Car coaches. Railways started production of AC 3 Tier coaches in which nearly same number of berths were available as the number of seats in the Chair Car thereby providing better comfort to the travelling passengers.

(c) to (e) The same matter was raised by Sh. Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble MP in a notice of "Calling Attention" in Lok Sabha on 7.8.2000 and a suitable reply was sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 08.08.2000.

[English]

Inland Waterways

751. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more inland waterways in the country;

(b) if so, the names of waterways proposed to be opened in the near future;

(c) whether the Vembandu lake in Kerala is also included in these waterways;

(d) the target date by which these waterways are likely to be opened;

(e) whether private sector participation is also to be involved in this venture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Barak river, DVC Canal, Sunderbans Waterways, Kakinada-Mercaunum Canal with Godavari and Krishna rivers, East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river system have been found viable for development of inland water transport infrastructure.

(c) Vembandu lake is already a part of national waterway No. 3 i.e. Kollam to Kottapuram.

(d) Government's long term objective would be to develop all potential waterways for navigation and shipping subject to availability of funds.

(e) and (f) The Government has formulated a policy package which envisages Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to enter into joint ventures with private sector, equity participation upto a maximum of 40% by Govt. in BOT projects, tax exemption as available in infrastructure sector, enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean going vessels, Vessels Building Subsidy of 30% for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyards and for levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waterways.

Construction of Godown and Cold Storages

752. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is extending any further concessions to private parties for construction of storage godowns and cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of perishable goods can be stored in cold storage existing in Karnataka;

(d) whether Central Government is assisting in any way to help the State Government to increase this capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) At present, the Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme through National Horticulture Board (NHB) since 1999-2000 of 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce'. Under this scheme, the promoter of the cold storage is eligible for 25% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project. Subsidy for projects in the North-Eastern Region is fixed at higher level of 33.33% subject to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project.

(c) The existing cold storage capacity in Karnataka is 55147 MTs which can be used for storage of perishable goods in the State.

(d) and (e) Under the scheme entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce', no financial assistance is provided directly to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, organizations like State Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/committees and Agro Industries Corporations which are under the control of State Government are eligible to avail the benefit of the scheme.

Import of Railway Items

753. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and quantity of the Railway items imported during the last three years upto June 30, 2001 by the Indian Railways and the amount involved therein item/country-wise;

(b) the reasons for the import of these items;

(c) whether any defective items had been detected in that deals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the railways to produce all the railway items indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Fake LPG Cylinders

754. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of gas cylinders not conforming to the required standard are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such gas cylinders detected in the various bottling plants during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The number of spurious cylinders detected at the LPG bottling plants of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of cylinders
1998-1999	9518
1999-2000	10,300
2001-2002	7677

(c) Oil Marketing Companies have made recoveries from the guilty distributors/transporters at the penal rate for such fake cylinders.

[English]

Coal Belt Purchased by Mejia Thermal Power Station

755. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the belt of coal handling plant in M.T.P.S. was purchased at the cost of Rs. 3.1 crore during 1990;

(b) if so, whether the belt is completely devastated when it was used in the year 1997 by Mejia Thermal Power Station in West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the reasons for purchase of belt and not used from 1990 to 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) placed order for supply, erection and commissioning of coal handling plant for Mejia TPS on M/s. Rehabilitation Industries Ltd. (RIC) who, in turn, placed order on their sub-supplier M/s. Andrew Yule Co. Ltd. for supply for belts at a cost of Rs. 3.1 crore. As per the approved billing schedule between DVC & M/s. RIC and the major portion of the belts was delivered at site from 1990-1991.

(b) and (c) No major damage of the belts was reported. The major portion of the belts was supplied from 1990 to 1991 to match with the original commissioning schedule of Coal Handling Plant for Mejia TPS i.e. September, 1991. However, the project was delayed and the three units of 210 MW each of Mejia TPS were commissioned in 12/97, 3/99 and 9/99 respectively. The belts were erected to match with the revised commissioning schedule.

Losses to Potato Growers in Karnataka

756. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe price crash, distress sale of potato leading to huge losses to the potato growers of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether some potato growers/farmers have committed suicide because they could not repay the loan which they had taken from the banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to seek approval for market intervention scheme from Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Centre has taken any action to save the farmers from debt; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no price crash of potato. Wholesale prices of potato in July, 2001 in different mandies of Karnataka ranged between Rs. 650 - Rs. 750 per qtl., while the retail prices at Tumkur and Hubli ruled between Rs. 12-10 per kg. in the first week of July 2001. Even at national level the wholesale price Index of potato as on 7.7.2001 was 95.5 per cent higher over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) and (e) No proposal from the Government of Karnataka for procurement of potatoes under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) has so far been received during the current year 2001-2002. However, a proposal dated 6th Feb., 2001 was received from the Government of Karnataka for procurement of potatoes for Kharif season with retrospective effect from 28.11.2000 to 5.1.2001. Since the Government of Karnataka had implemented the MIS on their own without approval or informing the central Government, the proposal was not approved with retrospective effect. Another proposal dated 22nd Feb., 2001 from the Govt. of Karnataka for procurement of Rabi potato from 10th Feb., 2001 to 31st March, 2001 was received without providing details required for taking a decision in this matter. Accordingly, the MIS for procurement of potatoes could not be implemented in Karnataka.

(f) and (g) Information on crop wise requirement of credit is not maintained by the Government, However during the current year, the Government has proposed to increase credit to farmers from Rs. 53,500 crores in 2000-2001 to Rs. 64,000 crores in 2001-2002.

Oil and Gas Exploration in Tamil Nadu

757. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oil and gas exploration with installed and actual capacity in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of exploration plans on the anvil in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the quantum of oil and the volume of gas calculated to be available in the State; and

(d) the proposals of the Government for future explorations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Exploration work for oil and gas in the State of Tamil Nadu is being pursued by the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) with the deployment of three seismic survey parties and six drilling rigs. The above activities are supported by "State of the art" technology, skilled human resources and objective based Research & Development backup from various Institutes of ONGC.

(b) ONGC has planned to acquire 300 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D seismic data and 2650 GLK of 3D seismic data as also to drill 25 exploratory wells during the year 2001-2002 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) The quantum of ultimate reserves of oil (including condensate) and gas volume available in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2001 is estimated to be 9.90 Million Metric Tonnes and 23.01 Billion Cubic Metres respectively.

(d) ONGC has planned to continue exploration work for oil and gas in the State of Tamil Nadu during the X Plan Period (2002-07).

[Translation]

Special Grant for Using Sources of NCES

758. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are helping the poor section of people in using non-conventional source of energy for various purposes like lighting, cooking etc.;

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

(c) whether the Government are providing special grants on some items;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons due to which the benefits of all the facilities are not reached to the poor people; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has been implementing a wide range of programmes and providing Central Financial Assistance for setting up of various non-conventional energy systems/devices based on solar, wind, small hydro power and biomass for meeting the energy requirements for cooking, heating, lighting and electricity needs of poor people throughout the country including the State of Bihar. The higher rate of Central Financial Assistance is also being provided under biogas, improved chulhas, solar photovoltaic devices and biomass gasifiers for the benefit of rural poor people. The details of Central

Financial Assistance provided by the Ministry under these programmes are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) The higher initial investment required for procuring various non-conventional energy systems/devices is a major limiting factor for their utilization by the poor people in the country. The Ministry is making all possible efforts to reduce the cost through research and development activities. The Ministry is also providing Central Financial Assistance and soft term loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and other financial institutions. Public awareness is also created through electronic print and postal media besides periodic monitoring and evaluation for their proper performance.

Statement

Financial incentives provided under major non-conventional energy programmes

S.No.	Name of Programme	Details of subsidies
1	2	3
1.	Family type biogas plants	Rs. 1800 for general category Rs. 2300 per plant for special category of beneficiaries such as SC/ST & weaker sections Rs. 3500 for hilly and high focus areas Rs. 11,700 per plant for North East Region & Sikkim Rs. 0.44 lakhs to Rs. 8.00 lakhs per plant
	Community/Institutional/Night Soil based plant	
2.	Improved Chulha	
	• Durable Fixed Chulha with chimney	Rs. 80 for general category Rs. 270 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Portable Chulha	Rs. 50 per chulha for general category Rs. 75 for Islands, hilly and desert areas Rs. 135 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• High Altitude Chulha	Maximum upto Rs. 250 for other States Rs. 450 for North East Region and Sikkim
3.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme	
	• Solar Lanterns	Rs. 1300 per system for general category Rs. 3000 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Solar home lighting systems and street lighting systems	Rs. 5500 per system for general category Rs. 10,000 per system for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Solar street lighting systems	Rs. 11000 per system for general category Rs. 20,000 for North East Region and Sikkim
	• Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants	Rs. 1.80 lakhs/kWp of PV array capacity for general category Rs. 3.50 lakh/kWp of PV array capacity for North East Region and Sikkim

1	2	3
4.	SPV Water Pumping Programme <i>Capital subsidy</i>	Rs. 110/Watt of SPV array with max. Rs. 2.50 lakhs/system
	<i>Interest subsidy</i>	2.5% to 5% max. 90% system cost
5.	Water Pumping Wind Mills	Rs. 20,000 to 45,000 per system
6.	Small aero-generators and hybrid systems	Rs. 2.00 lakhs per kilo-watt or 50% of ex-works cost whichever is less
7.	Biomass Gasifier	30% to 60% for general States 90% for North East Region and Sikkim 10% of higher rate of subsidy for SC/ST and weaker sections.

MW=Megawatt. KWp=Kilo watt peak. KW = Kilowatt. PV=Photovoltaic.

[English]

Loan for Purchasing of High Speed Wagons

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

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India has received a loan from the World Bank to purchase high speed wagons;

(b) if so, the amount of loan and terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the number of high speed wagons to be bought;

(d) the specific differences between the present wagons in use and the high speed wagons; and

(e) the extent to which new purchase is likely to improve the movement of containers in the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The number of High Speed Wagons to be bought is 3225.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) CONCOR has already acquired 1725 of the new High Speed Bogie Container Flat Wagons and these

wagons have reduced the transit time of export-import containers between Tughlakabad (near Delhi) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port (near Mumbai) from over 100 hours on the conventional Indian Railways wagons to less than 48 hours on these new wagons. The services on these wagons have been found to be extremely popular with the trade and have also been introduced between Ludhiana and Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Moradabad and Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Sabarnati and Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Kanpur-Agra and Jawaharlal Nehru Port in addition to the services between Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. After meeting the demand of export-import traffic in containers, these wagons will also be utilised for movement of domestic goods on long routes such as between Delhi and Chennai.

Statement-I

Loan for Purchasing of High Speed Wagons

The amount of loan was US\$ 94 million in August '1994 which has subsequently been reduced to US\$ 79 million in May' 2000. The general terms and conditions relate to due diligence and efficiency and that all goods shall be procured under contract awarded in accordance with "Guidelines for procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA credits." The financial conditions include that the Borrower:

- (1) shall furnish to the World Bank certified copies of its financial statements.
- (2) shall earn for each of its fiscal years an annual return of not less than 17% of current net value of fixed assets in operation.

- (3) shall maintain for each of its fiscal years a ratio of total operating expenses to total operating revenue not higher than 83%.
- (4) shall not incur any debt, if after incurrence of such debt, the ratio of debt to equity shall be more than 3 : 1.
- (5) shall maintain current ratio of not less than 1 : 1
- (6) shall not incur any debt unless the projected internal cash generation of the debt to be incurred is at least 1.7 times the estimated debt service requirement.

Statement-II

The differences between present wagons and the high speed wagons are broadly as under:—

- (1) The speed potential of the wagons owned by CONCOR on the Indian Railways is 100 kmph as against 75 kmph of normal railway wagons.
- (2) The steel used in the manufacture of these wagons is structural steel to IS-8500 as against ordinary mild steel of IS-2062 used on ordinary railway wagons.
- (3) The platform height of the high speed wagons owned by CONCOR is 1009 mm above rail level as against 1269 mm of the normal railway wagons used for the same purpose.
- (4) Owing to the low platform, high speed wagons owned by CONCOR can carry hi-cube containers without any speed restrictions *i.e.* at 100 kmph.
- (5) Owing to the low platform height, these wagons cannot be coupled directly with the locomotive or the brake van used on the Indian Railways. Therefore, 5 wagons are semi-permanently coupled together through slackless draw bar kits imported from M/s. Keystone, USA and the end cars of the 5 wagons sets are raised and provided with normal centre buffer couplers to enable coupling with locomotives and brake vans. Nine such 5-wagon sets comprise one train of 45 wagons & this train can carry 90 TEUs. As against this the ordinary railway wagons are independently coupled and can form a train length of maximum of 42 wagons which can carry 84 TEUs.
- (6) The high speed low platform container flat wagons owned by CONCOR are provided with automatic twist locks imported from M/s. Holland

& Co., USA which enable the container to be locked without any manual intervention as soon as it is placed on the wagon. Similarly, the container can be removed without any manual intervention while unloading/offloading at the destination.

As against this, the ordinary railway wagons have manual locking systems which means that the loading and unloading of the containers from the train takes a longer time and requires more manpower. Another disadvantage of the manual system of ordinary railway wagons is the manual locks often get damaged and deficient when 40 ft. containers are loaded on the wagons without first manual retracting the centre locks.

- (7) The low platform high speed container wagons owned by CONCOR are fitted with two stage airbrake systems with automatic load sensing device which regulates the braking force on each wagon proportionate on the load on wagon.
- (8) The Container Flat Wagons owned by CONCOR provided with composite brake blocks imported from M/s. Futuris, Australia as compared to ordinary cast iron brake block used on the Indian Railway wagons till recently.
- (9) The wheel diameter of the high speed Container Flat Wagons is 840mm when new and 780mm when fully worn out as compared to 960mm and 870mm diameter of ordinary railway wagons. The wheel sets used on the high speed wagons of CONCOR are imported as per M/s. SC SMR Bals, Romania or M/s. Datong Locomotive Works, China.
- (10) The Low Platform High Speed Container Flat Wagons owned by CONCOR have been provided with spring loaded side bearer which support 90% of the tare weight. This feature gives the wagon better ride quality which enables the cargo to be carried more safely at higher speeds.

[Translation]

Catering Charges in Trains

760. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that catering staff deputed in the trains, charges price for the catering items arbitrarily; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check charging prices arbitrarily by the catering staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Catering items are sold at predetermined prices prescribed by the Railways. Tariff of Standard meals, breakfast, tea/coffee are given wide publicity in the press, railways time tables and also prominently displayed in every catering/vending units. The catering staff have instructions to display the tariff in the pantry cars and to make available printed tariff and menu card to the passengers on demand. Stern punitive action is taken against the concerned parties whenever such malpractice of overcharging come to notice.

[English]

Appointment of OBC in Railways

761. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has adopted and negative approach in regard to recruitment of other backward classes in various zonal railways and product units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of other Backward Classes appointed so far, category-wise;

(d) the details of backlog of OBCs as on date; and

(e) the time by which the said quota is likely to be filled up?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), recruited since the introduction of reservation i.e. 1993 (from 8.9.1993) up to 2000 in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' services on Indian Railways, are as under:—

Year	Number of OBCs recruited			
	Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D
1	2	3	4	5
1993	Nil	Nil	201	130
1994	Nil	Nil	347	249

1	2	3	4	5
1995	Nil	Nil	1982	1571
1996	51	Nil	3200	1839
1997	100	Nil	2763	2618
1998	173	02	1481	1281
1999	114	02	2148	1520
2000	71	Nil	2973	2903
Total	509	04	15095	12111

(d) The backlog of OBCs as on 1.1.2001, is as under:—

*No. of posts earmarked for OBCs
left unfilled as on 1.1.2001*

Group 'A'	5
Group 'B'	2
Group 'C'	2324
Group 'D'	3007

(e) Recruitment in Group 'A' is centralised which is done by Railway Board through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The posts left unfilled in Group 'A' are due to reasons that the selected candidates did not turn up to join. All Group 'B' posts on Zonal Railways/ Production Units are filled up by promotion. Hence, there is no reservation for OBCs in these posts. However, recruitment of 2 OBCs in Group 'B' in Railway Board Secretariat Service, is under process. The earmarked posts of OBCs left unfilled in Group 'C' and Group 'D' will be filled up in the subsequent recruitment which is a continuous process and efforts are made to fill them at the earliest.

Acquisition of Second hand Ships

762. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to change the policy for acquisition of second hand ships in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have permitted to import all types of ships and vessels without licence;

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

(e) whether there are some guidelines which are required to be fulfilled for applying for registration of vessel;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have reviewed the required shipping tonnage in the country and the present availability;

(h) if so, whether there is any shortage; and

(i) if so, the steps proposed to fill up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has amended the "EXIM POLICY" for the year 2001-2002 on 31st March, 2001, according to which import of all types of Ships/vessels has been placed under Open General License (OGL) and import thereof does not require any license.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued the necessary guidelines prescribing the procedure for import of ships/vessels and registration etc.

(g) to (i) The Government has fixed a shipping tonnage target of 9 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) for the 9th Five Year Plan period. The tonnage position as on 1.7.2001 is 6.83 million GRT which is below the above target. With a view to increase the Indian shipping tonnage, Government *inter-alia* have taken the following steps:—

- (i) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;
- (ii) The Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government;
- (iii) Freedom to Time Charter out ships by Indian Shipping Companies;
- (iv) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;

(v) Section 33 AC of Income Tax Act has been restored in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.

(vi) The provisions of "EXIM POLICY" relating to import of vessels has been amended w.e.f. 1.4.2001 bringing all category of vessels/ships under OGL and thereby dispensing with license requirement for import of various kinds of ships. Ships could now be imported freely without license.

(vii) The Depreciation rate on ships has been enhanced from 20% to 25% w.e.f. 1.4.2001, thereby facilitating tonnage replacement faster.

(viii) Custom duty of 5% levied on import of vessels has since been withdrawn which was earlier proposed in the Finance Bill for 2001-2002.

(ix) 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Shipping Sector is permitted.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Agro Products

763. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to cut down the production cost of agro-products in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have explored the possibilities of reducing the production cost of agro-products;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. There is a need for reducing the Cost of Production of agro products in the interest of both producers and consumers. Technology improvement and better farm management are major factors that contribute to reduction in production cost of agro products. In this connection research efforts are directed towards evolving new varieties, increasing cropping intensity, crop sequencing, inter-cropping etc., development of cheaper production and protection technologies, reducing post

harvest losses of agricultural commodities, and training and extension.

[English]

Handing Over of Surplus Land to Gujarat

764. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for handing over of surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Government of Gujarat,

(b) if so, the acres of land is likely to be handed over to the Government of Gujarat; and

(c) the time by which the possession of land in question would be handed over to the Government of Gujarat?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Emergency Reservation Quota

765. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale of irregularities are being committed in the emergency reservation quota by the employees of Danapur Division in connivance with touts;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No cases of irregularities in allotment of emergency reservation quota by the Commercial employees of Danapur Division in connivance with the touts have been reported.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Renewable Energy Projects

766. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of renewable energy projects under implementation in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether any such proposal is pending with the Union Government for clearance;

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

(d) the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The details of various renewable energy projects under implementation in the State of Uttar Pradesh are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) to (d) Apart from routine/ongoing programmes of the Ministry, three major project proposals from Uttar Pradesh are under consideration in the Ministry. These proposals will be approved subject to technical feasibility, fulfilment of the terms and conditions laid down under the schemes/programmes, and availability of funds. The details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

The details of various non-conventional energy projects under installation/implementation in the State of Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Project/Programme	Status
1	2	3
1.	Target for installation of 9500 family type biogas plants during 2001-2002	Under installation/ implementation and likely to be completed by 31.3.2002

1	2	3
2.	Target for installation of 50 nos. of community/institutional/night-soil based biogas plants during 2001-2002	Under installation/implementation and likely to be completed by 31.3.2002
3.	Target for installation of 1.5 lakhs improved chulha during 2001-2002	—do—
4.	Target for installation of Solar photo-voltaic Systems during 2001-2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 Solar Lanterns • 5000 solar home system/home lighting systems • 250 street lighting systems 	—do—
5.	Setting up of 2X300 kw biomass gasifier system.	—do—
6.	Setting up of 25 kWp with grid interactive SPV power project.	—do—
7.	0.5 MW capacity from slaughter house waste project.	—do—
8.	Implementation of 3 energy park projects.	—do—

MW-Megawatt, kWp-Kilowatt peak.

Statement-II

Status of non-conventional energy project proposals received from Uttar Pradesh which are under consideration in the Ministry

Sl.No.	Project/Programme	Status/Remarks
1.	4 proposals of energy parks	The proposals have been received recently and are being placed before Energy Park Committee for consideration.
2.	Setting up of a 5 MW capacity project from municipal wastes	The matter is placed before Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE) for a decision.
3.	Village electrification project in 100 remote villages	The scheme for village electrification is a new scheme and is being finalized in the Government. These projects will be considered in line with the village electrification scheme as soon as the Government approves it.

MW—Megawatt.

Telecom Services by Railways

(b) if so, the details thereof;

767. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard as on date; and

(a) whether the Government have allowed the Railways to operate a wide variety of telecom services on a nation wide basis;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure that the proposed telecom services would in no way affect the working of the rail traffic?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After Cabinet approval, Railways have formed a corporation called Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL). This Corporation will lay optic fibre cable along the railway track progressively to establish a nationwide optic fibre cable based telecom network to fulfil Railways' communication needs and also commercially exploit surplus telecom capacity.

(c) Report of the consultant appointed by the Ministry of Railways, formulating the business plan for the corporation has been accepted. Based on the report and as per directions given by Cabinet, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared and got approved by the Expanded Railway Board. Action has been initiated for implementing various provisions in the DPR for creation of a nationwide optical fibre cable (OFC) based broadband network and induction of joint venture partner(s) initially considering Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Department of Telecom (DOT) and Ministry of Railways.

(d) The Corporation (RCIL) will in fact help in speedily modernising and further augmenting Railways' telecommunication system.

Jurisdiction of Family Courts

768. DR. V. SAROJA: will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the jurisdiction of family courts to cover certain offences under Indian Penal Code and offences under Child Marriage Restraint Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The matter regarding extension of the jurisdiction of Family Courts to cover certain offences under the Indian Penal Code was considered in the Department of Justice. It was decided that the Family

Courts being civil courts cannot handle matters relating to certain offences under the Indian Penal Code.

Similarly, there is no such proposal, at present, under consideration of Government under the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Reconstitution of DSBs

769. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2800 dated March 13, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Dealer Selection Boards dissolved earlier has again been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the latest status of selection process of LPG distributorship earmarked for the places which come under Bareilly Commissionary and its vicinity; and

(c) the time by which the selection process has been lingering on in each case?

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

(b) and (c) 41 locations for setting up LPG distributorships are pending for selection of distributors in the Bareilly Commissionary. The proposals for setting up these distributorships are at various stages of the process of selection of distributors. The selection of distributors for some of the locations could not take place owing to the non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) on account of the announcement of General Elections, 1999 and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and the dissolution of these Boards subsequently.

[Translation]

Competition in Export of Carpet from China

770. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian carpet has been facing stiff competition with China in the international market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reason for the stiff competition with China in the international market is the price. China is quoting low prices due to cheap labour and cheap export credit. Further, better infrastructure and semi automation in the production process in China results in better quality of carpets.

(c) The remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard include: providing better infrastructure through provision of improved tools and technology; setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi; holding of National Seminar for technical upgradation and finishing techniques etc. Other steps include: marketing initiatives in the form of participation in international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and holding of Carpet Expo annually at New Delhi.

[English]

FDI in LNG Projects

771. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies have shown keen interest in Liquefied Natural Gas projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such projects received and approved;

(d) whether the Government have allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in the LNG projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to meet the domestic demand of LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Yes Sir. Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is on Open General Licence (OGL). The details of initiatives which propose to import LNG to India from various countries for marketing of regassified LNG in India and who have obtained approvals of Foreign Investment Public Board (FIPB) in this behalf are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

LNG Import Initiatives

Sl No.	Name of Company	Name of Foreign Collaboration	Location of Proposal Terminal	Capacity of Terminal in Million Tonnes Per Annum	Gas Supply to	FIPB Clearance	CCFI Clearance	FDI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Enron International Inc.	Enron International Inc.	Dabhol (Maharashtra)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to 5 & 10 MMTPA	Captive power plant and to others in Maharashtra and other States	Yes	Yes	US\$ 500 million
2.	(British Gas) BG Plc.	(British Gas) BG Plc.	Pipavav (Gujarat)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to 5 MMTPA	Gujarat	Yes	Yes	US\$ 140 million
3.	Ispat Group of Industries	Ispat Energy Ltd	Kakinada (AP)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expansion unspecified	A.P.	Yes	Yes	US\$ 175 million

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	GDR/ADR/Private Placement	Jamnagar and Hazira (Gujarat)	5 MMTPA at each Terminal	Gujarat and other States	Yes	Yes	Rs. 1150 crore
5.	Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies	Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies	Hazira (Gujarat)	2.7 MMTPA initial. Expansion unspecified	Essar Power Ltd. and Essar Steel Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Rs. 583 crore
6.	Petronet LNG Ltd. (with Gaz de France & Rasgas)	GDF International, Paris	Dahej, Gujarat	5 MMTPA	Gujarat and other States	Yes	Yes	US\$ 55 million
7.	Petronet LNG Ltd.	—	Cochin, Kerala	2.5 MMTPA	Kerala	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8.	BHP Australia	BHP Australia	General proposal	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Yes	—
9.	Hardy Oil, UK and Nagarajuna Holdings	Hardy Oil and BHP	Kakinada, A.P.	1 MMTPA to expand upto 5 MMTPA	A.P.	Yes	Yes	—
10.	Tractabel Belgium	Tractabel Belgium	General proposal	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Yes	—
11.	Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium	UNOCAL, WOODSIDE, Siemens	Ennore, Tamil Nadu	2.5 MMTPA	Captive power plant at Ennore and to others in Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
12.	GAIL-TATA TOTAL	TOTALFINA, France	Trombay, Maharashtra	Initial 3 MMTPA to go upto 6 MMTPA	Maharashtra and other States	Applied for	—	—
13.	Consortium of Fertiliser Companies	—	Kishoriprasad Orissa	3 MMTPA to go upto 6 MMTPA	Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P., Punjab	—	—	—
14.	Al-Manhal	Al-Manhal, UAE	Gopalpur, Orissa	3 MMTPA	Orissa and Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—
15.	IOC/Petronas	Petronas (Malaysia)	Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	3-5 MMTPA	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—

Setting up of Satellite Loco Shed in Angul

772. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposed to set up a satellite loco shed and railway wagon repair workshop at Angul in South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up and the cost involved along with the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A new Diesel Loco Shed for homing 50 locomotives and a Depot for maintenance of BOXN/BCN Wagons are under construction at Angul.

(b) With the introduction of train operation on the new lines as also in view of the operational need and maintenance requirement, creation of additional infrastructure facilities at Angul for maintenance of Diesel Locomotives and air-braked Wagons was considered essential.

(c) The Work of Diesel Loco Shed is likely to be completed by 31.03.2002 and in case of the Wagon Depot the same is planned to be completed by 31.03.2003 depending upon the availability of funds. Diesel shed at Angul was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 28.21 Crores and was targetted for completion by 31.03.2001. Physical progress of this work is 95%. Facility for maintenance of BOXN/BCN Wagons was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 7.00 Crores and was targetted for completion by 31.03.2001. Physical progress of this work is 55%.

[Translation]

Financial Package to Bihar

773. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has provided financial package to Bihar for implementation of agricultural projects;

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

(c) whether the NDDB propose to provide additional financial package to Bihar to implement the pending agricultural projects (executed satisfactorily); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. NDDB has provided financial assistance in Dairy Sector to various Cooperative Milk Producers' Unions of Bihar after close of Operation Flood Programme.

(b) Details of Districts covered under each Milk Union are as follows:

		(Rs. in lakhs)
Milk Unions	Districts covered	Amount
Barauni	Begusarai Khagaria Lakhisarai Part of Patna	1.16
Mithila	Samastipur Darbhanga Madhubani	28.60
Patna	Patna Vaishali Nalanda Saran	2.96
Tirhut	Muzzafarpur Sitamarhi Sheohar E Champaran	1.00
Total		33.72

(c) The Cooperative Milk Producers' Unions in Bihar with the assistance of NDDB have made perspective plan 2005. Based on the perspective plans submitted by the Milk Unions, NDDB has sanctioned financial assistance for periods 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 to Milk Unions.

(d) Milk Union-wise details are as follows:

			(Rs. in lakhs)
Milk Unions	Total Outlay	NDDB Funding	
Mithila	1269.78	1062.64	
Shahabad	867.74	724.80	
Tirhut	742.59	607.33	
Barauni	815.75	673.43	
Patna	1080.28	882.20	
Total	4776.14	3950.40	

Gauge Conversion of Nagpur-Balaghat-Jabalpur Rail Line

774. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Nagpur-Balaghat-Jabalpur rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said gauge conversion work is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Nagpur to Gondia is already linked by broad gauge line. Gauge conversion of Gondia-Balaghat-Jabalpur (including Balaghat-Katangri branch line) from narrow gauge to broad gauge is a sanctioned project and the work is in progress.

(c) No target date for completion of the Jabalpur-Gondia gauge conversion project has yet been fixed. Work will be progressed and completed as per availability of resources.

[English]

Computer Scam in Agriculture Bodies

775. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a CBI inquiry into complaints of irregularities in the purchase of computers and other equipments in the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Indian Council of Agricultural Research is being conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has since probed the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the steps taken to get the matter expedited soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. CBI is conducting such inquiry in respect of ICAR.

(b) CBI has registered RC No. DA-1/2000-A-0020 on 26.4.99 against officials of ICAR and of M/s. HCL-HP Ltd., New Delhi in connection with purchase of computers and allied equipment under NARP-II during 1995-96. CBI has also registered PE 1(A)/2001-AU-VI/CBI New Delhi against officials of ICAR in connection with purchase of computers under NATP.

(c) to (e) Documents/information as sought by the CBI in connection with both the cases are being furnished to them from time to time. However, some documents relating to NARP-II could not be sent as these are pending with the World Bank. Efforts are being made to obtain the same.

As regards purchase of computers under NATP, all the documents so far requisitioned by the CBI have been furnished.

Placement of Wagons Orders

776. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have placed order for wagons to such company which has been black-listed earlier by the Railways itself;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways overlooked the wagon manufacturing units under PSUs and the PSU units are almost on the verge of collapse due to non-availability of orders from Railways;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether several Members of Parliament have also requested the Government to release wagon orders to Public Sector Units; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remove the problem?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Initially certain vigilance checks were conducted on wagons where it was found that a manufacturer had used cheaper mild steel in place of corten steel being supplied by Railways to wagon manufacturers as free supply item. In the process of inspection by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), use of mild steel in place of corten steel was detected in the factory premises of two more wagon manufacturers. Recent vigilance checks show that few more manufacturers have also been found to have used mild steel in place of specified corten steel in manufacturing of wagons. It has, therefore, become necessary to carry out more joint comprehensive checks on all wagon manufacturers in order to assess the quantum and magnitude of the problem before release of further orders. RDSO have been asked to complete the investigations expeditiously.

Investment in Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries

777. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the steady decline in investment in agriculture and agro-based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the investment made therein during 1998-1999, 2000 and so far in 2001 alongwith the reasons for decline;

(c) whether the Government propose to attract private investment in agriculture and agro-based industries to generate employment in rural areas which may also check migration to cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) According to the National Accounts Statistics released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), which is the source for estimates of capital formation in various sectors of the economy, the Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture & Allied Sector (which includes agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fishing), and the Manufacturing Sector for the years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 at 1993-94 are given below:

Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture & Allied Sector and Manufacturing Sector at 1993-94 prices

Year	GCF in Agriculture & Allied Sector	GCF Manufacturing Sector
1997-1998	18305	118011
1998-1999	18964	105303
1999-2000	21388	110110

Agro-based industries are part of the Manufacturing Sector and there are no separate estimates of capital formation in agro-based industries released by CSO.

It is seen from the TABLE that there is no decline in the capital formation either in the Agriculture & Allied Sector or the Manufacturing Sector. The estimates for the year 2000-2001 are not yet released by CSO.

(c) and (d) During the current year's budget substantial allocations have been provided for strengthening the rural infrastructure. These include additional flows of credit to agricultural sector (Rs. 10,500 crore), additional funds for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Rs. 2,500 crore) and enhanced allocations for rural electrification (Rs. 750 crore) etc. Further, the Department of Food Processing Industries have initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy which envisages creation of enabling environment to encourage investments in food processing industries, and have created a Task Force to advise the Department in this regard. All these measures, in conjunction with the Terms of Trade favourable to agriculture, in recent years, would help in attracting private investment in agriculture and agro-based industries, and generate employment in the rural areas.

[Translation]

Teesta Hydro-Electric Project

778. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the differences between NHPC and people of Sikkim with regard to Teesta Hydro-Electric Project, Stage-V;

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

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards deteriorating peaceful atmosphere in Sikkim for this cause; and

(d) if so, the action being contemplated to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Teesta Hydro-electric Project Stage-V (510 MW) was sanctioned by the Government in January, 2000 at a cost of Rs. 2198.04 crore. The project is being executed by National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in the Central sector. There are no differences between NHPC and the people of Sikkim. The contracts for major work packages have been awarded and work is progressing as scheduled. 172 contracts have been awarded to local contractors and NHPC is enforcing the concomitant statutory requirements. NHPC is facing problems on account of the Sikkim National Transport's action in refusing entry to trucks not registered in Sikkim into the State. This is compelling NHPC to resort to transshipment at the border, which will result in avoidable extra expenditure, delay and would increase the risk of damage to goods. However, NHPC is taking steps to remedy the situation and the progress of work has not suffered.

[English]

Inclusion of Tuticorin Port among Specialised Ports

779. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to include Tuticorin port among ports specialised for import of certain goods under a notification issued recently;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Tuticorin port attained highest port productivity in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a notification issued on 2.5.2001, import of certain goods was permitted only through designated Ports. This notification was withdrawn by the Government on 8.5.2001. The import of goods can now be made through any port, including Tuticorin Port.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the productivity achieved by Tuticorin Port are as under:—

Pre-berthing detention	0.71 day
Turn round time	4.12 days
<i>Berth day Output</i>	
Break-bulk	1256 tonnes
Dry-bulk (Conventional)	3750 tonnes

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

780. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains produced in the country during the current Rabi season, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which it is more than the previous year;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the production of Kharif crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the fourth Advance Estimates, the foodgrains production for the country during Rabi season of 2000-2001 is estimated at 92.96 million tonnes as against an all time record Rabi foodgrains production of 104.02 million tonnes during 1999-2000. Though the production in Rabi 2000-2001 is estimated to be lower, mainly due to adverse agro-climatic conditions in several States, yet there is a long term upward trend of production of Rabi foodgrains in the country. The latest State-wise final estimates of production of rabi foodgrains are available for Rabi 1999-2000. These are placed in the statement.

(c) and (d) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country, the Government had decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States from November, 2000. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one Macro Management scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture. Implementation of this scheme will boost the agriculture production including that of kharif crops.

Statement**State-wise Production of Rabi Foodgrains
during 1999-2000**

(000' Tonnes)

State	Production
Andhra Pradesh	4412.5
Arunachal Pradesh	6.6
Assam	811.0
Bihar	6212.0
Goa	8.4
Gujarat	1122.6
Haryana	9805.0
Himachal Pradesh	515.0
Jammu & Kashmir	389.0
Karnataka	2987.2
Kerala	154.1
Madhya Pradesh	11774.0
Maharashtra	4362.8
Meghalaya	8.8
Mizoram	3.5
Nagaland	20.7
Orissa	1006.9
Punjab	16028.9
Rajasthan	7867.9
Sikkim	19.7
Tamil Nadu	2110.5
Tripura	93.5
Uttar Pradesh	28599.1
West Bengal	5652.0
Others	48.2

[English]**Creation of Independent Cell on Libraries**

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

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended for creation of an independent cell to look after all the matters related to libraries, librarians' pay scales and the formation of proposed Central Library Services; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has in para 55.160 of their report recommended the creation of a Cell to look after all the matters relating to various Govt. Libraries and also the matter relating to Central Library Services.

An ad-hoc Cell has been created by Dept. of Culture on 13.1.99. The ad-hoc Cell at present has one part-time Director who is also the Director, Central Secretariat Library and one full time Ministerial staff (LDC). The posts required for proper functioning of the Cell will be created in consultation with Dept. of Expenditure.

Replacement of Diesel/Steam Engines

782. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to replace the diesel/steam engines by electric engines;

(b) if so, the time by which it would be feasible; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment in Divorce Acts

783. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 to give the radical relief to estranged wives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made;

(d) the existing ceiling of maintenance allowance; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to amend the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 *inter-alia* to provide for disposal of applications for interim maintenance within sixty days from the date of service of the notice to the respondent. A Bill in this regard has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 2001.

(d) The aforesaid Acts do not prescribe any ceiling on permanent alimony and maintenance.

(e) Does not arise.

Review of Performance of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

784. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide information on design innovation and cost effectiveness to handloom organisation to meet international challenges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to popularise the said scheme among the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana was

launched in 2000-2001. Performance in implementation of the scheme is being reviewed regularly, however, it is too early to assess impact.

(c) and (d) The National Centre for Textile Design has been set up in order to provide information in design innovation and also to promote traditional and contemporary design so as to be responsive to the rapidly changing market demand and provide adequate growth opportunity to handloom sector. Further, the Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing scheme introduced in the year 1996-97 imparts assistance to handloom agencies for building up development and marketing of exportable products.

(e) In order to popularise Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana among the weavers, guidelines of the scheme have been printed both in Hindi and English languages. The State Governments have also been instructed to give wide publicity of the various components of the scheme and benefits thereof through various media including distribution of leaflets in vernacular languages highlighting the aims and objectives of the scheme.

[Translation]

Expansion of Navigation

785. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to look into expansion and upgradation as well as commercial operation of navigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding navigation possibilities in Chhattisgarh region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The National Transport Policy Committee report identified ten waterways as having potential for declaration and development as National Waterway namely:

- (i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system
- (ii) The Brahmaputra
- (iii) The West Coast Canal
- (iv) The Sunderbans
- (v) The Godavari
- (vi) The Krishna
- (vii) The Mahanadi
- (viii) The Narmada
- (ix) The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa
- (x) The Tapi

None of these waterways pass through the State of Chhattisgarh.

Direct Train between Siwan and Mumbai

786. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation from passengers and Members of Parliament to introduce a passenger train from Siwan to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including that from the Hon'ble Member concerned have been received for the introduction of a train service between Siwan and Mumbai.

(c) Introduction of a train service between Siwan and Mumbai is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Approval to Sipat Project of NTPC

787. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Sipat Project of NTPC Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) is likely to be started;

(b) whether the affected people of that area have been provided employment by the NTPC;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the power generation capacity of Sipat plant; and

(e) the details of electricity supply by the plant in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-I to be implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during 10th and 11th plan periods was accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority in January, 2000. The investment approval to the project is likely to be accorded by NTPC board after Power Purchase Agreements with beneficiary States are signed by NTPC.

(b) and (c) The employment to the affected people of the area are being regulated as per the Rehabilitation Action Plan approved by the State Government subject to the availability of vacancies in skilled and unskilled categories.

(d) The capacity of Sipat STPP Stage-I is 1980 MW (3x660 MW).

(e) The electricity from this project will be supplied to various States/Union Territories of Western Region namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

[English]

Direct Suburban Train from Bolaram to Umdanagar

788. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run direct suburban trains from Bolaram to Falaknuma and Umdanagar and back;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said services are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Eight pairs of direct Suburban trains between Bolaram-Falaknuma-Umdanagar have been provided from 11.6.2001.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

789. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints with regard to the interviews held in Rajasthan for allotment of petrol pumps; and

(b) if so, the number of such complaints alongwith the action taken thereon on each of the application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The complaints received against selection of dealers for retail outlet dealerships in Rajasthan have been sent to the concerned Oil Marketing Companies for action as per the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

790. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-bound programme/plan has been drawn up to convert metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the plan for conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge during 2001-2002 and the amount provided for the same?

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

(a) to (c) Under the Project Unigauge, about 19500 km of MG/NG lines were identified for conversion into BG. This was planned to be done at the rate of about 6000 km each in the 8th and 9th plans and remaining in subsequent plan periods. Against this, 6897 km has been converted in the 8th Plan and 1892 km in the 9th Plan upto 2000-2001. The progress has been less than planned due to constraint of resources.

(d) 181 km long MG/NG lines are targeted for conversion during 2001-2002 and Rs. 725 cr. (gross) has been provided for the same.

[Translation]

Collaboration with Austria for Hydro Electric Capacity

791. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to collaborate with Austria for rapid development of hydro-electric capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to constitute a joint-working group comprising of officials from both the countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Government of Austria has expressed willingness to share its technical expertise in the development of hydro power potential in India. During the meeting of the Union Minister of Power with the Austrian Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour on 21.5.2001, it was agreed by both sides that a Joint Working Group should be set up within the frame-work of the Indo-Austrian Joint Economic Commission to deal specifically with issues relating to Indo-Austrian Cooperation in Energy and Power sector with the areas of cooperation to be mutually settled.

[English]

Performance of Procurement Centres for Agricultural Crops

792. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of each of the procurement centres for the agricultural crops operated by NAFED, Cotton Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India State-wise, with particular reference to Orissa; and

(b) the steps being taken to bring improvement in their functioning?

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

Development of Modern Container Terminal in Chennai

793. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed Memorandum of Understanding with P & O Australia for developing modern container terminal in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the terms and conditions thereof alongwith the funds likely to be involved therein;

(c) whether the P & O is also interested in developing some container terminals in other ports of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received some proposals in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The P&O Ports is the successful bidder to develop container terminal in Kandla and Cochin. Both the proposals are also under consideration of the Ministry and no final decision has been taken.

Utilisation of Funds for Conservation of Monuments

794. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government exercise any check on the spending of funds allocated for maintenance of monuments;

(b) if so, the names of the circles/States that have not utilised the funds/misutilised it during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) The funds allocated to the all Circles of the Archaeological Survey of India for structural conservation of monuments during the last three years have been utilised satisfactorily except for short-fall in the expenditure in the North Eastern States during 1999-2000. Consequent upon administrative steps taken in this regard, the allocated funds have been utilised in full in 2000-2001.

Railway tracks owned by Private/Foreign Companies

795. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines/tracks which are owned or in possession of private or foreign companies in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to nationalise these railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The following railway lines are owned by Private Companies (1) (a) Murtizapur—Yavatmal (b) Murtizapur—Achalpur (c) Pulgaon—Arvi being run in the State of Maharashtra and (2) The Ahmedpur Katwa which is being run in the State of West Bengal.

(b) These lines are being operated by Indian Railways in terms of agreements entered into with the owning companies. The question of nationalisation of these lines by the Central Government is regulated in terms of an

Agreement entered into with the owning company, which provides for a review after every ten years. The last such review was made in the year 1996 in the case of the Central Provinces Railway Company Ltd. and 1998 in the case of Ahmedpur Katwa Railway Company Ltd. when it was decided on financial considerations not to purchase the lines but to continue the existing arrangement as the same would have entailed heavy capital investment on upgradation and proper integration of these unremunerative lines with the main Indian Railway system. The next review is due in the year 2006 in the case of the Central Provinces Railway Company Ltd. and in the year 2008 in the case of Ahmedpur Katwa Railway Company Ltd.

NGOs Involvement in Bio-Gas Development

796. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to involve Non-Governmental Organisations to implement National Project on Bio-Gas Development and the National Programme on improved Chulha in some States and Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of States and Territories selected for the purpose;

(c) whether some financial assistance has been provided to these NGOs during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have have involved in the implementation of National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), which caters to family type biogas plants and National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC) since the inception of these schemes, i.e., 1981-82 and 1986-87, respectively, in all States and Union Territories. The Ministry is, however, directly involving selected national and regional level NGOs, namely All India Women's Conference (AIWC), New Delhi and Sustainable Development Agency (SDA), Kanjirapally, Kerala for NPBD and AIWC for NPIC also.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. These NGOs achieved 78 to 129 per cent of the allocated annual targets during the last three years.

(e) The details of achievements made vis-a-vis targets allocated to these NGOs during the last three years, i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-2001 under NPBD and NPIC are given below:—

NGO	Cumulative information for the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001			
	NPBD (No. of plants)		NPIC (No. of chulhas)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
AIWC	4,990	4,400	87,000	85,697
SDA	18,500	20,500	—	—

(f) Question does not arise.

Construction of Yatri Niwas

797. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Yatri Niwas in the country during the current and next years;

(b) if so, the details of projects privatised in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories, location-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and released for each project, State-wise;

(d) whether some procedures and charges have been prescribed for occupation and other services of Yatri Niwas by domestic and foreign tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, separately alongwith minimum and maximum period of occupation allowed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India prioritises projects for Central financial assistance every year included projects for Yatri Niwases in consultation with State Governments/ UT Administrations.

(b) Department of Tourism, Government of India does not privatise such projects.

(c) The details of Central financial assistance provided for Yatri Niwases for the year 2001-2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Construction, maintenance and running of the tourist infrastructure projects is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UTs.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Number of Yatri Niwas Projects Prioritised for Central Financial Assistance During the Year 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Name of the State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Prioritised
Arunachal Pradesh	1.	Yatri Niwas at Roing	56.00
Bihar	2.	Yatrika at Thawe (Gopalganj)	40.00
	3.	Yatrika at Vasokund (Muzaffarpur)	40.00
	4.	Yatri Niwas at Somnath	70.00
Gujarat	5.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kollur, Udupi Dist.	56.00
Karnataka	6.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Gorkarna in Uttara Kannada dist.	56.00
	7.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Siddeshwara Temple, Bedikehal, Chikkodi Tq.	56.00
	8.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Basavana Bagewadi, Bijapur distt.	56.00
	9.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kuppalli, Shimoga distt.	56.00
	10.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kaginele, Haveri distt.	56.00
	11.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Basavakalyana, Bidar distt. near Anubhav Mandapa	56.00
	12.	Const. of Yatriniwas at Dattatreyaapeeta, Bababudangiri in Chikkamagalur distt.	56.00
	13.	Yatri Niwas at Dhamara	60.00
Orissa	14.	Yatri Niwas at Kanchanpur	24.00
Tripura			
Total			738.00

Selection Process for Petroleum Products in North-East

798. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dealers Selection Board to finalise the selection process for Petroleum products in North-East has since been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed interviews have been cancelled at random without assigning any reasons resulting in heavy losses to the candidates;

(d) if so, the number of times interviews fixed and cancelled since the inception of the present board;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and responsibility fixed therefor;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the concrete measures likely to be taken in this regard;

(h) whether the candidates were fully reimbursed with the TA/DA to and fro in case Board cancelled the interview; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs), viz., DSB, Assam & Manipur and DSB, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram & Meghalaya, have been constituted for the North-Eastern States.

(c) No proposed interviews have been cancelled by the DSBs except that for one location, viz., Longding, for LPG distributorship. This was duly notified as per the advice of the Oil Company as the location was found unviable and the Oil Company had requested for dropping the location from the Marketing Plan.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

(h) In the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors, there is no provision for reimbursement of TA/DA to the candidates called for interview. This is made explicit in the letter calling for interview.

(i) Does not arise.

Clearance to Railway Projects

799. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has cleared some railway projects of Southern States;

(b) if so, the details of those projects and the estimated cost of each project; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) In the current year, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Doubling of remaining patches of Gooty-Renigunta section and Gauge Conversion of Salem-Vriddhachalam-Cuddalore section. The estimated costs of these projects located in the Southern States are Rs. 304.5 crores and Rs. 198.68 crores respectively. Preparatory work on the projects has been started. Completion of the projects will depend upon the availability of resources.

Tourism Projects of Karnataka

800. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether a proposal for public conveniences and drinking water facility at Kondaji, Davangere district, Karnataka was submitted to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the main reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared and funds to be released?

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

(b) The project has been sanctioned for Rs. 9.64 lakhs with central financial assistance of Rs. 7.20 lakhs during 2000-2001.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 2.16 lakhs has already been released as 1st instalment for the project. Balance amount would be released on receipt of utilization certificate as per the guidelines.

Sending of Annual Report to Share Holders

801. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the listed companies do not send the annual audited reports to the share holders in time thereby violating the provisions of the Company Law;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any regulatory authority to ensure that annual general meetings are held regularly and the statements of the annual performance reports are circulated to the share holders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have issued any show cause notice to the companies not complying with the requirements of law; and

(e) if so, the names of defaulting companies and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No Sir. Annual General Meetings are generally held regularly and audited reports are sent to the members of the company under section 219 of the Companies Act.

(d) Default notices are issued by Registrars of Companies whenever any such default is noticed by them. 2,54,565 default notices have been issued by Registrars of Companies.

(e) As can be seen above figures providing individual names of companies is very voluminous and does not commensurate with the time and efforts involved. Necessary prosecutions have been launched.

Multi Model Suburban Transport System

802. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1920 dated November 30, 2000 and state:

(a) the present status of the multi model suburban transportation system for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and

(b) the time by which this project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The project for upgradation of the fixed rail infrastructure has been sent for CCEA's (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) approval. A Joint Task Force consisting of representatives from Ministry of Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh has been formed and a detailed study for multi-modal suburban commuter transportation system has been sanctioned.

The work will be started after the required clearances are received and the work is included in the Railway Budget. The completion of the work will depend upon the availability of resources.

Energy Utilisation

803. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether energy utilisation from coal is only about 5%, rest being lost;

(b) the details of fossil fuel can be allowed to be used with such low efficiency and environmental degradation during power generation;

(c) whether any study has been made on excessive manpower; and

(d) if so, the details in regard to cost, being borne by SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. Nearly 65% of power generation in India uses coal as fuel, which is found to be the most cost effective option fuel-wise. Power generating stations use pulverized coal boiler technology, which converts coal to electricity at about 35% to 38% thermal efficiency. With the advancement in the boiler technology, it would be possible to achieve ever higher conversion efficiencies. National Thermal Power Corporation is currently considering introduction of super-critical boiler technology in some of their proposed new power plants which would further

improve the conversion efficiency to about 40% resulting in substantial utilization of energy from coal.

(b) Most of the power plants generally operate within the environmental regulatory norms prescribed by Ministry of Environment & Forests with minimal environmental degradation. Appropriate measures are being taken in the power stations to keep the emission of CO₂ and SO₂ within the permissible limits set out by the environmental standards and regulations. Constant monitoring of these is also being carried out by the power station authorities as well as the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. Utilisation of fly ash has also considerably increased due to sincere efforts by Utilities.

(c) and (d) No specific study has been made to assess the excessive manpower in generating stations.

Introduction of New Train between Bangalore and New Delhi

804. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new train is proposed to run from New Delhi to Bangalore keeping in view of heavy passenger rush;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to run Bangalore Rajdhani Express daily from New Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) No, Sir. However, 2647/2648 Nizamuddin-Coimbatore (Weekly) Express has been diverted to run via Bangalore from 01.07.2001.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Introduction of new train between New Delhi & Bangalore and daily running of Bangalore Rajdhani Express is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Research In Field of Eco-Friendly Pesticides

805. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore has done pioneering research in the field of eco-friendly pesticides;

(b) if so, whether any pesticides in this eco-friendly category, were introduced to farmers;

(c) the details of such eco-friendly pesticides developed by the Indian Institute for Horticultural Research;

(d) the extent to which the pesticides found a place in farm practices in our country; and

(e) the details of other measures proposed to develop eco-friendly pesticides?

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

(b) to (d) A number of eco-friendly pesticides have been introduced to the farmers as given below:

- (i) For control of grape mealy bug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*), release of the Coccinellid predator *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* and *Cryptolaemus motoruzieri* has been found effective.
- (ii) The application of *Trichoderma* an antagonistic fungus is used by the farmers for control of many soil borne diseases and nematodes in horticultural crops.
- (iii) Spray of Neem Seed Kernel Extracts (NSKE) and use of neem cake have been widely practiced by many fruit and vegetable growers.
- (iv) Successful reduction of spiralling whitefly has been achieved within one year after introduction of the parasitoid *Encarsia guadeloupe*.
- (v) *Neochitina eichorniae* and *Zygogramma bicolorata* have been effectively used to suppress the aquatic weed water hyacinth and terrestrial weed parthenium, respectively.

(e) The details of other eco-friendly pesticides being developed by IIHR, Bangalore are as under:

- (i) Neem and Pongamia Soaps: These soaps are being tested at IIHR, Bangalore under Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and were found to be highly effective on cabbage against diamond back moth besides aphids, hoppers and thrips.
- (ii) *Nomuraea rileyi*, fungus is being developed for control of major horticultural crops pests.
- (iii) Azadirachtin for banana pseudstem borer and fish oil rosin soap for pomegranate aphids are being recommended for adoption.
- (iv) Research is being carried out on the use of jatropha and prickly poppy oils besides neem and pongamia cakes for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of ornamental crops pests.

[Translation]

Development of Official Language Hindi

806. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the official work in the various divisions of category 'A' is being carried out in English as on date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are responsible for the use, propagation and development of the official language Hindi;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government have nominated observers in the implementation Committees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Most of the official work in the various divisions falling under 'A' region is being carried out in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken during the last three years:—

(i) Hindi Workshops (ii) Table Training in Hindi (iii) Seminars on technical subjects in Hindi (iv) Noting-drafting, essay writing and Elocution competitions in Hindi (v) Training of Hindi typing and Hindi stenography (vi) Incentive schemes to motivate officers and staff (vii) Providing help literature.

(e) The observers have been nominated in the Official Language Implementation Committees at zonal levels as well as at the level of production units and PSUs.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of International Container Transhipment Terminal

807. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for setting up of an International Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin, Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to the said proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

(b) Ministry is actively considering the proposal and also consulting some experts to address certain issues involved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As explained in (b).

Investors Protection Fund

808. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 315 on February 22, 2001 regarding Investors Protection Fund and state:

(a) whether the procedure for receipt/expenditure relating to Investors Protection Fund has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the Investors Protection Fund is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The procedure for receipt/expenditure relating to Investor Education & Protection Fund has been finalized by Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

(d) Procedural changes in the proposed Investor Education & Protection Fund, as suggested by Comptroller & Auditor General of India, have been referred to Department of Legal Affairs for their opinion & advice. The Rules are expected to be notified shortly.

Refusal to Continue with Petrol-Pump Dealership

809. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allottee of some petrol pumps in the country have refused to continue the dealership;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons advanced by the allottees of petrol pumps for the same; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inspection of Multi-State Co-operative Societies by Central Registrar

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

(a) the extent of control of the Central Registrar over the Multi-State Co-operative Societies in Delhi;

(b) whether the Central Registrar carried out any inspection of these societies during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the areas of inspection covered thereunder; and

(d) the details of complaints received against these societies during the last one year and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The multi-state cooperative societies in Delhi, like other such co-operative societies in the Country are governed by the provisions of the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 (the Act). The Central Registrar has to discharge his functions in respect of these co-operative societies under different provisions of the Act, such as registration of amendment of bye-laws, elections, audit, inspections, enquiry, settlement of disputes etc.

(b) The powers of Central Registrar have been delegated to the concerned State Registrars of Co-operative Societies. During the year 1996-97, six societies of Delhi were inspected by the Central Registrar, Government of India. However, no such inspections were carried out during the last three years.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) On receipt of some complaints regarding the affairs of the Cooperative Store Ltd., New Delhi (Super Bazar), the Central Registrar, Government of India instituted an inquiry into the affairs of the Super Bazar. Appropriate action, on the inquiry report has been taken under the provisions of the Act.

Implementation of AMDP and SUBACS

811. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System are being implemented;

(b) the Central financial assistance provided during the last three years and in the current year so far State-wise and programme-wise;

(c) the total areas of land brought under each of these development programmes during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the States where these programmes are proposed to be extended along with the time-frame fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) are being implemented in the following States:

AMDP		Sugarcane based cropping systems	
S.No.	Name of the States	S.No.	Name of the States/UTs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.	Assam
3.	Assam	3.	Bihar
4.	Bihar	4.	Goa
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.	Gujarat
6.	Gujarat	6.	Haryana
7.	Haryana	7.	Karnataka
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.	Kerala
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.	Madhya Pradesh
10.	Jharkhand	10.	Maharashtra
11.	Karnataka	11.	Manipur
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12.	Mizoram
13.	Maharashtra	13.	Nagaland
14.	Manipur	14.	Orissa
15.	Meghalaya	15.	Rajasthan
16.	Mizoram	16.	Punjab
17.	Nagaland	17.	Tamil Nadu
18.	Orissa	18.	Tripura
19.	Rajasthan	19.	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4
20.	Punjab	20.	West Bengal
21.	Sikkim	21.	Pondicherry
22.	Tamil Nadu		
23.	Tripura		
24.	Uttar Pradesh		
25.	Uttaranchal		
26.	West Bengal		

(b) State-wise, year-wise and programme-wise details of central financial assistance provided during last three years and current year so far under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) are enclosed at statement-I. Since *w.e.f.* 4th October, 2000, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) has been merged in the Macro Management of Mode of Agriculture under which Central assistance is being released in lumpsum and not scheme-wise. Hence financial details in so far as SUBACS is concerned have been given for the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 (upto 4th October, 2000).

(c) The State-wise and year-wise details of area covered under Maize and Sugarcane crops during last three years *i.e.* 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 are given in the statement-II. The details of area covered under maize and the sugarcane crops during 2000-2001 have not been finalized as yet.

(d) Under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) all the districts having potential for maize in all the major 26 Maize growing States have already been covered. There is no proposal to include any more States under this programme.

In so far as Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is concerned, the programme has since been transferred to the States under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture to give more flexibility to the States. It is for the States to take decision on this issue.

Statement-I

The State-wise, year-wise and programme-wise details of central financial assistance provided during last three years & current year so far under AMDP & SUBACS

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Central financial assistance provided under						
		Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)				Sugarcane Based cropping system (SUBACS)		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 so far	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001 upto 4/10/00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.30	37.33	10.00	0.00	148.00	58.18	7.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	32.50	26.66	12.31	NI	NI	NI
3.	Assam	50.00	10.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	3.50
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.78	6.60
5.	Chhattisgarh	NI	NI	NI	15.00	NI	NI	NI
6.	Goa	NI	NI	NI	NI	0.00	3.00	0.80
7.	Gujarat	0.00	10.00	2.16	0.00	105.00	49.00	7.25
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.00	33.00	6.15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	27.10	31.50	12.02	NI	NI	NI
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	NI	NI	NI
11.	Jharkhand	NI	NI	NI	12.00	NI	NI	NI
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	54.20	50.42	0.00	73.00	33.00	6.70
13.	Karnataka	40.00	20.00	52.06	4.61	127.00	60.31	19.60
14.	Kerala	NI	NI	NI	NI	38.00	18.68	2.90
15.	Maharashtra	60.00	20.00	42.24	21.00	580.00	271.63	21.80
16.	Manipur	37.00	10.00	67.35	2.11	20.00	14.13	5.75
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	6.31	10.75	0.00	NI	NI	NI
18.	Mizoram	11.05	7.31	44.71	0.00	21.30	13.72	5.75
19.	Nagaland	10.50	5.00	15.93	8.00	23.00	15.64	5.25
20.	Orissa	63.00	35.18	2.00	0.00	27.00	33.00	3.65
21.	Rajasthan	0.00	43.56	42.22	0.00	69.00	24.00	5.70
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.00	15.00	3.50
23.	Sikkim	0.00	18.82	16.03	9.00	NI	NI	NI
24.	Tamil Nadu	24.15	18.80	4.97	0.00	94.00	87.63	10.60
25.	Tripura	9.00	5.00	10.57	7.00	0.00	5.00	4.75
26.	Uttar Pradesh	30.00	45.00	35.43	0.00	91.00	236.30	22.50
27.	Uttaranchal	NI	NI	NI	5.32	NI	NI	NI
28.	West Bengal	0.00	18.89	2.00	0.00	24.00	9.00	2.55
29.	Podicherry	NI	NI	NI	NI	0.00	3.00	2.00
Total		415.00	435.00	475.00	108.37	1554.30	1042.00	155.00

NI — Not Implemented.

Statement-II

The State-wise and year-wise details of area covered under maize & sugarcane crops during last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

(Area in 000' Hectares)

Sl.No.	States	Area covered under Maize & Sugarcane crops					
		Maize			Sugarcane		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	396.00	399.00	439.00	192.20	213.70	231.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.50	36.20	35.60	NI	NI	NI
3.	Assam	19.20	19.80	19.70	31.30	30.60	29.10
4.	Bihar	705.20	711.10	804.10	108.00	106.90	96.80
5.	Goa	0.20	0.30	0.20	1.30	1.30	1.30
6.	Gujarat	399.80	408.30	391.00	165.00	196.30	201.00
7.	Haryana	24.00	21.00	21.00	142.00	125.00	133.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	311.90	305.00	299.90	3.80	3.30	3.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	310.90	311.40	317.30	0.20	0.20	0.10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	860.70	852.20	854.70	42.30	40.50	50.90
11.	Karnataka	561.40	512.40	608.00	309.80	338.80	361.00
12.	Kerala	NI	NI	NI	5.90	5.80	5.70
13.	Maharashtra	240.70	278.40	279.90	459.70	529.80	590.10
14.	Manipur	3.60	3.00	4.30	0.50	0.70	0.70
15.	Meghalaya	17.20	17.20	16.60	0.10	0.10	0.10
16.	Mizoram	8.20	8.70	5.30	1.30	1.00	0.70
17.	Nagaland	30.00	32.00	32.00	1.00	1.20	0.60
18.	Orissa	52.10	51.00	54.50	18.70	22.30	20.60
19.	Rajasthan	974.50	951.00	933.60	23.20	22.60	19.30
20.	Punjab	165.00	154.00	162.00	126.00	103.00	108.00
21.	Sikkim	39.40	39.40	39.40	NI	NI	NI
22.	Tamil Nadu	58.00	55.70	117.00	282.80	306.20	332.30
23.	Tripura	2.00	2.30	2.30	1.10	1.10	1.10
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1063.20	995.80	954.00	1985.20	1974.60	2011.00
25.	West Bengal	43.50	38.50	35.10	25.80	26.90	24.00
26.	A&N Islands	NI	NI	NI	0.20	0.20	0.20
27.	Pondicherry	NI	NI	NI	2.40	2.80	2.80
Total		6321.20	6203.70	6426.50	3929.80	4054.90	4224.90

NI—Not Implemented.

Rise in MSP for Wheat and Rice

812. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lately raised the minimum support price of wheat and rice etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite rise in minimum support price, the farmers were forced to sell their crops of wheat at much below the original minimum support price; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union and the State Governments to avert such distress sales and to ensure smooth procurements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy (common) @ Rs. 510 per quintal; paddy (grade A) @ Rs. 540 per quintal and wheat @ Rs. 610 per quintal for the crop year 2000-2001. This marks an increase of Rs. 20 per quintal in case of paddy and Rs. 30 per quintal in the case of wheat as compared to last year.

(c) and (d) The procurement operations for procurement of wheat and paddy are carried out by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with State Governments and their agencies under price support scheme of the Government. The purchase centres are opened in sufficient numbers, after estimating the expected procurement of foodgrains by the FCI on the location mutually decided by the State Governments and the FCI, well in advance, before the commencement of each marketing season to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers. However, the farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market, if it is advantageous to them. Record quantities of various cereals have been procured during last year.

All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with FCI and State Governments.

In order to closely monitor the MSP scheme, special control rooms are set up in the FCI at their headquarters as well as regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These control rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season.

Subsidies to Farmers

813. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of direct and indirect type of subsidies being given to farmers and its impact on production;

(b) the details subsidies out of it granted to small and marginal farmers as well as to relatively poor sections of farmers;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ensure that the benefit of subsidies reach the targeted population,

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to ensure that the benefit of the subsidies actually reach the targeted population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) The major subsidies being provided to the farmers are in terms of subsidized prices of fertilizers, lower irrigation and power charges and subsidies on seeds and farm machinery etc. A statement showing the details of subsidies provided to Agriculture Sector during the last three years as compiled by Central Statistical Organization is enclosed. These subsidies have enabled the farmers in acquiring inputs at affordable prices and thus helped in enhancing the agricultural production. The Government have not conducted any study so far to ascertain the impact of benefit of subsidies reaching the targeted farmers. However, certain Research Institutes have been asked to carry out studies on the subject. The Central Government is implementing several schemes for providing subsidies/incentives to the small and marginal farmers and comparatively weaker sections (SC/ST) of the farming community. These include subsidies on sprinkler irrigation system, drip irrigation, supply of improved farm implements for promoting agriculture mechanization amongst small farmers etc. Regular monitoring of these schemes is carried out in order to ensure that the benefits of subsidies actually reach the targeted farmers.

Statement**Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector**

(Rs. crores)

S.No.	Item	1997-1998 (Actuals)	1998-1999 (Actuals)	1999-2000 (Revised) \$
Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through inputs				
1.	Fertilizers (Total)	9918	11596	13463
2.	Electricity**	4937	6321	NA
3.	Irrigation ##	10318	11257	11728+
4.	Other subsidies given to marginal farmers and farmers co-operative societies in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses etc.	888	358	NA

Source: 1. Fertilizers: Expenditure Budget 2001-2002 Vol. I of Central Government.

2. Electricity and Irrigation: Central Statistical Organization.

Note: N.A. : Not Available.

** Electricity includes all subsidies to Electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.

The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

+ Quick estimates.

\$ The estimates are actual for item No. 1 while the same for items 2, 3 & 4 may be treated as revised ones.

Advisory Committee on Accounting Standard

814. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a 12-Member Advisory Committee on accounting standards u/s 210A of the Companies Act;

(b) if so, the reasons for formation of the Committee;

(c) the terms and reference of the Committee; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Committee has been formed to ensure compliance of Section 210A of Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d) The Committee would advise the Central Government on the formulation and laying down of accounting policies and accounting standards for adoption by companies or class of companies under the Act. The Committee shall give its recommendations to the Central Government on such matters of accounting policies and standards and auditing as may be referred to it for advice from time to time.

World Bank Loan to Powergrid Corporation

815. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loan to Powergrid Corporation of India Limited recently;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan World Bank agreed to provide and the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the purpose for which Power Grid Corporation have decided to utilize the said loan; and

(d) the extent to which the various States are likely to be benefited from the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) World Bank as agreed, 'in principle', to finance POWERGRID's projects by providing loans to the tune of US\$ 1.2 billion in three tranches. POWERGRID has

signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US\$ 450 million (PSDP-II Ln. 4603 IN). This loan has a repayment period of 15 years, excluding a grace period of 5 years, with an interest rate of LIBOR Base rate plus LIBOR Total Spread on the principal amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

(c) and (d) The projects which will be funded through this loan and the States which are likely to be benefited are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Details of the Projects to be funded through World Bank Loan	States likely to be benefited
1.	East-South Interconnector-II Project (Talcher-II Transmission System) for evacuation of Power from Talcher-II Thermal Power Station (2000 MW) of NTPC in Orissa.	All States in Southern Region.
2.	East-North Interconnector-I Project (Sasaram HVDC back to back Project) for transfer of surplus power in Eastern Region to Northern Region.	All States in Northern Region.
3.	System Coordination and Control Projects in Eastern and Western Regions for improving quality of power supply through better control of frequency and voltage parameters, improving system security and minimizing grid disturbances and equipment damages arising out of abnormal system conditions.	All the States of Eastern and Western Regions.
4.	POWERGRID's project for diversification into Telecom business by establishment of a Backbone Telecommunication Network.	The project will help in meeting India's rapidly growing telecommunication needs.
5.	Balance of projects under earlier World Bank loans (No. 3577-IN and No. 3237-IN)	All the States in Northern, Western and Southern Regions.

Green Diesel

816. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of 'green diesel' has been started in NCR Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will cater to the entire demand of diesel in the NCR area;

(d) if not, the details of other steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the steps taken are likely to help in reducing the level of environment pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sale of diesel with sulphur content of 0.05% (maximum) has been started in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi with effect from 1.7.2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The sulphur content in diesel sold in NCR has been reduced by twenty times (from 1% maximum to 0.05% maximum) during the past 5 years time. This will result in lower emissions of sulphur into the environment and thus will reduce the level of environmental pollution.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat

817. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of metre/narrow gauge lines to be converted into broad gauge during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the remaining metre/gauge lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat have sent some proposals for conversion of metre/narrow gauge line into broad gauge;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(e) the status of on-going gauge conversion work in Gujarat along with the time by which these would be completed;

(f) whether the Government have any plan of taking up any gauge conversion projects in Gujarat through private funding;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether conversion of Dharangdhra-Kuda is to be done on cost sharing basis; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) Details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The completion of ongoing sanctioned gauge conversion projects will depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(e) Details are given in the statement-III enclosed.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Plans have been finalized for obtaining private participation in gauge conversion project of Surendranagar-Rajula City with extension to Pipavav. It is also proposed to obtain private funding for gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Palanpur and Mehsana-Viramgam sections.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) Gauge conversion of Dhrangdhra-Kuda is expected to be completed during 2001-2002.

Statement-I

S.No.	Section	Kms.
1	2	3
Completed between 1997-98 & 2000-01		
1.	Jodhpur-Marwar	102
2.	Hotgi-Bijapur	97
3.	Nagbir-Chandafort	111
4.	Mehboobnagar-Dronachellam	185
5.	Mysore-Holenarsipur	87
6.	Jorhat-Furkating loop	67
7.	Bachwara-Hajipur	72
8.	Trichy-Thanjavur	50
9.	Hassan-Sakleshpur	42
10.	Simalguri-Shivsagar	16
11.	Kolar-Bangarpet	18
12.	Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	159
13.	Tambaram-Tiruchirapalli	303
14.	Tiruchirapalli-Dindigul	93
15.	Babupet-Ballarshah	11
16.	Solapur-Hotgi	15
17.	Sheosagar-Moranhat	39
18.	Mariani-Jorhat	18

1	2	3
19.	Indara-Phephana	55
20.	Pandharpur-Kurudwadi	52
21.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	60
22.	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu	63
23.	Yellahanka-Yeshwantpur	17
24.	Morbi-Maliya Miyana & Dahinsara-Navlakhi	68
25.	Nonera-Bhind of Guna-Etawah Project	26
26.	Raxaul-Birganj	8
27.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	58
Total		1892

1	2	3
	To be completed during 2001-2002	
28.	Seoni-Bhind	24
29.	Amguri-Tuli	15
30.	Makum-Dangri	31
31.	Lakshmanatheertha bridge	1
32.	Pendakallu-Gotty	29
33.	Dharangdhara-Kuda	33
34.	Wankaner-Morbi	48
Total		181

Statement-II

The position of demands received from the State Government for conversion of MG/NG lines in Gujarat State during last three years is given as under:—

Year	Project	Action Taken
1	2	3
1998-99 to 2000-2001	I. Suggestions for improvement of Railway projects in the State of Gujarat viz.	
	(i) Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur	(i) Work on gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur is already included in the Budget and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
	(ii) Jamnagar-Dahinsara	(ii) Due to acute constraint of resources being faced by the Railways, construction of new line for Jamnagar-Dahinsara could not be considered for the present.
	(iii) Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	(iii) Survey for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej has already been completed as a part of the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar. Gauge conversion of this section will be considered at the time of taking up the 3rd line work in this area depending upon availability of resources.
	II. Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj-Naliya, Ahmedabad-Himatnagar, Windmill station-Bedi Port,	Work on Gandhidham-Bhuj is already completed. A survey for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya has also been completed. In view of acute constraint of resources and lower priority

1	2	3
	<p>Bharuch-Dahej, Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur, Jamnagar-Bedi Port-Roji Pier, Porbander-All Weather Port Jetty, Dabhoi-Miyagam, Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar & its extension upto Dhar and Ahmedabad-Vijapur (this includes Kalol-Adraj Moti section)</p>	<p>indicated by Defence Authority, this proposal could not be considered for the present.</p> <p>A survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Udaipur is in progress. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.</p> <p>Position regarding gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej is given above.</p> <p>Position regarding gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur is given above.</p> <p>Due to acute constraint of resources being faced by the Railways, Windmill station - Bedi Port-Roji Pier, Porbander-Porbander Port new lines and Dabhoi-Miyagam gauge conversion projects could not be considered for the present. A BG line already exists for Jamnagar-Windmill station.</p> <p>Survey for gauge conversion of Chhotaudepur-Pratapnagar with extension to Dhar is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.</p> <p>On Ahmedabad-Vijapur section, work on gauge conversion of Kalol-Adraj Moti is already included in the Budget as a part of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol new line project. This will provide BG connection between Ahmedabad and Adraj Moti, as a BG line already exists between Ahmedabad and Kalol.</p> <p>Based on the Government of Gujarat's offer to share the cost, Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol new line-cum-gauge conversion project has been included in the Budget 2000-2001.</p>

Statement-III

On-going gauge conversion projects in Gujarat are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cost of the Project	Outlay for 2001-2002	Status
1	2	3	4	5
Gauge conversion				
1.	Bhildi (Mahesana-Patan)-Viramgam	234.75	15.00	Gauge conversion of Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan is in progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	632.35	13.50	Section has been opened in the year 1997. Residual works such as yard remodeling of Ahmedabad yard and gauge conversion of Sabarmati-Khodiyar is in progress and expected to be completed during 2002-2003.
3.	Rajkot-Veraval including material modification for extension from Wansjalia to Jetalsar	291.61	20.00	Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval is in progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. New work for Wansjalia-Jetalsar has also been included in the Budget 2001-2002 as a material modification.
4.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	50.75	1.00	This work has been completed.
5.	Wankaner- Dahinsara & Navlakhi-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana	100.85	5.5	This work has been completed.
6.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dahasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav	441.63	34.4	This work is in progress and main line Surendranagar-Dhasa-Rajula with extension to Pipavav is expected to be completed during 2002-2003 depending upon availability of resources. Surendranagar-Dhrangdhra gauge conversion has also been sanctioned as a material modification.
7.	Dharangdhra-Kuda siding	10.17	2.00	This work is in progress and expected to be completed during 2001-2002.
8.	Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur	370.74	15.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up.

Research Centres Under ICAR in A.P.

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

(a) the names of research centres and the projects under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government on each of them during each of the last three years, project-wise;

(c) the details of the achievements made by them during the above period; and

(d) the impact thereof on the Agricultural production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Names of Research Centres and Projects under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Andhra Pradesh and details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government on them are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Several varieties/hybrids have been identified/developed/released in different crops, notable are food crops (72), oils seeds (7), pulses (4), commercial crops (8) and Horticultural crops (33). In addition to that,

several promising technologies have also been developed and the notables ones are given in the statement-II enclosed alongwith the impact of technologies thereof on the agricultural production in the State.

Statement-I
Research Institutes/Centres/Projects in Andhra Pradesh
Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute/ Scheme	Locations	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
			Allocat- ion	Expen- diture	Allocat- ion	Expen- diture	Allocat- ion	Expen- diture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	NRC Sorghum	Hyderabad	82.00	81.99	140.00	138.93	99.00	98.65
2.	AICRP Sorghum	Hyderabad	266.00	256.34	200.00	199.87	199.00	214.83
3.	PD Rice Research	Hyderabad	337.00	302.27	340.00	270.14	245.19	241.04
4.	AICRP Rice	Hyderabad	296.00	330.72	300.00	369.85	400.81	400.71
5.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Raja- mundri	69.00	68.99	90.00	89.99	85.00	85.00
6.	PD Oilseeds Research	Hyderabad	153.00	104.87	119.63	119.63	208.25	168.22
7.	AICRP Oilseed	Hyderabad	431.00	503.10	460.37	460.37	201.75	221.75
8.	AICRP Linseed	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	100.00	110.00
9.	AICRP Sesame & Niger	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	116.00	126.00
10.	Network Economics Ornithology	Hyderabad	38.08	38.13	35.00	34.97	66.00	66.00
11.	RC Oilpalm	Pedavagi	140.00	139.99	105.00	104.21	80.00	79.74
12.	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agnculture	Hyderabad	155.00	154.99	121.00	121.00	126.00	125.99
13.	AICRP Agro Meterology	Hyderabad	110.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	150.00	150.00
14.	AICRP Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	340.00	339.99	339.00	339.00	410.00	410.00
15.	PD Poultry Research	Hyderabad	140.00	139.58	200.00	177.55	150.00	146.42
16.	AICRP Poultry Research	Hyderabad	134.00	124.98	130.00	130.00	150.00	150.06
17.	NAARM	Hyderabad	77.00	71.52	160.00	137.69	133.00	—
18.	NRC Meat	Hyderabad	—	—	15.00	3.20	30.00	—
19.	ZCU, Zone-V	Hyderabad	50.10	38.74	40.90	34.08	41.20	—
20.	NBPGR Regional Station	Hyderabad	53.25	51.94	58.20	56.90	54.90	51.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21.	AICRP on Cropping Systems Research	Hyderabad	23.06	23.30	20.07	18.10	21.06	29.15
22.	AICRP on Weed Control	Hyderabad	6.83	7.08	5.37	2.00 [*]	6.23	6.24
23.	AICRP on Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	19.91	12.61	19.49	12.04	15.03	15.03
24.	AICRP on Salt Affected Soils	Hyderabad	13.97	23.30	12.85	14.64	12.24	17.90
25.	AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments	Hyderabad	—	—	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.80
26.	AICRP on Soil Physical Constraints	Hyderabad	13.64	13.64	14.96	14.96	10.39	10.39
27.	AICRP on Soil Test Crop Response	Hyderabad	8.10	8.10	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64
28.	AICRP on Micro-Secondary Nutrient	Hyderabad	9.90	9.90	8.48	8.48	12.25	12.25
29.	AICRP on Biological Nitrogen Fixation	Hyderabad	3.87	3.87	2.33	2.33	1.88	1.88
Krishi Vigyan Kendras								
30.	CTRI	Kalavacheria	25.07	25.07	34.20	34.20	31.37	31.37
31.	CRIDA	Ranga Reddy	17.50	17.50	34.60	34.60	29.55	29.55
32.	Malyal	Warangal	7.32	7.32	7.00	7.00	15.17	15.17
33.	Nandyal	Kumool	5.75	5.75	8.23	8.23	16.77	16.77
34.	UMDI	West Godavari	5.20	5.20	11.20	11.20	24.39	24.39
35.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Rastakuntabi	8.03	8.03	8.20	8.20	11.96	11.96
36.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Amadalavalasa	4.72	4.72	8.65	8.65	12.42	12.42
37.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Anantpur	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.10	13.03	13.03
38.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Gadipalli	24.12	24.12	30.40	30.40	34.05	34.05
39.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Vishakhapatnam	5.90	5.90	—	—	12.34	12.34
40.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Jamikunda	15.68	15.68	15.10	15.10	19.15	19.15
41.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Guntur	16.09	16.09	18.33	18.33	24.45	24.45
42.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Kumool	12.90	12.90	17.60	17.60	27.79	27.79
43.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Mahboobnagar	10.35	10.35	8.60	8.60	5.67	5.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
44.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Medak	11.32	11.32	10.50	10.50	11.55	11.55
45.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Tirupati	18.35	18.35	14.30	14.30	11.82	11.82
46.	Trainer's Training Centre, CRIDA	Hyderabad	18.75	18.75	16.05	16.05	23.70	23.70
47.	AICRP on Pig	Tirupati	19.39	19.39	19.39	17.04	18.03	14.41
48.	Germplasm and Data Recording Units of Cattle	Guntur	44.13	45.31	36.54	40.89	47.32	47.32
49.	Network Project on Sheep Improvement	Palamner	15.07	12.64	16.76	13.96	16.04	15.98
50.	Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources	Hyderabad	8.00	6.80	8.25	6.65	—	—
51.	Network Project on Agriculture Byproducts	Hyderabad	8.25	8.25	9.00	8.66	9.50	8.55
52.	AICRP on Foot and Mouth Disease	Hyderabad	4.00	4.00	5.60	5.60	7.60	7.60
53.	AICRP on Animal Diseases and Monitoring Surveillance	Hyderabad	8.50	8.50	8.62	8.62	4.48	4.48
54.	AICRP on Agricultural Drainage	Hyderabad	10.17	—	11.88	—	12.00	—
55.	AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery	Hyderabad	35.43	—	32.43	—	17.60	—
56.	AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari	Hyderabad	4.12	—	7.25	—	7.10	—
57.	AICRP on Post Harvest Technology	Hyderabad	10.90	2.16	8.08	3.48	1.15	—
58.	AICRP on Maize	Hyderabad	36.10	36.10	20.75	20.75	24.45	
59.	AICRP on Maize	Karimnagar	8.14	8.14	6.69	6.69	7.26	7.26
60.	AICRP on Pearl Millet	Anantapur	5.10	5.10	5.93	5.93	14.44	14.44
61.	AICRP on Small Millet	Nandyal	7.95	7.95	10.27	10.27	13.50	13.50
62.	AICRP on Soyabean	Lam	4.47	4.47	4.89	4.89	4.94	4.94
63.	AICRP on Groundnut	Jagtial	3.67	3.67	3.75	3.75	7.98	7.98
64.	AICRP on Groundnut	Kadri	11.03	11.03	12.00	12.00	19.13	19.13
65.	AICRP on Groundnut	Palem	1.84	1.84	1.88	1.88	Closed	Closed
66.	AICRP on MULLARP	Lam	17.61	17.61	21.02	21.02	31.76	31.76
67.	AICRP on Pigeonpea	Warrangal	10.91	10.91	12.75	12.75	18.53	18.53
68.	AICRP on Tobacco	Nandyal	5.64	4.89	6.09	5.34	11.63	6.21
69.	AICRP on Sugarcane	Ankapalle	7.23	6.94	10.27	8.16	18.15	13.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
70.	AICRP on Jute and Allied Fibres	Amadala-valas	11.93	11.93	13.98	13.98	39.82	23.03
71.	AICRP on Cotton	Guntur	12.07	12.07	12.38	12.38	32.90	32.90
72.	AICRP on Cotton	Nandyal	5.70	5.70	5.62	5.62	14.87	14.87
73.	National Seed Project	Hyderabad	17.92	24.09	47.75	34.96	44.15	61.10
74.	Breed Seed Production	Hyderabad	10.39	10.39	10.39	10.39	10.39	6.40
75.	AICRP on Rodent Control	Hyderabad	3.25	3.68	3.25	3.04	17.00	6.52
76.	AICRP on Honey Bee	Hyderabad	3.37	3.40	3.99	5.51	12.28	8.34
77.	AICRP on Biological Control	Hyderabad	5.33	2.98	6.36	5.43	6.14	4.80
78.	AICRP on Pesticide Residues	Hyderabad	4.63	3.63	3.63	3.67	9.37	12.12
79.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Kovvuru	8.29	8.29	7.99	7.99	4.89	4.89

*Research Institutes/Centres/Projects in Andhra Pradesh**Non-Plan*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute/ Scheme	Location	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
			Allocat- ion	Expendi- ture	Allocat- ion	Expen- diture	Allocat- ion	Expendi- ture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	NRC Sorghum	Hyderabad	294.97	288.72	228.10	227.95	282.46	271.80
2	AICRP Sorghum	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	PD Rice Research	Hyderabad	343.00	307.99	322.00	322.00	333.00	320.60
4	AICRP Rice	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Rajamundri	750.00	749.98	760.60	765.56	805.00	807.66
6.	PD Oilseed Research	Hyderabad	270.50	270.49	249.00	248.99	270.00	269.61
7.	AICRP Linseed	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	AICRP Sesame & Niger	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Network Economics Ornithology	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	NRC Oilpalm	Pedayagi	39.00	38.99	121.50	104.48	137.00	136.86
11	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	428.40	425.79	434.75	430.69	499.00	478.25
12.	AICRP Agro Meterology	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	10.00	11.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	AICRP Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	15.00	6.57
14.	PD Poultry Research	Hyderabad	91.00	87.70	119.50	115.40	143.00	136.43
15.	AICRP Poultry Research	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	AICRP Cattle	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	NAARM	Hyderabad	352.00	311.24	305.00	303.77	369.00	335.09
18.	NRC Meat	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	ZCU, Zone-V	Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—

Statement-II**Significant Achievements made and their impact on the Agricultural Production in Andhra Pradesh**

- In sugarcane 19 promising clones have been identified for juice quality.
- As curing contributes to about 30 per cent of the cost of cultivation of FCV tobacco, concerted efforts were made to save fuel by insulating the roof, ventilators and doors of the barn with strawmit and external plastering of the roof with cement, thermocole mixture. This technology has resulted in saving of curing cost by about 25 to 30 per cent. Package of practices including control of pests and diseases have been developed for different crops.
- A triple harvesting technique was developed for dual purpose maize wherein the green fodder, semi dry fodder and cobs are harvested sequentially without affecting the seed yield.
- A strategy for *in situ* incorporation of N rich biomass was developed by growing horsegram using post monsoon rainfall, with a saving of 20 kg N for the subsequent crop.
- P—solubilising bacterial strain *Pseudomonas fluorescence* was isolated and protocol was standardized for its mass production.
- Drill plough and CRIDA groundnut planter were patented.
- Prototypes of groundnut stripper and tractor mounted, air assisted orchard sprayer was developed.
- Elite clones of tamarind, jamun and custard apple were isolated from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Around 500 trainees, subject matter specialists and senior extension personnel were trained in over 50 training courses held at Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.
- Over 4000 farmers, farm women and rural youth were trained in rainfed agricultural technology.
- Around 650 farm implements costing over Rs. 6.40 lakhs were sold to farmers.
- A technology for fertilizer recommendations based on soil test for obtaining yield of major crops like rice, maize, groundnut, sunflower, sugarcane, chili and a ready reckoner has been prepared.
- Drought tolerant strains of Rhizobia for different pulse and oilseed crops have been isolated.
- Bullock drawn ferti-seed planter for oilseed (castor, groundnut and sunflower) and other dryland crops resulted in saving in cost of approx. Rs. 100/ha as compared to conventional method.
- A sunflower thresher with 5 hp electric motor, having an output capacity of approx. 150 kg/h has been developed and is being commercially manufactured.
- Power operated groundnut pod stripper reduced cost of stripping by half as compared to manual traditional methods and resulted in 99 per cent stripping efficiency and there was no damage to the pods.

- The adoption of sub surface system of drainage resulted in reduction of soil electric conductivity.
- There was substantial increase in the crop yields—Rice 14-30 per cent, Sugarcane 65 per cent and Betelvine 20-30 per cent due to adoption of sub surface system.
- Under the mariculture activities, the technologies for onshore pearl oyster farming and pearl production as well as the tissue culture of seaweeds have been perfected for commercialization. Consultancy on onshore pearl culture technology has been given to number of enterprises.
- The post harvest technologies developed by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology has resulted in increase in the export of fish and fishery products.
- Crossbred pigs produced have been found to be superior in back fat thickness and in lean cuts over indigenous pigs, have higher feed conversion efficiency and were heavier at contemporary ages than that of indigenous pigs.
- Different kinds of complete feed were formulated and developed utilizing locally available crop residues. The impact of research has resulted in reduction in the cost of milk, meat and eggs and due to the balanced diet also there is increase in the production of milk and egg.
- The epidemiology of Foot and Mouth Disease has been determined.
- The Council has 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and one Trainer's Training Centre in Andhra Pradesh. During the year 2000-01, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras have organized 1147 training programmes for the benefit of 26556 farmers including farm women, rural youths and extension functionaries.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion in Maharashtra

819. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any requests from the Government of Maharashtra and other organisations in regard to laying of new rail lines, expansion of the existing rail lines, conversion of metre/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines and doubling of the rail lines in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The requests received from State Government of Maharashtra during the last three years in regard to laying of new rail lines, expansion of the existing rail lines, conversion of meter/narrow gauge lines and doubling of rail lines is as under:—

S.No.	Project	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Construction of New line between Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur and Indore	Survey for construction of new line from Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur was conducted in 1997-98. It has revealed that the cost of the 159.88 km long line would be Rs. 248.5 cr. with a negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the proposal and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered. The survey for new line from Shirpur to Mhow is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible after the survey report becomes available. Indore-Mhow is already connected by a railway line.
2.	Construction of new line from Baramati to Pandharpur	The proposed new line from Baramati to Pandharpur would be about 100 km long and would cost not less than Rs. 330 cr. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing new line works and constraint of resources, it would not be possible to consider construction of the suggested new line for the present.

1.	2	3
3.	Construction of railway line from Kalyan-Murbad via Malshejghat to Ahmednagar	A survey has recently been completed. The survey report revealed that the cost of the 204 km line would be Rs. 722 cr. with negative rate of return. Due to grossly unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.
4.	Doubling of Panvel-Karjat	The work of new line between Panvel and Karjat is in progress. Question of doubling does not arise at this stage.

The details of requests received from other organizations are not being maintained.

[English]

Generation of Power by Giant Windmills

820. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether giant windmills are generating 1100 MW of power in nine States;

(b) if so, whether 800 MW power is produced through this system in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the incentives being given by the Union Government to propagate the production of power through this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A total wind power capacity of 1340 MW has been installed in nine States of the country, as on 31st March, 2001, out of which a capacity of 813 MW has been installed in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) Fiscal and promotional incentives such as 100% accelerated depreciation, tax holiday, excise duty exemption and concessional customs duty on import of specified parts and components of wind turbine, are provided by the Central Government. Soft loans are also provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial wind power projects.

Reconstitution of State Seed Sub-Committee of Horticulture

821. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for reconstitution of State Seed Sub-Committee of Horticultural crops is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a long pendency; and

(c) the time by which the matter is likely to be expedited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Central Sub Committee on Crop Standards Notification & Release of Varieties for Horticultural crops at Central level and State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticultural Crops at State level are Sub-Committees of the Central Seed Committee and these Committees are co-terminus with Central Seed Committee.

Central Seed Committee has been constituted vide Government of India Gazette S.O. No. 576(E) dated 21st June, 2001 for a period of two years i.e. 21.06.2001 to 20.06.2003.

Order for reconstituting the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards Notification & Release of Varieties for Horticultural crops (Central level Committee) has been issued vide Order No. 17-17/2001-SD.IV dated 25th June, 2001.

State Governments have been advised to reconstitute their respective State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticultural crops for the year 2001-2003 and submit their recommendations for the approval of Central Seed Committee.

Allocation for Coach Factories

822. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made for coach factories during the last three years, factory-wise;

(b) the number of coaches manufactured by the coach manufacturing factories during the said period, factory-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce coach manufacturing orders;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the foreign orders for manufacturing of coaches assigned to these factories?

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

(a) There are two coach manufacturing factories under the Ministry of Railways viz. Integral Coach Factory—Perambur (I.C.F.) and Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala (R.C.F.). The allotment for both these Production units for the last three years has been as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	ICF	RCF
1998-1999	534.27	459.07
1999-2000	652.87	482.31
2000-2001	608.46	558.06

(b) The number of coaches manufactured by these units during the last three years is as under:—

Year	ICF	RCF
1998-1999	1057	1087
1999-2000	1006	1182
2000-2001	1000	1190

(c) and (d) The production of coaches is based on the requirements to carry the projected passenger traffic. Depending upon the actual materialisation of traffic, the anticipated growth, the replacement arisings and availability of funds the annual production programme of coaches is decided.

(e) The details of supplies made to foreign countries are as under:—

Export Details of ICF

(In lacs of Rs.)

Country	Gauge	Coaches		Value
		Year	Qty.	
Taiwan	1067	1971-72	113	398.96
Zambia	1067	1973-74	6	14.81
Philippines	1067	1975-76	30	224.88
Tanzania	1000	1976-77	17	196.64
Philippines	1067	1978-79	30	289.60
Uganda	1000	1978-79	20	263.21
Vietnam	1000	1979-80	50	548.15
Nigeria	1067	1982-83	32	293.86
Bangladesh	1000	1984-85	9	120.60
Mozambique	1067	1984-85	15	148.80
Bangladesh	1000	1986-88	61	880.51
Vietnam	1000	1994-95	15	783.20
Tanzania	1000	1997-98	27	2314.30
Total Coaches			425	6477.52

At present, there are no pending orders with either of the two units for export of Coaches to foreign countries.

Deemed Public Limited Companies

823. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have abolished the concept of "deemed public limited company";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various Government offices are implementing the rules with regard to such abolition;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy implementation of rules?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Provisions of Section 43A of the Companies Act, 1956 which related to deemed public companies, are no longer applicable consequent to Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 which came into force with effect from 13.12.2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. No rules are required to be made for the subject matter under consideration.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

824. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects pending in Tamil Nadu till date along with the reasons for their pendency; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Thanjavur-Villupuram Gauge Conversion project in Tamil Nadu is pending for want of necessary clearances.

(b) The process for obtaining clearances has been initiated.

Catering Charges in Fare

825. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains in which catering charges are included in the fare;

(b) the system followed for selection of menu and cost thereof as a component of the fare; and

(c) the annual percentage increase in the fare and the food charges respectively during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Catering charges are included separately in ticket fare in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains and 241/242 Kalka-Shimla Shivalik Express. A list of such trains is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Menu and tariff of each services is fixed by the Railway Board from time to time taking into account the cost of raw material prevailing in the market and other over head charges. The catering charges and menu for Shivalik Express are decided by Zonal Railway. However Zonal Railways have instructions to provide variety of alternate menu and introduce items of local taste by effecting suitable changes in the menu.

(c) Details of annual percentage of increase in the fare and the catering charges for Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains are given as under:

Year	% of increase in fare	% increase in catering charges
1998-1999	20%	10%
1999-2000	15%	25%
2000-2001	NIL	NIL

During the period under review the composite fare of Shivalik Express were increased by 10% in 1999-2000.

Statement

Name of the trains in which catering charges are included in the ticket fare

- 2001/2002 New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express
- 2003/2004 Lucknow—New Delhi Shatabdi Express

3.	2005/2006	New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Express
4.	2007/2008	Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express
5.	2009/2010	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Shatabdi Express
6.	2011/2012	New Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express
7.	2013/2014	New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express
8.	2015/2016	New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express
9.	2017/2018	New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express
10.	2019/2020	Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Express
11.	2021/2022	Howrah-Rourkela Shatabdi Express
12.	2027/2028	Mumbai-Pune Shatabdi Express
13.	2029/2030	Amritsar-New Delhi Swarna Shatabdi
14.	2031/2032	Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi (Reverse)
15.	2301/2302	New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express (Via Gaya)
16.	2305/2306	New Delhi Howrah Rajdhani Express-Via Patna
17.	2309/2310	New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express
18.	2313/2314	Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani
19.	2421/2422	New Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express
20.	2423/2424	New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express
21.	2425/2426	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Express
22.	2429/2430	Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express
23.	2431/2432	Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Central Rajdhani Express

24.	2433/2434	Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express
25.	2435/2436	New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani (Via-Hajipur)
26.	2951/2952	New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express
27.	2953/2954	Nizamuddin-Mumbai August Kranti Rajdhani Exp.
28.	2957/2958	Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Express
29.	241/241	Kalka-Shimla Shivalik Express

Purchase of Cracker Plant of IPCL by IOCL

826. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is purchasing the cracker plant of Indian Petrochemicals Limited (IPCL) located at Vadodara;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Vadodara plant of IPCL has since been evaluated;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a dispute going on between IOCL and IPCL over the pricing of the IPCL's Vadodara unit;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to settle this dispute between two major public undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In December, 2000, the Department of Disinvestment, Government of India informed Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) regarding the decision of the Government for the transfer of the Vadodara unit of IPCL consisting of naphtha cracker unit and other downstream units, to IOC on nomination basis.

(c) and (d) Due diligence w.r.t. Technical, Financial and Legal aspects has since been completed by IOC.

Valuation for the Vadodara unit and associated facilities has also been carried out with the assistance of Bank of America, the financial adviser of IOC for this acquisition.

(e) to (g) In the opinion of the IOC, differences over the pricing of the Vadodara unit of IPCL cannot be termed as "dispute" in as much as they do not pertain to the ongoing business transactions between the two companies but to the proposed sale of the Vadodara unit of IPCL. Any sale/purchase transaction can go through only if the terms are agreeable to the seller and the buyer and the absence of such agreement cannot be termed as dispute. There were some differences in the values assessed by

IOC and IPCL for the Vadodara complex and the matter has been referred by the Department of Disinvestment to the Committee on Disputes.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, at 11.00 a.m.

11.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 27, 2001/Sravana 5, 1923 (Saka).

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