

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Monday, February 27, 2006/Phalgun 8, 1927 (Saka)

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

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Janardan Jagannath Shinkre.

Shri Janardan Jagannath Shinkre was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970, representing Panjim Parliamentary Constituency of Goa, Daman and Diu.

Shri Shinkre took active part in Goa's freedom movement during 1946 to 1961.

Shri Shinkre was the Principal of Portuguese schools from 1939 to 1947 and was associated with the Goman-tak Shikshan Sammelan and the Gomantak Sahitya Sammelan.

A man of letters, Shri Shinkre edited 'Yugantar' a Marathi magazine and 'Deepgriha', a Marathi weekly. He has to his credit Marathi novels, namely, 'Madhli Bhint'; 'Bhiti'; 'Sanshayatme: Collection of Jokes' and 'Kamra No.9'. He was the editor and proprietor of the Marathi daily, Pradeep.

Shri Janardan Jagannath Shinkre passed away on 24 December, 2005 at the age of 89.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to suspend the question hour. I want that the House should hold a discussion on this matter of urgent public importance in India. ...(Interruptions) as to how an attempt is being made to influence and make judiciary fall prey to the lure of money. Entire country is sold ...(Interruptions) shameless acts are being witnessing such incidents of brazen dishonesty and impropriety. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Some of our Members have been expelled from this House. But nowadays judiciary is being influenced with money power. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The issue of phone tapping is a very important one. We all are seeking statements from the Government on this issue. ...(Interruptions) We are seeking statement from the Minister in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper way.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the manner in which the judiciary is being influenced in Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions) It needs to be discussed seriously in the House today. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are seeking statements from the Government - on the issue of phone tapping. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me run the House.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have made a request to you in connection with the forthcoming visit of President Bush to India. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today in the House, there should be a discussion on the issue as to how the Judiciary is being influenced with money power all over India. ...(Interruptions) There could be no more important issue than this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take it up during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: No, Sir, not during the Zero Hour. Sir, give me just a two minute's time. We would like to put forth my point before the House. ...(Interruptions) I have given the notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions) You are requested to get the issue discussed in the House today. ...(Interruptions) It is clearly captioned in the newspapers how the judiciary is being influenced with money power. Vulgar display of things not in good taste are taking place. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not show the paper.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not show the paper. This will not go on record. Now, why are you wasting the time?

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow this. Do not show the paper and nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You raise the matter in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Mr. Brajesh Pathak, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pathak ji, your point is no more being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no use of speaking. I have told you that I will give you an opportunity and even listen to your request in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It seems that you are not willing to raise your point in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Madhusudan Mistry, have I invited you to say like this? Please sit down.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ahead of the visit of President-Bush to India, the round table conference which was called by the Government — on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this is not a matter of urgent public importance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you during the Zero Hour. Do raise the matter after the Question hour is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is Question Hour. This is not a matter of public importance. It can be taken up during 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your notice has not been received.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a matter relating to treason. In this way you are talking about self independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will not allowed in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It can be taken up during 'Zero Hour'. This is not a matter of urgent public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: So, you have decided to allow me in Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken much more time now than what you should have got in Zero Hour. By the way, you have not given any notice in this regard.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I have given a notice. You promise that I will be allowed during Zero Hour. As you have assured him that he will get an opportunity in Zero Hour. I may also be assured to raise the matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will see at that time. If your notice has come, I will try to accommodate you.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: We have given a notice.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you that I will try my best to accommodate you.

11.08 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sanjay Dhotre Q. No. 122.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Assistance to State Governments for Irrigation Projects

+

*122. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on many irrigation projects in the States particularly Maharashtra have been held up due to non-release of funds by the Union Government resulting in revision of time schedule and cost overrun in respect of these projects;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to release the funds to enable the State Governments to complete these projects expeditiously?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. This situation is also applicable to irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central loan assistance for such approved irrigation projects proposed by the States which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in four financial years. Since 2004-05, grant component has been introduced under the Programme and from 2005-06, the grant portion of the central loan assistance only is provided by the Centre and the loan portion has to be raised by the State Governments by market borrowing. The release of Central assistance under AIBP is in the form of supplementation of the resources of the State Governments within the overall State Plan allocation and it is provided subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission. The time and cost overruns in the irrigation projects cannot be attributed to release of Central assistance under AIBP by the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know about the irrigation project of Maharashtra as to whether any project has been held up due to non release of fund by government? In reply, it has been stated that the matter comes under the purview of State Government, but in the last year an amount of Rs. 529 crore was provided to Maharashtra by the Centre as against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 70 crore. So this

reply is not correct. Would the Central Government provide some more funds to complete the irrigation projects of Maharashtra this year?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Before I come to the point, the House must have got some information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Perhaps you would like to make some addition to it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I will give a clear cut reply to his question. I would like to say that in the cultivable command areas major projects are for the area measured more than 10 thousand hectares. Then the medium projects are for the area measuring from two to ten thousand hectares and the minor projects are for the area lesser than two thousand hectare. All these projects are of the State Government. They are verified by the Technical Advisory Committee of our Ministry and then permission is granted. In some states, there are some unapproved projects in operation, but approval is necessary. However, the Finance aspect has nothing to do with these projects. In regard to the question raised by him regarding Maharashtra the information is not correct that they have got Rs. 700 crore. As per information available with our Ministry, there are 151 projects pertaining to Maharashtra within the purview of AIBD. Out of which 57 ones are approved and 95 projects are unapproved. Sometimes this question may arise in the House as to what are the unapproved projects. Earlier in the past there were some misconceptions that the Projects in AIBP are directly concerned with my Ministry in which 30 projects are sanctioned for Maharashtra. Amongst them, 8 projects are under the fast track out of 11 such projects. Projects under fast track are those ones for which the Central Government make effort for their completion within two years. It gives me a pleasure that Maharashtra has got injustice.

[English]

Not as a special case, but because Maharashtra is a State which is performing better.

[Translation]

Earlier, they have been given the fund in the ratio of 80 and 20 in which loan is extended in toto. The Central Government used to give 80% share. Thereafter, Maharashtra has got 100 percent amount for fast track projects. The entire component of the loan has been

merged with grant on the recommendation of our Ministry. So, adding the loan component and the grant component the Government of Maharashtra has received Rs. 1199 crore.

[English]

Not as a special case, but because Maharashtra is a State – which is performing better.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: I would like to know whether special package is provided only to certain specific projects from his Ministry or does the State Government decides the expenditure incurred on different projects from the funds given by his Ministry?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is project centric. I believe that it is upon the recommendation of the State Government which conducts its survey and after the survey it sends us the projects and we provide them funds. Out of their 30 projects, several projects have been completed, the details of which I can give even now. Other projects are in the channel. Thus the projects are sent to us on the recommendation of the Maharashtra Government, after their inquiry and efforts of the State Government. If he has any specific question regarding any specific project he may ask?

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, according to the latest information available, there are 19 incomplete major irrigation projects, 23 on-going medium irrigation projects and 28 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) projects in Karnataka. Till before last year, the Union Government has given the assistance as 30 per cent grant and 70 per cent loan for these irrigation projects. But last year, the Union Government has stopped giving the loan and released the grant amount only and asked the State Government to raise the funds on their own. Because of this stoppage of loan amount, the Government of Karnataka is facing great difficulty in completing these irrigation projects.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister had announced recently that one crore hectares of land is to be irrigated in the country under Bharat Nirman programme and asked the State Government to furnish the details to be included under this programme. The Government of Karnataka has submitted a cost of project proposal for major, medium

and ERM irrigation projects of Rs. 7,849.28 crore to be included in Bharat Nirman programme. If these projects in Karnataka are completed early, it will give great boost to the people of Karnataka in general and the farmers in particular who are the backbone of the country.

Sir, I want to know whether the Union Government is considering to re-introduce the proposal of 70 per cent loan assistance to the State of Karnataka which was given up to 2005. In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that he is giving both grant and assistance to the Government of Maharashtra. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is possible to introduce the same proposal for Karnataka also and if so by what time a final decision in this regard will be taken. I also want to know whether the Union Government is considering the proposal which is submitted by the Government of Karnataka under Bharat Nirman programme.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I feel very happy to refer to Bharat Nirman. Hon. Member has made a reference to that. Bharat Nirman certainly is a situation of hope for the country. But, when I was referring to Maharashtra, I just mentioned that it was performing well. Earlier, in the loan assistance, we had 80:20 ratio and then it became 100 per cent. But now, for the entire country, for general run-off States it is 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant. Yes, that grant is also available to Karnataka.

Sir, the hon. Member mentioned about Bharat Nirman. Under Bharat Nirman the situation is that one crore hectares of land will be cultivated and every State will get a share on the basis of justice and equity. There is no question of taking sides. I can assure this august House that my Ministry will be totally transparent.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Thank you, Sir.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: That ratio is available to everybody, especially to hilly States, specialised States like the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and some areas in Orissa where the grant will be 90 per cent and loan will be 10 per cent. You have referred to Bharat Nirman. It is a matter of joy and earlier the Chairperson of the UPA told the entire country about learning the problems of the farmers.

The hon. Prime Minister particularly went, among other places, to Andhra Pradesh to understand why the farmers are committing suicides. He went to the families of those in Somayajulapalli village, 30 kilometres from

Kurnool. This was the background that Bharat Nirman came into focus. Under the Bharat Nirman programme it is possible to do justice to all areas, particularly the backward areas. But there is a situation which this august House may kindly consider. Under Bharat Nirman we shall have one crore hectares of land to be irrigated. It is a revolutionary step. But already demands have been received by my Ministry where they want to cultivate and irrigate two crore hectares of land. That is not possible. We have to cut our coat according to our cloth. It will be one crore hectares of land that will be brought under Bharat Nirman and States will have to discuss with us so that we are in a situation to do justice and equity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, my question was whether the Union Government is considering to reintroduce giving 70 per cent loan to the State of Karnataka. He has not replied to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have asked your supplementary.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant is available. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, Please sit down. First send the notice, then I shall see. The Speaker is a Member from your party.

[English]

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, Andhra Pradesh has a total of 40 rivers which have the capacity of 2,765 tmc while the water used for irrigation purpose every year is only 1,700 tmc. Apart from this, every year 3,000 tmc water from the Godavari is going waste, into the sea, which we are not able to use. On the other side, farmers of Andhra Pradesh have committed suicides because of continuous droughts. To come out of this tragedy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, has started a unique programme called Jalayagnam which is to make full use of surplus water which is now going into the sea.

Andhra Pradesh Government has already started 30 major and 18 minor irrigation projects at the cost of Rs. 46,000 crore to irrigate 73 lakh acres of land. Apart from this, they are going for stabilisation of 20 lakh acres of land.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your supplementary.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: For completion of these projects, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has allocated Rs. 10,000 crore which is 51 per cent of its total Plan Budget for the current year, which is the highest in the country. I would like to ask the Minister when the Government of Andhra Pradesh is making such big steps to help the farmers in the State, whether the Central Government would extend the help sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, that is, Rs. 8,000 crore every year till completion of the above projects.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Hon. Member Shri Balashowry has raised a very important question, but it is a situation to be tackled by the Andhra Pradesh Government within its own resources there. Andhra Pradesh Government committing 51 per cent of the Plan Budget for 48 projects is a laudable thing. I appreciate that. But whatever is possible to be done within the AIBP, within this Ministry, I will certainly respond to that. Whatever money you require, you have to project it in the Plan discussions with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, but under AIBP, we shall certainly respond to your demands.

As for our approval to the major and medium projects, we shall examine them and TAC will sit or we shall organise a discussion. They will examine and support you wherever it is needed.

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER: Thank you. Soz Sahab, you are also requested to address the Chair and not the individual. That will create a trouble for you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there has been a stagnation in regard to extension of irrigation in our country as there has not been sufficient allocation for irrigation. There is a need for enhancement of allocation for irrigation.

There is one important project in North Bengal, Tiesta Irrigation Project. So far, the Central Government has not provided sufficient funds for that project. If that project is completed, life of the entire North Bengal will change. That is very necessary for four districts of North Bengal. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will provide sufficient funds to complete Tiesta Irrigation Project expeditiously.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia's question is in two parts. First, he has raised the question of loan and grant dwindling for irrigation project. I have no hesitation in saying that we have to do something so far as allocations for irrigation are concerned.

Irrigation should receive very great importance, but Bharat Nirman has already responded to it.

As regards Tiesta Irrigation Project, it has been recommended to the Planning Commission, and it is receiving attention.

As regards your query about your projects, a component of the grant of Rs. 170 crore have already been allocated by way of grant, but the loan component is always there. The Planning Commission is considering about the Tiesta Project.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleague Shri Balashowry from Andhra Pradesh has already admitted here that farmers from Andhra Pradesh are committing suicide, and it is a fact.

Sir, the Maharashtra Government has been utilising the water according to the Godavari Water Tribunal agreement. Meanwhile, they are constructing one project called the Babli Project without the knowledge of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and violating the inter-State agreement.

Is it a fact that the present Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Rajasekhara Reddy has written to the then Minister of Water Resources, Government of India Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi on this issue? Did Shri Dasmunsi, after receiving the letter, give instructions to the Maharashtra Government not to proceed with the Babli project as this was against the inter-State agreement? I would like to mention that even now the work is going on with regard to this project. What action has the Government of India taken so far on this issue? I want to know about this matter from the hon. Minister, as this is a very important issue. A lot of agitations are also going on in the Adilabad District. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to respond on this very important issue.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, it is outside the matrix of this Question. Therefore, it cannot be readily answered.

I will look into this matter, but you kindly raise this Question separately.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Babli Project is a very important issue.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, it needs a separate Question. Hon. Member, you can come with a separate Question, and I will respond to it. But it cannot be answered like this. I am not a judge. I have to listen to the demands of the States also.

Hon. Member, please give a separate notice, and I will look into it. Otherwise, I invite you to discuss it with me personally.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am humbly requesting, through you, to the hon. Minister to go through the Chief Minister's letter, and I would request him to please take initiative in the interest of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give a separate notice on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I will look into it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this issue is very much concerned with the State of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, they are violating the law. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, it is a very relevant Question relating to Godavari river. It seems that the hon. Minister has not done his homework properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. MOHAN: Sir, it is a very important issue concerning Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The State Government has done a good job to complete the irrigation project in Maharashtra and for which a certificate has also been awarded to them by his Ministry, for which I express him my gratitude. Does he propose to increase the funds for Maharashtra when they have done such a good job? Projects are going on in Maharashtra to check the flow of Krishna river however, there is a paucity of funds so the Government of India should extend its assistance in this work.

My second question relates to the need of rain water harvesting in Mumbai and Konkan area. A project should be prepared to check that water. For this purpose the Union Government should get a survey conducted after sending a team over there if we are able to conserve this water then several districts of Maharashtra can be supplied with water. There is heavy rainfall in Mumbai and Konkan area. If a project could be prepared to divert the course of water flowing into the sea to areas with shallow water, then it would be a great help. What are the plans of the Union Government in this regard?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: There is no problem of funds. My chart indicates that the states which were given funds have not been able to utilise the entire amount. If we receive a demand from Maharashtra then we will see it and examine it and also discuss it in the P.A.C and we can even discuss it with Planning Commission in this regard.

As far as rain water in Mumbai and Konkan areas is concerned,

[English]

I want to share this thinking with the august House that this Ministry will raise a very vigorous movement for the purpose of rain-water harvesting.

In fact, we should tell the countrymen and women that not a drop of rainwater should be wasted. Therefore, this is already under my attention.

[Translation]

I am very glad when I see the man power of India. I just do not see it inside the Ministry. I also see it outside in people who are working. I want to share it with the august House that why the Magsaysay Award was given in Rajasthan they identified a situation and collected rain

water there. A great work is being done in this direction in Pune. That is why, I am making a list of all the wise men who want to conserve rain water so that irrigation could be improved. Since he has raised this matter so I would rivet my attention towards Konkan.

[English]

I want to share this thinking with the august House that this Ministry will raise a very vigorous movement for the propose of rain-water harvesting. In fact, we should tell the countrymen and women that not a drop of rainwater should be wasted. Therefore, this is already under my attention.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how many projects of irrigation and flood control in Bihar are pending with his Ministry for years. He may be aware that Ganga is an international river and every year the floods in Ganga erode thousand of villages of Bihar and destroys the crops. Ten Lakh hectares of land has water logging problem and there is irrigation problem. All the schemes of Gandak, Bagmati, Kosi and Adwara group are pending with his Ministry. I am putting a question to the Hon. Minister and he is busy reading a paper. What decision is likely to be taken by him in this regard and the time by which all these projects are going be cleared?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The decision of Bihar itself he is looking up in the papers.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is impossible to give him the details of all the projects of Bihar and discuss them with him at this moment but I would like to tell him that the concern raised by him in regard to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: This question is regarding a particular state of Maharashtra, why did not he study Bihar and other states before giving a reply, otherwise he may postpone it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He should worry about Bihar since he has been elected from Bihar, but if he wants to know the projects of Bihar, he may come to my Ministry

and discuss and we shall do whatever is required. If he wants the details of Bihar as to whether if Bihar has got anything or not then, I can tell him the grants received by it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: He should assure as to by when he will get them completed. All the M.Ps from Bihar will go and meet him.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: All right, he may come and we shall discuss.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jha Saheb, please sit down.

[English]

Diversion of Foodgrains

+

*123. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey by some independent agencies have indicated large scale diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) foodgrains in North Eastern States as reported in The Hindu dated February 1, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding diversion of PDS foodgrains in other parts of the country during the last three years;

(d) whether diversion of other goods being distributed under PDS has also been reported;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the said period, State-wise;

(f) whether the monitoring system of PDS has failed to check this diversion;

(g) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard; and

(h) the action taken against the officers held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In a study conducted during 2003-04, by ORG Marg, New Delhi on evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System in the country diversion of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has been reported in most of the States. In the North Eastern States the position has been as under:-

Name of the State	Diversion (%)	
	Rice	Wheat
Arunachal Pradesh	64.1	96.2
Assam	37.2	100.00
Manipur	97.7	100.00
Meghalaya	61.3	100.00
Mizoram	52.6	100.00
Nagaland	88.6	100.00
Sikkim	Negligible	100.00
Tripura	3.8	Not calculated

The diversion figures during 2003-04 brought out in the ORG Report referred to above in respect of other States are given below:

Name of the State	Diversion (%)	
	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3
Bihar	14.7	44.7
Chhattisgarh	33.4	71.4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48.5	69.4
Delhi	10.5	25.1
Goa	42.9	Not calculated
Gujarat	16.2	24.4
Haryana	Not calculated	74.2

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	58.2	34.1
Jammu and Kashmir	64.3	13.5
Jharkhand	Neg.	37.5
Kerala	Neg.	42.6
Madhya Pradesh	48.3	44.7
Maharashtra	Neg.	25.6
Rajasthan	Not calculated	59.0
Uttar Pradesh	32.4	59.1
Uttaranchal	53.3	58.0
West Bengal	34.9	86.6
All India	39.0	53.3

The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission has in a report based on study of 18 major States submitted in March, 2005 has also reported leakage and diversion of subsidized foodgrains in TPDS, as a percentage of offtake of BPL quota as follows:

Sl. No.	States	Foodgrains leakage through ghost cards	Foodgrains leakage at FPS.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Negligible	20.60
2.	Assam	33.35	8.33
3.	Bihar	26.13	55.41
4.	Gujarat	28.29	13.77
5.	Haryana	Negligible	55.65
6.	Himachal Pradesh	31.03	0.41
7.	Karnataka	25.67	17.73
8.	Kerala	3.91	17.80
9.	Madhya Pradesh	54.48	7.94
10.	Maharashtra	10.78	15.75

1	2	3	4
11.	Orissa	13.49	9.90
12.	Punjab	Negligible	76.50
13.	Rajasthan	Negligible	31.95
14.	Tamil Nadu	9.26	6.40
15.	Uttar Pradesh	22.30	38.97
16.	West Bengal	13.85	5.30
All India		16.67	19.71

(d) and (e) The terms of reference of the ORG Study did not include evaluation of distribution of sugar. As regards Kerosene, the State-wise details on estimated leakage as per recent comprehensive study conducted by National Council of Applied and Economic Research are given below:-

(Figures in percent)

States	Siphoning off of kerosene for non-household purpose.	Diversion of kerosene from PDS to open market.	Diversion of kerosene to no card households	Total diversion
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	6.3	29.7	1.9	37.9
Assam	13.8	29.1	1.1	44.0
Bihar	15.7	31.2	7.6	54.5
Chandigarh	64.5	19.2	1.6	85.2
Chhattisgarh	16.9	10.9	12.4	40.3
Delhi	10.9	41.7	1.2	53.8
Goa	8.5	6.5	1.4	16.5
Gujarat	34.8	3.1	1.7	39.5
Haryana	21.7	18.0	0.9	40.6
Himachal Pradesh	2.0	5.6	3.1	10.7

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	32.5	18.1	4.8	55.5
Karnataka	8.8	23.4	5.7	37.9
Kerala	6.7	11.9	0.6	19.2
Madhya Pradesh	20.1	16.9	2.8	39.8
Maharashtra	20.3	9.9	1.1	31.3
Meghalaya	11.0	14.1	0.0	25.1
Orissa	11.5	39.6	0.6	51.6
Punjab	52.6	15.9	0.3	68.8
Rajasthan	22.3	1.8	1.2	25.3
Tamil Nadu	7.7	37.7	1.0	46.4
Uttar Pradesh	21.7	13.5	3.9	39.1
Uttaranchal	39.6	3.5	0.8	43.9
West Bengal	4.5	13.7	0.6	19.1
Total	18.1	17.9	2.6	38.6

(f) and (g) A system to monitor distribution of foodgrains and other goods being distributed under PDS is already in place. Under the System, the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains and other goods through PDS outlets lies with the respective State Governments. However, the following measures have been taken by the Government to reach the PDS items to the beneficiaries.

- (i) The reports of the ORG Marg and the Programme Evaluation Organisation have been sent to the State Governments for their comments. In addition, the issue of diversion has been discussed in the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments. The State Governments have however, expressed reservations in these conferences on the findings of the studies.
- (ii) As regards diversion of wheat particularly in the North Eastern States, the Central Government in addition to reducing wheat allocation in all rice eating states has also issued instructions that the custom of allowing flour mills to lift wheat directly from the FCI godowns be stopped and

the State Governments should ensure that the wheat after being milled is put back in the PDS net-work, for distribution to ration card holders.

- (iii) In the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments including the conference for North Eastern States held in Guwahati on 31st January, 2006 the issue of diversion of foodgrains has been discussed at length and State Governments asked to take steps like door delivery of foodgrains, involvement of Self-Help Groups of stakeholders in distribution, computerization of PDS beneficiaries etc. The Chhattisgarh Government has reported that it has cancelled the Fair Price Shops licenses and with a view to ensuring better distribution has allotted Fair Price Shops to 3404 Gram Panchayats, 2753 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, 1587 Womens' Self Help Groups, 243 Forest Protection Committees and 2032 Shops to other cooperative societies. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have taken up review of the BPL beneficiaries and have started issue of computerized ration cards alongwith bar coded coupons. Sikkim has also computerized the TPDS operations.
- (iv) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- (v) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit;
- (vi) The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS;
- (vii) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administration;

(viii) Under the Area Officers Scheme, the Senior Officers of the Government visits their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT for taking necessary action.

(ix) The Central Government has made necessary provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to check diversion of kerosene.

(x) Further to check the black marketing of the SKO, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake inspections of SKO dealers and take action against guilty dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

(h) Details of action taken by some of the State Governments, against the erring FPS owners under the PDS (Control) Order, after January 2004, are given in the enclosed Annexure.

Annexure

Status Paper on Half Yearly Report on the Action Taken under Clause 9 of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 by the State Governments/UT Administrations

S.No.	State/UT	Period from Jan., 04 to June,04	Period from July, 04 to Dec. 04
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	No. of raids conducted- 84 No. of persons arrested- Nil. No. of persons prosecuted-19 No. of persons convicted- 2 Value of goods confiscated (Rs.35,815)	No. of raids conducted - 143 No. of persons arrested- Nil. No of persons prosecuted- 28 No. of persons convicted- Nil. Value of goods confiscated (Rs. 1,104.00)
2.	Chhattisgarh	No. of Cases- 527 Action taken-187 Balance cases- 340	No. of Cases- 290 Action taken- 87 Balance cases- 203
3.	Delhi	No. of cases repone - 44 Action taken- 44 Penalty Imposed- Rs.92,300	No. of cases reported - 211 Action taken- 211 Penalty Imposed- Rs.2,86,100
4.	Gujarat	No. of raids- 8179 No. of persons arrested- 22 No. of persons against whom prosecution started- 6 No. of persons punished under PDS (Control) orders,2001- Nil Amount of confiscation (Rs. in lakh) - 6.78	No. of raids- 13496 No. of persons arrested- 37 (police Case) No. of persons against whom prosecution started- 33 No. of persons punished under PDS (Control) orders,2001- Nil Amount of confiscation (Rs. in lakh)- 14.68

1	2	3	4
5.	Haryana	FPS Licence cancelled- 66 Forfeited - Rs.2,27,250/-	FPS Licence cancelled- 66 Forfeited - Rs.3,54,100/-
6.	Karnataka	No. of raids - 461 No. of persons arrested - 41 No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted- Nil Value of confiscated essential commodities (Rs. in lakh) - 2.40	No. of licenses who have violated the orders- 207 No. issue pending for enquiry- 27 No. of suspended licenses - 31 No. of licenses cancelled- 02 Total penalty against the issues closed after levying penal try- Rs.1,02,891/-
7.	Kerala	No. of raids - 2977 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of confiscated- Rs 28788.50	No. of raids - 7872 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted- Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of confiscated- Rs.54938.80
8.	Mizoram	No. of raids conducted - 6 No. of persons arrested- Nil No. of persons prosecuted- Nil No. of persons convicted- Nil Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in lakh) - Nil	No. of raids conducted - 3 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted- Nil No. of persons convicted- Nil Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in lakh) - Nil
9.	Orissa	No. of raids conducted - 287 No. of persons arrested - 2 No. of persons prosecuted - 13 No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of goods confiscated - Rs.2,10,585.00	No. of raids conducted - 645 No. of persons arrested - 6 No. of persons prosecuted - 58 No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of goods confiscated - Rs.3, 76,537.94
10.	Punjab	Depots checked - 16550 Show cause notices issued - 606 Depots suspended - 284 Cancelled - 34 Depots fined - 151	Depots checked - 16024 Show cause notices issued - 628 Depots suspended - 215 Cancelled - 35 Depots fined - 145

1	2	3	4
11.	Rajasthan	No. of raids - 80 No. of persons arrested - 3 No. of persons prosecuted - 18 No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of confiscated essential commodities (Rs.) - 838681	No. of raids - 12 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted - 25 No. of persons convicted - 1 Value of confiscated essential commodities (Rs.) -1450664
12.	Tamil Nadu	PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has not been implemented in the State since this Govt. is not following APL/BPL classification for pricing commodities under PDS. Hence the question of furnishing Half yearly reports on the action taken under clause 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 does not arise.	
13.	Uttar Pradesh	No. of raids - 4322 No. of persons arrested - 59 No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of confiscated essential commodities (Rs.) - 6419413 No. of inspection - 146950 No. of FIR register - 137 Security deposit - Rs. 3612541 No. of FPS suspended - 2711 No. of FPS cancelled - 1029	*
14.	West Bengal	No. of raids conducted - 400 No. of persons arrested - 149 No. of persons prosecuted - 39 No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of goods seized = Rs.76,45,218.00	No. of raids conducted - 173 No. of persons arrested - 66 No. of persons prosecuted - 53 No. of persons convicted - 4 Value of goods seized = Rs.29,16,016.00
15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	No. of raids conducted - 1 No. of surprise inspection - 205 No. of persons arrested - 1 Penalty charges - 2 No. of cases initiated - 1 Value of goods confiscated - Nil Irregularities Noticed - 32	*

1	2	3	4
16.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	No. of raids - 1 No. of persons arrested - 1 No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of goods confiscated (Rs.) - 3971 Remarks-complaint lodged with the police for further investigation.
17.	Pondicherry	No. of raids - 380 No. of persons arrested - 5 No. of persons prosecuted - 5 No. of persons convicted - 2 Under investigator & 1 under Trial	No. of raids - 1072 No. of persons arrested - 17 No. of persons prosecuted - 17 No. of persons convicted - 4 under Trial

* No information has been received from these States/UTs.

Status Paper on Half Yearly Report on the Action Taken under Clause 9 of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 by the State Governments/UT Administrations

Sl. No.	State/UT	Period from Jan., 05 to June, 05	Period from July,05 to Dec., 05
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	No. of raids conducted - 991 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted - 24 No. of persons convicted - 2 Value of goods confiscated Rs. 56,797/-	
2.	Delhi	No. of cases reported - 785 Action taken - 702 Penalty Imposed-Rs.11,09,900	
3.	Gujarat	No. of Inspection of FPS - 16163 Seizure - Rs. 1339014 Confiscation - Rs. 377938 Deposit Confiscated - Rs. 2648189 Licence cancelled - 68 Licence suspended- 186 Prosecution No. of cases - 28	

1	2	3	4
4.	Haryana	FPS licences cancelled -73 Forfeited - Rs.7,74,920/-	
5.	Kerala	No. of raids - 3386 No. of persons arrested - 9 No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of confiscated - Rs.22009.72	
6.	Mizoram	No. of raids made - 10 No. of persons arrested - Nil No. of persons prosecuted - Nil No. of persons convicted - Nil Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in lakh) - Nil	
7.	Punjab	Depots checked - 16145 Show cause Notices issued - 881 Depot suspended - 204 Depot cancelled - 45 Depot fined - 295	
8.	Tamil Nadu	PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has not been implemented in the State since this Govt. is not following APL/BPL classification for pricing commodities under PDS. Hence the question of furnishing Half yearly reports on the action taken under clause 9 of the PDS(Control) Order, 2001 does not arise.	
9.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	No. of Inspection - 56 No. of raids conducted - Nil No. of persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted - Nil No. of FPS licenses suspended/cancelled show cause notice issued - 1 Value of goods seized - Nil	No. of Inspection - 43 No. of raids conducted - Nil No. of persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted - Nil No. of FPS licenses suspended/cancelled show cause notice issued - 5 Value of goods seized - Nil
10.	Chandigarh	No. of case registerd - 1	
11.	Pondicherry	No. of raids - 2673 No. of persons arrested - 18 No. of persons prosecuted -18 No. of persons convicted - Under investigation	

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two studies have been done in 2003-04 by ORG-MARG, which show that in the North-Eastern States, diversion of wheat is 100 per cent, and for other States, it is 53.3 per cent in case of wheat, and 39 per cent in case of rice. One more study done by the Planning Commission says that food grains leakage through ghost cards is 16.67 per cent and food grains leakage at FPS is 19.71 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is very alarming.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: As regards kerosene, a study conducted by the National Council of Applied and Economic Research says that 38.6 per cent diversion has taken place. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to say what has been the loss to the Central Government? I would like to know what has been the monetary loss to the Central Government.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you just state about the loss.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): It will be difficult to give the figures or the amount. But it is true that it is a very serious issue. Both reports brought to the notice of the Government that there is a substantial diversion, especially in the North-East. When we got the reports, we immediately sent copies to all the States and we have requested the State Governments that they should give their comments. Along with my colleague, the Minister of State, I myself had gone to the North-East and called a meeting of the representatives of the North-East, including the Chief Minister of Assam. We have raised this issue before them. We are taking all precautions to curb this.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I have not got the correct answer to my first question regarding the monetary loss suffered by the Government.

The Programme Evaluation Study by the Planning Commission had given certain recommendations. It was recommended that they should do away with the methodology of identifying the poor families on the basis

of income-expenditure criteria. The organisation has also asked the Planning Commission to devise an appropriate criterion and method of BPL identification that would enable the States to limit the size of the target group and the neighbourhood. Is the Government going to consider the suggestions given by the Programme Evaluation Study and implement them?

I would like to reiterate my first specific question. What has been the monetary loss suffered by the Government?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: About the monetary loss, I said that I have to collect the figures and I have no hesitation in giving them.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is difficult to be done.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Whatever we can provide, we will do arrange for the same.

[English]

Simultaneously, about the recommendations that have been communicated, we have already sent them to the States. Implementation of the Public Distribution System is a responsibility of the States. We have communicated to the State Governments the recommendation given in that report. We are going to take it seriously and we are going to call a meeting of all the States also.

I have now got the figures asked for. During the year 2003-04, the total amount spent was Rs. 7,258 crore, in sixteen States. Out of that, Rs.4,197 crore did not reach the BPL card holders or households. So, practically more than 55 per cent of the amount has not reached the BPL households.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Even the subsidy amount?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is a subsidy amount.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, the matter of diversion of PDS food grains is very serious. I have very carefully noted the answer given by the hon. Minister. I wish to bring to his notice an instance where nearly 13,800 quintals of food grains did not reach the targeted group in one Panchayat only of my constituency and this was for as many as eight continuous months. Till date we do not

know where that quantity had gone. We have been asking the State Government to let us know. Anyway, that is a different matter.

Such reports of diversion are very widespread. Wherever the price of food grains in the open market rises above the above-poverty-line price, such off-take takes place. To my understanding, the FCI is not interested in preventing such diversions. Would the Government consider directly subsidising the target groups and then raising the price of food grains in the Fair Price Shops to that of the open market price so that this diversion is prevented? It is a policy decision.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not think it is possible to provide money directly. We have to see that the subsidised food grains which have been allotted to the States, reach the poor man. If you study this entire diversion minutely, a substantial diversion is from the above-poverty-line (APL) people. There are many States which are transferring this wheat to the flour mill-wallahs who are converting that wheat into *atta* and selling it in the open market. In fact, there was a request from the North-Eastern States that we should continue with this policy. But we have recently put one condition. We have no objection to hand over this entire wheat to the flour mill-wallahs but that converted *atta* has to come to the Public Distribution System and it has to reach the people at reasonable price. We have put that condition.

We are allowing the State from the North-East. But let me tell you frankly that we are going in detail. But I have my own doubts about some of the figures. There are two reports. One is from the ORG-MARG, which has given certain Reports; and there is a Sub-Committee report from the Planning Commission. Both these Reports are altogether different. There are certain States which are taking a lot of interests to execute this Public Distribution System efficiently.

Take the cases of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. It has been shown here that there is a substantial diversion in the case of West Bengal, which I myself is not ready to believe. I have to do in detail. Unless and until, we go into details and collect proper reactions from the respective State Governments, we do not want to reach to any conclusion.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister this. The Minister has expressed full concern for the North-East. We are happy

to know this. I have got a specific question. Since 1995, the Ministry has issued different orders to the North-East, especially to Arunachal Pradesh for Hill Transport Subsidy. In 2005, after a gap of ten years, the Ministry has issued an order to all these independent agencies, who are evaluating the Public Distribution System in the North-East, particularly Arunachal Pradesh, to go back to order...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your supplementary.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: With that calculation, the Ministry has found more than Rs.170 crore excess payment to Arunachal Pradesh. Now, the Public Distribution System is totally a failure in the North-East. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister under what circumstances, the Ministry has issued order to calculate that ten-year back order. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is also a very serious problem. Let me bring it to the notice of this august House that in Arunachal Pradesh, there are certain villages where you cannot send either truck or any other vehicles because of the geographical position. You have to take food grains on your head. It is called 'headload'. The total bill of the 'headload' was coming to Rs.10 to Rs.2 crore. Suddenly, it has jumped to Rs.400 crore. On seeing a jump from Rs.10 to Rs.20 crore to Rs.400 crore, I thought that it is our responsibility to go into the details as why such a huge jump has taken place. We found that there are a lot of *hera-pheri*. Hence, concerned officers were withdrawn. We have taken a number of actions there. We are taking legal action against many people. This looks like a *prima facie* report and it seems like a clear-cut cheating against the Government.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: In the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is stated that in almost all the States, the food grains, such as rice and wheat, are diverted to some other purposes. Sir, it is understood that even at the distribution point, that is, from the FCI godowns itself, the agents or the contractors bring it to the open market. Has the State Government any such information to the Central Government in this regard? If yes, has any action been taken by the State Government or the Central Government in this case because it is nothing but looting the public money?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with it. We have communicated to all the State Governments that this is the factual position of their States and we are waiting for their comments. We have not received any comments till

yesterday. Some of the actions, which have been taken by some of the State Governments, have been given in the annexure. Practically, most of the State Governments have taken certain actions and some of the States have started taking correction action. Take the examples of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Sikkim.

***SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:** Sir, The Tribune has published a report regarding PDS in its issue dated December 13, 2005. Its heading is.... "Punjab numero uno in PDS corruption". Punjab is the most corrupt State in the distribution of food grains through the Public Distribution System. In Punjab, as much as 76.50 per cent of total highly subsidized food grains meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families through Public Distribution System is diverted to the market. It is further mentioned that the depot holders divert subsidized food grains to the market in connivance with the local politicians and officials in the State Food and Supply Departments and other bureaucrats. Notably, in Punjab, only 10.50 per cent of the subsidized food is reaching the targeted BPL families through TPDS.

Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister regarding the action taken by him against bureaucrats who are responsible for the bungling in the PDS. What is the Government doing to ensure that the subsidized foodgrains reach the BPL families? I had raised this issue in the earlier session too. I had brought the situation in Punjab to the notice of the Hon. Minister. In the last few days, some trucks carrying PDS foodgrains elsewhere have been intercepted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the supplementary.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: What steps are being taken by the Hon. Minister against the corrupt officials? How will he ensure that the subsidized foodgrains under the PDS reach the BPL families?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What action has been taken against the State officials?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The State Government is supposed to take action. We have brought it to the notice of the State Government. Whatever information we have got from the State Government between the period January 2004 and June 2004, the total action taken is as follows: Depots checked 16,550; Show-Cause Notices issued -

606; depots suspended - 284; depots cancelled 34; and depots fined 151. Secondly, as per the half yearly report on the action taken under clause 9 of the PDS (Control) Act, the action taken between January 2005 and June 2005, is as follows: Depots checked 16,145; Show-Cause Notices issued 881; depots suspended 204; depots cancelled 45; and depots fined 295. Definitely, certain action has been taken by the State Government. But this report about fifty per cent diversion itself is a serious thing. That is why, we are taking up with the Punjab Government. They have to take corrective action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, you are giving 45 minutes for two questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever party leaders have decided, I am following the same.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened to the reply of the Hon'ble Minister. It is true that the Union Government supplied goods to the consumers but its distribution and monitoring is the responsibility of the state Government. Now, there are some problems in rural areas. The families whom ration card has already been issued but due to expansion of the family, addition of members in the family, because of increase in population, families go on splitting in the rural areas because of which names of some members figure in the ration card but due to the split of family names of some other members do not figure in the ration card. The demands which are made by the State Government to the Union Government for the persons whose names are registered in the ration card, the Union Government supplies goods and rations for those persons only, details about the kerosene has also been given in it. Though, this matter is related to the Ministry of Petroleum but here the Minister of Agriculture has given reply on this issue. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that what is the demand regarding kerosene oil from Bihar and how much of it is supplied? Whether you will supply kerosene as per the demand?

My second question is that the families which get split in the rural areas and due to this the members who are deprived of taking goods from PDS because of non-inclusion of their names in the ration card, whether the Hon'ble Minister would like to issue any direction to the State Government immediately for making their ration card

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

afresh so that the consumers who are deprived they could also get goods from PDS. Could you try to find out any solution in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Committee which has examined it, has recommended in one of the recommendations that there is need to improve the present process of selection for issuing BPL ration cards and the state governments should check the BPL list again and the persons who are living below poverty line should be included in it. As far as the demand for kerosene is concerned, now I do not have the details regarding it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Moreover, it does not come under the domain of this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has accepted in his reply that there is leakage in it and the report which has been submitted also mentions that there is leakage in distribution of oil, there is leakage in distribution of sugar, there is leakage in distribution of wheat and rice too. Sugar has no importance now. Public Distribution System, PDS about which we are talking has lost attraction among the people. Earlier, people were getting rations/materials at reasonable rates which are not available now. Here, particularly discussion about BPL has taken place for which the Union Government have made a resolution to make the goods available at cheaper rates to the poor people at large scale through the State Governments and particularly through FCI. Certainly, there is some lacunae in it because of which poor people are not getting goods. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that as per the information provided to you and the survey conducted by you truck loads of goods are being sent to the mills directly and the essential goods are not reaching the rural poors through public distribution system. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the concrete steps being taken to check these malpractices and the action being taken against the officials of FCI who are directly involved in it? Along with this, action you are contemplating to take for strengthening the public distribution system so that the resolution of the UPA Government to make the foodgrains available at reasonable rates to the poors can be fulfilled. What action you are contemplating in this regard and how would you strengthen it?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this information has already been provided earlier.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 124: Shri Shishupal Patle — Not Present; Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat — Not present.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price to Farmers

*125. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the farmers are unaware of the Minimum Support Price for their agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to disseminate information about its various programmes to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January - December, 2003), 71 per cent of farmers did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price. Remaining 19 per cent not only understood the idea of Minimum Support Price but also knew the agency to which they would sell their crop if its market price fell below the Minimum Support Price.

(c) To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through a number of schemes. The various schemes include: support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agriculture, Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres. The information about various Government programmes relating to agriculture and allied sectors is regularly provided to the states/farmers through the Department's website, Mass Media programmes in

agriculture and various exhibitions/Kisan melas. The related information and knowledge to the farming community is also provided through 180 Narrow Casting Centres, 18 Regional Centres, 1 National Doordarshan Kendra and through 96 FM Radio Stations. Further, to make extension system farmers driven and farmer accountable, Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) have been established in 218 districts in the country for technology dissemination.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government announces the support prices but does not procure foodgrains at the support price. At most of the places the farmers have to sell their produce to the small traders. Small traders go to the village and directly buy the produce at lower price than the support price from the farmers. Your centers instead of buying the produce of the farmers directly buy it from the small traders at support price which they buy at lower rates than support price.

I want to ask from the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that last year there was a bumper crop of mustard but Government mustard centers were closed because of which the produce of the farmers could not be procured. Today also lakhs of tones of produce are lying in mandis or in the stores of the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You put your supplementary question.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: The Hon'ble Minister may kindly tell whether the produce of the farmers that will be brought at procurement centers at the support price, would be bought by the Government and whether Government propose to increase the number of such centers?

I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that whether he will ensure it that the total produce of the farmer will be produced at support price and its information will be provided?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How he would provide information?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the procurement of mustard at Government support price is concerned, I am happy to inform the House that last year, particularly in Rajasthan and in some other

States where mustard is grown, it has been procured in unprecedented quantities breaking the record of last 50 years.

Sir, two years before oil seeds amounting to Rs. 300 crores were procured. Last year procurement of mustard was of Rs. 3000 crores. The Government had procured at large scale and the maximum procurement was done in Rajasthan.

It is evident that the mustard seed procured from Rajasthan could not be marketed properly and even today the 90% of that procurement is lying in the Godown. That stock does not belong to the farmers but it was procured by the NAFED on behalf of the Government and thus now that belongs to Government. We have taken that stock for disposal and it has to be disposed off.

Sir, although the farmers ran in loss last year but so far as the situation in this year is concerned, I through this House assure the farmer that we will soon start purchase of the entire yield of mustard seed from the farmers at what so ever prices are fixed by the Government we will give the full price to the farmers and see that they are not exploited. We will pay full attention towards it.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Deputy Speaker, Sir, while agreeing to the reply given by the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to my question, I would like to request you that this system should reach the villages and procurement centres should be opened at various places and the whole produce of farmers should be purchased by them. I want an assurance from him. Whatever he has said that should not remain as an assurance only. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to get an assurance from the Minister that whatsoever produce is to be brought by the farmers will be procured by these centres and Government will not refuse their produce on the ground that their godown are full. Government is not for the business but the Government want to pay the support price so that farmers could get reasonable price for their crops. Therefore, I want that he should tell here that whatever produce will come to these centres, that will be purchased and farmers will be paid full price and that no laxity will be allowed in procurement.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has replied to that. There is no need for the Minister to reply to that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: While the prices of the manufactured

goods and commercial items are being revised every 2-3 months with the result their prices are going up, the prices of the agricultural produce produced by the farmers are not going up at all. Even if there has to be some revision in the Minimum Support Price, it is only two per cent or five per cent every year because of which the gulf between the farmer and the urbanite is growing substantially high. A farmer having 25 acres of land is not able to educate his child in engineering or medical college, whereas a small employee is educating his child, whatever he wants.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Shortcomings in Programmes for Irrigation Facilities

*124. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed certain shortcomings in the implementation of programmes drawn up for creation of irrigation facilities as reported in Dainik Jagran dated December 12, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government is carrying out/has carried out review of the programmes for the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) There are news items in Lucknow, Bhopal and Patna editions of Dainik Jagran dated 12th December 2005 about Irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar respectively. The news items cover information on the following:

- a. Expenditure on maintenance of canal system off-taking from Ganga and related issues.
- b. Preparation of Schemes by Uttar Pradesh Government for lining of Eastern Yamuna Canal, Lower Ganga Canal, Sarda and Gandak Canals.

- c. Completion of Upper Wainganga, Urmil, and Banjar Projects of Madhya Pradesh.
- d. Decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to complete Bansagar, Bariarpur, Gulab Sagar, Mahi (Mahan), Bawanthadi, Mahi Sindh (Stage-I) and Sindh (Stage-II) major projects in next 3 years.
- e. Taking up of the World Bank assisted Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project.
- f. Taking up of the Pench Multi-purpose Project of Chhindwara district by Madhya Pradesh Government.
- g. The strategy of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for construction and maintenance of 5 new Irrigation Projects in each of the Legislative Assembly constituency.
- h. Stoppage of the work on Punpun embankment in Bihar.

There is also a reference about the limitations in respect of financial resources.

(c) and (d) Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan has been carried out by the Planning Commission. Important irrigation related issues have been highlighted in the Mid Term Appraisal. The National Development Council met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 27th & 28th June, 2005 to consider the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan and recognizing the fact that agriculture and irrigation have been a common theme in the interventions of the Chief Ministers, and that enhancing investments in irrigation has emerged as common concerns, the National Development Council agreed to form a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on "Agriculture and Related Issues". The Sub-Committee held its first meeting on 4th October, 2005 and has constituted six Working Groups including working Group on "Irrigation including Minor Irrigation" under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The first meeting of the Working Group has been held on 26th December, 2005.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Weather Forecast to Farmers**

*126. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of adverse weather conditions on crop cultivation recorded in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has adequate mechanism to provide credible and reliable weather forecast to farmers in different regions of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to develop the systems of extended range of weather forecast to help farmers decide in advance to sow the crops at right time and protect their standing produce and avoid losses due to adverse weather; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Adverse weather conditions, including rainfall, have significant impact on crop production. The details relating to south-west monsoon (June-September) rainfall and normal rainfall, along with production of kharif cereals, pulses and oilseeds are given below:-

(South -West Monsoon 1st June - 30th Sept.)

Sl. No.	Monsoon Year	Rainfall (in mm)		Percentage of Normal	Kharif production (in lakh tonnes)			
		Normal	Actual		Cereals	Oilseeds	Pulses	Total
1.	2003	902.7	922.5	102	1107.2	167.73	61.6	1336.5
2.	2004	893.3	781.2	87	983.7*	149.37*	49.5*	1182.6*
3.	2005	892.5	879.3	99	1026.8#	159.87#	54.7#	1241.4#

* - Indicates 4th advance estimate of production

- Indicates 2nd advance estimate of production

It may be seen from this statement that during 2004, when the monsoon rainfall was 87% of normal, crop production has declined during the year.

(b) and (c) The government has a mechanism to provide weather forecast in the country through India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF).

An organized mechanism exists in IMD to provide long range forecast of south-west monsoon rainfall in different parts of the country. The long range forecasts are issued in two stages, the first one during mid April followed by an update in the beginning of July every year. The update forecast also contains forecast of monsoon rainfall for four homogeneous regions (North-west India, North-east India, Central India and Peninsular India), monsoon rainfall for the month of July. Besides long range forecasts, short range forecasts for 1 to 4 days are issued by IMD on a regular basis.

The IMD uses econometric model for establishing correlations between monsoon rainfall and antecedent atmospheric and oceanic parameters such as sea surface temperature, snow cover, mean temperature and pressure gradient. The model error is $\pm 5\%$. These mechanism have been found to be generally credible, but need to be further refined for greater accuracy, and infrastructure strengthened.

The NCMRWF on the other hand, generates agro-climatic zone specific medium range (4-10 days) weather forecast for different agro-climatic zones for the benefit of farmers.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The government has already initiated a project on "Development of Extended Range Forecast (ERFS) for Climate Risk Management in Agriculture" with the support of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast,

Space Application Centre and Indian Council of Agriculture Research. Support from other agencies working in the field would also be obtained as and when required. The project is being coordinated by IIT Delhi through a Scientific and Technical Committee. The project which envisages seasonal to monthly scale forecast of precipitation and air temperature at regional level is expected to be completed in two phases over a period of six years. The project would be fully funded by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

Indo Oman Fertilizer Project

*127. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Oman fertilizer project was inaugurated recently;

(b) whether the project has since become functional;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in the implementation of the project;

(d) whether nitrogenous fertilizer at competitive rates would be sufficiently available to India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (c) The plant of Oman India Fertilizers Company (OMIFCO), a joint venture of M/s IFFCO & KRIBHCO and the Oman Oil Company, set up to produce 16.52 lakh MT per annum of granular urea was inaugurated on 27.01.2006. The Plant commenced commercial production w.e.f. 14.07.2005 as per schedule.

(d) and (e) Government of India has entered into an Urea Offtake Agreement (UOTA) with OMIFCO to lift the entire production of granular urea in the first 15 years at a fixed long term FOB price (LTP) of urea fixed as per the UOTA are as under:-

Year of contract	LTP of urea US\$/MT
1	2
1	150.00
2	140.00

1	2
3	133.00
4	133.00
5	131.00
6	130.00
7	130.00
8	130.00
9	104.00
10	90.00
11	80.00
12	84.80
13	90.00
14	89.00
15	90.80

[English]

Production of Pesticides

*128. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of pesticides produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of imports and exports of pesticides recorded, separately during the said period;

(c) the total amount spent on imports and the amount earned from exports of pesticides during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the imports and increase the production and exports of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The total quantum of production of pesticides in the country during the last three years along with imports & exports of pesticides is given in the table below. Figures of import and export of pesticides are based upon the data

maintained by Directorate General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.

	Unit	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production*	000 M.T.	70	85	94
Imports	Rs. Crore	287	501	693
Exports	Rs. Crore	1487	1746	1891

* Figure relate to the production in organized sector.

(d) It is a deregulated sector. Due to liberalized regime currently being followed, exports and import of pesticides are free. Technical pesticides are largely imported to make formulations for exports. Imports of pesticides are also on account of new generation pesticides which are not manufactured in the country. The country is by and large self sufficient in the production of technical pesticides and their formulations. India is a net exporter of pesticides.

Profit and Loss of PSUs

*129. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production in many Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has decreased and the losses incurred by these PSUs have gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has identified some PSUs and instructed them to show profits during the next financial year;

(d) if so, the names of such PSUs and the details of instructions issued to them;

(e) whether the Government proposes to give any financial assistance to the loss making PSUs; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) As per available information, there are in all 237 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of which 144 are involved in manufacturing and production activities. The

value of production of these 144 CPSEs taken together has increased during 2004-05 as compared to the previous year. However, 42 CPSEs have shown decrease in their value of production during this period. The losses of 15 CPSEs out of these 42 have increased as compared to the previous year.

(b) The reasons for decrease in production and increase in losses may vary from enterprise to enterprise. However, some of the reasons include old plant and machinery, lack of working capital, high input cost, low capacity utilization, old technology, excess manpower, stiff competition etc.

(c) and (d) In order to revive/restructure sick/loss making CPSEs, Government have set up a Board for Reconstruction of Central Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) vide Resolution dated 6-12-2004. The concerned administrative Ministries/Departments are responsible for preparing comprehensive package for revival/rehabilitation of loss making CPSEs as defined in this Resolution and submit to the BRPSE for consideration.

(e) and (f) The BRPSE has made recommendations in case of 28 CPSEs up to 8.2.2006 and the Government have approved revival/restructuring of 10 CPSEs.

[Translation]

Wages for Agricultural Labourers

130. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments are adhering to the Union Government's revised rates of wages for the agricultural labourers;

(b) If not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the States have introduced the categorised wages rate scheme;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has carried out the State-wise assessment of the labourers covered under the categorised rates of wages; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, minimum wages are fixed/

revised by the appropriate Governments under their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, both Central and State Governments independently fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers categorizing them on the basis of skill, area/zone and operations in certain cases. A statement indicating category-wise minimum wages for agricultural labourers fixed by the appropriate Governments is enclosed. However, in order to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government prescribes national floor level minimum wage which stands at Rs.66/- per day w.e.f. 1.2.2004. The national floor level minimum wage applies to all employments including agriculture. Since it has no statutory backing, the State Governments are persuaded to fix/revise minimum wages in scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction so that they are at least at par with the national floor level minimum wage. As evident, notified

minimum wages in agricultural employments are less than the national floor level minimum wage for all or certain categories in the States/UT of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tripura, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The Central Government continues to persuade these States/UT to revise the minimum wages so as to be at least at par with the national floor level minimum wage.

(d) and (e) Any wage, above the statutory minimum wage, is to be determined by the demand and supply condition in the market. Therefore, wages received by agricultural labourers vary from area to area, time to time and operation to operation. While as per Census 2001, there are about 10.68 crore agricultural labourers in the country, its distribution, wage-category wise, is not feasible.

Statement

Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labourers, category-wise, in Central and State Spheres

S.No.	Sphere	Skill/Operation	Area/Zone	Minimum Wages (rounded up in Rupees per day)
1	2	3	4	5
	Central Sphere	Unskilled		115
		Semi-Skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	Area A	126
		Skilled/Clerical		138
		Highly Skilled		154
		Unskilled		105
		Semi-Skilled/ Unskilled Supervisory	Area B	117
		Skilled/Clerical		126
		Highly Skilled		142
		Unskilled		103
		Semi-Skilled/ Unskilled Supervisory	Area C	108
		Skilled/Clerical		116
		Highly Skilled		126

1	2	3	4	5
State Sphere				
1	Andhra Pradesh		Zone III	64
			II	74
			I	84
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Unskilled	Area I	55
			II	57
		Semi-skilled	I	60
			II	62
		Skilled	I	65
			II	67
3	Assam	Un-skilled		69
		Semi-skilled		73
		Skilled		79
4	Bihar	Harvesting		In kind (one bundle for ten bundles of harvested crops)
		Tractor Driver and Pump operator		92
		Tractor Khalasi/Pump Khalasi/Chowkidar/Sipahi		72
		All other Agri. Operations (except harvesting)		66
5	Chhattisgarh	Unskilled		53
6	Goa	Unskilled		94
7	Gujarat			50
8	Haryana	Unskilled (with meal)		84
		Unskilled (without meal)		88
9	Himachal Pradesh	Un-skilled		65
10	Jammu and Kashmir	Un-skilled		66
		Semi-skilled		88
		Skilled		147

1	2	3	4	5
11	Karnataka	Watching over the birds/ Grazing of cattles		56
		Ploughing and other operational activities		66
12	Kerala	For light work		72
		For hard work		125
13	Madhya Pradesh	Un-skilled		57
14	Maharashtra		Zone I	51
			II	49
			III	47
			IV	45
15	Manipur	Un-skilled		72
		Semi-skilled		78
		Skilled		79
16	Meghalaya	Un-skilled		70
		Semi-skilled		75
		Skilled		85
17	Mizoram	Un-skilled		91
		Semi-Skilled/Unskilled Supervisory		101
		Skilled Gr.II		126
		Skilled Gr.I		161
18	Nagaland	Unskilled		66
		Semi-skilled		70
		Skilled Gr. II		75
19	Orissa	Un-skilled		53
		Semi-skilled		63
		Skilled		73
		Highly-Skilled		83

1	2	3	4	5
20	Punjab	Unskilled		91
		Semi-skilled Lower		95
		Semi-skilled Upper		99
		Skilled Lower		101
		Skilled Upper		108
		Highly skilled Lower		114
		Highly skilled Upper		119
21	Rajasthan	Un-skilled		73
		Semi-skilled		77
		Skilled		81
22	Tamil Nadu	Ploughing with employee's bullock and plough		150
		Ploughing with employer's bullock and plough		80
		Men: 6 hours		
		(i) Harvest of paddy reaping, carrying to thrashing floor, thrashing, winnowing, measuring and bagging		
		(ii) Harvest of crops other than paddy		
		(iii) Sowing, plucking of seedling, replanting, weeding		80
		(iv) Other agricultural operations, namely, trimming of bunds and fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy farming and climbing of trees		
		Women: 5 hours		
		(i) Harvest of paddy reaping, carrying to thrashing floor, thrashing, winnowing, measuring and bagging		
		(ii) Harvest of crops other than paddy		
		(iii) Sowing, plucking of seedling, replanting, weeding		70

1	2	3	4	5
		(iv) Other agricultural operations, namely, trimming of bunds and fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy farming and climbing of trees		
23	Tripura	Unskilled		50
24	Uttar Pradesh	Unskilled		58
25	Uttaranchal			73
26	West Bengal	Unskilled (with meal)		62
		Unskilled (without meal)		65
27	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Un-skilled		100
		Semi-skilled/Un-skilled/ Supervisor	Andaman	108
		Skilled/Clerical		116
		Highly skilled		129
		Un-skilled		107
		Semi-skilled/Un-skilled/ Supervisor	Nicobar	113
		Skilled/Clerical		127
		Highly skilled		141
28	Chandigarh	Un-skilled		114
		Semi-skilled-II		120
		Semi-skilled-I		124
		Skilled-II		132
		Skilled-I		140
		Highly Skilled		156
29	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Un-skilled	89	
		Semi-skilled		95
		Skilled		102
30	Delhi	Un-skilled		126
		Semi-skilled		132
		Skilled		142

1	2	3	4	5
31	Pondicherry	Ploughing with employee's bullock and plough (5 hours)		100
		Ploughing with employer's bullock and plough (5 hours)		54
		Men: 6 hours		
		(i) Harvest of paddy reaping, carrying to thrashing floor, thrashing, winnowing, measuring and bagging		
		(ii) Harvest of crops other than paddy		
		(iii) Sowing, plucking of seedling, replanting, weeding		54
		(iv) Other agricultural operations, namely, trimming of bunds and Pondicherry/Karaikal fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy farming and climbing of trees		
		Women: 5 hours		
		(i) Harvest of paddy reaping, carrying to thrashing floor, thrashing, winnowing, measuring and bagging		
		(ii) Harvest of crops other than paddy		
		(iii) Sowing, plucking of seedling, replanting, weeding		45
		(iv) Other agricultural operations, namely, trimming of bunds and fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy farming and climbing of trees		
		Light operations/Unskilled work (6 hours)		55
		Sowing, Transplanting, Harvesting, Weeding (6 hours)	Yanam	65
		Ploughing (5 hours)		68
		Threshing (6 hours)		75

**Upgradation of ESI Hospitals/
Dispensaries**

*131. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade some ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the country;

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

(c) the number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries being run in rented accommodations, State-wise;

(d) the details of the fund spent over these hospitals/dispensaries during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise; and

(e) the number of the labourers/workers benefited by these hospitals during the said period and the details of facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e): Upgradation of ESI hospitals/dispensaries is a continuous process on need basis. The number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries being run in rented accommodations, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The details of fund spent over these hospitals/dispensaries during last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The number of the labourers/workers benefited by the ESI hospitals during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-III. The workers are being provided promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

Statement-I

*Number of ESI Hospitals & Dispensaries
in Rented Buildings*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Hospitals	Dispensaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh		110
2.	Assam		25
3.	Bihar		20
4.	Chandigarh Admn.		1
5.	Chhattisgarh		11

1	2	3	4
6.	Delhi		16
7.	Goa		6
8.	Gujarat		58
9.	Haryana		48
10.	Himachal Pradesh		9
11.	Karnataka		60
12.	Kerala		96
13.	Madhya Pradesh		23
14.	Maharashtra	4*	63
15.	Meghalaya		1
16.	Orissa		38
17.	Pondicherry		12
18.	Punjab		50
19.	Rajasthan		38
20.	Tamilnadu		127
21.	Uttar Pradesh		105
22.	Uttaranchal		7
23.	West Bengal		36
24.	Jammu and Kashmir		8
25.	Jharkhand		29
Total		4*	997

* Buildings owned by Govt. of Maharashtra

Statement-II

State-wise Expenditure on Provision of Medical Care

Sl. No.	State	Expenditure on Medical Care (Rs. in Lacs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5064.47	7241.39	7391.30
2.	Assam	407.44	311.53	373.54

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	430.73	407.70	409.78	14.	Orissa	1315.45	1256.23	1242.56
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	207.41	214.75	249.40	15.	Meghalaya	23.28	24.60	24.68
5.	Gujarat	6772.23	6886.75	6980.71	16.	Punjab	3583.67	3120.03	3194.16
6.	Goa	435.76	768.04	546.38	17.	Pondicherry	485.27	517.65	558.95
7.	Haryana	2599.24	2832.74	3025.91	18.	Rajasthan	2144.56	2055.15	2185.29
8.	Himachal Pradesh	228.75	220.55	223.65	19.	Tamil Nadu	7673.43	7695.91	7965.75
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	83.02	86.28	84.96	20.	Uttar Pradesh	4692.91	5053.40	5355.63
10.	Kerala	3514.76	4060.98	4459.03	21.	West Bengal	6867.32	6639.57	6730.49
11.	Karnataka	4984.24	4815.64	5565.16	22.	Delhi	7432.11	8189.04	8535.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2369.93	2379.99	3171.40	23.	Chhattisgarh	277.94	308.45	319.58
13.	Maharashtra	10551.58	11010.05	11474.56	24.	Jharkhand	507.46	509.10	421.34
					25.	Uttaranchal	99.24	91.92	102.57

Statement-III

Number of Workers & their Families who were provided medical services in ESI Hospitals & Dispensaries during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-05	
		I.Ps.	Families	I.Ps.	Families	I.Ps.	Families
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,25,265	18,02,146	21,80,176	25,92,820	2074349	2601390
2.	Assam	33,686	31,713	36,488	34,775	42128	42804
3.	Bihar	57,765	44,361	67,068	46,528	48584	42332
4.	Chandigarh	87,143	56,733	80,761	48,546	73429	45018
5.	Delhi	16,64,290	24,44,111	18,15,184	26,39,721	1861867	2786630
6.	Goa	1,15,878	1,15,076	1,26,359	1,22,850	135100	145349
7.	Gujarat	11,88,084	15,61,687	13,80,060	19,20,667	1375622	1938928
8.	Haryana	5,60,887	7,46,879	6,19,366	8,51,267	632872	852521
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14,557	12,248	1,44,639	1,53,411	119118	140250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	32,389	21,916	38,377	23,470	37944	16252
11.	Karnataka	10,39,877	11,90,926	10,38,935	11,65,544	973853	10,84,243
12.	Kerala	16,78,440	17,52,264	16,55,741	20,07,930	1892743	1741173
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8,45,213	10,96,047	7,51,719	9,39,243	710759	921615
14.	Maharashtra	10,85,386	10,77,248	9,69,090	9,73,748	715865	766766
15.	Meghalaya	2,002	2,212	2,157	2,203	1792	1698
16.	Orissa	4,38,563	5,71,922	4,48,099	5,65,936	427744	516872
17.	Pondicherry	1,64,277	1,67,551	1,72,465	1,68,236	181268	163160
18.	Punjab	5,60,018	5,55,120	5,90,625	6,55,739	711963	719496
19.	Rajasthan	9,49,300	11,69,522	10,20,736	12,66,464	993120	1311232
20.	Tamil Nadu	26,97,734	33,54,723	21,23,125	24,26,378	2299931	3031872
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7,50,943	8,40,045	5,90,638	6,72,002	597136	739245
22.	West Bengal	-	-	11,40,410	9,06,538	940233	600729
23.	Chhattisgarh	88,968	1,16,844	1,06,261	1,33,450	119126	144576
24.	Jharkhand	-	-	84,775	87,492	92533	96558
25.	Uttaranchal	-	-	36,360	42,378	29044	36126

*[English]***Ban on Plastic Utensils**

*132. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various scientists of the Country have demanded an immediate ban on utensils made of plastics particularly, in view of its ill-effects on infants;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take a decision on the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefore?

However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999, which was amended in 2003, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulating and managing plastic carry bags and containers. As per these rules, Carry bags and Containers used for packaging of foodstuff shall be made of virgin plastics and of natural shade or white and that no vendor shall use carry bags and containers of recycled plastics for storing, carrying dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. In addition, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 requires that containers made of plastic materials used as appliances or receptacles for the packaging or storing food articles must conform to the Indian Standards specifications as notified for this purpose and specified in the aforesaid Rules.

Health Condition of Unorganised Labourers

*133. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) No such demand from scientists has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the health condition of the unorganized/unskilled labourers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the health condition of the unorganized/unskilled labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRĀ SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Studies on the working and living conditions including health of labourers of certain occupational groups among the unorganised labourers of the country are conducted from time to time.

Since a majority of the unorganised sector workers are poor and their socio-economic, working and living condition are not as good as those of the organised workers, these affect their health conditions and they suffer from diseases and ailments like deficiencies due to mal nutrition, T.B., skin diseases, respiratory, diseases of eyes, etc.

The Government has recently launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which seeks to provide effective health care to rural population including unorganised sector workers throughout the country. The Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS) is in operation for 'Below Poverty Line' families, which provides for health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- and accidental cover of Rs. 25,000/- in case of death of earning head of family. Ministry of Labour & Employment has set up welfare funds for certain occupational groups i.e. beedi, cine and certain non-coal mine workers. The benefits under these welfare funds include medical, health care through hospitals and dispensaries, reimbursement in case of major ailments like T.B., Heart Surgery, and Kidney Transplant, etc. Recently, Ministry of Textiles have launched health insurance scheme for weavers. The benefits include health insurance cover of Rs. 15,000/- for family of four and maternity benefit @ Rs. 2000/- (two live births). Janshree Bima Yojana a group insurance scheme being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India provides insurance cover of Rs. 20,000/- in case of natural death; Rs. 50,000/- in case of death or permanent total disability due to accident. Some of the States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been running similar schemes for workers in certain occupational groups.

Safe and Standard Practice in FP Sector

*134. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has asked Quality Council of India (QCI) to frame guidelines for safe and standard practices in food processing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish a mechanism for accreditation of certification bodies that certify food processing units in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Monitoring Committee has since been constituted; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) and Quality Council of India (QCI) had signed a Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) to establish a mechanism for accreditation of certification bodies operating in certification of food processing units in the country for food safety/quality management systems and monitoring of certification bodies through surveillance. MOU does not cover framing of guidelines for safe and standard practices in food processing units by QCI. MOU provides for constitution of a "Monitoring Committee" consisting of Ministries / Departments of Food Processing, Health, Consumer Affairs, Commerce and Industry Associations, to oversee the implementation of the MOU.

[Translation]

Investment of EPF Money

*135. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing pattern of investment of funds under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme;

(b) whether the Government has worked out

certain measures to maximise profit on investment of EPF; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Investment of monies belonging to Employees' Provident Fund is made in accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 and as per the pattern of investment prescribed by the Central Government.

The existing pattern of investment, notified by Ministry of labour and Employment for the Employees Provident Fund is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The Ministry of Labour, based on the pattern of investment notified by the Ministry of Finance, has notified the following pattern of investment on 9th July 2003 :

Percentage amount to be invested

- (i) Central Government Securities as defined 25%
in Section 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944
(18 of 1944); and/or units of such mutual
Funds which have been set up as dedicated
Funds for investment in Government
securities and which have been approved
by the Securities and Exchange Board of
India.
- (ii) (a) Government Securities as defined 15%
in Sec. 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944
(18 of 1944); created and issued by
any State Government; and/or units
of such Mutual Funds which have
been set up as dedicated Funds
for investment in Govt. securities
and which have been approved
by the Securities and Exchange
Board of India; and/or
- (b) Any other negotiable securities
the principal whereof and interest
whereon is fully and uncondi-
tionally guaranteed by the Central

Govt. or any State Government
except those covered under (iii) (a)
below

- (iii) (a) Bonds/Securities of 'Public 30%
Financial Institutions' as specified
under Section 4(1) of the Compa-
nies Act, "public sector compa-
nies" as defined in Section 2(36-
A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961
Including public sector banks;
and/or
- (b) Short duration (less than a year)
Term Deposit Receipt (TDR)
issued by public sector banks.
- (iv) To be invested in any of the above 30%
three categories as decided by their
Trustees
- (v) The Trusts, subject to their assessment
of risk-return prospects, may invest
upto 1/3rd of (iv) above, in private sector
bonds/securities, which have an invest-
ment grade rating from at least two
credit rating agencies.

[English]

Protection of Interests of Spice Growers

*136. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a huge quantity of Arecanut and
Spices are smuggled to India from neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has adversely affected the interests
of the domestic producers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to
safeguard the interests of growers of such products in the
country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-
BUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. No authentic

information on huge quantities of arecanut and spices smuggled into India from neighbouring countries is available with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The import duty on arecanut has been increased from 35% to 100% with effect from 2001-02 to protect the interest of domestic farmers. The Ministry of Finance has also issued instructions to custom officials to prevent illegal entry of arecanut in the Country. Development programmes on spices are being undertaken under recently launched National Horticulture Mission. The programmes includes production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding and export oriented varieties of spices specific to different agro climatic conditions, their multiplication and distribution, area expansion, integrated pest management, organic farming etc. Besides, the duty free import of pepper for re-export purposes through advance licence is discontinued except for light pepper required by oleoresin industry for re-export purposes.

[Translation]

Projects Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

*137. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for completion of projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which these targets have been achieved and the projects completed under this programme State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for slow progress of the remaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) As per the latest guidelines effective from 1.4.2005, major/medium irrigation projects/project components under Normal Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) are to be completed in the next 4 financial years and those under the Fast Track Programme (FTP) of AIBP in the next 2 financial years. Since the inception on the Programme in 1996-97 upto 2004-05, a total of 184 major/medium irrigation projects have been included under AIBP (both Normal and FTP). Out of these projects, 10 projects have been deferred by the State Governments for various reasons and 45 projects/project components have been reported as completed upto 2004-05. The scheduled completion of the remaining 129 projects as per the Memorandum of Understanding provided by the States is given in the enclosed Statement-I. State-wise details of completed projects/projects components are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Among the completed projects, 30 projects were reported as completed on schedule. The progress of irrigation projects is generally hampered due to delay in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, contractual problem, court litigations etc. These constraints are also applicable to irrigation projects included under AIBP, which retards the progress.

Statement-I

Latest Anticipated Completion Date of AIBP Projects included upto 2004-05 as per Memorandum of Understanding/Information from State Governments

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Beyond 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
	1 Sriramsagar St. I (F.T.) (C)	1 Yerrakalva Res.	1 Gundalavagu		1 Kanupur Canal (A)
	2 Maddigedda	2 Vamsadhara St-II Ph-I			
	3 Madduvalasa (F.T.) (C)	3 Priyadarshini Jurala			

1	2	3	4	5	6
	4 Nagarjunasagar (F.T.) (C)	4 Somasila (F.T.)			
Assam		1 Dhansiri	1 Pahumara		
		2 Buridihing	2 Hawaipur Lift		
		3 Integrated Kallong	3 Champamati		
		4 Mod. of Jamuna Irrg.	4 Borolia		
Biher					
	1 Upper Kiul	1 Durgawati	1 Western Kosi		
	2 Orni Reservoir	2 Sone Mod.	2 Batane		
Jharkhand					
	1 Kansjore	1 Sonua			
		2 Surangi			
		3 Gumani			
		4 Upper Sankh			
		5 Panch Khero			
Goa					
	1 Salauli	1 Tillari I.S (Goa Portion)			
Gujarat					
	Sardar Sarovar Project II (F.T.)	1 Aji-IV	1 Sardar Sarovar Project AIBP (Normal)*		
	1 Mukteshwar	2 Ozat-II			
		3 Brahmini-II			
		4 Bhadar-II			
Haryana					
		1 Haryana WRCP *			
Himachal Pradesh					
		1 Sidhata	1 Changer Lift Irrigation Project	1 Shahnehar Irrigation Project	
Jammu & Kashmir					
	1 Mod. of Zaingir Canal	1 Rajpora Lift	1 Trai Lift		
	2 Igophey Irrigation Project	2 Mod. of New Pratap Canal	2 Mod. of Ranbir Canal		

1	2	3	4	5	6
	3 Lethpora Lift	3 Rafiabab			
	4 Mod. of Kathua Canal				
Karnataka					
	1 Upper Krishna Project-I*	1 Malaprabha			
	2 Karanja (F.T)	2 Ghataprabha			
	3 Hirehalla (F.T)	3 Upper Krishna Project-II			
		4 Gandorinala			
Kerala		1 Muvattupuzha			
Madhya Pradesh					
		Bargi Diversion Ch. 16 KM to 63 KM (F.T.)*	1 Bargi Diversion Ch. 63 KM to 104 KM (F.T.)*		
		1 Omkareshwar (Ph. I)*	2 Bawanthadi (M.P. Portion)		
		2 Indira Sagar Unit II*	3 Mahan		
		Bansagar Unit-I	4 Mahi		
		3 Sindh Phase I	5 Bariarpur LBC		
			6 Bansagar Unit-II*		
			7 Sindh Phase II		
Chhattisgarh					
	1 Hasdeo Bango (Ph.-III) (F.T.)*		1 Kosarteda		
	2 Barnai (F.T.)				
	3 Jonk Diversion				
Maharashtra					
	1 Wan (C)	1 Bahula	1 Gosikhurd *		
	2 Kumbhi (F.T)	2 Patgoan	Bawanthadi (Mah. Portion)		
		3 Krishna	2 Waghur		
		4 Upper Pen Ganga	3 Chaskaman		
		5 Upper Wardha			
		6 Upper Manar			
		7 Hetwane			
		8 Kukadi			

1	2	3	4	5	6
Manipur					
		1 Khuga	1 Thoubal		
		2 Dolaithabi			
Meghalaya					
				1 Rangai Valley	
Orissa					
	1 Naraj Barrage (F.T.)	1 Titlagarh St-II	1 Upper Indravati*	1 Lower Indra	
	2 Salandi Left Main Canal - Ambahata (F.T.)	2 Anandpur Barrage	2 Rengali RBC*	2 Lower Suktel	
			3 Subernarekha*	3 Ret Irrigation	
			4 Telengiri	4 Kanupur	
				5 Chhelligada	
Punjab					
		1 Remodelling of UBDC	1 Irrigation to H.P below Talwara	1 Shahpur Kandi Dam*	
		2 Kandi Canal Extension (Ph.II)			
Rajasthan					
	1 Mahi Bajaj Sagar*		1 IGNP Stage-II		
	2 Chauli		2 Narmada Canal*		
			3 Mod. of Ganga Canal (F.T.)*		
Tripura					
			1 Manu		
			2 Gumti		
			3 Khowai		
Uttar Pradesh					
		1 Rajghat Canal*			
		2 Saryu Nahar*			
		3 Bansagar Canal*			
		4 Jarauli Pump Canal*			
		5 Mod. of Agra Canal			
		6 Eastern Ganga Canal*			
		7 Tehri			

1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal					
	1 Hamumata		1 Tatko	1 Teesta Barrage	1 Subernrekha Barrage (A)
			2 Patloi		2 Mod. of Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC (A)
Total	26	55	36	9	3
129					

* Only the components under AIBP will be completed

(C) Already Completed in 2005-06 (as reported till 1/06)

(A) Continuity under AIBP to be confirmed from respective State Govts.

F.T. -Fast Track

Statement-II

From 1996-97 to 2001-02

S.No.	Project
Assam	
1.	Rupahi
Bihar	
1.	Bilasi Reservoir
Gujarat	
1.	Umaria
2.	Deo
3.	Harnav-II
4.	Jhuj
5.	Sipu
6.	Damanganga
7.	Karjan
8.	Sukhi
9.	Watrak
Rajasthan	
1.	Jaismand
2.	Gambhiri
Punjab	
1.	Ranjit Sagar Dam
Uttar Pradesh	
1.	Rajghat Dam
2.	Gunta Nala Dam
3.	Sarda Sahayak
4.	Gyanpur Pump Canal

During 2002-03

S.No.	Project (Started in Plan)
(1)	(2)
Chhattisgarh	
1.	Shivnath Diversion
Jharkhand	
1.	Latratu
2.	Tapkara Res.
Madhya Pradesh	
1.	Upper Weinganga
2.	Urmil
3.	Banjar
West Bengal	
1.	Kangsabati

During 2003-04

S.No.	Project
(1)	(2)
Assam	
1.	Bordikarai
Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Cheyzeru (Annamaya)
Haryana	
1.	Gurgaon Canal
Karnataka	
1.	Maskinala

(1)	(2)
Maharashtra	
1.	Kadvi
2.	Khadakwasla
Uttar Pradesh	
1.	Madhya Ganga & Upper Ganga Mod.
<i>During 2004-05</i>	
S.No.	Project (Started in Plan)
(1)	(2)
Kerala	
1.	Kallada
Maharashtra	
1.	Kasari
2.	Upper Tapi
3.	Jayakwadi St-II
4.	Kasar sai
5.	Jawalgaon
Orissa	
1.	Upper Kolab
2.	Pottaru
3.	Sason Canal
4.	Salki
Rajasthan	
1.	Chhapi
2.	Panchana
Uttar Pradesh	
1.	Providing Kharif Channel in Hindon Krishni Deob

[English]

Deregulation of Sugar Industry

*138. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to deregulate sugar industry and put it on a sustainable basis;

(b) if so, the steps taken to secure the interests of the farmers, the industry and the consumers;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revive the system of maintaining buffer stock of sugar to ensure availability and price stability of sugar in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to complete deregulation of sugar sector. However, complete deregulation must be on a sustainable basis and it must balance the interests of the principal stakeholders, i.e. the sugarcane growers, the sugar industry and the consumers. The Government has already taken a number of liberalisation measures in this direction. At present, however, the Government continues with the release mechanism.

(c) and (d) The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 provides for defraying expenditure to the sugar factories for the purpose of building up and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar by the sugar factories with a view to stabilizing the price of sugar. The Government has been periodically, whenever necessary, defraying such expenditure to the sugar factories. In the recent past, buffer stock of sugar was maintained for two years i.e. from 18.12.2002 to 17.12.2004.

Funds to States for Flood Control

*139. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to control floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to States to implement flood related schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the progress made in this regard alongwith the details of utilisation of funds so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Flood throughout the world cannot be fully controlled. It is to be managed to best of ability on technical merit of the problem from place to

place. However, flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. UPA Government gave special emphasis on this issue in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Central Government has also been initiating various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods. Ganga Flood Control Commission for Ganga Basin States constituted in 1972 prepared Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board which started functioning at Guwahati in 1982 prepared Master Plans for Flood Management for Brahmaputra, Barak and its major tributaries. These plans have been forwarded to concerned State Governments for implementation.

The National Water Policy 2002 has recommended for preparation of basin wise Master Plan for flood control and management providing therein adequate flood cushion in reservoir projects having overriding consideration of flood control in reservoir regulation policy. It has further emphasised on non-structural measures like regulation of settlements and economic activities in flood plains as well as modernization and expansion of flood forecasting activities.

In order to mitigate the damages from floods, a nationwide flood forecasting and warning system, as a non-structural measure, has been established by the Central Water Commission which issues flood forecasts at 173 stations in the country of which 145 stations are for river stage forecast and 28 for inflow forecast. For up gradation of the Flood Forecasting Network, a scheme at estimated cost of Rs.51 crore has been approved by the Government of India.

For long term management of floods also the Government of India have been taking effective steps. In this regard agreement has been reached with Nepal for survey, investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme for which a Joint Project Office was opened in Nepal in August 2004. The Government of India had also approved implementation of Pagladiya Multipurpose Project in Assam in 2001 at a cost of Rs. 542.90 crore (Revised tentative cost Rs. 1069.40 crore) which has flood control as a major benefit.

Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti erosion/ flood management works. A scheme amounting to Rs. 195.63 crore (central share) was approved during the 10th Plan (2004-07) for Ganga Basin States including the works to be executed by Farakka Barrage Project Authority in its extended jurisdiction. Similarly a scheme of Rs. 150 crore has been approved for North Eastern Region including Sikkim, North Bengal. Brahmaputra Board has also executed anti erosion works worth Rs. 21.91 crore. Another scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore has been approved to be fully funded by the Government of India for the protection of Majuli Island. Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are being provided financial assistance for maintenance of Gandak and Kosi embankments (Nepal portion), which they execute after every flood season. Assistance is also being rendered to Bihar for the scheme namely, "Extension, raising and strengthening of embankments for rivers Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando".

(c) and (d) The details of funds allocated by Ministry to the States during 10th Plan to implement flood related schemes and the progress made in this regard along with the details of utilization of funds are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Funds allocated	Funds released	Funds utilized
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	81.00	20.568	6.37
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5.45	4.50	1.50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.03	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	177.36	76.21	61.97*
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.32	1.00	Nil
6.	Jharkhand	2.30	Nil	Nil
7.	Manipur	7.60	2.12	Nil
8.	Meghalaya	4.50	Nil	Nil
9.	Mizoram	4.50	0.60	0.60
10.	Nagaland	4.33	1.2015	NA

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Orissa	13.13	4.75	1.50
12.	Sikkim	9.00	2.16	NA
13.	Tripura	15.04	1.50	1.302
14.	Uttaranchal	4.00	2.95	1.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	51.21	29.66	23.02
16.	West Bengal	72.12	25.78	20.52*

* Including state share of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States".

Ban of Use of Oxytocin

*140. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers use oxytocin to increase production of milk;

(b) if so, whether oxytocin injection is easily available in the market despite the ban imposed by the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government has examined the repercussions of use of oxytocin on the children consuming such milk;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for strict compliance of the ban?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Oxytocin, being a Schedule-H drug, is sold only against the prescription of a registered Medical Veterinary practitioner.

(c) to (e) Oxytocin being an indispensable life saving drug, no ban on its use has been imposed. However, considering the possible misuse of the drug, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has made it mandatory to market oxytocin injection only in single unit blister pack by amendment of Rule 105 of Drug & Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Further, the State Drug Controllers have been instructed

to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin and the State Animal Husbandry Departments have been advised to educate the farmers about the appropriate use of oxytocin and for not using this product without the prescription of Registered Veterinary Practitioners.

Strategy to Counter Drought

*141. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for granting relief to the drought affected States;

(b) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to counter the drought in the coming year particularly in States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Standing arrangements exist at the Central and State levels to constantly monitor factors like rainfall, crop and cattle status, water level in irrigation reservoirs etc. to assess emergence of drought or drought like conditions at the earliest.

There are contingency plans at the Central and States' levels to deal with the situation if acute drought sets in. These include arrangements for emergency supply of drinking water through road and rail, procurement and distribution of fodder, initiation of relief employment and provision of gratuitous relief to the uncared destitute etc. Financial assistance for undertaking relief are sanctioned from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) (normal source of meeting such expenditure) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) (for severe calamities when provisions in CRF are not sufficient to provide relief) as per norms laid down in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed every five years.

Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research issues area-specific advisories about the alternate crops and water conservation measures etc. to be implemented at short notice to minimize loss to the agriculture sector.

Accordingly, the Central and State Governments are

in readiness to deal with any situation that may arise due to aberrations in rains and consequent problems.

[Translation]

Shortage of Textile Machinery

913. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of textile machinery in the country is less than its demand and the manufacturers are facing difficulties for want of machines; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The total domestic demand for Textile Ministry during 2004-05 was estimated at Rs.4,195 crore of which imported machinery constituted Rs.2,964 crore. Supplies from domestic industry amounted to Rs.1,231 crore aggregating to 29% of the total demand. The present installed capacity of Textiles Machinery in the country is estimated to be around Rs.3050 crore per annum. The Government has already liberalized import of textile machinery as all machinery (new and second-hand) is allowed to be imported under OGL. Keeping in view the

vast projected demand for textile machinery in the coming years, the domestic manufacturers have increased their production substantially and are gearing up to further increase their capacities to meet the demand of the domestic textile industry. The production of textile machinery has registered an increase of 28% during the calendar year 2005 over the production of the preceding year.

Central Buffalo Research Institute, Sirsa

914. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding certain irregularities committed in Central Buffalo Research Institute, Sirsa Road in Hissar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to inquire into the matter and to check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details and the status of complaints are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Some complaints have been received in the recent past relating to alleged irregularities at CIRB, Hisar. The details along with the status of these complaints are indicated below:-

Complaints received	Status
1	2
1. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, MP (LS) referred the following two complaints for further necessary action:-	A committee was constituted by the Council to investigate the complaints.
(a) A complaint dated 03.8.2005 from Secretary, Joint Staff Council, CIRB, Hisar regarding irregularities in felling of trees.	On investigation the complainant informed that he was not aware of any such complaint and the same was not signed by him. Further on investigation, no irregularity was found.
(b) A complaint dated 23.7.2005 from Shri Chandi Ram Yadav and Shri Sant Ram, President and General Secretary of Central Agri Workers Union reg. irregularities on various issues pertaining to Admn.	The committee contacted the complainants i.e. Shri Chandi Ram Yadav and Shri Sant Ram who informed that they are not aware of the facts mentioned in the complaint and were forced to sign the said complaint.

1

and financial matters including purchase of sorghum seeds and misuse of Diesel.

2. Complaint dated Nil from former Members of IJSC, CIRB, Hisar was received through Shri Harish Rawat, MP vide letter dt. 23.07.05 reg. Financial and Adm. irregularities at CIRB, Hisar
3. A complaint pertaining to irregularities in issuing the milk coupons has been received from Shri M.K. Jain, Shop No.38, Guru Jambheshwar Market, Hisar through PMO on 17.10.05.
4. Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi, MP, Lok Sabha has vide his letter dated 14.1.06, referred to AM copies of some representations from employees/workers Union of CIRB, Hisar regarding certain alleged irregularities by Director, CIRB

2

However, they did not disclose the name of person who pressurize them to do so. In the circumstances, the committee recommended that Shri Chandi Ram Yadav and Shri Sant Ram may be warned to be careful in future. As regards misuse of diesel, the Director informed that there was a report of shortage of diesel in August- September, 2002. A committee was constituted by the institute to inquire into the matter and on the recommendation of the committee necessary action is being taken against the defaulters at the Institute level. In so far as purchase of sorghum seeds is concerned, no irregularity was found.

The matter has been examined and it has been observed that the complaint was anonymous/pseudonymous. Further, the allegations were found to be baseless. Accordingly Shri Harish Rawat, H'ble MP was apprised of the position under the signature of H'ble A.M. on 21.12.2005.

The complaint has been referred to Director, CIRB, Hisar for his comments.

The allegations made in the complaint shall be investigated and appropriate action taken wherever required.

[English]

Authorisation of Nationalised Bank By EPFO

915. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Northern Region has not authorised any nationalised bank for transfer of superannuation funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the banks authorised by the Government for the benefit of retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The nationalized banks which have a

network of branches and have come forward and agreed to disburse pension, are already authorised.

(c) Following banks are authorised to disburse Pension:-

- i. Punjab National Bank
- ii. State Bank of India
- iii. Indian Bank, and
- iv. Bank of India.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

916. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Gas Cracker Project is under consideration of the Government; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Assam Gas Cracker Project is under active consideration of the Government. It will help in the economic development of Assam. The Public Investment Board (PIB) has recommended the project for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. A Cabinet Note on the project is being put up before the Cabinet shortly. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 5460.61 crores. GAIL has been identified as the lead promoter in the project. Government of Assam has also 10% equity participation.

Report on Bonded Labourers

917. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any reports that the bonded labour system is still being practiced in some of the States;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has drawn any specific mechanism for eradicating the practice of this system in the remote rural areas across the country; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Proposals to release Central assistance for rehabilitation of bonded labourers are received from time to time from some States. During 2004-05 and 2005-06 such proposals have been received from Government of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana and West Bengal. In order to identify the incidence of bonded labour, Vigilance Committees have reportedly been constituted at district and sub-divisional levels in all the States/UTs under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Besides providing grants for rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, grants are also provided for survey of bonded labourers, awareness generation etc. under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

918. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the potentials of West Bengal for cultivation of medicinal plants and energy plantations like Ethanol have been examined;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof alongwith the action taken thereon; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has been set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to deal with all aspects of promotion and cultivation of Medicinal Plants in the country. The NMPB, have sanctioned 23 projects for promotion conservation, development and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in respect of the State of West Bengal at a total cost of Rs.199.30 lakh, during last 5 year (2001-02 to 2005-06). In India, Ethanol is produced from molasses for blending in petrol to the extent of 5%.

Levy Sugar for APL Families

919. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to issue levy sugar to APL families through Public Distribution System at a rate higher than the rate for BPL families;

- (b) if so, details thereof; and

- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure the better targeting of levy sugar supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS), levy sugar has been restricted to BPL families in all the States/UTs except the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories with effect from 1.2.2001. The minimum per head per month quantum of levy sugar

allotted under the PDS was increased from 425 gms to 500 gms with effect from 1.2.2001.

Kisan Call Centres

920. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented "Kisan Call Centres" scheme in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the same, State-wise during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "Kisan Call Centres" (KCC) scheme was launched on 21st January '04 to provide agricultural information to the farming community through toll free telephone lines. A country wide common four digit number 1551 has been allocated for KCC. The replies to the queries of the farming community are being given in 21 languages. Calls are attended from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm on all 7 days of the week. Since inception of the scheme, over 13 lakh calls have been received upto January 2006.

The B.E. 2005-06 for the scheme is Rs.250.00 lakhs.

The funds are not released state-wise, but the payments under the scheme are made centrally to BSNL, New Delhi in respect of the telephone charges and to Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for operationalizing the KCC.

(c) The Government of India has taken steps to support the States for the benefit of farmers through its various schemes, such as:-

4. Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.

5. Construction of Rural Godowns.
6. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme.
7. Integrated Oilseeds, Oil Palm, Pulses and Maize Development.
8. Technology Mission on Cotton.
9. National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming.
10. Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management approach in the country.
11. Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration.
12. Strengthening and Modernization of Pest & Plant Management.
13. Strengthening and Modernization of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India.
14. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Refirms.
15. Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension.
16. Kisan Call Centres.
17. AGRISNET.
18. Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
19. National Project on Cattle Breeding.
20. Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
21. Animal Disease Control.
22. Development of Marine Fisheries.
23. National Welfare of Fishermen.
24. Assistance to States Poultry Farms.
25. Feed & Fodder Production Enhancement Programme.
26. Livestock Insurance.

[Translation]

Development of Parks/Sanctuaries

921. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries;

(b) the total number of proposals approved and pending for approval out of the above;

(c) the reasons for these proposals remaining pending and the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to them;

(d) the time by which tigers would become available in Kuno Sanctuary alongwith the number thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the total amount spent till date on Kuno Sanctuary alongwith the total allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) During the year 2005-2006 twenty two proposals were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Sanction in respect of all of them have been issued and funds released.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no proposal to introduce tigers in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary.

(e) As reported by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, out of the total amount of Rs. 1537.90 lakhs released from 1996-97 till January 2006, an amount of Rs. 1536.73 lakhs has been spent on the development of Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary.

[English]

Revision of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

922. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the Expert Group on revision of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) A Working Group was constituted to suggest Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Working Group is yet to submit its recommendations to the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Iron Ore Plant

923. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India proposes to set up iron ore beneficiation plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to develop processing plants with beneficiation facilities in the new mines to be developed at Taldih in Orissa and Chiria in Jharkhand. Beneficiation Plant would help in upgradation in the quality of iron ore leading to improvement in the productivity of blast furnace.

Cut in Subsidy on Rice

924. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Government to effect a cut in subsidy on rice is likely to put an additional burden on the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any requests for reconsideration on the said cut in subsidy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (a) to (c) In order to rationalise the allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensure that the food subsidy remains targeted towards poor households, and, keeping in view the reduced availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the Government took the following decisions on 6.1.2006:

- (i) For Above Poverty Line (APL) households, allocation of foodgrains to State Governments to be fixed on the basis of 20 kg. per family per month from the earlier allocation of 35 kg. per family per month, or the offtake during 2004-05, whichever is lower.
- (ii) For Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households, the allocation of foodgrains to States to be fixed on the basis of 30 kg. per family per month from the existing 35 kg. per family per month.
- (iii) The APL Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains, which were last fixed in July, 2001 to be revised upwards by Rs. 85 per quintal and Rs. 95 per quintal for wheat and rice respectively.
- (iv) The BPL CIPs, which were last fixed in July, 2000, to be continued at the same level.
- (v) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) CIPs at Rs. 2 per kg. and Rs. 3 per kg. for wheat and rice respectively to be continued without change.

A few State Governments including Government of Andhra Pradesh represented that the implementation of the decisions taken on 06.1.2006 may adversely affect the functioning of the TPDS in their State and lead to large expenditure from the State Government budgets. Keeping in view these representations, the Government has decided that the implementation of the decision may be postponed for some time.

**Houses Under Adarsh Machhuara
Awaz Yojana**

925. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses provided to States so far during the Tenth Five Year Plan under the "Adarsh Machhuara Awaz Yojana" State-wise; and

(b) the budget provision made and funds provided

during the Tenth Five Year Plan under the said scheme, till-date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen consists of three broad components viz. development of model fishermen villages, group accident insurance for active fishermen and saving-cum-relief. The outlay approved for the welfare scheme to implement these components in the 10th Plan is Rs.130.0 crore. During the 10th Plan (till 22.2.06), Central assistance of Rs.5097.45 lakh has been provided to States/UT for construction of 49,332 fishermen houses sanctioned during this period and balance amount for earlier sanctioned units. Statement giving State-wise details of houses sanctioned and funds provided for the construction of fishermen houses during the 10th Plan is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise number of houses sanctioned and assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen for construction of fishermen houses during the Tenth Plan (till 22.02.06)

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	States/UT's	2002-03 to 2005-06 (till 22.02.06)	
		No. of Houses	Amount Provided
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	1000	399.25
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	32.00
3	Assam	113	14.60
4	Bihar	505	98.79
5	Gujarat	593	63.00
6	Jammu and Kashmir	985	145.05
7	Karnataka	15000	836.52
8	Kerala	2985	450.00

1	2	3	4
9	Madhya Pradesh	212	44.75
10	Maharashtra	458	32.54
11	Manipur	119	24.85
12	Nagaland	700	151.55
13	Orissa	2423	278.08
14	Rajasthan	300	35.00
15	Tamil Nadu	2000	732.37
16	Tripura	330	62.72
17	Uttar Pradesh	14210	670.90
18	West Bengal	2968	350.00
19	Daman and Diu	75	15.00
20	Pondicherry	1000	83.23
21	Chhattisgarh	240	49.80
22	Uttaranchal	30	6.45
23	Jharkhand	3086	521.00
Total		49332	5097.45

[Translation]

Sharing of Ravi-Beas Water

926. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in the Ravi-Beas Water Sharing Agreement of 1981 that Punjab can utilize more water than Rajasthan's requirement until Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to direct Bhakra-Beas Management Board to release the remaining 0.60 MAF water to Rajasthan enabling it to utilize the same in the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Agreement dated 31.12.1981 among

the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas water provided the following:

"(ii) Until such time as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirements. As Rajasthan will soon be able to utilize its share, Punjab shall make adequate alternative arrangements expeditiously for irrigation of its own lands by the time Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share. As a result, it is expected that during this transitional period when Rajasthan's requirements would not exceed 8.0 MAF, 4.82 MAF of water should be available to Punjab in a mean year when the availability is 17.17 MAF."

(b) and (c) Release of remaining 0.6 MAF water to Rajasthan is dependant on the decisions taken by Bhakra Beas Management Board in which the two States are inter alia represented. Punjab Legislature on 12.07.2004 enacted a Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating the said agreement dated 31.12.1981 and all other agreements on Ravi-Beas waters. As a Presidential Reference in the matter is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, its outcome could clarify the position of the agreement after which the concerned States could amicably settle the issue.

In the meanwhile, during the 25th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 25th October, 2005 in Shimla, Chief Minister, Punjab and stated that Rajasthan could be given its due share of water provided the State completes construction of the required canals and has the required capacity. Subsequent to this, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources in his letters dated 24.01.06 has requested both the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Rajasthan to take further necessary action in the matter at a bilateral level and get the long pending issue resolved early.

[English]

Uncertainty in Agri-Production

927. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the factors which lead to uncertainty in agri-production in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Agricultural production in a Country depends on a number of factors such as rainfall, temperature, facilities for irrigation, incidence of pests and diseases, timely application of quality inputs, timely availability of credit at reasonable cost and marketing infrastructure.

(b) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production in India is heavily influenced by rainfall. With a view to reducing uncertainty in agriculture and increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused attention, which inter-alia, include irrigation, agricultural credit, and marketing infrastructure. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Aid to Community Irrigation Scheme

928. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grants-in aid which was being provided to States for community irrigation scheme has since been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of farmers benefited so far therefrom;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide some grants-in-aid to encourage means of irrigation for small and marginal farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the names of schemes under which grants-in-aid are being provided to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (f) No, Sir. Government of India

has not withdrawn any scheme providing grants-in-aid to states for community irrigation purposes. The presently ongoing schemes to encourage means for irrigation for small and marginal farmers are as follows:-

(I) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

This scheme which has been under implementation from April, 1999 comprises of the already ongoing Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which has the objective of providing open irrigation wells free of cost to poor, small and marginal farmers who are below the poverty line and freed bonded labourers. Since inception of MWS in 1988-89 till its merger with SGSY (1997-98) a total of 12,63,090 wells have been constructed benefiting equal number of farmers. Total swarozgaris assisted till date is 63.31 lakhs including community irrigation for small and marginal farmers.

(II) On farm Water Management for Increasing crop production in Eastern India

A Central sector scheme "On farm water management for increasing crop production in Eastern India" is under implementation to harness the abundant ground and surface water potential in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, West Bengal, (9 districts) and Uttar Pradesh (35 districts). Through this scheme, assistance is provided to farmers for construction of dug wells, low lift irrigation points, shallow tubewells with pumpsets. A total of 59,610 shallow tubewells, 5456 dug wells and 6798 low lift irrigation points have been constructed since its inception in 2003-04.

The Government does not propose any new scheme to provide grants-in-aid to encourage means of irrigation for small and marginal farmers.

[English]

National Liquor Policy

929. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a National Liquor Policy; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Alcoholic beverages including liquor is a State subject. As such, there is no National Liquor Policy. However, a Joint Working Group consisting of relevant Central Ministries & State Governments set up by the Government of India has prepared a Model Excise Policy/ Act/Rules for alcoholic beverages and alcohol. The Model has been circulated among the States/UTs & the Union Ministries concerned.

Cruelty to Animals

930. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring the implementation of the existing laws on prevention of cruelty to animals;

(b) if so, whether these laws are not sufficient to prevent cruelty;

(c) whether the Government has received requests from the experts and various State Governments to amend the existing laws on prevention of cruelty to animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the new legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The monitoring of the implementation of the existing laws on prevention of cruelty to animals is done by Central Government through Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) as well as by State Governments.

(b) The existing laws cover various aspects relating to prevention of cruelty to animals comprehensively.

(c) and (d) The Government receives requests from time to time regarding different aspects of laws relating to prevention of cruelty to animals. On the basis of feedback received from various quarters, necessary action is taken as required. A consultative group was constituted by the Ministry which comprised of representatives from both Government and Non-Government sectors, representing the interests of pharmaceutical sector as well as of the animal welfare sector. The group's report has been finalized unanimously which is to form the basis for streamlining the existing Rules and Regulations regarding using animals

in scientific experiments. Notification containing the Draft of Breeding of and Experiment on Animals (Control & Supervision) Amendment Rules, 2005 have already been published in the Gazette of India inviting suggestions or objections from the persons likely to be affected thereby.

Imposition of Excise Duty on Drugs Manufacturers

931. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise duty imposed on the drugs manufactured by small scale manufacturers are uniform in the whole country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum from Andhra Pradesh Small Scale Drugs Manufacturing Association in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) In general, drugs/ medicines attract excise duty @ 16%. However, some full/ partial exemptions/concessions from central excise duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. Besides this, as per the decision earlier taken by the Government the Central Excise duty has been exempted on manufactured goods including drugs, in notified areas of Uttaranchal, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Kutch, and North Eastern states.

(c) No representation or appeal has been received from Andhra Pradesh Small Scale Manufacturing Association.

(d) In view of reply to part (c) above, does not arise.

Popularisation of Tissue Culture and Bio-Technology Based Agriculture

932. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture is lagging in

technological advancement and production per hectare in comparison with developed countries;

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

(c) whether the Government has any action plan to popularize tissue culture, development of bio-technology based agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) India's rankings in area and total production of major crops in comparison with developed countries are quite encouraging, however, the productivity of important food crops like rice and wheat is quite low as compared to the developed countries (Statement I & II). In India the rainfed agriculture with low inputs covering over 60 percent of area is largely responsible for lower crop productivity averages at the national level. The productivity of irrigated areas with optimum level of input management, however, is relatively high. Low water productivity, less area under hybrids and varieties of crops with high yield potential, untimely availability of inputs, lack of credit, poor post harvest processing and value addition and lack of mechanization etc. are some major reasons for low productivity.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Already tissue culture and application of biotechnology for productivity enhancement and disease diagnostic and management of crops, livestock and fish are under way at the various ICAR research institutes and State Agricultural Universities. Development of human resource through training in specific areas in the world class national and international laboratories has been undertaken. ICAR along with the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, have been supporting research in all areas of biotechnology. India has also contributed in International efforts in rice genome sequencing. Some of the important new initiatives are as under:-

- ICAR has sanctioned a network project entitled "Transgenics in Crops" to intensify research on development of transgenics to increase yield and quality in 14 crops during two years (2005-2007) of X Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs.32.55 crores.

- A network project on Molecular Breeding Comprises 14 projects including horticultural crops viz., rice, wheat maize sorghum, pigeonpea, soybean, potato, banana, grapes, tomato and sugarcane has been approved as A.P. Cess fund scheme with an outlay of approximately Rs.2.41 crores.
- A special project on pyramiding of genes for resistance against biotic stress in rice, wheat, maize, chickpea, tomato implemented using molecular marker selection process. The total cost of the project is Rs.195.26 lakhs and is implemented at 12 Centres.
- A Network Project on Hemorrhagic Septicaemia, a Network Project on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism and a Network Project on Bluetongue Disease have been initiated for diagnostics and vaccines.

Statement-I

India's global ranking in major crops

Crops	Area	Production	Productivity
Rice	1	2	52
Wheat	1	2	38
Coarse Grain	3	4	125
Pulses	1	1	138
Oil crops	2	5	147

Statement-II

Area and productivity of rice and wheat (2004) and fertilizer consumption (2002-03) in different countries

Country	Area (in ha)		Productivity (t/ha)		Fertiliser consumption kg N+P2O5 +K2O)	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice+ Wheat	
France	0.021	5.2	5.6	7.6	13.2	215.1
Japan	1.65	0.22	6.9	3.8	10.7	157.7
USA	1.30	20.3	7.6	2.9	10.5	109.6
India	42.5	27.3	2.9	2.6	5.5	99.7

NGOs in Consumer Affairs

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

933. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) dealing with Consumer Affairs, State-wise;

(b) whether all these NGOs have received grants from the Central Government;

(c) If so, the amount received by each NGOs during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether these NGOs have submitted the utilization certificate; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (e) There are a number of Non-Government Voluntary Organizations working in the Country in the field of consumer protection. The Department of Consumer Affairs sanctions grant in aid to those Non-Government Organizations who have applied for grant and who fulfil the eligibility criteria under the concerned Scheme. A list of such organizations that have been given grant during the last three years and those who have furnished the utilization certificate State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

Statement**Grant Released 2002-2003**

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Amount (in Rs.)	Whether U.C. received
1	2	3	4
Gujarat			
1	Jagrut Grahak, Deepak Chamber, Nawabwada, Raopura, Vadodara (Gujarat)	2,50,000	Yes
Tamil Nadu			
1	SMN Consumers Protection Council, 115/2, Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar, Chennai (T.N.)	1,65,000	Yes
2	Organization for Rural Development, Karumathur – PO, Madurai Distt. (T.N)	1,24,000	Yes
Manipur			
1	Backward Development Services, Wangjing Bazaar, Distt: Thoubal-795148 (Manipur)	2,50,000	Yes
2	Greenland Development Organisation, Sagol Band, Terasapal, Leirak, Tyrs Road, Imphal, Manipur - 795001	2,50,000	Yes
3	Resource Centre for Social Welfare and Community Development, Japhor Bazar, Post Box Box-18 Distt. Chandel/Manipur	2,50,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
4	Resource Centre for Social Welfare and Community Development, Japhor Bazar, Post Box -18 Distt. Chandel/Manipur	1,50,000	Yes
5	SC/ST, Backward Children Women Organisation, Thoubal, Khunou, Post & Distt. Thoubal, Manipur	2,50,000	Yes
6	Rural Voluntary Services, Wangval Nayai Leikai, Distt: Thoubal-795138, Manipur	2,50,000	Yes
7	Manipur Women Coordinating Council, opp Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal-795003	2,50,000	Yes
Kerala			
1	COINPAR, Mudavanmugal, Poojapura, Trivendram Kerala	2,50,000	Yes
Rajasthan			
1	Upbhokta Marg Darshan Samiti, 18/E/13, Chopasani, Housing Board, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	53,100	Yes
2	Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur, Rajasthan	1,65,000	Yes
3	Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal, Ajmer, Rajasthan	30,000	No
Karnataka			
1	B.R. Patil Education Society, R. Goundgaon Monambi, Distt. Bidar, Karnataka	81,000	No
2	Consumer Rights, Education & Awareness Trust, Vijay Nagar, Bangalore (Karnataka)	1,50,000	Yes
3	Pragati Ladies Association, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka	1,17,000	Yes
4	Social Health & Edu. Dev. Society, Kolar Distt, Karnataka	1,35,000	Yes
Maharashtra			
1	Sarvodaya Educational & Voluntary Association, Nanded, Maharashtra	90,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	Lok Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Post & Distt. Gondia, Maharashtra	85,500	Yes
3	Lok Seva Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Distt, Yavatmal, Maharashtra	84,600	Yes
4	Social Action For Association & Dev., A-4, Shanti Nagar, Distt. Pune, Maharashtra	85,500	Yes
5	Madhya Bharat Edu. Society, Kanhartoli, Distt. Gondia, Maharashtra	1,35,000	No
Uttaranchal			
1	Ganga Parvatiya Lok Vikas Sansthan, Almora, Uttaranchal	2,50,000	Yes
2	Ganga Parvatiya Lok Vikas Sansthan, Almora, Uttaranchal	1,35,000	Yes
West Bengal			
1	Port Area Consumer Association, 16, Micheal Dutta Street, Kidderpore, Kolkata, West Bengal	2,50,000	Yes
2	Federation of Consumer Association, Kolkata, West Bengal	90,000	Yes
3	Federation of Consumer Association, Kolkata, West Bengal	5,00,000	Yes
4	Hooghly Zila Prasad Das Sen Road Kreta Surksha Samity, 8 Prasad Das Sen Road, Chinsurah, District Hooghly, West Bengal	2,50,000	Yes
5	Nandigram Samaj Kalyan Prasad, Hanubhunia, Distt. Midnapur, West Bengal	1,80,000	Yes
6	Nadia District Consumer Forum, Padia Building, R.N. Tagore Road, (High Street), P.O. Krishnagar, Distt. Nadia; West Bengal	2,50,000	Yes
7	Jalpaiguri Zilla Kreta Suraksha Samiti, Hakimpura, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	1,17,000	Yes
Uttar Pradesh			
1	Janta Sewa Samity, Village, Pakadoan, Post, Mahson, Distt. Basti UP	2,50,000	Yes
2	Bharat Jyoti, 16, Jopling Road, Lucknow, U.P.	75,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
Orissa			
1	Consumer Protection Council, C-66, Sec-2, Rourkela, Orissa	1,50,000	No
2	Consumer Protection Council, C-66, Sec-2, Rourkela, Orissa	35,000	No
Delhi			
1	Consumer Coordination Council, 43-A, Pocket- IV Mayur Vihar, Delhi-91	2,50,000	Yes
Pondicherry			
1	Consumer Association of Pondicherry, MIG-15, Ayyankuttipalaya, Pondicherry-605009	2,50,000	Yes
Grants 2003-2004			
Andhra Pradesh			
1	Narsipatnam Consumers Awareness Society B.C. Colony, Narsipatnam, Distt. Vishakhapatnam	1,53,000/-	Yes
2	Global Welfare Society, 6-3-10/3 Bank Colony Khamman Distt.	1,80,000/-	No
3	Jagajeevan Balaheena Varga Abhirudhi Sangam (DCIC- Cuddapah)	2,50,000/-	Yes
4	Navyug Educational & Economical Dev. Society, Velavadi Nagari Mandal, Chittoor Distt.(AP)	1,35,000/-	Yes
5	Sarvodaya Youth Organisation, H.No. 6-1-76/A, Opp Sri Devi Theatre, Hanamkonda, Warrangal	1,53,000/-	Yes
6	Chaitanya Welfare Institute of Medical Science, Chiritalapudi, (AP)	1,35,000/-	No
7	Young Mens Mohammedan Association Social Service Society, Distt. Anantpur, (AP)	1,53,000/-	Yes
8	Consumer Welfare Society, H.No 3-8-8/1 Ravindra Nagar, Mehboobnagar	1,71,000/-	Yes
9	Peoples Organisation for Women Empowerment and Reconstruction Hindupur, Anantpur Distt.	1,57,500/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
10	Society for Tribal & Rural Integrated Development Empowerment	2,02,500/-	Yes
11	Action for Integrated Development, H.N. 4-79 UPS Street, Kollura, Khamman Distt.	45,000/-	No
12	Peoples Action in Development, Tirupati	2,25,000/-	Yes
13	Dasari Adivaiah Memorial Ele- School Committee, Harijan Colony, Ulavapadu-523292	1,98,000/-	Yes
14	Bharat Ratna Mahila Mandali, 4/369-J, Vivekanand Nagar, Cuddapah-516001	1 1,89,000/-	Yes
Assam			
1	Manav Sarathi, Ganeshguri, Guwahati	1,98,000/-	Yes
2.	PVI Pathar Vocational Institute	1,44,000/-	No
Bihar			
1	Hanuman Prasad Gramin Vikas Sewa Samity, Distt. Muzaffarpur (DCIC -Vaishali)	2,50,000/-	No
2	M/s Vivekanand Memorial Trust, Thakur Adan, Ramna Road, Rajju Shah, Muzaffarpur	1,53,000/-	Yes
3	EPIC Development, Rohtas	1,90,588/-	Yes
Delhi			
1	Consumer Coordination Council Mayur Vihar, New Delhi	1,50,000/-	Yes
2	Consumer Coordination Council Mayur Vihar, New Delhi	5,00,000/-	Yes
3.	BINTY, Hauz Khas (Con Clubs)	5,00,000/-	Yes
4	Delhi School of Economics	1,00,000/-	No
5	SHRUTI, F. No 135, Patparganj	2,07,000/-	Yes
Gujarat			
1	Rajkot Saher Jilla Grahak Suraksha Mandal, Rajkot (DCIC 2nd installment)	1,75,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	Bhavnagar Grahak Suraksha Mandal (DCIC-Bhavnagar)	2,50,000/-	Yes
3	South Gujarat Consumer Protection Education & Research Centre (DCIC- Surat)	2,50,000/-	Yes
Haryana			
1	Development Alternatives of India Society, Gurgaon	67,500/-	Yes
Jharkhand			
1	Shree Narsinh Memorial Trust, Katras Road, Vikas Nagar, Dhanbad (DCIC - Dhanbad)	2,50,000/-	Yes
Karnataka			
	Indian Youth Organisation, Bangalore	1,44,000/-	Yes
2	Indira Memorial Voluntary Organisation, Bangalore	1,53,000/-	No
3	Gram Vikas Society, Kolar Distt	2,52,000/-	Yes
4	Sri Siddhilingeshwar Unni Nekaran Kshenabivruddi Sangh, Kolar Distt.	2,52,000/-	Yes
5	Sharana Tatva Prasara and Rural Dev. Service Samsthan	1,35,000/-	Yes
6	Jnana Vikas Social and Educational Trust Bangalore	1,26,000/-	Yes
7	Balakedara Vedike, Near Kalpana Cinema Udipi (DCIC-Udipi)	2,50,000/-	Yes
8	Sri Basavaseswar Rural Dev Trust Gulbarga, (DCIC Gulbarga)	2,50,000/-	Yes
9	Karnataka Rural Development Service Centre, Magadi, Bangalore	1,17,000/-	Yes
10	Pragathi Ladies Association, Bangalore	1,17,000/-	Yes
Kerala			
1	Solidarity Movement of India, Central Committee, Idukki 47/2003	1,98,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	Indira Gandhi Charitable Foundation	1,17,000/-	Yes
Madhya Pradesh			
1	Indian Association for the Development of Rural Areas & Masses, Pipariya Road, Hoshangabad	3,24,000/-	Yes
2	National Centre for Human Settlement and Environment, Bhopal (DCIC- 2nd Installment)	1,75,000/-	Yes
3	Prakhar Pragma Shiksha Prasara, Society, Sagar	1,80,000/-	Yes
4	All India Consumer Protection Organisation, Jhijnhari, Katni (DCIC-Katni)	2,50,000/-	Yes
5	Baghel Education and Welfare Society, Bhopal	1,57,500	Yes
6.	Consumer and Civil Rights Association, Gwalior (DCIC- 2nd Installment)	1,75,000/-	Yes
7	Devi Ahilya village Development Association, Gram Asrawad Bujurg, Indore	2,79,000/-	Yes
8	Subedar Bhagwan Das Shukl Shiksha Evam Jan Vikas Samiti	1,99,000/-	Yes
Maharashtra			
1	Ahmednagar District Madhyavarti Grahak Seva Mahasangh 4037 B Shah Sadan Mahqan Gali, Ahmednagar	1,75,000/-	Yes
2	Laxmibai Sewabhavi Gram Vikas Mandal Akhmapuri, TQ Ambad Distt, Jalna	2,79,000/-	Yes
3	Swami Samarth Mahila Bahu Udeshiya Sewa Sansthan	2,52,000/-	Yes
Manipur			
1	Manipur Border Area Development Society P.O. Chakibarong, Zaphu Bazaar, Chandel District, (DCIC)	2,50,000/-	Yes
2	The Manipur Rural Service Association, Imphal East District, (DCIC)	2,50,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
3	Development of Rural Education & Sporting Organisation, Khangabok, Thoubal District	1,35,000/-	Yes
4	Village Welfare Association Sanghaiyumpha Cherapur Wangjing Thamble	1,26,000/-	Yes
5	Foundation for Rural Development and Technology Achievement, Thanmeiband 416/2003	1,62,000/-	Yes
6	Sega Road Maning Takhel Leikai Khadi and Village Industry, Takhel Leikai, Imphal	1,08,000/-	Yes
7	The Keishampat Mutum Leirak Machin Haophat	1,12,500/-	No
8	Greenland Development Organisation, Imphal	1,62,000/-	No
9	Urban & Rural Progressive Association, Imphal	1,35,000/-	Yes
10	Chingamathak Nameirappam Mashaleikai Development	1,17,000/-	Yes
11	Rural Women Society, Imphal West	1,08,000/-	No
12	The Rural Development Association, Thangmeiband	1,53,000/-	No
Nagaland			
1	Brotherhood Multipurpose Society, Dimapur, Nagaland	1,35,000/-	No
2	Tekichang Valley Multipurpose Society, Wokha, Nagaland	1,26,000/-	Yes
3	ASA Multi purpose Coop. society, Ltd. Dimapur Nagaland	1,44,000/-	No
4	Teens Club, Distt Wokha, Nagaland	1,24,200/-	Yes
Orissa			
1.	National Institute of Social Research for Utkal Rural Tribals. At & Post: Kabada Madhapur Mahimagarhi, Dhankanal	1,35,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	Poor Peoples Benevolent Harijan Adivasi Institute of kind action & Service, At Dalsingha Marthapur Post: Santhapur, Distt-Dhenkanal	54,000/-	Yes
3	M/s Gandhian association for Rural Development, AT PO - Antei-Kalar	1,35,000/-	Yes
4	Project Swaraj, Ganesh Ghat, Bakharbad, Cuttack, (DCIC- Cuttack)	2,50,000/-	Yes
5	Project Swaraj, Ganesh Ghat, Bakharbad, Cuttack	1,35,000/-	Yes
6	Sri Jagannath Rural Development Organisation, Jaipur Distt.	1,26,000/-	Yes
Rajasthan			
1	Consumer Unity and Trust Society, D-217 Bhaskar Marg, Benipark, Jaipur	1,50,000/-	No
2	Consumer Unity and Trust Society, D-217 Bhaskar Marg, Benipark, Jaipur	2,90,000/-	Yes
Tamil Nadu			
1	Mari Amman Services Society No. 3 Vayalur Main Road, Ramalinganagar Trichy	1,00,000/-	Yes
2	Sarvodaya Trust, Plot No. 52, Rajeev Street Muniswara Nagar, Thirupallai, Madurai	1,53,000/-	Yes
3	SNEKITHI, Sathiya Mangalam Post, Kulithali Karur Distt	1,26,000/-	Yes
4	Village Peoples Education for Rural Dev Association, 16A /2, East Mudaliar Street, Kulithalai Karur Distt.	1,44,000/-	No
5	Health Education and Development Society, Nallur - Village & Post, Karur Distt.	1,44,000/-	Yes
6	Society for Emancipating Neo Social Education DCIC - Shivganga	2,50,000/-	Yes
Uttar Pradesh			
1	Bhartiya Gyan Bithika 21/1013 Indira Nagar, Lucknow (DCIC- Lucknow)	2,50,000/-	No

1	2	3	4
2	Kisan Mazdoor Evam Mahila Utthan Samiti, PO Ramapur, Gonda	1,62,000/-	Yes
3	Upbhokta Jagruk Samiti, Meerut	1,89,000/-	No
4	Janta Sewa Samiti, Village Pakardon P.O.Mahson Distt. Basti (DCIC - Basti)	2,50,000/-	Yes
5.	Nav Srijan, 365/7, Sadar Bazaar, Lucknow (DCIC Deoria)	2,50,000/-	Yes
6	Gramin Vikas Seva Sansthan, Vill: Gadauna P.O. Govindpur, Basti (DCIC Sant Kabir Nagar)	2,50,000/-	Yes
7	Upbhokta Sanrakshan Evam Kalyan Samity, 354, Darshanpurva, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur	1,08,000/-	No
8	Sarvjan Kalyan Samity, 275, Katghar, Allahabad	90,000/-	Yes
9	Nav Jagriti Seva Sansthan, 116 Radha Nagar, Bulandshahr	99,900/-	Yes
10	Sri Nageshwar Jan Kalyan Samity, 125/1 Chhota Baghara, Allahabad	1,50,000/-	Yes
11	Rashtriya Nav Chetana Sansthan, Ashapur, Allahabad	1,35,000/-	Yes
12	Nav Jagriti Seva Sansthan, 16 Radha Nagar, Bulandshahr (DCIC Bulandshahr)	2,50,000/-	Yes
13	Prerna Gramodyog Seva Sansthan, Rajna Khera, Auras, Unnao	90,000/-	Yes
14	Samta Nav Nirman Samity, Distt: Auraiya (DCIC Auraiya)	2,50,000/-	Yes
15	Bhartiya Samaj Sudhar Sewa Shiksha Samiti, Civil Station, Katra, Distt. Basti (DCIC- Siddharthnagar)	2,50,000/-	Yes
16	Madhav Mohun Samaj Seva Sansthan, Chhibramau, Kannauj (DCIC-Kannauj)	2,50,000/-	Yes
17	Jagriti, Ashtbhuji, Pratapgarh (DCIC- Pratapgarh)	2,50,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
18	Smriti Sewa Sansthan, Kanpur (DCIC-Kanpur)	2,50,000/-	Yes
19	Rawat Shiksha Samiti, Caamer Gate Jalesar Adda, Hathras (DCIC- Hathras)	2,50,000/-	Yes
20	Diggi Nirbaluthhan Samity (DCIC-Meerut)	2,50,000/-	Yes
21	Akhil Bhartiya Brij Samaj Kalyan Sanstha, Krishna Puri, Mathura (DCIC- Mathura)	2,50,000/-	Yes
22	Chandra Shiksha Sansthan, Jaunpur (DCIC- Jaunpur)	2,50,000/-	Yes
23	Gramin Krishi Pashudhan Evam Udyan Vikas Sansthan (DCIC- Balia)	2,50,000/-	No
24	Maneesh Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (DCIC-Mainpuri)	2,50,000/-	Yes
25	Integrated Rural Development Society, Hardoi (DCIC- Hardoi)	2,50,000/-	Yes
26	Nirbal Varg Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Ghazipur (DCIC - Ghazipur)	2,50,000/-	Yes
27	Dwarika Gramodyog Sansthan, Aligarh (DCIC-Aligarh)	2,50,000/-	Yes
28	Gramodyog Sewa Ashram, Meerut	2,11,500/-	No
29	Satyamev Sewa Sansthan, Lucknow	2,70,000/-	Yes
30	SHRINKHALA, Ashiyana, Lucknow	1,53,000/-	Yes
31	Younik Social and Cultural Society, Lucknow	1,62,000/-	No
32	Janta Sewa Samiti, Village: Pakardon P.O.Mahson Distt.: Basti	1,26,000/-	Yes
33	Bindhya Gramodyog Sansthan, Village Bharhuna, Bindhya Colony, Mirzapur, UP (DCIC- Mirzapur)	2,50,000/-	Yes
Uttaranchal			
1	Himalyan Sewa Samiti, Pithoragarh	1,99,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
2	Uttarakhand Gramin Vikas Samity Gwaldam, Chamoli Distt, Uttaranchal (DCIC Chamoli)	1,75,000/-	Yes
3	KAFAL, Haldwani	1,62,000/-	No
4	Uttarakhand Gramin Vikas Samity Gwaldam, Chamoli Distt, Uttaranchal	1,53,000/-	Yes
5	Shivani Bahudeshiya Parshikshan Sansthan	1,53,000/-	Yes
West Bengal			
1	Dakshin Laxminarayanpur Yuba Sangha & Pathagar	1,75,500/-	Yes
2	Kapsaria Sarbik Village Service Society,	1,26,000/-	Yes
3	Resident & Consumer Association, Hooghly	1,80,000/-	Yes
4	Hijli Inspiration	1,30,500/-	
5	Behrampore Consumer Forum, Murshidabad	1,50,000/-	Yes
6	Jalpaiguri Zilla Kreta Suraksha Samiti Hakimpara, Jalpaiguri	1,17,000/-	Yes
7	Amherst Street Indira Sevashram Kolkata	45,000/-	Yes
8	Alipurduar Consumers Protection Society, Jalpaiguri	45,000/-	No
9	The Association of All India Womens Conference, Lake Constituency, Kolkata	45,000/-	No
10	Hooghly Zilla Kreta Suraksha Samity, Prasad Das Sen Road, Hooghly	45,000/-	Yes
11	Port Area Consumers Association, 71/11 Harbour Road, Kolkata	54,000/-	Yes
12	North East Calcutta Consumers Association, 43/C/1, Biplati Barin Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata	45,000/-	Yes
13	Indian Institute of Bio Social Research and Development (IBRAD), Kolkata	4,67,500/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
Pondicherry			
1	Consumer Association of Pondicherry	1,50,000/-	Yes
2	National Community Welfare & Consumer Protection Cell	1,44,000/-	Yes
<i>Grants 2004-2005</i>			
Andhra Pradesh			
1	Sai Ram Yuvathi Mahila, D. No. 6/60, Art College, Road, Proddatur, Cuddapah Distt	1,57,500	Yes
2	Rural Integrated and Social Education Society, Chennethapalli, PO & Mandai Anantpur Distt.	2,83,500	Yes
3	Narsipatnam Consumer Awareness Society, Vishakhapatnam (DCIC Vishakhapatnam)	2,50,000	Yes
4	Aravinda Consumer Welfare Society, East Madhavaram, A. Konduru Mandai, Krishna Distt	1,44,000	Yes
5	ASHRITHA, Plot No. 59, Java Nagar, Secunderabad	1,53,000	Yes
6	Christian Harijan & Weaker Section S Dev Samkshena Sangam Holmes Pet Proddatur, Cuddapah	1,44,000	Yes
7	Organisation for Rural Reconstruction Movement (ORRM) 16-3212, Sai Nagar, Bengali Road	1,62,000	Yes
8	Pragati Rural Educational Service Society, Distt Prakasam	1,48,500	Yes
Assam			
1	Gram Vikas Parishad, At. Rengaloo, PO Jumarmur, via Katghiatoli. Distt. Nagaon, (Assam) DCIC (Nagaon)	2,50,000	Yes
2	United Rural Development Organisation, Vill & PO Eradignal Pari, via Howrahghat, Distt Karbi Anglong (Assam)	1,71,000	Yes
Bihar			
1	Baba Chauharmal Samarak Samiti Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Patna,	2,16,000	No
Chandigarh			
1	Consumer Forum, Sector 11-B Chandigarh	88,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh			
1	SAK Memorial Educational Cultural Society, Distt Surguja	1,44,000	Yes
Delhi			
1	Consumer Coordination Council, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi	4,10,400/-	Yes
2	Vikas Charitable Society, Sonia Vihar Delhi	1,57,000/-	Yes
3	Consumer Coordination Council, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi	57,85,000/-	Yes
4	VOICE (Consumer Clubs)	5,00,000/-	Yes
5	Consumer Coordination Council	4,95,000/-	No
6	South Delhi Housewives Association, Kailash Colony, New Delhi (Consumer Clubs)	3,00,000/-	No
7	VOICE (Comparative Testing)	5,00,000/-	No
8	VOICE Society	50,00,000/-	Yes
Gujarat			
1	Jagruk Grahak Mandal, Patan (DCIC Patan)	2,50,000/-	Yes
2	Shree Sewa Bharti Foundation, Bhuj Kutchh (DCIC Bhuj)	2,50,000/-	Yes
3	M/s Gujarat State Rachnatmak Karyakar Sangh, Gotib, Santrampur, Godhra (DCIC - Godhra)	2,50,000/-	Yes
4	Grahak Suraksha Mandal, Dahod	2,50,000/-	Yes
Jammu and Kashmir			
1	Modern Cultural Club, Ward No. 2 Rajouri District	99,000/-	No
Karnataka			
1	Ammaji Mahila Sangha C/o Sagar Art Studio, DVG Road Baghepalli, Kolar Distt.	2,07,000/-	No

1	2	3	4
2	Oom Sriniketana Trust, B- 1/33, near Karnataka Bank, Srirangapatna 571438, Mandhya distt	1,44,000/-	Yes
3	Kolar Distt. SC/ST and Orphan, Women & Child Association, Mulpejet, Kolar Distt.	1,26,000/-	No
4	Rayala Sewa Samithi Yadrami, Tewarji Taluk, Gulbarga Distt.	1,98,000/-	No
5	Jeevan Jyothi Vidya Samastha, Mandya	1,98,000/-	No
6	Consumer Protection & Research Foundation, Hubli (DCIC- Hubli)	2,50,000/-	No
7	DHWANI Institute for Rural Dev Distt Mandya	1,32,300/-	No
Madhya Pradesh			
1	MP Prakritik Chikitsalaya Tatha Mahavidyalaya Samity, Gwalior, MP	2,07,000	No
2	Ashram Shanti Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Motilal Mill, Birlanagar Gwalior, MP	1,80,000	Yes
3	Krestar Educational Welfare Society, Thalipur, Chauraha, Gwalior	2,07,000	No
4	Sri Krishna Shiksha Prasara Samity, Bhopal DCIC Gwalior	2,50,000	Yes
5	Avtar Smriti Shiksha Evam Kalyan Samiti, Morena, Vivekanand Colony, Ganeshpur, Tah & Distt. Morena	1,80,000	No
6	Rural Development Society, Laskar, Gwalior	1,80,000	No
7	Prakhar Pragya Shiksha Prasara Samiti, 236, Madhukar Shah Ward, Sagar (DCIC -Sagar)	2,50,000	Yes
8	Dalhi Sangha House No. 13, Lata Marg, Uttarakunj, Sohampur, Distt. Hoshangabad	1,84,500	No
9	Sandeep Shiksha Prasara Evam Samaj Kalyan Kendra, N-9, Gandhinagar, Gwalior	1,17,000	No

1	2	3	4
10	Nandlal Bal Kalyan Samity, Village Mahanpur Murar, Gwalior	1,71,000	No
11	Rural Consumer Awareness & Research Centre, SS Khariwal Colony, Distt. Ratlam	1,44,000	No
12	Shri Kush Shiksha Prasara Samity, Kala Sayed Road, Gwalior	1,80,000	Yes
13	Shri Gahvi Shiksha Prasara Samity, Distt. Bhind	1,35,000	No
Maharashtra			
1	Jai Kisan Sewa Bhavbi Gram Vikas Mandal, Mangrul Distt., Jalna	1,80,000	Yes
2	Bahujan Education Society Tembhari, Distt. Nagpur	1,26,000	Yes
3	Lok Deep Manav Vikas Sanstha, Vidya Nagar, Parbhani	2,50,000	Yes
4	Sarvodaya Educational and Voluntary Association, Nanded	2,50,000	Yes
5	Purushottam Maharaj Gurunakaran Maharaj Shaiksha & Sevakhan Sanstha, Parbhani	1,62,000	Yes
6	Lok Kalyan Shiksha Sansthan, Gondia	2,50,000	Yes
7	Ahmed Nagar Zila Madhga Varti Grahak Seva Sangh, Ahmednagar	75,000	Yes
Uttaranchal			
1	KAFAL Samity, Haldwani, Distt. Nainital (DCIC Nainital)	2,50,000	Yes
2	Bawangarh Lok Kalyan Evam Vikas Parishad, Band Vikas Nagar, PO - Ghatpattimal, Basoli, Distt. Chamoli	2,25,000	Yes
3	Himalayan society for Nature Health Education & Social Development Society, Distt. Dehradun	1,35,000	Yes
4	IRAM, 34, Tagore Villa Chakrata Road, Dehradun	1,80,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
5	Omjan Vikas Samiti, Pithoragarh	1,87,200	Yes
6	Nagbhumi Chetna Samiti, Berinag, Distt Pithoragarh	1,80,000	Yes
7	Welfare Association for Downtrodden, Beenapani, Almora Distt.	1,89,000	Yes
	Total	13,55,200	
West Bengal			
1	Consumer's Action Forum, 5/1 Red Cross Place, Kolkata (W. Bengal)	1,85,000/-	Yes
2	Islampur Ramakrishna palli Rural Welfare Society, Uttar Dinajpur, W. Bengal	1,62,000	Yes
3	Kalyani North Jaiprakash Memorial Development Mission, Nadia, W. Bengal	1,48,500	Yes
4	Prabudha Bharti Shishuirtha, Krishnapriya, Paschim Medinipur, W. Bengal	1,80,000	Yes
5	Alinan Ramakrishna Vivekanand Yuva K Sangha, V&PO Alinan, Distt Purba Medinipur, W. Bengal	1,62,000	Yes
6	COSMOS, Bose Road, Kolkata (WB) (DCIC- Jalpaiguri)	2,50,000	Yes
7	Barbasudevpur Deshapran Pragati Sangha, Purba Medinipur Distt, W. Bengal	1,71,000	Yes
8	Nutanhat Hospitalpara Khadi Unnayan Samity, V&PO Nutanhat, Distt Burdwan, W. Bengal	1,33,200/-	No
9	Midnapur Madhusudan Nagar Craft Centre, Vill - MM Nagar, Distt Paschim Midnapur (WB)	1,35,000	Yes
10	Bagaria Relief Welfare Ambulance Society, 24 Parganas South, W. Bengal. (DCIC)	2,50,000	Yes
11	Dharaninagar Rural Development Society, Distt Birbhum, W. Bengal	1,12,500	No
12	Womens' Interlink Foundation, Ward No.8, Distt Birbhum, W. Bengal (DCIC -Birbhum)	2,50,000	No

1	2	3	4
Pondicherry			
1	The Society for Social Justice & Human Resources Development, Pondicherry	1,35,000/-	Yes
Rajasthan			
1	Tagore Public School Shiksha Samity, Ward No. 25, Pilibangan, Distt Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	1,98,000/-	No
2	Annapurna Lok Sewa and Shikshan Samiti, Ward No. 1, Sureshian, Hanumangarh	1,80,000	No
3	Maharishi Dayanand Vikas Samity, No. 365, Patel Nagar, Sriganganagar	2,20,500	No
4	S.L. Adarsh Vidyalaya Prabandhak Samiti, Kesri Singh Pur, Distt Sriganganagar	2,25,000	No
Tamil Nadu			
1	Nugavore Urimai Padukappu Kazhagam, Paramakudi, Distt Ramanathapuram. (DCIC-Ramanathapuram)	2,50,000/-	Yes
2	Tamilnadu Consumer Protection Council, Madurai	1,44,000	No
3	Oligyam Trust, Chekkanurani, Madurai, Tamilnadu	1,62,000	Yes
4	Society for Community Development, Salem (DCIC-Salem)	2,50,000	Yes
5	Trust for Socio Economic Development, Trichy	1,62,000/-	Yes
6	Child Jesus Educational and Charitable Trust, Trichy	1,80,000/-	Yes
7	Community Action Trust, Saravanapuram, Allithurai, Trichy	1,67,400/-	Yes
8	The CONCERT Trust, Chennai	2,25,000/-	Yes
9	Society for Community Organisation & Rural Education,	1,26,000	No

1	2	3	4
10	CONCERT, Chennai	4,95,000/-	No
Uttar Pradesh			
1	Indian Human Welfare Society, Meerut	1,17,000/-	Yes
2	Guru Nanak Vikas Dhara, Jhansi	1,62,000/-	No
3	Public Welfare Society for Urban & Rural Development, Mainpuri	1,30,500/-	No
4	Samanvit Vikas Evam Paryavaran Sansthan, Lucknow	1,62,000/-	No
5	Pratap Singh Seva Sansthan, Lucknow	1,80,000/-	No
6	Gram Vikas Sewa Samity, Mirzapur	1,80,000/-	No
7	UP Bhartiya Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Lucknow	2,50,000/-	No
8	Nevada Gramodyog Vikas Samity, J.P.Nagar	2,25,000/-	Yes
9	Pragati Sewa Niketan, Raibareilly	2,50,000/-	Yes
10	Social Educational Welfare Association, Mirzapur	2,50,000/-	Yes
11	Dehati Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Hamirpur	2,50,000/-	Yes
12	Dr. Radhakrishnan Memorial Educational Society, Mirzapur	1,44,000/-	No
13	Shiv Shakti Gramodyog Sansthan, Gaziabad	1,08,000/-	No
14	Tharu Janjati Manila Vikas Samiti Gonda	1,48,500/-	No
15	Awadh Sewa Sansthan, Gonda	1,75,500/-	No
16	Jyoti Gramodyog Sew Sansthan, Mirzapur	1,62,000/-	No
17	Dehati Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Hamirpur	1,25,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4
18	Gramodyog Sewa Samiti, Azamgarh	1,80,000/-	No
19	Trishul Sewa Sansthan, Barabanki,	1,62,000/-	No
20	Homage Welfare Society, Kanpur	1,35,000/-	No
Manipur			
1	Dedicated Peoples Organisation, Keishampat, Leimajam, Keikai, Imphal, Manipur	2,50,000	No
2	Community Development Association, Thingakham Square Tomoglong, Manipur	1,44,000	Yes
3	Environment & Economic Management Association, Imphal East, Manipur	1,44,000	Yes
4	Peoples Development Agency, Lamlong, Imphal	1,80,000	Yes
5	Brightways Terabhong, Moiray Port, Bishnupur, Manipur	1,80,000	Yes
6	SC/ST, Backward Children Women Organisation, Thoubal, Khunou, Post & Distt. Thoubal, Manipur	1,75,000	Yes
7	Rural Voluntary Services, Wangval Nayai Leikai, Distt: Thoubal-795138, Manipur	1,75,000	Yes
8	Goodwill & Threive Society, Jameriglong, Manipur	1,80,000	No
9	Society for Proqramming Dev., Imphal East, Manipur	99,000	No
10	Yumnam Leikai Lavembi Manoj Wowens' Welfare Association, Imphal, Manipur	1,35,000	Yes
11	Rural Voluntary Services, Wangval Nayai Leikai, Distt: Thoubal - 795138, Manipur	1,75,000	Yes
12	Organization for Rural Dev. Langjing, Imphal West, Manipur	1,26,000	No
Mizoram			
1	Mizoram Consumers' Union, Treasury Square, Aizawl-796001	1,26,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
Nagaland			
1	Rengma Women Society, Nagaland	1,44,000	No
2	Nzonye Society, Kohima, Nagaland	1,35,000	No
3	Potina Kup Students Union, c/o Govt. High School, Sanis Wikh, Nagaland	85,500	No
4	SANIS Welfare Club, BPO Sanis Wakha, Nagaland	1,17,000	Yes
5	Nagaland Tribal Rural Development Association, Dimapur	2,50,000	No
Orissa			
1	Nari Chetana Mahila Institute(NAMI) Housing Board, Qr/ No.M/I PO/Distt. Dhenkanal Orissa	2,50,000	Yes
2	DRUSHTI, Mangalaghat Puri, Orissa	58,050	Yes
3	Bhanja Institute for Rural Development, Kullada, Ganjam, Orissa	1,21,500	Yes
4	Nari Mangal Mahila Samiti, NMMS, at Panchpalia Distt. Orissa	1,89,000	Yes
5	Adivasi Harijana Integrated Mass Social Agency (AHIMSA), Kendupadar, Phulbani, Kandhamal, Orissa	2,20,500	Yes
6	The Noble Institute of Community Empowerment (The NICE) at Dakhinkali Road, PO/Distt. Dhenkanal, Orissa	1,57,500	Yes
7	SEWA At Jaleswar, PO Khanpal Distt. Cuttack, Orissa	2,34,000	Yes
8	Unnayan, Distt. Puri, Orissa	1,62,000	No
9	National Institute for Community & Child Development, NIC CD, Khurda, Orissa	1,21,500	No
10	Nari Mangal Mahila Samiti, NMMS, at Panchpalia Distt., Puri, Orissa	2,50,000	Yes
11	Bright Association for Noble and decent Understanding (BANDHU)	1,44,000	Yes

1	2	3	4
12	Jai Kisen Youth Club, At Janakgarh, PO Gadasahi, Distt. Puri, Orissa	5,00,000	No
13	Basti Area Dev. Council, Balasore, Orissa	1,75,000	Yes

**Unemployed Persons Living
Below Poverty Line**

934. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons especially those belonging to the families living Below Poverty Line in the country as on December 31, 2005;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide employment to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of other remedial measures which the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per information available for 1999-2000, around 5.3 crore families were living Below Poverty Line, out of which around 3.86 crore were in rural areas and 1.48 crore were in urban areas. Most of these people though working were living below poverty line. However, open unemployment in the country on usual status basis was of the order of 90 lakh.

(b) and (c) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities were to come from the normal growth of the economy assuming 8% per annum growth of Gross Domestic Product and remaining two crore from special employment generation programmes. Besides this latest initiative taken by the Government in the rural areas is the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural house hold. These measures will help the unemployed persons below the poverty line also.

(d) Does not arise.

Institute of Brahmaputra Valley

935. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Institute of Brahmaputra Valley Authority was to be set up in Assam; and

(b) if so, the extent of progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Assam in November, 2004, made an announcement for considering establishment of Brahmaputra Valley Authority or North East Water Resources Authority to provide effective flood control, generate electricity, provide irrigation facilities and develop infrastructure. A proposal for constitution of North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA) has been formulated and circulated to concerned State Governments.

Diesel Car by Maruti

936. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited is going to launch its much awaited diesel car; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the technique the company proposes to adopt to reduce the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), it is going to launch a diesel car fitted with state of the art Common Rail Diesel Engine. The engine is equipped with intercooler for its turbo charger and Exhaust Gas recirculation cooler for controlling emissions. This will meet the applicable emission norms.

Subsidies for National Horticulture Mission

937. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sought 50% subsidies amounting to Rs.15,725/- crores for National Horticulture Mission to encourage farmers to diversify and up-grade technology for post harvest management;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the X Plan with effect from 2005-06, with a total out lay of Rs.2300.00 crore, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake-holders. The Mission has been approved in principle up to the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs.15000.00 crore for the Eleventh Plan. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided to the farmers @ 75% of the cost for perennial fruit crops, spices, aromatic plants and plantation crops and 50% of the cost for non perennial fruits and flowers.

Assistance is also provided @ 25% of the project cost for development of post harvest management infrastructure like pack houses, cold storage, refer van, markets etc.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Milk

938. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of milk in the country during the current financial year till date;

(b) the total estimated requirement of milk in the country;

(c) whether the production of milk is not sufficient to meet its requirements in the country;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to increase the production of milk; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The total production of milk in the year 2004-05 has been estimated at 90.7 million tonnes. The milk production at national level is by and large sufficient to meet the domestic demand.

(d) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries in Government of India is implementing the following schemes to increase the production of milk in the country:

1. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
2. Livestock Health and Disease Control.
3. Fodder Development Scheme.
4. Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
5. Assistance to Cooperatives.
6. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.

(e) The milk production in India has been constantly increasing over the years. India continues to be number one country in the World milk production.

Development of Unutilised Land

939. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of hectares of land is not being utilized in the country and no efforts are being made to make it cultivable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the developmental work undertaken in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the works so undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Out of 328.73 million hectare of geographical area of the country, 183.12 million hectare is cultivable land consisting of 141.10 million hectare net sown area, 24.99 million hectare fallow land, 13.66 million hectare cultivable wasteland and 3.37 million hectare land under miscellaneous three crops and groves. The land use other than net sown area is having potential to be used for productive purposes and are being developed under various programmes to bring these areas under cultivation. The main land development programmes being implemented by Govt. of India are – (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme

(DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP) and (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), etc. The State-wise physical and financial progress achieved during last three years (2002-05) by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(d) The Planning Commission in the Mid Term Appraisal for X Plan has observed that evaluation studies have shown increase in water level and recharge of ground water aquifers, reduction in soil erosion, increase in cropping intensity, increase in crop productivity, increase in employment generation etc. However it has also made following observations:

- I. Some watersheds are poorly designed and not reached full potential in terms of agricultural production.
- II. Watersheds have not been properly maintained because community involvement waned after the initial development stage.
- III. Despite a plethora of schemes and in many years of implementation, the physical progress of treatment of degraded land has been rather slow.
- IV. Greater investment is required for watershed development, rain water harvesting and natural resource conservation.

Statement-I

Physical & Financial Achievements of Watershed Development Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture During Last Three Years of X Plan (2002-2005)

(Physical area in lakh ha & Financial in Rs. Lakh)

S.No.	Name of States	NWDPA		RVP & FPR		WDPSA		RAS		Total	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.270	1209.77	0.256	2134.25			0.000	0.00	0.526	3344.02
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.050	319.73	0.002	5.67	0.028	278.89			0.080	604.29
3	Assam	0.070	333.00	0.019	148.27	0.117	1005.00			0.206	1486.27
4	Bihar	0.000	66.95	0.000	0.00			0.000	0.00	0.000	66.95
5	Chhattisgarh	0.450	2075.21	0.101	400.74					0.551	2475.95
6	Gujarat	0.600	2833.57	0.252	2182.70			0.251	629.55	1.103	5645.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7	Haryana	0.040	263.98	0.143	496.18			0.320	818.00	0.503	1578.16
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.050	460.15	0.114	1840.32					0.164	2300.47
9	Jharkhand	0.270	2806.48	0.000	0.00					0.270	2806.48
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0.230	45.94	0.070	912.80					0.300	958.74
11	Karnataka	0.520	4244.07	1.037	3333.58			0.023	325.65	1.580	7903.30
12	Kerala	0.130	946.42	0.064	634.85					0.194	1581.27
13	Madhya Pradesh	1.010	3015.25	0.675	2858.03			0.000	0.00	1.685	5873.28
14	Maharashtra	0.550	3142.00	0.510	3433.64			0.000	0.00	1.060	6575.64
15	Manipur	0.100	611.67	0.000	0.00	0.071	591.00			0.171	1202.67
16	Meghalaya	0.190	1146.50	0.000	6.00	0.088	850.00			0.278	2002.50
17	Mizoram	0.220	1630.40	0.024	299.85	0.122	1320.00			0.366	3250.25
18	Nagaland	0.170	1361.00	0.026	174.00	0.100	1200.00			0.296	2735.00
19	Orissa	0.330	1416.10	0.055	239.74					0.385	1655.84
20	Punjab	0.010	68.38	0.000	0.00			0.013	19.81	0.023	88.19
21	Rajasthan	2.050	9806.95	0.681	4998.33			0.134	171.51	2.865	14976.79
22	Sikkim	0.080	546.58	0.006	78.20					0.086	624.78
23	Tamil Nadu	0.840	5022.39	0.137	1710.55			0.021	50.41	0.998	6783.35
24	Tripura	0.130	820.96	0.012	122.28	0.078	771.00			0.220	1714.24
25	Uttar Pradesh	0.670	4021.48	1.039	5351.10			0.015	9.92	1.724	9382.50
26	Uttaranchal	0.460	3208.93	0.098	739.74					0.558	3948.67
27	West Bengal	0.010	172.92	0.092	483.81					0.102	656.73
28	Goa	0.030	264.39							0.030	264.39
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.020	120.62							0.020	120.62
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.00							0.000	0.00
31	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.00							0.000	0.00
*	DVC			0.304	3487.80					0.304	3487.80
*	PM Package to J & K			0.209	1609.46					0.209	1609.46
*	Hd. Quarter				119.00					0.000	119.00
Total		9.550	51981.79	5.926	37800.89	0.604	6015.89	0.777	2024.85	16.857	97823.42

NWDPA - National Watershed Development Projects for Rain-fed Areas

RVP & FPR - River Valley Project & Flood Prone River

WDPSA - Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas

RAS - Reclamation of Alkali Soil

Statement-II

Project Sanctioned and Funds Released under DPAP, DDP and IWDP Schemes of Ministry of Rural Development during last three years (2002-05)

(area in lakh ha. Fin. in Rs. Crore)

S. No.	Name of States	DPAP		DDP		IWDP	
		Phy. No. of Projects	Fin.	Phy. No. of Projects	Fin.	Area	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	865	138	330	35.53	1.320	77.89
2.	Bihar	188	8.84			0.900	8.72
3.	Chhattisgarh	348	47.23			0.836	34.71
4.	Gujarat	741	91.73	873	137.11	1.025	43
5.	Haryana			357	52.75	0.350	12.07
6.	Himachal Pradesh	130	13.26	160	18.83	0.580	41.96
7.	Jharkhand	296	8.68			0.520	5.19
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	466	28.31	158	22.48	0.550	8.86
9.	Karnataka	675	79.84	497	60.42	0.715	61.81
10.	Kerala					0.150	5.7
11.	Madhya Pradesh	803	150.31			1.470	87.38
12.	Maharashtra	899	62.65			1.029	32.54
13.	Orissa	452	30.89			0.830	42.82
14.	Punjab					0.154	2.45
15.	Rajasthan	305	49.84	2389	287.66	0.900	49.9
16.	Tamil Nadu	464	62.79			1.080	53.03
17.	Uttar Pradesh	478	46.73			1.521	54.33
18.	Uttaranchal	277	19.75			0.504	19.28
19.	West Bengal	176	5.94			0.238	2.39
20.	Goa					0.100	0.83
	Others	0	0.41			0.000	10
	Total	7563	845.20	4764	614.78	14.752	654.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
North Eastern States							
1.	Arunachal Pradesh					1.587	16.15
2.	Assam					3.494	63.73
3.	Manipur					1.145	15.01
4.	Meghalaya					0.420	6.62
5.	Mizoram					1.207	27.41
6.	Nagaland					1.373	53.2
7.	Sikkim					0.344	7.77
8.	Tripura					0.275	4.19
	Total North Eastern	0	0.00	0	0.00	9.845	194.08
	Grand Total	7563	845.20	4764	614.78	24.597	848.94

DPAP - Drought Prone Area Programme

DDP - Desert Development Programme

IWDP - Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

Note:- A project under DPAP and DDP generally covers an area of 500 hectares.

[English]

Exemption from Price Control Order

940. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain pharmaceutical companies have demanded exemption from price control order;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some companies have filed applications with the Government for exemption from price control which is available under para 25 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Such exemptions are granted on the basis of indigenous R&D or New Drug Delivery System.

An Expert Committee constituted by the Government

under the Chairmanship of Director (CDRI), Lucknow examines such applications and makes its recommendations to the Government for taking a final decision.

[Translation]

Scheme for Environment Management

941. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has decided to formulate an integrated scheme for the environment management of the areas facing the problem of pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the works undertaken by the CPCB in each State particularly in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), based on the assessment of pollution levels, have identified 24 critically polluted areas in the country.

Environmental Management Plans including installation of pollution control devices by the industries, establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), design of waste collection & transportation and development of green belt etc. have been prepared for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

A list of identified areas, which includes Dhanbad in Jharkhand State is enclosed as Statement. Keeping in view the sources responsible for environmental pollution in Dhanbad, such as open cast mining, coke oven plants, coal washeries and power plants, an Action Plan has been prepared for abating the pollution.

Statement

S.No.	Problem Area
1	2
1.	Angul - Talcher, Orissa
2.	Ankleshwar, Gujarat
3.	Bhadravati, Karnataka
4.	Bollaram - Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh
5.	Chembur, Maharashtra
6.	Dhanbad, Bihar
7.	Digboi, Assam
8.	Durgapur, West
9.	Greater Cochin, Kerala
10.	Howrah, West Bengal
11.	Jodhpur, Rajasthan
12.	Kala Amb, Himachal Pradesh
13.	Korba, Chhattisgarh
14.	Manali, Tamil Nadu
15.	Mandi, Gobindgarh, Punjab
16.	Nagda-Ratlam, MP
17.	Najafgarh Drain Basin Area
18.	Vellore (North Arcot), TN

1	2
19.	Pali, Rajasthan
20.	Parwanoo, Himachal Pradesh
21.	Singrauli, UP
22.	Tarapur, Maharashtra
23.	Vapi, Gujarat
24.	Visakhapatnam, AP

Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

942. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects sanctioned for Maharashtra as on date;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government and the State Government as their share during the last three years, project-wise;

(c) the number of projects completed as per schedule and the number of projects the work on which is still in progress; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Planning Commission during the last three years have accorded Investment Clearance to 7 Irrigation Projects (one major and 6 medium) of Maharashtra. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The Union Government is providing Central Loan Assistance for accelerating completion of approved major/medium irrigation projects proposed by the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) from 1996-97. Under AIBP, an amount of Rs. 826.815 crore has been provided as Central Loan Assistance/grant for the State of Maharashtra by the Central Government during the last 3 years for 20 major/medium irrigation projects/project components as detailed in enclosed Statement-II. The State share for the projects under normal programme of AIBP is in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre:State) and under Fast Track Programme 1:0 (Centre:State).

(c) With the assistance provided under AIBP, out of 30 major/medium irrigation projects/project components, 8 projects/project components were reported as completed. Among the completed, 6 were reported as completed on schedule. The work on 22 projects (including 2 inter-State projects) are in progress.

(d) As per the latest guidelines of AIBP effective

from 1.4.2005, major/medium irrigation projects/project components under Normal Programme of AIBP are to be completed in the next 4 financial years and those under the Fast Track Programme of AIBP in the next 2 financial years. The scheduled completion of the remaining projects as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra sanctioned by the Planning Commission

Sl. No.	Project	Major/ Medium	Date of sanction by the Planning Commission	Approved Cost (Rs. Crore)	Culturable Command Area (hectare)
1	Kirmiri Darur LIS	Medium	13.10.2003	27.89	2260
2	Sonapur Tomta LIS	Medium	13.10.2003	32.18	2264
3	Purna Irrigation Project	Medium	23.5.2003	123.79	7843
4	Pothra Nalla Irrigation Project	Medium	2.12.2004	63.08	8183
5	Utwali Irrigation Project	Medium	2.12.2004	35.78	4650
6	Gul River Irrigation Project	Medium	9.11.2005	65.736	3701
7	Punand Irrigation Project	Major	5.12.2005	157.78	17841

Statement-II

Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/grant released under AIBP to Govt. of Maharashtra during 1996-97 to 2005-06

(Rs. Crore)										
Sl. No.	Project	1996-97 to 2001-02	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004-05			2005-06	Total	Scheduled Completion
					Loan	Grant	Total	Grant		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Gosikhurd	29.480		6.870	106.9586	45.8394	152.7980	15.0238	204.1718	2007-08
2	Surya	13.550							13.5500	Deferred
3	Waghur	54.000	8.480	17.240	10.7380	4.6020	15.3400	3.8034	98.8634	2007-08
4	Bhima	44.505							44.5050	Deferred
5	Upper Tapi	7.700							7.7000	Completed
6	Upper Wardha	85.310	33.706	6.000	30.7580	13.1820	43.9400		168.9560	2006-07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	Wan	38.980	4.3136	9.7400	4.5710	1.9590	6.5300		59.5636	Completed
8	Jayakwadi	23.920	4.125	15.690					43.7350	Completed
9	Vishnupuri	4.000						1.4145	5.4145	2006-07
10	Bahula	4.410	1.544		3.5000	1.5000	5.0000		10.9540	2006-07
11	Krishna	0.000	14.173	25.300	20.6850	8.8850	29.5500	6.9600	75.9830	2006-07
12	Kukadi	0.000	37.438	48.430	44.0636	18.8844	62.9480	12.1440	160.9600	2006-07
13	Upper Manar	0.000	0.642	8.800	11.9980	5.1420	17.1400	2.6980	29.2800	2006-07
14	Hetwane	0.000	2.5155	12.9800	24.5000	10.5000	35.0000		50.4955	2006-07
15	Chaskman	0.000	3.312	11.660	33.9500	14.5500	48.5000	5.1516	68.6236	2007-08
16	Upper Pen Ganga	0.000			35.0840	15.0360	50.1200		50.1200	2006-07
	Bawanthadi	0.000			21.3290	9.1410	30.4700	3.2250	33.6950	2007-08
17	Lower Dudhana	0.000						3.3600		2009-2010
	Tilari	0.000						4.0800		2009-2010
Sub-Total 1		305.855	110.249	162.710	348.1352	149.2008	497.3360	57.8603	1134.0104	
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme										
18	Khadakwasla	0.000	2.780		1.9460	0.8340	2.7800		5.5600	Completed
19	Kadvi	0.000	7.000		4.9000	2.1000	7.0000		14.0000	Completed
20	Kasarsai	0.000	1.685	1.685					3.3700	Completed
21	Jawal Gaon	0.000	1.365		0.9555	0.4095	1.3650		2.7300	Completed
22	Kumbhi	0.000	9.300		6.5100	2.7900	9.3000		18.6000	2005-06
23	Kasari	0.000	0.755		0.5285	0.2265	0.7550		1.5100	Completed
24	Patgoan	0.000			7.5250	3.2250	10.7500		10.7500	2006-07
25	Madan Tank	0.000						1.5105	1.5105	2007-08
26	Dongaragaon	0.000						1.5090	1.5090	2007-08
27	Shivna Takli	0.000						4.4325	4.4325	2007-08
28	Amravati	0.000						1.1820	1.1820	2007-08
Sub-Total 2		0.000	22.885	1.685	22.3650	9.5850	31.9500	8.6340	65.1540	
Total		305.855	133.134	164.395	370.5002	158.7858	529.2860	66.4943	1199.1644	

Air Quality Monitoring Stations

943. #SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities in the country where the Government is going to set up Air quality monitoring stations;

(b) whether the Government has sanctioned/ proposes to sanction the setting up of Air quality monitoring stations at Patna, Jodhpur, Pune and Sholapur also;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred on the setting up of these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), 283 air quality monitoring stations covering 109 cities/towns in 25 States and 4 Union Territories have been established to monitor air quality.

(b) to (e) Under the NAMP, monitoring stations have already been established at Patna (2 nos.), Jodhpur (3 nos.), Pune (3 nos.) and Sholapur (2 nos.). In addition, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Ministry, has released its 50% share, out of Rs. 80 lakhs required for establishment of a Continuous Air Quality Monitoring Station, for these cities during the current financial year.

[English]

Loans to Farmers

944. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans are being provided to the farmers for the purchase of tractors, harvesting machines and other agricultural machinery;

(b) if so, whether some subsidy is also being provided to the farmers thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof and allocation made for the purpose to each State;

(d) whether the farmers have been demanding interest free loans for purchase of above equipments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture through State Work Plans a subsidy @ 25% of the cost of the equipment limited to approved ceilings for different categories of agricultural equipment is available. The Central assistance to the States/UTs in form of subsidy is being released in lump sum on the basis of work plan proposals submitted by them. The allocations for farm mechanization proposed by various States/UTs in their work plans during 2005-06 have been given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Farmers as well as some farmers' associations have been demanding lower rate of interest for agricultural loans including loans for farm mechanization. In the deregulated interest regime the banks have been given freedom to fix interest rates to be charged from the beneficiaries. However, as a special dispensation for agriculture sector, the Government of India has advised all the public sector banks to reduce their lending rate for agriculture to a single digit rate of not more than 9% per annum on crops loans upto a ceiling of Rs.50,000/-. In the case of commercial banks there is stipulation that the rate of interest charged from the ultimate borrower should not exceed Prime Lending Rate (PLR) in case of loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs. The Commercial banks have a system of fixing PLR which is decided by individual banks taking into accounts their financial resources, deposit base and market trend.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakh)		
S.No.	Name of State/UT	Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2099.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	250.00

The name of Shri Paras Nath Yadav, M.P. was deleted vide corrigenda to List of Question issued on 5.5.2006.

1	2	3
3.	Assam	177.80
4.	Bihar	767.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	249.55
6.	Goa	40.40
7.	Gujarat	199.65
8.	Haryana	216.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.55
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	205.70
11.	Jharkhand	*
12.	Karnataka	1400.00
13.	Kerala	13.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	225.93
15.	Maharashtra	304.00
16.	Manipur	298.58
17.	Meghalaya	111.15
18.	Mizoram	42.07
19.	Nagaland	100.00
20.	Orissa	1053.77
21.	Punjab	42.00
22.	Rajasthan	581.57
23.	Sikkim	99.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	204.20
25.	Tripura	286.85
26.	Uttar Pradesh	740.30
27.	Uttaranchal	123.00
28.	West Bengal	316.80
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4.20
30.	Chandigarh	*

1	2	3
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9.20
32.	NCT of Delhi	10.00
33.	Daman and Diu	*
34.	Pondicherry	*
35.	Lakshadweep	6.00
Total		12672.94

* No proposal on Farm Mechanization.

[Translation]

Mining in Aravali Hills

945. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining being carried out in 200 square kilometre area of Aravali Hills range poses a serious danger to the environment;

(b) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been formulated by the Government to check it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and NCT of Delhi, there is no illegal mining taking place in Aravali Hills range falling in those respective States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Sugar in Kerala

946. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of sugar in Kerala for distribution under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received

any proposal/suggestion from the Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pollution Caused by Soft Drink Manufacturing Plants

947. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain soft drinks manufacturing units like Coca Cola and Pepsi are causing high levels of pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint has been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The analysis of the sludge generated from the Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) of soft drink manufacturing plants indicate that they generally conform to the provisions of Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003. The Central Pollution Control Board has instructed to all the State Pollution Control Boards to analyze the sludge of ETP of such units to ensure compliance.

(c) and (d) Some complaints have been received against soft drink manufacturing units in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and Plachimada, Palakkad district, Kerala indicating the dumping of sludge and slurry from the units causing water pollution. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Kerala State Pollution Control Board have initiated necessary action in this regard.

Production of Mango and Banana

948. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in the world in the field of production of Mango and Banana;

(b) the total production and export of Mango and Banana recorded during the last year and current year till date;

(c) whether export of said fruits is not to the extent of production;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost up the export of these items;

(f) whether the Government has any plan to bring and plant world's top ten exportable Mango varieties; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) India ranks first both in production of mango and banana.

(b) The production and export of mango and banana are as under:-

('000 M.T.)

Name of Fruit	Production (2002-03)	Export (2003-04)
Mango	12733	60.551
Banana	13304	10.877

(c) and (d) The export of these fruits are not to the extent of production because there is huge domestic demand within the country for these items. Besides, the export of mango is limited to few cultivars, like Alphonso. The shelf life of other commercial cultivars are low and the blend and physical appearance of many commercial cultivars is not preferred in developed countries. The export of banana is mostly of Cavendish group.

(e) to (g) The Government has created Agri-Export Zones with necessary export infrastructure for various commodities including mango and banana at different locations throughout the country to facilitate exports. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its allied research institutes are evolving suitable cultivars through

hybridization having desirable attributes for exports and enhanced shelf life. The ICAR is also working to introduce world germplasm of mango and conserving and maintaining field gene banks for mangoes and other fruits and to introduce promising cultivars from around the world. Government has taken steps to boost export of banana through supply of high yielding disease free tissue culture plant at 50% subsidy, promotion of drip irrigation and fertigation. Government is also promoting exports through incentives and subsidies for plantation, post harvest management, creation of infrastructure, cold storage and giving transport assistance.

**Procurement Affected due
to VRS in FCI**

949. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of officers and employees of Food Corporation of India (FCI) opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total number of officers and employees who opted for VRS during the said period and till-date;

(c) whether the procurement work has been adversely affected by the shortage of staff in FCI due to VRS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure smooth functioning of procurement process during the ensuing Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was introduced in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on 29th June, 2004 for a period of 3 months. The details of the number of officers and employees who retired under the said VRS are given as under:

No. of officers	-	2153
No. of employees	-	6624
Total	-	8777

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The procurement work has not been adversely affected by the shortage of staff in FCI due to VRS, as the FCI has managed to carry on the procurement work smoothly by the existing staff. Moreover, in some States, procurement work has been decentralized and FCI has a limited role in procurement operations in these States.

[Translation]

**Amendment to Trade Unions
Act, 1926**

950. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of trade unions exist in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to check the mushrooming of trade unions;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing Trade Unions Act, 1926;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 has since been amended in 2001 which was enforced w.e.f. 9.1.2002 to reduce the multiplicity of trade unions, promote internal democracy, rank and file leadership of the trade unions and to facilitate their orderly growth and regulation.

**Production of Pulses and
Vegetable Oils**

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

(a) whether the union Government has taken any step to prepare a time bound programme to increase the production of pulses and vegetable oils in the country in view of their increasing imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses and oilseeds growing states with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds and to make the country self-sufficient in Pulses and Vegetable oils. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/ liming/ dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow pulses and oilseeds. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through ICAR.

[English]

Shortage of Procurement Centre in Bihar

952. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of procurement centres of Food Corporation of India presently operating in Bihar;
- (b) whether most of these procurement centres have remained non operational and are not purchasing grains from farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06, FCI has opened 112 procurement centres in Bihar.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Self Employment Scheme

953. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme to set up small industries by unemployed youths has been introduced by the Government under Self Employment Scheme wherein half of the required amount is to be given as subsidy by the Government and the rest of the amount would be given as loan;
- (b) if so, the details of the said scheme;
- (c) whether the annual target has been fixed under the said scheme;
- (d) if so, the targets fixed for the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 separately and the actual achievement made against the target;
- (e) whether any flaw has been found in its implementation;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No scheme has been introduced by the Central Government under self-employment Scheme to set up small industries by unemployed youth wherein half of the required amount is given as subsidy. However, the Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as a major Self-employment programme in the rural areas with effect from 1999 after re-structuring the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied programmes. For groups of Swarozgaris, subsidy is 50% of the cost of the scheme or per capita subsidy of Rs. 1 0,000/- or Rs.1.25 lakh, whichever is less.

(c) and (d) The physical and financial progress of SGSY for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto December 2005) is given in the enclosed Statement.

- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement***Physical and Financial progress under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06***

Sl. No.	Year	Physical Progress Total number of Swarozgaries assisted under SGSY (lakh Nos.)	Financial Progress	
			Total Allocation (in crores)	Total expenditure (in crores)
1	2003-04	8.97	1065.83	1045.84
2	2004-05	11.16	1332.67	1290.88
3	2005-06 (upto Dec. 05)	5.89	1332.67	726.28

*[English]***Setting up of Indian Council of
Veterinary Research**

954. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major research work conducted in the veterinary sector so far during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The details of major research work conducted in the veterinary sector during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement***Major Research Work Conducted in Veterinary Sector during last three years***

- Molecular epidemiology of various serotypes of FMD along with nucleotide sequence have been determined

and compared by the partial/full sequence of the 1 D gene of FMD virus field isolates of serotypes O, Asia 1 and A.

- The Non-structural (NS) proteins of FMD viruses are conserved across the serotypes. Antibodies to the NS antigens persist in the animals for long periods (up to 3 years) following infection. The protective-antibody status following vaccination in Liquid Phase Blocking ELISA (LPBE) was further evaluated and standardized for screening large number of serum samples.
- A disease simulating forecasting model based on computer application has been developed and a national data base based on eco pathological zoning have been developed. Disease simulation models have been developed for the critical epidemiology, which are the tools, that relate/simulate the pathogenic performance of the disease in relation to the conditions that change either deterministically or randomly.
- Pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of the drugs have been analysed and efforts have been made for utilization of indigenous medicines for the treatment of livestock and poultry disease.
- The presence of heat stable antiviral and immuno-potentiating activity in the extracts of Ocimum sanctum (Tulsi) leaves and seeds were demonstrated.
- It was also shown for the first time in the country that dogs could be used as effective bio-monitors of lead and cadmium pollution in the urban and industrial areas.
- The antigenic variation and characterization of

antigenic profile of purified antigens have been developed in terms of dot ELISA for the diagnosis of Johne's disease. For protozoal infections, diagnostic tests involving molecular biological techniques have been developed and chemotherapy for the treatment of theileriosis have been investigated.

- An exclusive hybridoma laboratory for the production of N and H protein based monoclonal antibodies to RPV and PPRV have been developed for use in the ELISA kits for national sero monitoring and sero surveillance programme.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay was standardized for the diagnosis of trypanosomosis, a dreaded protozoan disease caused by *Trypanosoma evansi* in domestic and wild animals.
- A mapping of tick population responsible for transmitting diseases was undertaken.
- A newly designed linear skeletal fixator provided better and stable fixation of fractures in large animals than conventional fixator.

Diagnostic/Vaccines/Technologies developed

- Various diagnostics and vaccines developed and technologies transferred for commercialization.
- The immuno diagnostic kits for FMD, Blue tongue, brucella, IBR and IBT were prepared and released for the field application.
- Inactivated oil emulsified inclusion Body Hepatitis-Hydro pericardium Syndrome (IBH-HPS) vaccine, prepared from the virus propagated in SPF-chicken embryos, which afforded complete protection to the chicks from one week to 6 weeks against the disease.
- Monoclonal based highly sensitive and specific Avidin-Biotin ELISA test was developed for comparative sero epidemiological monitoring of livestock diseases.
- An indigenously developed cheaper monoclonal antibody (Mab) based competitive ELISA kit was for sero-surveillance against Rinderpest.
- Complement fixation test based diagnostic kit COMPLEMENT FIXATION FOR EQUINE BABESIOSIS (COFEB) has been developed which would be helpful in saving foreign exchange and detection of infection within 4 hours against about 10-12 hours by conventional methods.
- A milk based bovine brucellosis ELISA kit has been indigenously developed for screening the milk samples collected from the village milk producer's cooperative societies to identify infected village and to develop strategies for its control/eradication.
- Powerful veterinary epidemiology software indai. admas Epitrak has been developed for the first time, which is exclusive to the livestock disease scenario in India.
- Two new isolates of bluetongue virus, which was characterized as Type 23, were added the inventory of Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnosis, Rose Bengal colored antigen was developed for Serum Agglutination Test (SAT) for diagnosis of Caprine Pleuropneumonia for field application.
- A dot ELISA based on soluble antigen of *Brucella mellitensis* biovar-1 isolated from goat was developed which was found to be very sensitive.
- A test to diagnose Bovine Immuno-deficiency virus in cattle and buffaloes, a condition similar to AIDS in human beings developed.
- Molecular epidemiology of FMD has been carried out to assess the extent of infection and prevalence of virus in the country. The full length cDNA of the second most common serotype of FMD virus Asia 1 has been constructed and nucleotide data deduced by sequencing.

[Translation]

Assessment of Reservoirs for Farmers

955. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the conditions of water reservoirs for farmers in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the name of States where farmers depend on water reservoirs for farming;

(c) whether the quantity of available water has been sufficient for farmers; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Central Water Commission (CWC), an attached office of Ministry of Water Resources monitored the storage position of 76 important reservoirs in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal on weekly basis during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) One of the major uses of water from reservoirs is for irrigated agriculture. Hence under irrigated agriculture all the farmers in all the states use water from reservoirs constructed for such purpose. Ground water is also used for irrigation wherever required and feasible.

(c) As on 17.02.2006, the current year's storage in these 76 reservoirs is nearly 145 percent of the last year's storage and 127 percent of the average storage over the last ten years. There are 57 projects reporting storage better than the average of last 10 years storage. However, remaining 19 reservoirs are reporting storage less than the average of last 10 years storage.

(d) Water being a State subject, the responsibility of survey and investigation, planning development, funding, execution and management of all type of water resources project & reservoir to harness the water resources within the states rests with the concerned State Governments.

To over come the scarcity situation in future, Government of India is promoting the strategies for optimization of water use efficiency, water conservation and conjunctive use of surface and ground water.

[English]

Cases of Overcharging by Drug Companies

956. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of overcharging by Drug Companies have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether these have been referred to Enforcement Directorate/ Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether higher prices of Bulk Drugs/Formulations based on over invoiced imports have been allowed;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any complaints on these aspects have been received; and

(g) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (g) Some cases of overcharging by Drug Companies have come to the notice of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Under para 13 of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO-95), the manufacturers, importers or distributors as the case may be, are required to deposit the amount accrued due to overcharging i.e. prices higher than those fixed or notified under DPCO 1987 or DPCO 1995.

Since the inception of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August, 1997 upto January 2006 a demand of Rs.693.94 crores has been raised in 331 cases (various Drug companies) as overcharged amount for drugs. Of these, around Rs.98.76 crores has been recovered upto January, 2006, which includes part recovery in cases under litigation as per Court Order.

NPPA has not referred any case of overcharging by the Drug companies to Enforcement Director/Serious Fraud Investigation office.

In the case of fixation of price of formulation which are based on imported bulk drug, the latest available weighted average CIF import price based on the import price data supplied by Drug Controller General (India), M/o Health or the actual imported purchase price provided by the unit with supporting data, which ever is lower is considered for price fixation. No specific case of complaints on this aspect has been received in formulation pricing.

Asia-Pacific Climate Meeting

957. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asia-Pacific climate meeting was held recently at Sydney;

- (b) if so, whether India was a party to the meeting;
- (c) if so, the details of discussions held;
- (d) the decision taken and the action plan evolved therein; and
- (e) the response/obligations of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, to which India is also a party, was held on 11-12 January 2006 at Sydney.

(c) to (e) Along with India, the other Partner countries to this Partnership are Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and the United States of America. The objective of this Partnership is to create a voluntary, non-legally binding framework for international cooperation to facilitate the development, diffusion, deployment, and transfer of existing, emerging and longer term cost effective, cleaner, and more efficient technologies and practices among the Partners. Towards this end, the Charter, which describes the purposes, organization, functions and other matters related to this Partnership, and the Work Plan, which focuses on power generation and distribution, as well as key industry sectors of our economies and establishes eight public-private sector Task Forces, were adopted in the meeting. The task forces are in the areas of cleaner fossil energy, renewable energy and distributed generation, power generation and transmission, steel, aluminum, cement, coal mining and buildings and appliances. Each Task Force is expected to formulate detailed action plans outlining both immediate and medium-term specific actions, including possible 'flagship' projects and relevant indicators of progress and also to define the current state of technology in terms of cost, performance, market share and barriers. The Partners had agreed to a sort of time bound schedule of activities and to review the progress of the work under this Partnership at the Ministerial level from time to time. India had shown interest in participating in the activities of all the eight task forces and would be co-chairing the task forces on Steel and Coal Mining.

[Translation]

Organic Farming

958. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Bio products is increasing day-by-day all over the World;

(b) if so, the ranking of India in the field of organic farming in the World; and

(c) the facilities being provided by the Government to the farmers for promoting organic farming and the steps initiated to encourage the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's certified organic farming is negligible and hence the ranking is not available.

(c) To promote organic farming in the country, Government has approved a Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crores from October, 2004 for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming during 10th Plan period with the following main components:-

- (i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.
- (ii) Capacity building through service providers.
- (iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for vermiculture.
- (iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion and market development.

Besides, under National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Agency (APEDA) is facilitating certification of the Organic Produce for export purpose.

Delay in Payment of Provident Fund

959. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale irregularities are prevailing in the Provident Fund Offices of the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government regarding delay or harassment in payment of Provident Fund during the last two years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of Provident Fund cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However grievances regarding non-settlement of claims, delay in settlement, etc. have been received from various quarters, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Some processes like settlement of claims, issue of account slips, etc. have been computerised. Further, the modernisation project 'Reinventing EPF India' has been launched by the EPF Organisation to address this issue.

Statement

Region	Complaints Received	
	During the last Two Years	During the Current Year
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6,860	355
Bihar	1,092	283
Chhattisgarh	3,505	140
Delhi	18,284	1,252
Goa	551	21
Gujarat	1,940	366
Haryana	3,408	291
Himachal Pradesh	240	55
Jharkhand	885	146
Karnataka	4,803	369
Kerala	1,844	101

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	5,144	329
Maharashtra	8,980	2,560
North Eastern Region	476	34
Orissa	9,202	403
Punjab	11,751	161
Rajasthan	7,806	385
Tamil Nadu	13,894	462
Uttar Pradesh	4,321	974
Uttaranchal	240	80
West Bengal	9,327	1,070
Total	1,14,553	9,837

Indira Gandhi Canal Project

960. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made 10 per cent share of farmers mandatory in the construction of small water courses (Khaala) under Indira Gandhi Canal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to do away with the provision of 10 per cent share of farmers to recover the contribution alongwith cost of land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, minimum 10% contribution by beneficiary farmers is mandatory for following items:

- (i) Construction of field channels/water courses
- (ii) Full package On-Farm-Development Works including field channels, realignment of field boundaries, land leveling/shaping

- (iii) Reclamation of waterlogged areas
- (iv) Renovation and desilting of existing irrigation tanks.

This is applicable to all the projects covered under the programme including Indira Gandhi Canal Project.

(c) and (d) The Government of Rajasthan expressed difficulties in recovering 10% contribution from farmers prior to construction of water courses as land is allotted to farmers in Indira Gandhi Canal Project after completion of development activities. The Government of Rajasthan has agreed to recover the 10% contribution alongwith cost of land and inform the details of recoveries to Government of India whenever they are effected. The matter is under consideration.

[English]

Reduction of Air Freight Cost for Flowers

961. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to reduce air freight cost for perishable commodities especially for flowers so as to make Indian floriculture products competitive in international market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has requested Government of India for lowering the air freight cost by reducing the central tax on aviation turbine fuel and reducing the sales tax rates to make Indian floriculture products competitive in International market.

(b) The matter is under examination of the Government of India. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is presently providing a subsidy of 25% of freight cost or 20% of FOB (free on board) or value specific rate (Rs. per kg) whichever is less.

Scholarships to Children of Beedi Workers

962. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-payment of education scholarships, to children of beedi workers are dropping out from the schools; and

(b) if so, the number of such dropouts due to non-disbursement of scholarships for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No such case/complaint in this regard has been reported so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Diversification of Agricultural Produce

963. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any long term strategy for diversification of agricultural produce and value addition enabling the production system to respond to external environment and creating export demand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As a part of national policy, the Government is emphasizing to all States to promote crop diversification from cereal-centric cropping system to high value more remunerative crops and enterprises for diversifying the food basket, enhancing the income of farmers and stemming up of the degradation of natural resources.

To increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture so as to enable farmers to get remunerative prices and also assist in increasing exports, a number of initiatives have been introduced. The Scheme implemented by the Government towards this end, inter-alia, include Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP). Further, to provide a level-playing field for export of

agricultural products and to have increased access to international markets, a number of steps taken through schemes such as Transport Assistance Scheme operated by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna operated by Department of Commerce.

Setting up of Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour

964. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a project proposal for setting up of Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour in Alappuzha district in the State;

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

(c) the total estimated expenditure of the project; and

(d) the time by which said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, in August 1994 has accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Kerala for setting up of a fishing harbour at Kayamkulam in Alappuzha District at an estimated cost of Rs.624.60 lakhs under Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50% assistance. So far, the central financial assistance to the tune of Rs.300.00 lakhs has been released in two instalments to the State Government for construction of the fishing harbour.

[Translation]

Decrease of Labour Cost

965. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour cost has been decreasing for the last five years in the industrial establishments of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the share of labour cost in total production cost during the year 2004-05 has been reduced to 8.13 percent against the 9.54 percent during the year 2000-2001;

(d) if so, whether increase in salaries in the country is higher in comparison to other Asian countries during the said period;

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

(f) whether the labour cost is likely to be reduced as a result of use of modern technology; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (g) According to information furnished by the Labour Bureau, in respect of 81 establishments covered under the Annual Survey of Industries during last four years, while labour cost per manday worked and wages/salaries per manday worked have increased, the percentage of labour cost to total cost of production has declined, as indicated below:-

Year	Labour cost per manday worked (Rs.)	Wages/salaries per manday worked (Rs.)	Percentage of labour cost to total cost of production
1999-00	238.49	181.04	7.84
2000-01	256.45	198.88	7.78
2001-02	271.96	207.47	7.68
2002-03	285.05	218.31	7.15

While the information corresponding to Column (3) above for other Asian countries is not available, decline in the percentage of labour cost to total production cost could be due to a number of factors like improvement in work environment, efficient use of various inputs, modern technology, etc.

Sanctuary for Tigers

966. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chambal and Yamuna ravines in Etawa district of Uttar Pradesh are proposed to be developed as a sanctuary for the tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance likely to be given by the Union Government to the Uttar Pradesh for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such proposal has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[English]

New Technologies in Farm Income and Productivity

967. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new technologies, which brought significant changes in farm incomes and productivity in agriculture sector did not reach in Uttar Pradesh and that is the reason for lower productivity of grains in the State;

(b) if so, whether the government has any plan to support the farmers specially in Uttar Pradesh to improve their agro productivity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the budgetary provision for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The new crop production technologies like high yielding variety seeds, fertilizer use, irrigation water management, resources conservation technology, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, etc. which brought significant changes in raising farm income and productivity have also reached in Uttar Pradesh besides the other States. The overall productivity of most crops in Uttar Pradesh is higher than the national average.

(b) and (c) Providing support to the farmers through various developmental programmes for adoption of improved farm practices is the continuing major activity of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The major ongoing crop production oriented programmes in Uttar Pradesh include Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). For 2005-06, an allocation of Rs.6865.00 lakhs has been provided to the States under the above schemes.

Agro Commodity Storage Facilities

968. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps being taken to ensure that each village or groups of villages have flood-level control, earthquake resistant and agro-commodity storage facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): This Ministry is implementing a scheme for construction of rural godowns to meet the requirement of farmers for storing farm produce, agriculture inputs etc. The godowns built under the scheme are required to be structurally sound as per the Central Public Works Department/State Public Works Department specifications. No special steps have been taken to make them earthquake resistant. However, a National Core Group for Earthquake Mitigation was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and one of the decisions taken was to constitute a committee of experts to draft model building bye laws for Seismic Zone III, IV & V. The Expert Committee recommended amendments in town & country planning legislation, zoning regulation, development control regulations for natural hazard prone areas and model building bye laws for structural safety.

The Report of the Expert Committee was sent to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with the request to set up a committee to go through the recommendations made in the report and adopt them to meet the requirement of the State so as to give effect to a new techno legal regime. Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), under the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India is assigned to assist the States on the subject.

Conservation and Utilization of Water Resources

969. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) was entrusted with the responsibility for furthering and promoting measures for control, conservation and utilization of water resources in the country in areas of irrigation, hydropower generation, flood management and river conservation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the success has been achieved by CWC with reference to Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As per the resolution dated 21st April, 1951, the then Central Water and Power Commission was charged with the general responsibility of initiating, coordinating and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation and utilization of water resources, throughout the country, for purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation and water-power generation. With the bifurcation of Central Water and Power Commission, in Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority in the year 1974, the responsibility of works related to water power generation rests with Central Electricity Authority. Specific schemes related to flood management in Ganga basin States including Bihar are examined and monitored by Ganga Flood Control Commission which was established in the year 1972. National Water Development Agency has been established in the year 1982 to take up the works related to feasibility studies for the identified links under National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development.

The subjects of water supply, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankment, water storage and water power are in the State List. The State Governments conceive, plan and implement water resources development schemes. Central Water Commission (CWC) provides technical assistance and guidance to the State Governments particularly in techno-economic evaluation of irrigation and multipurpose projects. Other important activities of Central Water Commission include maintenance of network of key hydrological observation sites and flood forecasting stations.

Sloth Bear in Ranthambore

970. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the rare Sloth Bear has completely disappeared from Ranthambore forest;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. As reported by Government of Rajasthan, the Sloth Bear has not disappeared from Ranthambore forest. 156 Sloth Bears were estimated in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve during the census carried out in 2004.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Even though there is no concern about the Sloth Bear population, as a precautionary measures vigilance in the area has been increased by deploying Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC) and Home Guards along with field staff of Rajasthan Forest Department.

Minimum Support Price of Copra

971. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the minimum support price of copra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the demands raised by the copra growers;

(d) the losses incurred by NAFED while undertaking price support operations of copra during each of the last three years; and

(e) the funds out of them reimbursed by the Union Government to NAFED?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) On the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Prices Commission (CACP), the Government of India announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for each season

for milling and ball copra. The following are the MSP declared by the Government of India for the last five years:

(Figures in Rupees per quintal of FAQ Copra)

Year	Milling copra	Ball copra
1	2	3
2002-03	3300	3550
2003-04	3320	3570
2004-05	3500	3750

Crop Season (January to December)	Qty. Procured in Metric Tons	Value (in Rs. lakh)	Loss (-)/Profit (+) (in Rs. lakh)	Funds sanctioned by Govt. (in Rs. lakh)
2002	7468	2518.50	(-)336.59	336.59
2003	824	234.02	(+)6.82	Nil
2004*	-	-	-	-
2005	2935	1167.26	(-)234.0 (estimated)	Nil

* No procurement since the prices prevailed more than the MSP level.

Co-operation for Wildlife Conservation

972. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with the USA for wildlife conservation and co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. No such agreement has been signed between India and USA.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Animal Husbandry

973. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

1	2	3
2005-06	3570	3820
2006-07	3590	3840

(c) to (e) The Government of India implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) which is the Central nodal agency to undertake PSS operations. The details of copra procured by NAFED under Price Support Scheme (PSS), and the losses suffered by NAFED, and funds sanctioned to NAFED for reimbursement by the Government of India are as under:-

(a) the details of the status of animal husbandry and milk production in India is against the World;

(b) the details of various schemes launched by the Government to promote animal husbandry in the country and the details of the assistance provided during each of the last two years, item-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of various tests carried out and schemes launched by the Government to increase the number of high breeds of the milch cattle in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The details of the status of animal husbandry and milk production in India as against the World are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of various schemes launched by the Government to promote animal husbandry in the country and the details of the assistance provided during each of the last two years, item-wise and State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) A centrally sponsored scheme viz. "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)" is being implemented by the Government since October 2000, in two phases of five years each, with an allocation of Rs.402.00 crore for the first phase. This scheme envisages genetic upgradation and development of indigenous breeds on a priority basis. The institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research viz. NDRI Karnal, Haryana, IVRI Izatnagar and Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut in U.P., in collaboration with the Military farms, are continuing research for improved production and increasing the number of high breed milch cattle through the All India Coordinated Research Projects and Network programmes on cattle in the country.

Statement-I

Population for the year 2003 (in million)

Category	World*	India**	India's Rank in World
1	2	3	4
Buffaloes	170.26	97.92	1

1	2	3	4
Cattle	1349.18	185.18	2
Sheep	1040.58	61.47	3
Goats	771.87	124.36	2
Poultry	16860.83	489.01	5

* Source: FAO website.

** Source: 17th Livestock Census conducted in 2003.

Production for the year 2005

Category	World	India	India's Rank in World
Milk (million tonnes)**	630.12	90.73	1
Egg (million tonnes)*	64.38	2.49	3
Wool (thousand tonnes)**	2203.34	44.52	10

* Source: FAO website.

** Source: As per Integrated Sample Survey results.

Statement-II

Scheme-wise/State-wise Releases during the last two years

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	State	National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding		Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Dev.		Assis. to State Poultry/Duck Farms		Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds		Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases		National Project for Rinderpest Eradication		Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme	
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	718.18	858.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.92	0.00	0.00	184.00	216.12	10.00	40.00	98.00	150.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	151.30	0.00	99.00	74.50	132.50	0.00	119.38	45.00	50.40	15.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	129.50	0.00	68.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	247.24	0.00	25.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	98.00	100.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.33	174.50	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
6. Goa		58.71	97.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	24.33	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
7. Gujarat		40.00	279.70	0.00	0.00	22.38	90.37	0.00	0.00	246.72	439.37	25.00	20.00	88.00	150.00
8. Haryana		0.00	454.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.25	327.86	20.00	35.00	116.00	200.00
9. Himachal Pradesh		100.00	270.20	2.00	5.00	27.40	25.00	0.00	68.45	67.16	75.60	20.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
10. Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	141.58	6.37	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
11. Jammu and Kashmir		0.00	135.91	0.00	0.00	85.00	204.00	0.00	0.00	74.55	203.20	20.00	32.50	0.00	0.00
12. Karnataka		465.00	394.29	25.00	9.50	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	74.00	451.30	25.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
13. Kerala		220.00	801.95	0.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.55	80.00	0.00	20.00	15.00	41.00	58.00
14. Madhya Pradesh		360.00	661.54	0.00	0.00	48.93	64.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	234.15	25.00	35.00	0.00	0.00
15. Maharashtra		860.00	0.00	8.44	46.53	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	91.20	665.65	25.00	35.00	122.00	180.00
16. Manipur		17.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77.00	64.65	104.06	15.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
17. Meghalaya		65.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	42.10	23.34	25.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
18. Mizoram		40.00	71.00	39.53	112.50	57.00	128.00	50.00	44.50	101.05	168.87	15.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
19. Nagaland		182.00	159.67	27.53	112.50	42.50	252.50	0.00	61.30	176.24	315.00	15.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
20. Orissa		0.00	485.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.25	330.06	20.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
21. Punjab		0.00	111.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.00	156.05	15.00	15.00	126.00	200.00
22. Rajasthan		0.00	0.00	40.00	26.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.57	204.42	25.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
23. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	57.65	42.50	0.00	0.00	58.50	32.09	0.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu		0.00	204.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.76	0.00	0.00	63.60	300.42	10.00	15.00	14.00	20.00
25. Tripura		95.00	96.67	57.46	50.00	82.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	154.23	43.33	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
26. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	841.15	0.00	337.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	414.15	263.33	20.00	20.00	282.00	524.00
27. Uttaranchal		275.00	84.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.06	124.71	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
28. West Bengal		0.00	353.10	0.00	0.00	33.20	80.00	0.00	50.00	105.40	464.97	10.00	35.00	0.00	0.00
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.67	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00
30. Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	4.10	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.00	27.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.33	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00
32. Daman and Diu		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.33	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
33. Delhi		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.20	48.30	5.00	4.00	7.00	10.00
34. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.60	13.24	2.00	2.00	5.00	4.00
35. Pondicherry		0.00	18.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	11.70	5.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
Total		3594.89	6787.43	199.96	1190.00	530.91	1437.05	50.00	527.68	3327.01	5450.08	502.00	554.50	906.00	1499.00

*[English]***Development of Forests**

974. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any project for the development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accorded approval to the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The details of the Projects received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for the development of forests and their status are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement*Details of Projects Received from Government of Tamil Nadu*

S.No.	Project	Action taken by the Central Government	Remarks
1	Forest Development Agencies	32 Project proposals received and these have been sanctioned for development of 52,253 ha forest area	Rs. 55.60 crores released till 31.01.2006
2	Development of Elephant Reserves	The projects received have been approved.	Rs. 112.00 lakhs have been released as first installment in current financial year.
3	Development of Tiger Reserve	One project received and approved.	Rs. 148.29 lakhs approved and Rs. 90 lakhs released in current financial year.
4	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project Phase-II	The project received for development of forests has been approved for funding from Japan Bank of International Co-operation (JBIC). The total project cost is Rs. 564.44 crores to be implemented from 2005-2013.	The implementation of the project has already started.
5	Sustainable forest and community development of Vellore Division	The project has not been approved for external funding because Government of India as a matter of policy has discontinued taking aid from bilateral partners with smaller packages.	
6	Human Resources and Socio-Economic Development of rural communities of Tamil Nadu	The State Government has been requested to revise the proposal.	

**Proxy Labour In Food
Corporation of India**

975. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has been completed its inquiry into the proxy labour system in Food Corporation of India (FCI);

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to root out corruption from FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation has completed its inquiry and submitted its final report in respect of labourers of FCI posted in the godowns and depots of FCI in the State of West Bengal.

(b) The CBI made joint surprise checks in 2 depots i.e. JJP & OJM (Budge Budge) in West Bengal, on different dates. During both the joint surprise checks no incidence of proxy labour was found/detected. After inquiry, CBI has recommended closure of the case since allegations regarding proxy labour system are not substantiated. The CBI has, however, suggested the following measures to prevent manipulation:-

(i) To put signatures or thumb impression of each labour at the time of arrival and departure.

(ii) To permit labourers on CL/ ½ CL/Short leave on written request of labour..

(iii) To send attendance register and record of CL/ ½ CL or short leave permission to the booking section to prepare wage bill.

(c) Based on the recommendations of CBI instructions have already been issued by the FCI. The FCI has informed that steps are also being taken to implement the recommendations of the CBI in consultation with its field offices.

ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

976. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Employees State Insurance Hospital in Tirupur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to set up some additional ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the country including West Bengal and Delhi during 2006-07; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ESI Corporation has approved in principle to construct 100 bedded ESI Hospital at Tirupur. Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested for allotment of land to construct the hospital.

(c) and (d) The new hospitals and dispensaries are set-up on the basis of proposals received from State Government as per the norms and standards approved by ESI Corporation. At present there is no proposal to set up any new hospital in West Bengal and Delhi.

Free of Cost Medicines to Poor

977. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced to provide medicines to poor people free of cost;

(b) if so, the modalities framed therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure quality standards of such medicines and the extent of expenditure proposed on such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government, based

on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission, the Government have drafted a National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Some of the salient recommendations of the National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which contains issues other than statutory price control pertaining to schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor are:

- (1) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima yojana for the BPL families.
- (2) Larger allocation would be made for National Illness Assistance Fund.
- (3) State Illness Assistance Funds would be set up in all states with financial assistance from Central Government.
- (4) Revolving Funds for BPL families would be set up in all the Central Government hospitals.
- (5) States would also be asked to set up revolving funds in all the government hospitals for free treatment of BPL families.
- (6) In order to increase the reach of poor people to these funds District Level Revolving Fund would also be maintained. The quantum of the District Level Revolving Fund would be Rs 1.00 crore and this amount would be provided by the Central Government.
- (7) Rajasthan model of Medicare Relief Societies to be replicated in all the states.

[Translation]

Damage of Forest Area due to Mining

978. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of forest area damaged due to mining during the last two years;
- (b) the number of schemes received from the

NGOs engaged in the field of environment for maintaining ecological balance during the last two years;

(c) the number of wild animals affected by mining during the last two years;

(d) the schemes drawn up for adequate protection of forest and wild life along with the progress made in this direction during the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the affected forest residents as a result of forest mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During the last two years 18,901.317 hectare of forest land has been diverted for mining purposes which is only 0.03 percentage of the total forest cover of the country.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a scheme for providing grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations/NGOs for taking up afforestation activities. During the last two years, 517 organizations have been provided financial aid for afforestation activities.

(c) No mining has been allowed by the Central Government in the national parks and sanctuaries in compliance of the order dated 14.02.2000 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India prohibiting any non-forestry activity in such areas.

(d) While diverting forest lands for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, adequate mitigatory measures are taken up to compensate the loss of forest areas. Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Central Government. Besides this, the user agency is also required to carry out Safety zone creation, plantation around mining area, stabilization of over burden dumps through afforestation, and reclamation of mined out areas. In addition, the user agency is required to carry out Environment Impact Assessment and implementation of Environment Management Plan. As per available information, out of a total stipulation of 10.91 lakh hectares, about 5.12 lakh hectares of CA has been achieved so far.

(e) If a project involves displacement of people, the Central Government invariably ensures the preparation and implementation of "Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan" for them through the user agency and the respective State/Union Territory Government.

*[English]***Supply of Timber**

979. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of proposals regarding supply of Timber and its produce for construction of dwelling units in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) If so, the details of all such proposals pending with the Government and the reasons for delay in clearing these proposals; and

(c) the time likely to be taken for such clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Directions by Central Pollution Control Board

980. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed all local bodies/State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) to optimize participation by the local communities in the collection, segregation, disposal and composting of solid waste;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures suggested by the CPCB for utilization of waste as a supplement of fuel; and

(d) the reaction of the CPCBs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) As per the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, every municipal authority, within the territorial area of the municipality, is responsible for implementation of the provisions of these rules relating to collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid

wastes. Waste processing and disposal as per these rules, include composting, incineration, pelletisation, energy recovery and any other State-of-the art technology duly approved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). CPCB has not made any specific suggestion for utilization of waste as supplement fuel, as selection of technology would depend upon the quality of waste to be treated, cost affordability of the local body and the venture based on economic feasibility.

Students in Agricultural Universities

981. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the intake of students in Agricultural Universities;

(b) If so, the details thereof, university-wise; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Agricultural education being state subject, the intake capacity in Agricultural Universities is decided by the concerned state governments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tibetan Antelope

982. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in India where Tibetan Antelope (Cheeru) are found alongwith their numbers;

(b) whether the said antelopes are being hunted on a large scale for smuggling of their skin; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to take stern action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Tibetan Antelope (Cheeru) are found in Ladakh region of Daulat Beg Oldi (D.B.O.) North of Ladakh in Korakoram Range and Chang Chenmo Valley (Hot spring)

in North east of Ladakh. A recent survey has reported 200-250 Antelopes in Ladakh area.

(b) No hunting of the Antelopes is reported by the State Government.

(c) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has taken the following steps for protection and preservation of the Tibetan Antelope:

1. The two prime habitats have been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries, namely, Korakoram Wildlife Sanctuary (5000 sq. km) and Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (4000 sq. km).
2. Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 was amended during the year 2002 re-listing the Tibetan Antelope from Schedule-II to Schedule-I, hence providing maximum protection to the species.
3. Ministry is providing financial assistance to both the Wildlife Sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries".
4. Ministry has also directed that Ladakh scouts, Indo Tibetan Border Police and other Government agencies posted in border areas should be informed to take adequate measures to prevent illegal trans-border trade of wild animals and their derivatives.

Vacant Posts in Public Sector Undertakings

983. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 222 on December 16, 2004 and state:

(a) the number of posts filled up by direct recruitment on promotion and deputation basis;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant, till date, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up the remaining vacant posts in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):
(a) The appointments to Board level posts in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are made on the basis selections made

by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). There is no provision for promotion to Board level posts.

(b) As on 31.10.2005, 74 Board level posts were vacant in addition to the posts kept in abeyance by the concerned Ministries as a conscious decision.

(c) A time schedule has been laid down according to which the selection procedure can be initiated 2 years before the date of occurrence of vacancy. The Administrative Ministries and PESB have been requested from time to time to fill up Board level posts well in time.

[Translation]

Encouragement to Floriculture

984. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared by the Government to encourage floriculture in the country and help Indian floriculture traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to put India in an important position in International flower trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the X Plan with effect from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production of quality planting material, area expansion by setting up of new gardens for various horticulture crops including all type of flowers (cut flowers, bulbulous flowers and loose flowers), post harvest management and marketing with the active participation of all the stake holders including traders.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) While the NHM provides incentive for producing quality flowers, special impetus is being provided by the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export

Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce to promote the export of horticultural produce including flowers through Agri-Export Zones (AEZ), in the international market.

[English]

Forest/Revenue Villages

985. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas are categorized as 'Forest Villages' and some as 'Revenue Villages' in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria followed therefor;

(c) the material impact of such conversions on the habitants of such villages;

(d) the details of forest villages as on December, 2005 in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the number of forest villages converted into revenue villages in the country, during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The forest villages were set up in remote and inaccessible forest areas of some States with a view to providing uninterrupted manpower for forestry operations. The Ministry of Environment and Forests issued guidelines dated 18.09.1990 for conversion of such forest villages into revenue villages. Forest villages get converted into revenue villages after de-notification of requisite forest land. The State Governments are required to submit proposals for conversion of such villages into revenue villages for approval of Central Government. The revenue villages fall within the jurisdiction of the revenue authorities of the respective State/Union Territory Governments whereas administration of forest villages rests with State Forest Department. On conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, the villagers are conferred heritable but inalienable rights over the land.

(d) As per the information available with the Central Government there are 2,690 number of forest villages in various States. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) During last three years, 357 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages. This includes 234 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh, 112 forest villages in Gujarat and 11 forest villages in Uttaranchal.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of forest villages
1.	Assam	499
2.	Chhattisgarh	421
3.	Gujarat	194
4.	Jharkhand	24
5.	Madhya Pradesh	925
6.	Maharashtra	73
7.	Meghalaya	22
8.	Mizoram	85
9.	Orissa	20
10.	Tripura	96
11.	Uttar Pradesh	19
12.	Uttaranchal	142
13.	West Bengal	170
Total		2,690

Insects and Pests in Agricultural Produce

986. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insects and pests are steadily eating into our agricultural produce and every year farmers lose crops worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of loss due to pests for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to educate the farmers about proper pest control management to improve the yield of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) It has been estimated that crop losses due to pests including insect pests, diseases, rodents and weeds range between 10 to 30% every year depending on climatic and environmental conditions. The insect pest/disease situation generally remained normal i.e. below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) throughout the country during the past year. However, minor incidence of some insect pests/diseases were reported in some parts of the country which were timely managed by adopting suitable control measures.

(c) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle covering plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, inter-alia, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs). Government has, so far organized 9111 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and 2,75,056 farmers in IPM techniques. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/ State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers.

[Translation]

Increase of Vegetation in MP

987. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government to increase vegetation cover in western Madhya Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be sanctioned and the required funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A proposal for greening of western Madhya Pradesh covering the districts of Dhar, Jhabua, Ratlam and Khandwa was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh. Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme of the Ministry of Environment

and Forests which is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized structure of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level, FDA projects of Jhabua and Dhar forest divisions covering project area of 3200 ha have been approved at a total cost of Rs. 5.25 Crore. An amount of Rs.3.20 Crore has been released so far. The FDA project proposals of Ratlam and Khandwa have not been received in the Ministry so far.

National Horticulture Mission

988. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan under the National Horticulture Mission has been received by the Union Government from the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) If so, the reasons for delay in its approval; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Annual Action Plan for 2005-06 submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh was examined, revised and thereafter approved by the Executive Committee of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) on 14th October 2005.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction in Prices under Public Distribution System

989. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reduced the prices of foodgrains being issued under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

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

(c) whether the economic cost of foodgrains has also declined; and

- (d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

**Minimum Retail Price
on Products**

990. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to introduce/implement Minimum Retail Price instead of Maximum Retail Price on each product for sale;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977 require all pre-packed commodities to carry a declaration of retail sale price on its label in the form 'Maximum Retail Price..... (Inclusive of all taxes) for information of consumers. This is the end price which a retailer can charge to the consumer any where in the country and includes, all taxes, local or otherwise, freight, transport charges, commission payable to dealers, and all charges towards advertisement, delivery, packing forwarding and the like, as the case may be. Selling of the package at more than MRP is an offence under the said rules and retailers could be prosecuted. Thus this provision ensures prevention of overcharging the consumers. Sale of the package at a price less than MRP, for whatever reasons, is permitted as it is favourable to buyers.

[Translation]

Agriculture Training Centres

991. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Agriculture Training Centres in the country, State-wise;
(b) whether the Government proposes to open new Agriculture Training Centres in the country; and
(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Diversification of Traditional
Fishing Crafts and Nets**

992. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the diversification of traditional fishing crafts and nets;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the assistance provided to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Exploitation of Unemployed Youth by
Private Security Agencies**

993. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the private security agencies are exploiting unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, whether most of these security agencies are paying less than the minimum wages fixed by the government; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years and thereafter and the measures taken to check exploitation of youths by these security agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No such complaints have been received by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(b) and (c) In the central sphere, the employment of 'watch and ward through private security services or directly by the employers in all public sector enterprises' has been included in the schedule of the Minimum Wage Act, 1948. Minimum wage in this employment has not yet been notified. Wages for employees in this employment is determined by demand and supply conditions prevalent in the market.

Attack of Pink Boll-Worm on Crop

994. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether six cotton crop growing States including Haryana have been affected by the attack of pink boll-worm;

(b) if so, the States which have been seriously affected by this attack; and

(c) the total loss suffered as a result thereof, State-wise and the assistance provided by the Government to help them to overcome the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Trace to low incidence of pink boll-worm has been reported in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which was timely managed by adopting suitable control measures.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Repeal of Essential Commodities Act, 1955

995. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) whether the Progress Harmony and Development Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has submitted a Memorandum in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove hurdles in movement of essential commodities across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For securing easy availability of essential commodities particularly in respect of the foodstuffs viz. wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils, pulses, gur, wheat products etc. across the country, restrictions on licensing requirements, stock limits and movement in respect of these commodities were removed by Central Notifications dated 15.2.2002 and 16.06.2003.

Agro Climatic Zones

996. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agro-climatic zones in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the seeds, fertilizers and agricultural techniques used in one zone cannot be used in another zone;

(c) if so, whether in view of the conditions prevalent in the State it is proposed to set up any agricultural research institution in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are three agro-climatic regions/zones and 6 agro-climatic sub regions/zones in the state of Maharashtra. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The seeds, fertilizers and agricultural techniques may vary from region to region depending on the

varietal adaptability, soil type, soil fertility status and climatic conditions etc.

(c) to (e) There are five State Agricultural Universities namely Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Akola, Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri and Maharashtra Animal Sciences and Fisheries University, Nagpur in Maharashtra. Besides, several ICAR Institutes namely, National Bureau for Soil Survey & Land Use Planning, Nagpur; Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur; Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai; NRC on Rabi Sorghum (Regional Station) Solapur, NRC on Citrus, Nagpur; NRC Grapes, Pune; NRC Onion and Garlic, Pune; Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai exist in Maharashtra. A number of All India Coordinated Research Projects also have their Cooperating Centres at different State Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra. Therefore, at present there is no such proposal to set up any additional agricultural research institution in Maharashtra.

Statement

Sl.No.	Agroclimatic Regions	Agroclimatic Sub-regions	Districts	Rainfall	Climate	Soil type
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Eastern Plateau and Hills (7)	Eastern Vidarbha 7 (1)	Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli	1271	Dry	Medium to deep sandy loam to clayey soils with natural to slightly acidic soil reaction.
2.	Western Plateau and Hills (9)	Western hills and plains 9 (1)	Kolhapur, Nasik, Pune, Satara	988	Semi-arid	Shallow to medium and deep black soils with sandy loam to loamy texture and neutral reaction.
3.		Scarcity region 9(2)	Ahmednagar, Dhule, Sangli, Solapur	602	Semi-arid	Shallow to medium and deep black soils with sandy loam to clay loam texture, neutral to slightly alkaline reaction.
4.		Central plateau 9(3)	Akola, Amravati, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Bid, Buldana, Jalna, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani	874	Semi-arid	Medium to deep black clay loam to clayey soils with neutral to slightly alkaline reaction.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.		Central Vidarbha 9(4)	Nagpur, Nanded, Wardha, Yavatmal	1040	Semi-arid to dry sub- humid	Medium to deep black clayey soils neutral to slightly alkaline reaction
6.	West Coast Plains and Ghats (12)	Konkan 12(1)	Greater Bombay, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Thane	3640	Humid to per-humid	Red, laterite and coastal alluvial soil with loam to clay loam soil texture and acidic reaction.

[English]

Growth in Net Sown Area

997. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether net sown area in the country has remained constant at about 142 million hectare over the past several years;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to increase the net sown area in the country;

(c) whether the responsibilities of the Union and State Governments have been clearly defined in order to achieve 4 percent growth in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken to gain 4 percent growth in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The net sown area in the country has remained at the level of 141-142 million hectares for last several years except in those years where there was deficient rainfall. Only about 40 percent of the net area sown is under assured irrigation.

(c) and (d) The development of agriculture is a State subject. However, the Union Government provides the required support for the agricultural growth in the country. The Central Government, inter alia, contributes towards; (i) stepping up public investment in agriculture and irrigation; (ii) provisioning of research and extension services; (iii) strengthening of handling; storage; transport facilities at the ports/airports; farm gates for faster movement of trade transactions both within and outside the country; (iv) ensuring adequate credit to farm households at easier

terms and interest; (v) incentivising agro-processing through investment friendly taxation policy; (vi) strengthening of agriculture export zones etc. Simultaneously, the State Governments share, among others, the responsibility of (i) completing ongoing irrigation projects with the central loan assistance provided by the Central Scheme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); (ii) Providing adequate State plan outlays for agriculture; livestock and fisheries; (iii) undertaking amendments of Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts to create a lawful space for the private sector in market development and contract farming; (iv) strengthening extension support services including State level institutional support services; (v) using Bharat Nirman, an employment guarantee fund, for building agricultural infrastructure.

[Translation]

Development of Fruits

998. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved in setting up of large and small nurseries for development of fruits during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the target fixed has not been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof since 2002 till date and the reasons therefor;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the targets during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the extent of success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan assistance for establishing nurseries has been provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of (i) Macro Management in Agriculture and (ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE).

While no targets were fixed for the nursery development component under Macro Management Scheme for the Tenth Plan, 240 small and 18 large nurseries have been set up during the year 2002-03 to 2004-05.

The Details of targets and achievement made under TMNE, since 2002-03 are as under:

Year	Small		Large	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2002-03	61	103	24	37
2003-04	51	62	54	34
2004-05	101	92	54	52
2005-06	92	72	52	34

The shortfall in setting up nurseries is due to high cost and less demand from the private sector.

(d) and (e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the X Plan with effect from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector, under which setting up of model nurseries and small nurseries, both in the public and private sector is a component. Nurseries are to be established in the identified clusters for producing quality planting material of identified potential crops. During the remaining period of Tenth Plan 680 nos. of model and small nurseries are proposed to be set up (406 in 2005-06 and 274 in 2006-07) under NHM.

Production/Export of Foodgrains

999. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide required agricultural inputs to help increase production/export of foodgrains;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study in regard to production of foodgrains and export of agricultural products by the developed and developing countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed/taken to increase per hectare productivity in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Central Government interacts with the States and Union Territories on a regular and institutionalized basis to assess their requirements and support them under various schemes/programmes. Zonal Inputs Conferences and National Conference on Agriculture prior to the commencement of Kharif and Rabi seasons are also organized for this purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For increasing overall productivity of cereals under specific crop based systems, the Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme under Macro Management of Agriculture. A separate Centrally sponsored Scheme viz., Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation for increasing productivity of these crops.

[English]

Assistance to Farmers of Kerala

1000. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought central assistance to provide relief paddy of the State;

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

(c) whether paddy farmers in Kerala are still in deep crisis as a large quantity of their stock could not be

sold in the market and that they could not even get minimum support price;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Kerala has joined decentralized procurement scheme from Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2004-05. During KMS 2005-06, quantity of 41,115 tonnes of paddy has been procured from the farmers through Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation on behalf of the Government of India under decentralized procurement scheme. No report of sale of Kharif produce below Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been received from Kerala during KMS 2005-06.

[Translation]

Returns to Farmers on their Produce

1001. SHRI. VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers get only a meagre returns for their produce;

(b) if so, whether the middlemen appropriate the maximum profits on these products; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such exploitation of farmers by the middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The studies conducted by the Ministry in 2004 has estimated that the share of farmers in ultimate price of their produce varies from 56 to 89% in foodgrains and pulses, 40 to 85% in oilseeds and 32 to 68% in fruits, vegetables and flowers depending on the marketing channel adopted and the distance of markets.

(c) In order to reduce the role of intermediaries in the agricultural marketing chain, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated Model Law for Agricultural Marketing for bringing desired reforms in the marketing sector. This will, inter alia, provide institutional framework to support contract farming. Under this arrangement, private and cooperative sectors enter into contract with farmers for marketing of the agricultural produce and also provide technological and capital support to farmers.

[English]

Marketing of HMT Watches through Private Sector

1002. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether HMT Limited is marketing its premium brand of watches through private retail outlets;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether HMT has invited foreign firms to manufacture the premium brand of watches in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) HMT Watches Limited the subsidiary of HMT Limited has tie up with M/s. Godrej & Boyce, Prima Division as a distributor on pan-India basis. M/s. Godrej & Boyce will retail HMT Watches through its Marketing network.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Steel Research Institute

1003. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up Steel Research and Development Mission, an Autonomous Research Institute in Hyderabad, as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the expenditure involved in setting up of the said institute;

(c) the time frame fixed for setting up of the said institute; and

(d) the benefits/advantages likely to accrue therefrom to the domestic steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Government is facilitating to set up a Virtual Centre namely "Steel Research & Development Mission" (SRDM) at Hyderabad as an autonomous registered Society.

(b) After its registration as a Society, the detailed expenditure required for its setting up will be worked out by the Centre. In the mean while, the Empowered Committee (EC) on Research & Development (R&D) in the Ministry of Steel in its 15th meeting held on 17.01.2006 has sanctioned Rs. 50 crore as an initial corpus to fund R&D projects and Rs. 15 crore to meet initial establishment and running cost for 3 years.

(c) The Centre will be set up after its registration under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860.

(d) The expected benefits/advantages of the proposed Centre, inter-alia, include the following:

- to revitalize the existing Centres of Research and Development augmenting human and R&D infrastructure through focus projects and programmes with explicit purpose of establishing the Indian Steel sector in a leading position globally.
- to develop appropriate technology for cost effective production of quality steel primarily with indigenous raw materials, including the de-grading resources, in an environment friendly manner.
- to develop innovative/path breaking technology to primarily utilize domestically available raw material and other resources.
- to identify, evolve and undertake basic and applied research of national importance in iron and steel sector contributing towards sustaining the competitive growth of the industry.

[English]

Cleaning of Rivers

1004. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has forwarded any proposal for inclusion of some more rivers of the State in the river improvement plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted detailed project proposals for pollution abatement works for six rivers namely, Panchganga, Krishna, Bhima, Tapi, Godavari and Rangawali for approval under the National River Conservation Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan. These proposals include pollution abatement works for Kolhapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore), Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore), Pandharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.57 crore), Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore), Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs. 15.72 crore) and Nawapur town along river Rangawali (costing Rs. 4.55 crore). These projects could not be considered for approval as the outlay available under the Tenth Five Year Plan is less than the sanctioned cost of projects already approved under the National River Conservation Plan. However, it was suggested that the State Government may undertake these projects out of the State Plan provisions by seeking necessary funds from the Planning Commission including exploring the possibility of initiating the projects with public-private partnership. Subsequently, on seeking the comments on project reports related to the towns of Pandharpur, Prakasha and Paithan by the Planning Commission, these were examined in the Ministry and found to be lacking in important details and requisite information. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra has been intimated to revise these project reports.

Reduction in Prices of Drugs

1005. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce the prices of life saving drugs including Cancer, Anti Retro Viral (ARV) and AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to come in force;

(c) whether the Government is considering for duty cut on AIDS and Cancer drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) For making available anti-cancer and anti-HIV/AIDS drugs at reasonable prices to a much larger section of the population the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy has proposed that the Government would evolve a public-private partnership programme with the concerned manufacturers and cancer hospitals in the country. Further some of the suggested measures for reducing the prices of these drugs are:

1. Exemption of anti-cancer and anti/AIDS drugs (bulk and formulations) from all types of Central taxes - excise duty, import duty etc. and the benefit to be passed on to the consumers.
2. States would also be asked to exempt these medicines from all types of state and local levies.
3. Industry and trade would also be asked to reduce their margins—both profit and trade margins to the barest minimum level and pass on the benefit to the consumers.

So far no final decision has been taken on the above issue.

Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement on Agricultural Research

1006. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka recently made agreements together to accelerate closer collaborative efforts for development of agricultural research and education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government is likely to be benefited by such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed a Work Plan with the Sri Lanka Council of Agricultural Research & Policy (CARP), Sri Lanka on 26th January, 2006 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

(b) The Work Plan is valid for 2006-2007 and includes exchange visits of scientists, short term/long term trainings (M.Sc./Ph.D) for Sri Lankan nationals in various State Agricultural Universities/ICAR institutes. Besides the Work Plan also has the provision for Collaborative Research Projects, exchange of germplasm from both sides and visit of Indian consultants to Sri Lanka for providing technical and scientific advice in agreed areas.

(c) The ICAR is being benefited through exchange visits of scientists to harness the strengths and capabilities of Sri Lanka in specific areas of agricultural research. Through exchange of germplasm, specific traits of fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses and oilseeds crops are being utilized in Indian crop improvement programmes.

[Translation]

Plan for Channelising Flood Water

1007. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for channelising the frequent flood water alongwith excess river water to the drought prone areas in various parts of the country and to control the flood in vast tract of land; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The then Ministry of

Irrigation (now Water Resources) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in August 1980. The NPP comprises two components viz. i) Peninsular Rivers Development and, ii) Himalayan Rivers Development envisaging construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under Ministry of Water Resources was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under NPP (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of feasibility reports. So far, NWDA has completed the feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component.

The inter-linking of rivers is mainly for increasing irrigation potential with the help of creation as well as integration of various storages. This will help moderation of floods to some extent as incidental benefits.

[English]

Renovation of Water Bodies

1008. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a national project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the project; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the contribution of the Union Government and the State Governments therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aims and objectives of the scheme approved in January 2005 are to restore and augment the storage capacity of the water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential.

(c) The pilot scheme envisages a total outlay of

Rs. 300 crores for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The funding by the Union Government: State Government is in the ratio of 75:25. So, out of total outlay, Rs. 225 crores would be incurred by the Centre and Rs. 75 crores by the States.

Fertilizer Subsidy to Farmers

1009. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme for providing fertilizer subsidy in cash to farmers directly;

(b) if so, whether at present subsidy is routed through industry;

(c) if so, whether this decision was on recommendations of the Working Group on new pricing scheme for Urea;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the panel proposed that said scheme to be implemented in three districts as pilot project and it could be extended to more districts across the country after examining outcome; and

(f) if so, the concrete action taken/being taken for implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) Working Group, constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage-I and II of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units and to formulate a policy for Stage-III of NPS commencing from 1.4.2006, has inter alia recommended that a scheme for disbursement of subsidy directly to farmers in three selected districts where reliable land records are available may be formulated on an experimental basis. At present, the benefit of subsidy on fertilizers to farmers is routed through the fertilizer industry as a difference between the cost of production of fertilizers as assessed by the Government and the maximum retail price of fertilizers statutorily notified/indicated by the Government.

The recommendations of the Working Group are being examined by the Government.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price of Pulses

1010. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prescribed or proposes to prescribe minimum support price of the pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities, including pulses, on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Minimum Support Prices of pulses for the Kharif and Rabi crops of 2005-06 season have already been announced and are as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Pulse	MSP
Arhar (Tur)	1400
Moong	1520
Urad	1520
Masur (Lentil)	1535
Gram	1435

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Absorbing Additional Labour Force

1011. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken by the Government to absorb the additional labour force as well as to reduce the backlog of unemployment; and

- (b) the results achieved therefrom so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities were to come from the normal growth of the economy assuming 8% per annum growth of Gross Domestic Product and remaining two crore from special employment generation programmes. Besides this latest initiative taken by the Government in the rural areas is the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural household.

- (b) Reliable estimates of employment & unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 1999-2000. No fresh quinquennial survey based data has become available since the formulation of the 10th Plan.

Plant Disease

1012. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties arising out of plant diseases and the use of agricultural inputs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the benefit of farmers and to educate them to overcome these difficulties;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Pests and diseases are estimated to account for crop losses ranging between 10 to 30% every year. The insect pest/disease situation generally remained normal i.e. below

Economic Threshold Level (ETL), throughout the country during past year. However, minor incidence of some insect pests/diseases were reported in some parts of the country which were timely managed by adopting suitable control measures.

(c) to (e) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle covering plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, inter-alia, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs). Government has, so far organized 9111 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and 2,75,056 farmers in IPM techniques. IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture / ICAR Institutions/ State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers.

[Translation]

Vesalpur Project

1013. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed the construction work of canals and distributaries under the Vesalpur Project Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to carry out construction and O.F.D. work of distributaries under the Centrally sponsored scheme has been received by the Union Government from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, the works of right main canal and left main canal of Vesalpur Project have been completed. The balance works in distributaries and minors are in progress.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the State Government for inclusion of "Bisalpur Drinking Water

cum Irrigation Project (Phase-I)" under the Centrally sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme. In order to avoid thin spreading of resources under the CADWM, any project in a State can be included against the completion/withdrawal of any of the ongoing projects in that State.

[English]

Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund

1014. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a central sector scheme being implemented through NABARD. The funds are released by Government of India to NABARD, to be kept as revolving fund. The assistance under the scheme is provided to the rural/urban beneficiaries under a schematic proposal through bankable projects submitted to commercial/regional rural/cooperative banks identified by NABARD throughout the country. Pattern of Assistance under the scheme is as under:

- Entrepreneur's contribution - 10%.
- Interest free loan from revolving fund provided by GOI - 50%.
- Bank loan at interest applicable for agricultural activities - 40%.

Government of India will further subsidize the interest component to the extent of 50% only in case of regular/timely repayment by the beneficiary.

The components to be funded under the scheme are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The scheme will help in up-gradation of quantity & quality of milk & poultry products produced. Focus is also on encouraging traditional technologies and make them more productive by using modern equipment.

Statement

Sl. No.	Component	Maximum total project cost* (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3

Poultry Sector :

1.	Establishing poultry breeding farm with low input technology birds and also for ducks/turkey/ Guinea Fowl/Quail/Emu/Ostrich etc.	30.00
2.	Establishment of feed go-down, feed mill, feed analytical laboratory	16.00
3.	Marketing of poultry products (Specialized transport vehicles, cool room storage facilities and retention sheds for birds etc.)	25.00
4.	Egg grading, packing and storage for export capacity	80.00
5.	Retail poultry dressing unit (300 birds per day).	5.00
6.	Egg/broiler carts for sale of poultry products.	0.10
7.	Central grower unit (12,500 birds per batch and 4 batches per year)	20.00

Dairy Sector :

1.	Establishment of small dairy farms-Ten animal unit (buffaloes/ cross breed cows) for milk production (for any non-operation flood area)	3.00 (upto ten animal unit)
2.	Purchase of milking machines/ milkotester/ bulk milk cooling unit (upto 2000 lts capacity) etc.	15.00
3.	Purchase of dairy processing equipment for manufacturing indigenous milk products.	10.00

1	2	3
4.	Establishment of dairy product transportation facilities including cold chain.	20.00
5.	Cold storage facilities for milk and milk products.	25.00
6.	Establishment of private veterinary clinics. Area of operation from 8 to 10 villages having 5000 to 6000 cattle units.	2.00 (for Mobile clinic) 1.50 (for Stationary clinic)

* The Government of India will provide 50% of the total approved project cost as interest free loan.

Facilities in ESI Hospitals

1015. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 13 ESI Dispensaries are functioning with limited working hours, covering three Southern districts, viz. Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin of Tamil Nadu;

(b) If so, whether these Dispensaries are attending to out patient treatment only and referring the serious cases to the Government Hospital which is providing very limited number of beds;

(c) If so, whether these Dispensaries are insufficient to attend the medical needs of nearly 1 lakh ESI workers in the area;

(d) If so, whether the Government proposes to set up a full-fledged ESI Hospital in Kanyakumari where the infrastructure required for it can easily be made available; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) There are 20 ESI Dispensaries functioning in the Southern Districts viz. Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin of Tamil Nadu with the working hours 7 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. The Government of Tamil Nadu have fixed these working hours for convenience of the beneficiaries.

(b) These Dispensaries are meant for providing out-patient treatment and first aid treatment. The serious cases are referred to Government Hospitals where sufficient beds have been provided for beneficiaries of ESI scheme.

(c) These Dispensaries are sufficient to cater to the out-patient treatment of 65,806 Insured Persons covered under ESI Scheme in the above referred districts of Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) ESI Hospital is set-up on the basis of norms & standards prescribed by ESI Corporation on the request of concerned State Government. So far, no request has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for setting-up of Hospital in Kanyakumari.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1016. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in the country, State-wise with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the per capita allocation of rice for distribution under AAY;

(c) whether the Union Government has agreed during Food Ministers Conference to bear the cost of transportation, handling and dealers commission on foodgrains distributed under AAY;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Andhra

Pradesh has requested the Union Government for release of Rs. 45 crores on this account; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A Statement showing the number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in the country, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh, as on 22.02.2006 is enclosed.

(b) The distribution of foodgrains (Wheat/Rice) under AAY is not on the basis of per capita allocation of foodgrains. However, the present scale of issue is 35 Kg. of food grains (wheat/rice) per family per month.

(c) The Food Minister's Conference made a recommendation that Government of India should bear the cost of transportation, handling & dealers commission on foodgrains distributed under AAY. However on examination it was felt that since Government of India has already highly subsidized the AAY foodgrains, State Governments should continue to bear the cost of transportation, handling and dealer's commission from their own budget.

(d) Yes, Sir,

(e) Under the present policies of the Central Government, the proposal has not been found feasible, because already a huge subsidy is being provided under the scheme and that part of the burden should be borne by the State Governments also.

Statement

(As on 22.02.2006)

Status of identification of Households under AAY (Normal & Additional)

(Fig. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of BPL families as on 1.3.2000	Estimated No. of AAY families					AAY families identified & RC issued				
			Normal	1st exp.	2nd exp.	3rd exp.	Total	Normal	1st exp.	2nd exp.	3rd exp.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	6.228	3.117	2.991	3.242	15.578	6.228	3.117	2.991	3.242	15.578

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	0.151	0.077	0.073	0.079	0.380	0.151	0.077	0.073		0.301
3	Assam	18.36	2.815	1.408	1.352	1.465	7.040	2.815	1.408	1.352		5.575
4	Bihar	65.23	10.000	5.003	4.802	5.205	25.010	10.000	5.003			15.003
5	Chhattisgarh	18.75	2.874	1.439	1.380	1.496	7.189	2.874	1.439	1.380	1.496	7.189
6	Delhi	4.09	0.826	0.315	0.301	0.326	1.568	0.320	0.235			0.555
7	Goa	0.48	0.073	0.037	0.035	0.039	0.184	0.073	0.037	0.035		0.145
8	Gujarat	21.20	3.250	1.626	1.561	1.691	8.128	3.250	1.626	1.561		6.437
9	Haryana	7.89	1.209	0.606	0.581	0.629	3.025	1.209	0.606	0.581		2.376
10	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	0.787	0.395	0.378	0.411	1.971	0.787	0.395	0.381		1.543
11	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36	1.129	0.584	0.542	0.567	2.822	1.129	0.564	0.542		2.235
12	Jharkhand	23.94	3.665	1.841	1.762	1.911	9.179	3.665	1.841	1.782		7.268
13	Karnataka	31.29	4.797	2.400	2.303	2.497	11.997	4.797	2.400	2.303		9.500
14	Kerala	15.54	2.382	1.192	1.144	1.240	5.958	2.382	1.192	1.144	0.689	5.407
15	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	6.324	3.164	3.037	3.291	15.816	6.324	3.164	2.959	0.823	13.270
16	Maharashtra	65.34	10.017	5.011	4.810	5.215	25.053	10.017	5.011	4.810		19.838
17	Manipur	1.66	0.255	0.127	0.122	0.132	0.636	0.255	0.127	0.122		0.504
18	Meghalaya	1.83	0.281	0.140	0.135	0.148	0.702	0.281	0.140	0.135		0.566
19	Mizoram	0.68	0.105	0.051	0.050	0.055	0.261	0.105	0.051	0.050	0.055	0.261
20	Nagaland	1.24	0.189	0.096	0.091	0.099	0.475	0.189	0.00	0.091	0.099	0.475
21	Orissa	32.98	5.055	2.530	2.428	2.632	12.645	5.055	2.530	2.428	0.815	10.828
22	Punjab	4.68	0.717	0.359	0.345	0.373	1.794	0.717				0.717
23	Rajasthan	24.31	3.726	1.865	1.790	1.940	9.321	3.726	1.839	1.790	1.643	8.998
24	Sikkim	0.43	0.067	0.032	0.032	0.034	0.165	0.067	0.032			0.099
25	Tamil Nadu	48.83	7.455	3.730	3.580	3.881	16.646	7.455	3.730	3.580	3.881	16.646
26	Tripura	2.95	0.452	0.227	0.217	0.235	1.131	0.452	0.227			0.679
27	Uttar Pradesh	108.79	16.371	8.191	7.861	8.522	40.945	16.371	8.191	7.861	8.522	40.945

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
28	Uttaranchal	4.98	0.763	0.382	0.367	0.397	1.909	0.763	0.382			1.145
29	West Bengal	51.79	7.939	3.973	3.813	4.132	19.857	7.939	3.973	2.295		14.207
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.28	0.043	0.021	0.021	0.022	0.107	0.043				0.043
31	Chandigarh	0.23	0.035	0.018	0.017	0.018	0.088	0.021				0.021
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.18	0.028	0.013	0.013	0.015	0.069	0.028	0.009			0.037
33	Daman and Diu	0.04	0.006	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.015	0.006	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.015
34	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.004	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.012	0.004				0.004
35	Pondicherry	0.84	0.128	0.065	0.062	0.067	0.322	0.128	0.065	0.062	0.067	0.322
Total		652.03	99.946	50.021	48.001	52.030	249.998	99.626	49.510	40.251	21.335	210.722

* Out of the 50 lakh households in the 2nd expansion, 48 lakh households (from BPL) had been earmarked for expansion state wise and the remaining 2 lakh households were to be identified subsequently by the State where error of inclusion came to light.

* The left over expansion of 2 lakh families of 2nd expansion have been included in the 3rd expansion of AAY scheme to 52 lakh families from 50 lakh families.

National Seed Grid

1017. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a 'National Seed Grid' to ensure supply of seeds especially to areas affected by natural calamities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Information regarding seeds available with National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporation is posted in the National Seeds Corporation's website (www.indiasseeds.com) to enable the seed users to purchase/source the required seeds including for areas affected by natural calamities.

Horseshoe Crab

1018. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Horseshoe Crab found in Orissa is endangered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put it on the schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As reported by Government of Orissa, two species of Horseshoe crabs viz. *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* and *Tachyplesus gigas* are found along the Chandipore coast. Horseshoe Crabs are important for different medical uses. However, they are not captured for any commercial purpose except for some incidental catch in the fishing nets. No reports of bulk catch and supply of Horseshoe Crabs to dealers in Bhubaneswar have been received.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Inclusion of species in the various schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act have been done on the basis of their population status, level of threat and protection they need. As per the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife, two Committees viz Animals Committee and Plants Committee have been constituted in the Ministry to

suggest norms and revision of the existing listing in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Petro-Chemical Policy

1019. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether draft petro-chemical policy was considered by Ministerial Committee which considered plastic consumption by certain user industries;

(b) if so, whether proposed policy also suggested de-reservation of production of 83 plastic items from Small Scale Industries and plastic technology up-gradation fund for the benefit of downstream plastic processing units; and

(c) if so, the time by which this policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Cabinet Note on National Policy on Petrochemicals is to be considered by the Cabinet shortly.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Announcement of the Policy is dependant upon the decision of the Cabinet.

Meeting of Pharma Advisory Forum

1020. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of Pharma Advisory Forum was held recently to discuss the pricing mechanism of drugs, consumer problems and draft pharmaceutical policy;

(b) If so, the outcome of the said meeting; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The 1st meeting of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum, was held under the

Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (C&F&S) on 11-2-2006 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Various issues contained in the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 (Part A) were discussed. Based on such discussions and comments received from various stakeholders, the Government is likely to announce the new Policy shortly.

Estimates by Planning Commission on Plantation

1021. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the details of estimates made by Planning Commission for plantation in the country for the current plan period;

(b) the details of targets achieved so far;

(c) whether the Government has worked out per hectare cost of plantation in the country;

(d) If so, the details in this regard;

(e) the details of funds allocated in the current plan so far; and

(f) the steps taken to achieve the targets of current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The targets given in the Tenth Plan do not specifically refer to plantations. However, the Planning Commission has indicated a target of achieving 25% forest and tree cover in the country by the end of the current Five Year Plan. As per State of Forest Report, 2003 prepared by Forest Survey of India, 23.68% of the country's geographical area was under forest and tree cover.

(c) to (e) The unit cost of plantations varies depending upon the bio-physical characteristics, for example site conditions, choice of species, type of planting material, espacement of planted seedlings etc., and the prevailing wage rates. Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) being implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forests also, the unit cost of plantation is based on prevailing wage rates in the project area and the technical details of various components under different models of

plantation. An outlay of Rs.1205 crores has been indicated by the Planning Commission for National Afforestation Programme during the 10th Five Year Plan period.

(f) Following steps have been taken to achieve the targets of the current Five Year Plan:-

- (i) As on 6.2.2006, 680 Forest Development Agency projects have been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to treat a project area of 9.04 lakh hectare through 22,878 Joint Forest Management Committees.
- (ii) Consultations with State Government and Union Territories Administrations, other Ministries of Government of India, research institutes and non-government organizations have been held. In addition, State Forest Ministers' Conference on 5-6 August 2004 and 15 February 2006, have been held to sensitize the States/ Union Territories of the need to adopt increased tree planting targets.
- (iii) Guidelines for rationalization of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to encourage private tree plantation.
- (iv) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.
- (v) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to constitute Chief Secretary-level Committee of all land owning and other concerned Departments to involve them in tree planting activities.
- (vi) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP), involving State Forest Department, the local village community and the private sector, has been mooted for forestation of degraded lands.
- (vii) A new component has been added in the National Afforestation Programme to extend joint forest management (JFM) to all 1.73 lakh forest- fringe villages in the country.

New Series Compensation Scheme by BHEL

1022. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has developed a new series compensation scheme to enhance power transfer capability and reduce transmission losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which energy would be saved by the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has developed a new series of compensation scheme involving thyristor controlled reactors popularly known as 'Flexible AC Transmission System' for enhancing the power transfer capability of transmission lines and reducing transmission losses. With this technology, series compensation has been done at Ballabgarh at 400 KV level with 35% fixed compensation and 8% controlled compensation with indigenously developed controller.

(c) The overall saving of transmission in Ballabgarh network is about 4 MV.

Indo-Philippines Agreement on Agriculture

1023. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Philippines have recently signed an agreement on agricultural Co-operation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such agreements already exist with many other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding has been

signed on 04.2.2006 during the recent visit of President of India to Philippines. It covers technical cooperation in the field of rice production and processing, multiple cropping system, dryland farming systems, bio-organic farming, soil and water conservation and management, soil fertility, agricultural machinery, horticulture, agro-forestry, sericulture, dairy, livestock improvement, sugarcane technology, meat inspection system, post harvest handling and processing of agricultural commodities and fishery products,

integrated pest management, cotton growing technology and hybrid cotton breeding, research and development of plantation crops, fruit crops and leguminous crops, plant quarantine, research and development on bio-botanical pesticides, biotechnology, agricultural cooperatives etc.

(c) and (d) The names of the countries with which agreements have been signed and the areas of cooperation are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Names of the Countries with which agreements have been signed and the areas of cooperation

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Date of signing	Areas of cooperation
1	2	3	4
1.	Iran	11.11.1991	MoU in the field of Agricultural Research.
2.	Vietnam	31.12.1992	MoU for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education
3.	USA	22.4.1994	MoU between ICAR and International Fertilizers Development Centre (IFDC), in the field of agricultural research and education
		27.1.1996	Agreement between DARE, Min. of Agriculture, India and USDA, USA., in the field of agricultural research and education
		28.1.1998	MoA between ICAR and Iowa State University in the field of agricultural research and education
		15.4.1999	Agreement between ICAR and Ohio State University, in the field of agricultural research and education
4.	Liberia	11.8.1995	MoU between ICAR and natural resource international in the field of agricultural research and education
5.	Russia	5.10.1995	MoA between ICAR & RAAS in the field of agricultural research and education
		3.10.2000	Agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture, Nature
		25.3.1997	Agreement in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection and Agreement for cooperation in the veterinary field
		16.4.1999	
6.	Australia	2.2.1996	Agreement between India and Australia in the field of agricultural research and education
7.	Trinidad and Tobago	24.1.1997	MoU between the India & Trinidad & Tobago in the field of agricultural research and education

1	2	3	4
8.	Sultanate of Oman	2.4.1997	MoA between ICAR and Ministry of Agri. & Fisheries, Oman in the field of agricultural research and education
9.	Peru	26.5.1997	MoA between ICAR and NARI, Peru in the field of agricultural research and education
10.	ICIMOD,	5.6.1997	MoU between ICAR and ICIMOD in the field of agricultural research and education
	Nepal	6.12.1991	MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Nepal
11.	Philippines	1.11.1976	MoU between ICAR and Philippines, Council for Agriculture and Forestry & Natural Resource, Research & Development (PCARRD) in the field of agricultural research and education
		4.2. 2006	MoU in the field of agriculture and related fields
12.	Uganda	5.3.1998	MoU between ICAR and NARO in the field of agricultural research and education
13.	New Zealand	17.3.1998	MoU between ICAR and Hort. & Food Research Institute in the field of agricultural research and education
		15.4.1999	Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
14.	Egypt	19.3.1998	MoU between ICAR & Agril. Research Centre, Republic of Egypt in the field of agricultural research and education
15.	Kenya	2.5.1998	MoA between ICAR & International Centre of Insect Physiology & Ecology, Nairobi in the field of agricultural research
16.	Sri Lanka	2.7.1998	MoA between ICAR & Sri Lankan Council for Agril. Res. Policy (CARP), in the field of agricultural research and education
17.	Namibia	31.8.1998	MoA between India and Namibia in the field of agricultural research
18.	Tunisia	5.4.2000	MoU between India and Republic of Tunisia in the field of agricultural research and education
19.	Govt. of Uzbekistan	21.3.1996	MoU in the fields of Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological cooperation in the field of agricultural research
		2.5.2000	MoU between Min. of Agri. & Water Resource of Uzbekistan and DARE in the field of agricultural research and education
20.	Eritrea	1.12.2000	MoU between Eritrea and ICAR in the field of agricultural research and education

1	2	3	4
21.	Panama	2.2.2001	MoU in the field of Agricultural Research
22.	France	6.2.1994	Agreement in the field of Agriculture
		17.4.2003	MoU between ICAR, CIRAD and Institute of National La recherche Agronomique, (INRA), France in the field of agricultural research and education
		14.4.2005	Protocol signed between France and India in the field of agriculture & allied sectors
23.	Morocco	27.2.2001	Agreement in the field of Plant Protection and Quarantine
		7.12.2004	MoU between Republic of India and Kingdom of Morocco
24.	Chile	19.12.2001	Agreement in the field of Plant Protection & Quarantine
		24.4.2003	Agreement in the field of Animal Health
		20.01.2005	MoU between ICAR, India and INIA, Chile in the field of agricultural research and education
25.	Brazil	2.7.1997	Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
		6.7.2005	MOU between ICAR, India and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Cooperation, Brasilia, Brazil in the field of agricultural research and education
26.	Afghanistan	28.8.2005	MoU between India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the field of agricultural research and education
27.	Cyprus	26.3.1992	POC in the field of agriculture programme of cooperation
28.	Israel	24.12.1993	Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sectors
29.	Mongolia	11.4.1994	Agreement in the field of agriculture cooperation
		16.9.1996	Agreement in the field of animal husbandry
30.	Oman	5.10.1996	MoU on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors
31.	Yemen	7.12.1996	MoU on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied Sectors
32.	Senegal	16.2.1997	MoU for establishment of Agriculture Development Project
33.	Lao PDR	2.5.1997	MoU on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

1	2	3	4
34.	Tanzania	16.12.2002	MoU in the field of agriculture and allied sectors
35.	Myanmar	25.4.98	MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors
36.	Bangladesh	22.1.2000	MoU for cooperation in the field of agriculture
37.	Cambodia	18.2.2000	MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors
38.	Republic of Turkey	31.3.2000	MoU in the field of Agriculture and Allied sectors.
39.	Greece	5.2.2001	MoU in the field of Agriculture
40.	Croatia	13. 11.2002	Agreement in the field of Agriculture
41.	Zambia	5.2.2003	MoU in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sector
42.	Syria	15.11.2003	MoU in the field of Agriculture
43.	Surinam	17.3.2003	MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture.
44.	Thailand	9.10.2003	MoU in the field of Agricultural Science, Technology and Economy
45.	Bhutan	25.1.2005	MOU on cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors
46.	Republic of Bulgaria	26.5.1994	Protocol signed on 20. 11. 2004 in the field of Agriculture & Allied sectors
		20.11.2004	Agreement in the field of veterinary and sanitary and Agriculture & Allied Sectors
47.	Algeria	25.1.2001	Agreement in both, the field of phytosanitary quarantine, vegetation and veterinary and sanitary field
48.	Mozambique	11.5.2003	MoU in the field of agriculture
49.	China	14.1.2002	MoU in the field of Plant Protection & Quarantine
50.	Belarus	22.2.2001	Agreement in the field of Plant Protection and Quarantine
51.	Mexico	27.7.2001	Agreement in the Phytosanitary measures
52.	Romania	31.1.2004	Agreement in Plant Protection and Quarantine field
53.	Indonesia	21.11.2005	MoU between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of India in the field of marine fisheries
		20.2.1992	MoU in the field of agriculture cooperation
54.	Mauritius	3.6.1993	MoU in the field of agriculture & allied sectors

*[Translation]***Urea Production**

1024. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign investors are not interested to invest in urea production in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The details of country-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals received by the Government during the period from January 2003 to December 2005 in the fertilizer sector is given in the enclosed Statement. The total inflows of FDI to the sector during this period has been Rs.180.51 crores.

Statement

Country-wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Proposals Received by the Government during the period from January 2003 to December 2005 in the Fertilizer Sector

S. No.	Name of the Country	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows (in Rs.)	%age of Inflows
1.	Australia	19.89	11.02
2.	Canada	0.20	0.11
3.	Mauritius	45.77	25.36
4.	Nigeria	3.85	2.13
5.	South Africa	19.84	10.99
6.	U.K.	0.10	0.06
7.	U.S.A.	1.05	0.58
8.	Morocco	69.97	38.76
9.	Tunisia	19.84	10.99
Grand Total		180.51	

Note: 1. Amount includes the inflows received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

*[English]***Payment of Subsidy to Phosphatic Fertilizer Producers**

1025. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy on fertilizers paid to phosphatic fertilizer producers during the last three years;

(b) whether any complaint has been received against phosphatic fertilizer producers for the poor quality of product and bogus claims for subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) the procedure adopted to verify the claims for the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The amount of subsidy paid to phosphatic fertilizer producers in respect of DAP, Complexes and SSP during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Amount of subsidy paid (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	2488.00
2003-04	2606.00
2004-05	3977.00

(b) and (c) Reports from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh were received that during the months of November and December, 2004, M/s. Prem Sakhi Fertilizer Ltd., Udaipur and M/s. Bohra Industries Ltd., Udaipur had supplied sub-standard Single Super Phosphate (SSP) in that State. Similarly, reports from the State Government of Bihar were also received that M/s. Oswal Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. (OCFL) had supplied sub-standard DAP in November, 2004 in the State. News had also appeared that M/s. OCFL had supplied sub-standard DAP in Punjab also. Department of Fertilizers withheld the payment of concession received by the above companies in respect of the sub-standard sales. The State Governments also took requisite action against the above

companies under the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 for supply of sub-standard fertilizer.

(d) The procedure to verify the claims for the subsidy is governed under the guidelines dated 5.8.2002 on Concession Scheme of decontrolled phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilizers. The manufacturers are released 85% 'On account' payment and the balance payment is released to them on the certification of sales by the State Governments in the prescribed Proforma.

Beedi Workers

1026. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several beedi workers have been deprived of the benefit of welfare schemes being run by the Government since they have not been issued identity cards by the owners of the establishments, factory etc.;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure issuance of identity cards to all the beedi workers to enable them to avail the benefits of the welfare schemes;

(c) whether more than twenty five lakh beedi workers are not covered under the Employee's Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to cover all the beedi workers under EPF and MP Act, 1952?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The owners of the establishments, factory, employers and the contractors are persuaded by the Labour Welfare Organisation to issue identity cards to their workers. In the event of Identity Cards not being issued by establishments, contractors, the Labour Welfare Organisation (LWO) issues identity cards to beedi workers after verifying his bonafides/genuineness of his being a beedi worker to ensure that such beedi worker is not deprived of any benefit of our existing welfare schemes. Labour Departments of the State Governments have also been time and again requested to launch campaigns to issue identity cards to the workers in the States and also to impress upon the establishments to issue identity cards to the workers.

(c) to (e) As on 31.03.2005, 19,66,032 beedi workers have been covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. Special drives are launched by EPFO from time to time for coverage of all eligible beedi workers.

Ban on Asbestos

1027. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is signatory to any convention regarding use/ production/ or export/ import of asbestos;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding its carcinogenic content and its hazard to health and environment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is a signatory and party since May, 2005 to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international Trade. The convention seeks to establish a prior informed consent procedure for imports and exports of chemicals listed in Annex-III. All varieties of asbestos, excluding chrysotile, is listed in Annex-III of the convention and is subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure. India imports and uses only Chrysotile (white) Asbestos. Chrysotile is under consideration in the Chemical Review Committee of the Convention for inclusion in Annex-III.

(c) No complaints have so far been received regarding carcinogenic content of Chrysotile Asbestos and its hazard to health and environment.

(d) Does not arise.

Cold Storages in Gujarat

1028. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for setting up of cold storages in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said proposal is likely to be cleared and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage/Storages of Horticulture Produce" under which 2.96 lakh tonnes additional capacity of cold storages for horticulture crops have been created since 1999-2000.

Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum Welfare Fund

1029. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund has been constituted in every State;

(b) if so, the name of the States, where Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund has not been constituted; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to States during each of the last three years from this fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund has been constituted in 25 States/UTs. It has not yet been constituted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

(c) The fund is at the disposal of the State Governments only to provide for various welfare measures for the child labour and their families.

Package for Sugar Industry

1030. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tuteja Committee has recommended a package for the sugar industry;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has since accepted the recommendations of the Committee in toto;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tuteja Committee had recommended that a package of assistance for rescheduling the debts of sugar factories may be provided. It had further recommended that the exact terms of the package may be worked out by NABARD and RBI (in consultation with the state governments) on a case to case basis taking into consideration the debt service obligations and the capacity to repay of these sugar factories.

(c) and (d) Government of India has decided that all Cooperative Sugar Mills in the country which have term loans outstanding as on 31.3.2005, and which are commercially viable and have adequate operational surplus to repay the said term loans will be categorized as falling under two Categories, i.e. Category A and Category B. Accordingly, the term loans will be restructured/rescheduled to enable repayment within five years (for Category A) or within 15 years (for Category B). The rate of interest on the restructured loans will be reduced to 10% per annum, with effect from 1st April, 2005, irrespective of the original contractual rate. Government of India will provide interest subvention on the restructured loan, which is estimated at Rs.525 crores. All the Cooperative Sugar Mills in the country, irrespective of the State in which they are located can avail of the above financial assistance as per the terms and conditions of the package. RBI, NABARD and IBA have been directed to take necessary action to implement the above decision.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Criteria for Allocation of Foodgrains

1031. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for allocation of foodgrains to different States for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) whether the Government has not adopted the census data of 2001 for projecting population in the country for allocation of foodgrains under PDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for adopting 2001 census data for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution to the BPL families under TPDS is made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94, based on the population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families identified and issued ration cards whichever is less. The present scale of issue is 35 kg. per family per month.

In view of the mounting stocks of foodgrains, the Government, had approved certain measures to improve the offtake of foodgrains during November, 2000. One of the measures was that the allocation of the foodgrains for BPL families per family per month, may be made on the basis of population projection of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000 instead of the earlier base of projected population of 1995. The population census for 2001 was not available at that time.

The matter of updating the number of BPL households, based on 2001 households census data was taken up with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has not supported the proposal, as the poverty ratio has come down to 26% in 1999-2000 compared to the 1993-94 poverty ratio of 36%, presently being used for determining allocations.

[English]

Production of Ornamental Fishes

1032. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to promote production of ornamental fishes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding for export of ornamental fishes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of export of said fishes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Setting up of integrated units including hatcheries for ornamental fishes is one of the approved activities of the programme for development of freshwater aquaculture being implemented by the State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Details of export of ornamental fish are given below:

Year	Value (Rupees in Lakh)
2002-03	254.95
2003-04	307.83
2004-05	443.84

Group Insurance Scheme for Welfare of Beedi Workers

1033. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Group Insurance Scheme for the welfare of beedi workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given on the premium to be paid by the workers under the said scheme; and

(d) the total number of beedi workers, covered under the said scheme as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) A Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). All identified Beedi Workers, excluding those members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, are covered under the said scheme. The number of beedi workers covered under the scheme State-wise is at Annexure-I. The dependent of a deceased beedi worker receives an amount of Rs. 10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 25,000/- in case of accidental death of the worker under this scheme. Workers are not required to pay any amount as premium. Hence the question of providing any subsidy to the workers towards the premium, does not arise.

Production of Pineapple

1034. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pineapple recorded in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any scheme for increasing the production of pineapple; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per available information, the production of pineapple State-wise in the country is as under:

Sl.No.	State	Production in ('000 MTs)
1	2	3
1.	West Bengal	320.6
2.	Assam	220.7
3.	Karnataka	118.2
4.	Bihar	104.6
5.	Kerala	95.0
6.	Meghalaya	93.5
7.	Tripura	91.7

1	2	3
8.	Manipur	88.6
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.6
10.	Nagaland	24.8
11.	Tamil Nadu	23.1
12.	Others	17.8
Total		1234.2

(b) and (c) The Government of India is implementing various promotional schemes under the National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission for development of horticulture for the North-Eastern States including hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh and Micro Irrigation to increase the production and productivity of horticultural crops including pineapple. The Government also implements back-ended capital investment subsidy up to 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs.25 lakh per project and Rs.30 lakhs per project in case of North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly Areas, for technically and financially viable projects for development of high-tech commercial production of horticultural crops including pineapple and post harvest management infrastructure.

[Translation]

Improvement in Livestock and Cow Progeny in Maharashtra

1035. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Maharashtra for improvement of livestock and cow progeny;

(b) whether the Government proposes to implement any scheme for scientific research in veterinary field in the State; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) For improvement of livestock and cow progeny in Maharashtra, the

Union Government is implementing the following centrally sponsored schemes: (i) National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding, (ii) Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms, (iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases, (iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication, (v) Foot &

Mouth Disease Control Programme, (vi) Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock.

(b) and (c) The details of the schemes being implemented by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) in regard to scientific research in veterinary field in the State are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name and Location of the Scheme	Allocation for X Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	AICRP on FMD, Department of Animal Husbandry, Pune	51.47
2.	AICRP on ADMAS, Disease Investigation Laboratory, Pune	30.70
3.	Network Programme on Bluetongue disease, Maharashtra University of Animal & Fishery and Animal Science, Nagpur	27.65
4.	Ad hoc Scheme Scheme on surveillance of viral encephalitis in large and small ruminants, Bombay Veterinary College, Mumbai	31.33
5.	Ad hoc Scheme Studies on pathogenesis of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> infections in poultry and development of immuno-diagnostics Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur	19.90
6.	Ad hoc Scheme Application deuterated water as thermo-stabilizer in bacterial and viral vaccines B.V.C. Mumbai	19.47
7.	Ad hoc Scheme Establishment of disease surveillance and diagnostic centre for wild life in central India, Akola	15.49
8.	Ad hoc Scheme Impact of micro-nutrients on hormonal profile and productivity status buffaloes, Akola	17.61
9.	Ad hoc Scheme Epidemiology and immuno-pathology of equomjous with cell carcinoma in bovines with special reference to horn and eye cancer, Bombay Veterinary College, Mumbai	17.98
10.	Ad hoc Scheme Incidence of metabolic and nutrition disease with special reference to paralytic syndrome and their impact on immunological and health status of cattle in Konkan Region, Bombay Veterinary College, Mumbai	22.62
11.	AICRP on Improvement of Feed Resources and Nutrient Utilisation in Raising Animal Production, BAIF, Urulikanchan	56.47
12.	AICRP on Improvement of Feed Resources and Nutrient Utilization in Raising Animal Production, MAFSU, Nagpur	62.54
13.	Ad hoc Scheme Impact of micronutrients on hormonal profile and productivity status buffaloes, MAFSU, Nagpur	16.04

1	2	3
14.	Network project on sheep Improvement, MPKV, Rahuri	113.99
15.	Network Project of Animal Genetic Resources Survey Unit Nagpuri Buffalo PKV, Akola	13.88
16.	Network Project of Animal Genetic Resources, Ex-situ Unit Pandharpuri Buffalo, MPKV, Kolhapur	25.50
17.	Network Project of Animal Genetic Resources Survey Unit Gaolao Breed, MAFSU, Nagpur	21.79
18.	AICRP on Goat Improvement Sangamneri Goat Field Unit, MAFSU, Nagpur	56.25
19.	Network Project on Buffalo Improvement, MPKV, Kolhapur	105.70
20.	AICRP on Cattle, BAIF Unit, Urulikanchan	118.21
21.	Ad hoc Scheme Survey of Khilliar cattle in Maharashtra, Agriculture College, Pune, MPKV, Rahuri	27.12

*[English]***National Commission on Farmers**

1036. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers have submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission in regard to reforms in agriculture sector;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended for setting up Indian Trade Organizations on the Lines of World Trade Organization and declare the year 2006-07 as the year of Agricultural renewal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission and address the issues of small farmers, women in farming and the landless labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANAILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The National Commission on Farmers has so far submitted three Interim Reports to the Government.

The First Interim Report titled "Serving Farmers and Saving Farming" deals with integrated life saving Support programme for farm families facing acute distress, productivity and livelihood enhancement in rainfed areas, a new deal for women in agriculture, strengthening and expanding the horticulture revolution, enhancing productivity, quality and global competitiveness of cotton, sustaining and expanding trade of farm commodities and its sanitary and phytosanitary dimensions, village as knowledge centre, food and nutrition security and livestock and livelihoods. The report also covers rehabilitation and alleviation of fishermen and farm families from distress due to TSUNAMI, empowerment of community based organizations and Panchayati Raj institutions and administrative initiatives like creation of a Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund for women.

The Second Interim Report titled "Serving Farmers and Saving Farming – Crisis to Confidence" deals with food for all, fish for all, enhancing productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of Hill agro ecosystem, Arid agro ecosystem, Coastal zone agriculture and Mission for the prosperity of sugarcane farmers, conservation, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, organic farming, bio-fuels and agricultural market reforms.

The Third Interim Report titled "Serving Farmers and Saving Farming-2006: Year of Agricultural Renewal" deals with 2006-07 as year of agricultural renewal, strengthening agricultural research: towards science led evergreen revolution, towards an Indian single market and Technology missions.

In its Third Interim Report submitted to the Government recently, the National Commission on Farmers has recommended for the establishment of an Indian Trade Organization (ITO) on WTO model, which would help build a long term memory system in relation to home and external trade and minimize adverse global trade trends by stimulating timely national action.

The Commission has also recommended for designating the agricultural year 2006-07 as the Year of Agricultural Renewal. For this purpose the Commission suggested introduction of an integrated package of measures in every part of the country to increase farm productivity and profitability in perpetuity without associated ecological harm.

Inter-Departmental consultations on the recommendations made by the Commission have been initiated for appropriate action.

[Translation]

White Paper on Rivers Linking Project

1037. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to release a white paper on the far reaching effects of the river-linking project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government indicates that it will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the peninsular rivers and this assessment will be done in a fully consultative manner. After the comprehensive assessment, it has been decided that river linking programme be continued with a focus on peninsular rivers. Also, the ILR Project is still at conceptual stage only and all the far reaching effects of the link projects can be analyzed at the stage of preparation of Detailed Project Reports. As such, there is no need to release a White paper on ILR at this stage.

Production of Mustard

1038. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of mustard by the farmers recorded in the country during 2004-05;

(b) whether the Government agencies procured less quantum of mustard from the farmers despite their having raised/harvested a bumper crop of mustard during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The production of Rapeseed & mustard during the 2004-05 is estimated at 83.56 lakh tonnes (4th advance estimates).

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the bumper production of mustard during Rabi-2005 season, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) as Central Nodal Agency of the Government of India had procured an all time record quantity of 20.93 lakh metric tonnes of mustard seed from February to June, 2005.

[English]

Temperature Controlled Large Food Storage Godowns

1039. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the current demand of temperature controlled large food storage godowns in the country;

(b) the details of said godowns functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) whether there is shortage of said godowns in the country;

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

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to establish said godowns as per demand in the country during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is a

demand of temperature controlled large food storage godown. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has initiated a study to assess the current demand of such storage.

(b) The state-wise details of said godowns functioning in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No. Sir.

(e) To establish temperature controlled storage/ cold storage, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" under which the Board provides a pack-ended capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs.50.00 lakh per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling Rs.60.00 lakh per project for North Eastern and Hilly States.

Statement

Sector-wise Distribution of Cold Storages as on 31-12-2005

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Cooperative Sector		Public Sector		Total No. Total Capacity (in MTs)	
1	2	3		4		5		6	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	170	00	00	01	40	02	210
2	Andhra Pradesh*	245	703269	13	9270	08	1190	266	713729
3	Arunachal Pradesh*	01	5000	00	00	00	00	01	5000
4	Assam*	18	68796	02	6000	04	1120	24	75916
5	Bihar*	220	833382	18	77200	00	00	238	910582
6	Chandigarh (UT)*	05	11216	01	1000	00	00	06	12216
7	Chhattisgarh	50	257831	01	29	01	41	52	257901
8	Delhi*	74	103180	02	5201	16	17680	92	126061
9	Gujarat	338	917102	20	24093	08	7739	366	948934
10	Goa	24	5875	00	00	00	00	24	5875
11	Haryana*	227	385291	04	3403	06	11399	237	380093
12	Himachal Pradesh*	08	11413	02	767	07	6195	17	18375
13	Jammu & Kashmir*	15	40689	03	2134	01	46	19	42869
14	Jharkhand*	17	53210	08	27415	00	00	25	80625

1	2	3		4		5		6	
15	Kerala	152	37075	06	1080	10	1590	168	39745
16	Karnataka	86	129350	24	16852	13	3318	123	149520
17	Lakshadweep (UT)	00	00	00	00	01	15	01	15
18	Maharashtra	347	431740	53	19839	29	7851	429	459430
19	Madhya Pradesh	150	650177	19	98848	05	2434	174	751459
20	Manipur*	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
21	Meghalaya*	01	1200	00	00	02	2000	03	3200
22	Mizoram*	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
23	Nagaland*	01	5000	01	1150	00	00	02	6150
24	Orissa*	80	223135	24	51040	00	00	104	274175
25	Pondicherry (UT)	02	35	01	50	00	00	03	85
26	Punjab*	364	1192593	18	39092	00	00	382	1231685
27	Rajasthan*	83	268776	09	3832	01	14	93	272622
28	Sikkim*	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
29	Tamil Nadu	107	165475	13	7562	04	5162	124	178199
30	Tripura*	02	7750	01	5000	05	5700	08	18450
31	UP & Uttaranchal*	1320	7969333	87	281480	03	8000	1410	8258813
32	West Bengal*	317	4105177	69	297800	00	00	386	4402977
Total		4255	18563240	399	980137	125	81534	4779	19624911

* Figures as on 31.12.2005

Population of Vulture

1040. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to conduct a detailed survey to assess the vulture population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All the vulture range States of the country have been directed to carry out population estimation of the species. Due to concern over the decline in the vulture population, the survey and monitoring of the species has to be a continuous process and hence no time frame has been prescribed.

Assistance for Development and Expansion of Fisheries

1041. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the

assistance provided to the States for the development and expansion of fisheries during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): The Government implements Centrally Sponsored macro Schemes for the development of inland and marine fisheries and welfare of fishermen. A sum of Rs.16738.12 lakh and Rs.8850.20 lakh has been provided to the States/Union Territories under various schemes for the development of fisheries during the last three years (2002-05) and the current financial year (till 15.2.06) respectively. State wise and year wise (till 15.2.06) detail is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Financial assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States/Union Territories for the Development of Fisheries during last three years (2002-05) and the current year (till 15.02.2006)

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	375.43	267.59	506.57	156.11
2	Arunachal Pradesh	29.72	38.00	98.26	58.79
3	Assam	4.00	12.30	98.18	20.08
4	Bihar	34.10	0.00	118.89	10.00
5	Goa	14.60	15.00	70.73	273.42
6	Gujarat	10.26	179.44	1293.20	557.34
7	Haryana	108.29	101.70	149.89	161.50
8	Himachal Pradesh	54.21	22.23	90.49	78.72
9	Jammu and Kashmir	48.68	20.30	244.76	263.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Karnataka	323.57	164.96	1071.07	1256.26
11	Kerala	485.49	352.50	377.14	1117.35
12	Madhya Pradesh	38.87	52.55	354.14	196.55
13	Maharashtra	91.67	3.60	898.26	600.00
14	Manipur	0.00	0.00	96.37	12.33
15	Meghalaya	0.00	50.00	14.02	0.00
16	Mizoram	63.00	7.60	38.53	120.00
17	Nagaland	102.00	147.56	241.31	130.41
18	Orissa	284.60	326.48	482.99	339.90
19	Punjab	60.00	0.00	13.80	0.00
20	Rajasthan	4.25	1.85	34.10	46.67
21	Sikkim	10.00	0.00	4.50	4.50
22	Tamil Nadu	876.20	784.73	126.61	502.04
23	Tripura	72.39	88.00	124.15	86.25
24	Uttar Pradesh	134.26	258.00	597.85	549.01
25	West Bengal	433.18	229.31	1179.89	1157.73
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	170.24	100.00	7.02	6.76
27	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	127.00	65.00
28	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	20.00	4.60
29	Pondicherry	138.49	130.00	308.76	550.00
30	Chhattisgarh	15.17	100.71	116.03	135.62
31	Uttaranchal	0.00	12.00	93.30	15.00
32	Jharkhand	20.00	121.85	149.38	375.25
Total		4002.67	3588.26	9147.19	8850.20

Research Programme for New Plant Varieties

1042. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started any programme for research in new plant varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any authority has been set up by the Government to protect the interests and rights of farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Centers of the All India Coordinated Research Projects located at State Agricultural Universities have ongoing research programmes to develop new plant varieties suitable for different agro-climatic conditions of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001, the Government of India has established Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority. The main functions are:-

1. To recognise and protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contribution made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties.
2. For accelerated agricultural development in the country, it is necessary to protect plant breeders' rights to stimulate investment for research and development, both in the public and private sector, for the development of new plant varieties.
3. To facilitate the growth of the seed industry in the country which will ensure the availability of high quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plant in Egypt by IFFCO

1043. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Abhijit Sen Committee has proposed new norms for pricing of phosphatic fertilizers, creating a level-playing field for companies and providing them required competitive edge in international market;

(b) if so, whether seeing core competence of

Indian companies, several foreign fertilizer majors have shown interest to enter into joint ventures with Indian companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, El Nasser, an Egyptian company which signed an agreement with Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for setting up a \$325 million phosphoric acid plant in Egypt?

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether number of fertilizer companies approached abroad to cut costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) An Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member Planning Commission was set-up by the Government in March 2005 to examine the issues related to the pricing of phosphatic fertilizers. The Group has submitted its report in December 2005. The Expert Group has suggested a transparent methodology for working out concession rates for indigenous DAP, based on prices of imported DAP.

(b) and (c) The country is almost completely dependent on imported raw materials/intermediates for manufacturing phosphatic fertilizers. Since the Indian fertilizer industry is completely import dependent, it is in their interest to have joint ventures abroad to ensure sustained static supply of raw materials/intermediates for production of phosphate. The industry is moving in this direction.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, El-Nasar of Egypt and IFFCO have formed a joint venture under the name of Indian Egyptian Fertilizer Company on 15.11.2005. Pre-Project activities are under progress.

(f) Yes Sir, Some of the fertilizer companies are having joint venture abroad and some proposals are in the pipeline.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Length of Pipes

1044. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to relax the guidelines issued in respect of all kinds of pipes and their length under the Centrally sponsored scheme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Rajasthan is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.

[English]

New Fertilizer Policy

1045. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce/ formulate a new fertilizer policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Working Group, constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage-I and II of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units and to formulate a policy for Stage-III of NPS commencing from 1.4.2006, has submitted its report on 26.12.2005 and the same is under examination of the Government with a view to formulating a policy for Stage-III of NPS commencing from 1.4.2006.

Assistance for Setting up of Fodder Bank

1046. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided Central

assistance for setting up of Fodder Banks for development of animal fodder and grazing fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States which have requested for such assistance during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the details of the assistance provided to each State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India provided assistance for setting up of fodder banks and enrichment of straws/cellulosic wastes till March, 2005 under the old Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development". A new Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme with four components viz. Establishment of Fodder Block making Unit, Grassland development including grass reserves, Fodder seed production & distribution and Biotechnology research projects has been implemented from 2005-06. These programmes envisage the development of animal fodder and grazing lands.

(c) and (d) The details of the States, which requested for Central assistance and funds provided to them for fodder development during each of the last three years and in the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

States requesting for assistance and funds provided for fodder development during last three years and in the current year

		(Rs. in lakhs)			
S. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	99.00	-
2	Assam	-	-	68.35	-
3	Chhattisgarh	100.00	-	25.00	-
4	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	2.00	5.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	55.50	-	-	58.40
6.	Jharkhand	-	-	150.00	-
7.	Karnataka	38.55	25.00	9.50	100.00
8.	Kerala	-	-	90.00	-
9.	Maharashtra	-	8.44	46.525	-
10.	Mizoram	30.00	39.525	112.50	100.00
11.	Nagaland	20.00	27.575	112.50	120.50
12.	Punjab	20.00	-	-	66.67
13.	Rajasthan	-	40.00	26.32	-
14.	Sikkim	-	-	57.65	110.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	24.00
16.	Tripura	-	57.46	50.00	-
17.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	337.658	-
18.	Uttaranchal	76.75	-	-	90.00
19.	West Bengal	-	-	-	40.00

World Bank Project

1047. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to fund a \$250 million project which is expected to usher the country in the second green revolution, with simple new technologies to save water and diesel and improve productivity;

(b) if so, the details of the project indicating the technologies to be adopted and their impact on saving water and diesel and the increase in productivity expected thereby; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote such steps and technologies amongst farmers in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh and the World Bank aid expected under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The World Bank aided National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) with an allocation of \$250 million (US \$ 200 million credit and US \$ 50 million Government of India contribution) is likely to become effective in July, 2006. The project has been negotiated on Feb 12-15, 2006 and will be placed before the World Bank Board for approval in March, 2006.

(b) The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture in support of poverty alleviation and income generation by collaborative development and application of agricultural innovations by the public organizations in partnership with farmers' groups, private sector and other stakeholders. The specific objectives are:-

- (i) To build the critical capacity of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as a catalyzing agent for the management of change in the Indian National Agricultural Research System (NARS).
- (ii) Research on production to consumption systems in priority areas/themes to enhance productivity, nutrition, profitability, income and employment.
- (iii) Research on sustainable rural livelihood security in disadvantaged regions through innovation system led by technology encompassing wider process of social and economic change covering all stakeholders.
- (iv) Basic and Strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural sciences.

With introduction and adoption of technologies particularly in disadvantaged areas, adding value to farm produce from production to consumption and by addressing strategic areas of research, a sustainable specially in terms of water and energy and significant improvement in productivity is expected by the end of the project.

(c) It is expected that many farmers representing Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh will also benefit from the programme. The World Bank credit for the project is expected to be SDR 138.1 million (US \$ 200 million equivalent).

FDI in Retail Sector

1048. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of Ministers under the chairmanship of the Agriculture Minister discussed a number of issues related to the sectors growth including the critical issue of FDI in retail sector; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein and the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Reserved Vacancies in Employees State Insurance Corporation

1049. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether selection process of Group 'D' posts, reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) has been lingering on since long in the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has issued firm directions to all the concerned Government Organisations to fill up all such reserved vacancies up to December, 2005;

(d) if so, whether after having received such Government orders, the said Corporation has arranged selection process in the first week of January, 2006 for the post of Nursing Orderly and bearer which are essentially needed for the smooth functioning of the Hospital work;

(e) if so, whether the said Corporation has put the names of all the selected candidates on its website; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Group 'D' posts under Special Recruitment drive to fill up backlog vacancies for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have since been identified and 60 posts have been filled up as on 31.01.2006. As regards reserved posts for Other Backward Classes, written test was held on 8th January 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Selection process is in progress.

Damage by Puffer Fish

1050. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the appearance of puffer fish in flocks in Arabian Sea after Tsunami;

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

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has sought assistance for the damages caused by the puffer fish to fishing nets of traditional fishermen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No study has been conducted regarding the appearance of puffer fish in flocks in Arabian Sea after Tsunami.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Kerala, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin and Fishery Survey of India, Cochin has been requested to furnish detailed report/comments indicating the location infested by the puffer fish, kinds of nets affected, damages caused and species and biology of the predator.

[Translation]

Research Project in Transgenic Crops

1051. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded sanction to launch a research project in transgenic crops in order to increase its resistance power and productivity;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions likely to take up the said research projects; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on such projects during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a network project entitled "Transgenics in Crops" to intensify research on development of transgenics to increase yield and quality in 14 crops involving 20 ICAR institutes during two year (2005-2007) of X Five Year Plan. The project has following two main components:-

- (i) Functional genomics: For identification of new genes and DNA markers for agronomically important traits in rice, wheat, maize, chickpea, mustard, tomato and banana;
- (ii) Development of transgenics for insect and virus resistance in rice, maize, sorghum, chickpea, soybean, brassica, cotton, pigeonpea, potato, tomato, papaya, cassava, brinjal, banana.

(b) The names of the institutions are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The sanction of the project was issued during August, 2005. The fund allocation and released of the project is given below:-

Year	Fund Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Fund released (Rs. in Lakhs)	Remark
2004-2005	Nil	-	-
2005-2006	2607.21	1774.329	Released upto 21st February, 2006

Statement

Participating Institutes in Network Project on "Transgenic in Crops"

Centre No.	Sub-Project/Centre
1	2
1.	National Research Centre on Plant Bio-technology (NRCPB), New Delhi

1	2
2.	National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Thiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu
3.	National Research Centre for Soybean (NRCS), Indore, Madhya Pradesh
4.	National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), Bharatpur, Rajasthan
5.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
6.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research - North-Eastern Hills (ICAR-NEH), Shillong, Meghalaya
7.	Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
8.	Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), New Delhi
9.	Directorate of Wheat Research (DWR), Karnal, Haryana
10.	Central Rice Research Institute (CRR), Cuttack, Orissa
11.	Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, Maharashtra
12.	Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
13.	Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
14.	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
15.	Central Soil & Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, Haryana
16.	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
17.	Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

1	2
18.	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, Karnataka
19.	Vivekanand Parvitya Krishi Anusandhan Shala (VPKAS), Almora, Uttaranchal
20.	National Research Centre for Sorghum (NRCS), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

Bio-Sphere Reserves

1052. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bio-sphere reserves in the country and the reserve which gets the maximum amount of funds;

(b) the date on which Nanda Devi was declared as biosphere reserve along with objectives thereof;

(c) the details of the objectives accomplished so far; and

(d) the barriers standing in the way of its full accomplishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Fourteen Biosphere Reserves have been notified in the country. The sanction of financial assistance and its quantum depends on various factors namely requirement, justification of the proposal, submission of utilization certificate, physical progress report and capacity to use funds by the concerned state. Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve in West Bengal received maximum grant during the-current year in the light of the above stated parameters.

(b) Nanda Devi was declared as Biosphere Reserve on 18th January, 1988. The area was extended from 2236.74 sq.km. to 5860.69 sq.km. on 7.2.2000. The objectives of designating an area as Biosphere Reserve are to conserve the floral and faunal biodiversity of the area and provide supplementary and alternate livelihood

support to the people in the buffer zone around core zone in order to reduce biotic pressure on biodiversity.

(c) Various conservation activities are being carried out and biodiversity monitoring is being undertaken through a series of eminent central and state level institutions. Livelihood opportunities have been increased through ecotourism, eco-development and other occupational avenues.

(d) The area is mostly inaccessible and snow bound leading to limited working period.

Increase in Prices of Milk and Its Products by Mother Dairy

1053. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy has increased the prices of milk and its products recently without any information to the consumers;

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

(c) whether the Government has received representations to take immediate action into the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. The information about increase in price of milk was disseminated to common man through all the major and leading news papers. The information was also widely displayed at all Mother Dairy outlets.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

Private Participation in FPI

1054. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to attract private entrepreneurs to make food processing industry

commercially and economically viable by processing and canning the fruits for domestic as well as international market;

(b) if so, the details of incentives proposed to be provided to the private enterprises in this regard; and

(c) the details of the centers identified for setting up of units for processing and canning the fruits in various States during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government have implemented Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries including fruit processing and canning units. The rate of assistance for establishment/modernization of the food processing units is 25% of the plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas. The other major scheme of food park provides for assistance up to Rs. 4.00 crore, for specified common facilities at the rate of 25% and 33.33% of project cost in the two areas respectively. These schemes are project-oriented not State or area-oriented. Assistance under these schemes is released for technically and commercially viable projects subject to fulfilment of schematic guidelines. Fruit and vegetable processing units are exempted from payment of excise duty. Recently for giving boost to the FPI sector Government in 2004-05 has allowed under Income Tax Act a deduction of 100% of profit for five year and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

Eco-Conservation of Vembanad Lake

1055. DR. K. S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the Eco-Conservation of Vembanad Lake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned any financial assistance for Vembanad Action Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Vembanad Lake in Kerala has recently been identified as one of the wetlands under National Wetland conservation programme in December, 2005 for conservation and management. The lake has been declared as a Ramsar site in 2002.

(c) to (e) So far, no financial assistance has been provided to Kerala Govt for Eco-Conservation of Vembanad Lake. Since this wetland has recently been identified under National Wetland Conservation Programme, the State Government of Kerala will be advised to submit a comprehensive Management Action Plan for its long term conservation.

Private Participation in Agriculture Marketing

1056. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes private participation in marketing of agricultural products;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified eight modernize terminal markets in the country; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the salient features of these terminal markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A national conference of State Ministers held on 19th November, 2004 at Bangalore, considered various options for liberalizing the agricultural marketing system for setting up of professionally managed markets in the country. The Ministry took the initiative in this directions and formulated detailed project reports and invited 'Expression of Interest' from the private/cooperative sectors for establishment of state of art terminal markets at 8 important centers in the country viz. Bhopal, Kolkata, Nagpur, Mumbai, Nashik,

Patna, Rai and Chandigarh (Union Territory). The Terminal Markets are to operate on a Hub-and-Spoke Format wherein the Terminal Market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the

markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. The markets are envisaged as alternate competitive markets which would function independently of the existing government regulated markets. The salient features of the identified 8 terminal markets are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Salient Features of Proposed Terminal Markets

Feature	Mumbai	Nasik	Chandigarh	Rai (Haryana)	Patna	Bhopal	Kolkata	Nagpur
Area of Market (Acre)	200	100	100	88	75	59	55	100
Yearly Handling Capacity (Lac MT)	6.00	3.00	2.25	3.00	2.00	2.00	5.47	2.4
No. of Collection centres	60	20	20	30	26	25	12	25
Peak throughput (MT/day)	3000	1500	800	1000	800	1000	1500	800
Cold Store capacity (in MT)	15,000	5000	3000	5000	2550	2000	10,000	2000
Total Project cost (Rs. in crores)	120.00	59.96	53.68	65.64	59.00	49.62	93.42	54.54

[Translation]

Decline in Industrial Production

1057. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a slow pace in industrial development and also decline in the industrial production;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):

(a) and (b) As per the quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (base year 1993-94=100) compiled by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth of industrial production in general during the period April-December 2005-06 stood at 7.8% compared to 8.6% during the same period of 2004-05.

The slow pace of industrial growth was on account of negative growth rate in industrial groups like food products; wool, silk, and man made fibre textiles; wood & wood products; leather and its products, and metal products and parts.

(c) The industry sector spans about eleven departments/ministries with industrial programmes/schemes under each. Major schemes which are in place for industrial development include Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), Technology Upgradation Fund (Scheme) for textiles, 'Policy Package for stepping up credit to small and medium enterprises' by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, and India Leather Development Programme (ILDLP). The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has formulated the National Strategy for Manufacturing. Industrial Development is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supports their efforts by providing support/incentives under its various schemes.

[English]

Rate of Agricultural Produce

1058. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the

measures taken or to be taken by the Government in fixing the rate of agricultural produce to reduce the burden of persons engaged in food processing industries?

- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): The main objective of Government's price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to encourage higher investment and production of various crops in the country and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- While recommending MSPs, CACP keeps in view (i) the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for developing a production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements; (ii) the need to ensure rational utilization of land, water and other production resources; (iii) the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy, particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc. and (iv) terms of trade between agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector. Thus the MSPs fixed by the Government take care of the requirements of the processing industries as well, in a macro perspective.

[Translation]

**Violation of Labour Laws by
Construction Companies**

1059. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many building and housing construction companies are not following labour related laws properly;

(b) if so, the number and nature of the complaints received from various quarters including public representatives during each of the last three years including the name of companies against whom such complaints have been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Building and housing construction companies are required to implement the provisions of various labour laws such as Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Responsibility for enforcement of these Acts lies both with the Central and State Governments in the establishments falling in the Central and State sphere respectively, Details regarding enforcement of these Act in the housing construction companies for which State Governments are the appropriate Government, are not maintained at Central level. Details of inspections made, prosecutions launched and claim cases filed during last three years against the construction companies for which Central Government is the appropriate Government under the above labour laws are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Prosecution launched	No. of claims filed
2003-2004	2816	504	-
2004-2005	1993	496	-
2005-2006	2135	507	-

Inter State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Prosecution launched	No. of claims filed
2003-2004	146	226	-
2004-2005	23	73	-
2005-2006	38	85	-

Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Prosecution launched	No. of claims filed
2003-2004	3993	971	2
2004-2005	742	265	-
2005-2006	801	281	1

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Prosecution launched	No. of claims filed
2003-2004	18380	5541	3520
2004-2005	16956	6188	3163
2005-2006	17110	6410	3312

Interest Rate on EPF

1060. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount likely to be spent by Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) at interest rate of 9.5%;

(b) the savings likely to accrue as a result of current reduction in the interest rate;

(c) whether subsidy has to be given to EPFO for paying off the interest; and

(d) if so, the subsidy given to EPFO during each of the last two years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The liability of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for payment of interest at the rate of 9.5% to the members of the Employees Provident Fund for the year 2005-06 comes to Rs. 7,699.52 crore.

(b) The liability and income of the Organisation at the declared rate of 8.5% comes to Rs. 8,889.04 crore and Rs. 6,523.15 crore respectively. Hence, even at the declared rate of interest, the Organisation has to divert an amount of Rs. 365.89 crore from the Special Reserve Fund/other sources in order to meet the shortfall.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Economic Survey, 2005-2006 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3704/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3705/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the U.P. State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3706/06]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005, along-with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3707/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nepa Limited, Nepanagar, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Nepa Limited, Nepanagar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3708/06]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions)

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3709/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3710/06]

12.01 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Naigonda): I beg to present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:-

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "The Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2005".

- (2) Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "The National Institute of Fashion Technology Bill, 2005".

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Ninety Second to Ninety Seventh Reports

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and

English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (1) 92nd Report of Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Department of Road Transport and Highways;
- (2) 93rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Culture;
- (3) 94th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Department of Shipping;
- (4) Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Tourism;
- (5) 96th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Civil Aviation; and
- (6) 97th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Ninetieth Report on the 'Development of Airport Sector with special emphasis on new modern airports'.

12.02½ hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (1) **Re: Reported political interferences in the functioning of judiciary**

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me two minutes time first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji one by one, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Brajesh Pathakji, I called the name of Malhotra ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Please raise the issue after that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The way by which judiciary is being manipulated and influenced. This issue should be discussed today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. I will hear you later.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are speaking without my permission and nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

12.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Brajesh Pathak and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.07 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Brajesh Pathak and other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): This matter is under consideration in Hon'ble Supreme Court. It can't be raised here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been decided in the

* Not recorded.

meeting of leaders and according to the rules and procedure I am doing my job. First of all, I will hear your views but please speak one by one. Don't insist on hearing you first. It will be decided by the Chair as to who will speak first.

[English]

I will try to accommodate you.

[Translation]

Don't think that by showing the newspapers, I will give you an opportunity to speak first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Sir, it is not correct. In the history of India. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Brajesh Pathak and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go back. I will give you time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please give the notice.

...(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Brajesh Pathak and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Please give us two minutes time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been decided in the

meeting of all party leaders that only those Members be allowed to speak first whose notices have been received before 9 a.m.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You listen to me please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is very serious. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I received his notice at 9.42 a.m. But it is not that I will not allow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, I have to concede to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: It is a serious matter and it is also a matter of public importance. ...(Interruptions) If the discussion is not allowed on this matter, how long the violators of constitution will rule India. ...(Interruptions) No issue as important as this issue has come up in this House for discussion so far. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You take your seat for a minute.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak first but it is right because what we had decided in the meeting of leaders is not being followed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter is under the consideration of the Supreme Court, therefore think well before you speak.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go to your seat and then speak. Only then speech of Shri Brajesh Pathak will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the episode has appeared in newspapers. ...(Interruptions) What was discussed with the judges. What matter was discussed between judges and a Chief Minister. ...(Interruptions) Whether judges were bribed. ...(Interruptions) Whatever may be the outcome of the investigation in this case but the genuineness of the CD in question should be examined. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mistryji, you are wise and senior. At least you should take your seat. I have to run the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: They should be punished under the Anti-Corruption Act. Everyone is equal before the law in India. ...(Interruptions) People who attack so sacred an institution as the Judiciary, and also try to bribe it should be punished by the House by passing a resolution. ...(Interruptions)

The Leader of the House is present here. He should reply to this issue and also state the time frame within which this investigation would be over and how the House would punish him under the Anti Corruption Act. ...(Interruptions)

I want to add one more thing. I want to place the CD recovered during investigation on the Table of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Kindly permit me. ...(Interruptions) The country wants to know how the judges were influenced with many power and the manner in which attempts were made to lure one of our MLAs to break away from the party. ...(Interruptions) Under the Anti-

Defection law, it is a crime to lure an MLA from his party. It is evident from the CD how attempts were made to persuade one of our MLAs to break away from the party by offering him money. ...(Interruptions) It is mentioned in the CD that this judge has been over. It is suggested in the CD to change the judge as he was not well disposed towards a particular party. ...(Interruptions) The country wants to know all these shameful things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the leader of the House is present. I request him to give an explanation regarding all that has appeared in the newspapers about the CD in question and should be placed on the table of the House. ...(Interruptions) He should fix a time limit for completing the investigation in this regard. ...(Interruptions) I request the leader of the House to give a reply in this connection. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is replying to your queries. Listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, we want a statement on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, let other important issues be taken up. Then, the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will respond for all of them together. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like the leader of the House to reply in this regard. ...(Interruptions) He should give the time by which investigation in this regard would be completed and also fix the day when the House would take up this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your point, please sit down now. Malhotraji, you want to say something.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say something regarding Chaudhary Devi Lal. Chaudhary Devi Lal's name is being removed from all places. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, so far as this issue is concerned, I have just heard the hon. Members and most of them, it was not quite audible. But I understand that some cassettes have been received by the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are being examined as regards authenticity, etc. After being examined, as per law, if any action is called for, it will be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): The judgement of the particular case referred to is coming up tomorrow. How long is the Home Ministry going to take complete the investigation because it is a matter of extremely serious importance. It is not a BSP or a BJP or a Congress Party matter. In these tapes, copies of which we I have all received, it has been alleged that three judges have been influenced. One judge has given his judgement and is also being proposed to become a head of a Commission which the Governor has rejected. Two judges have to give their judgement tomorrow in a matter that affects the whole of India. Now, they have been very loosely referred to as persons who were won over and paid bribes and what not. We want to know how long the Home Ministry will take in completing the investigation because the judgement is to be given tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have had your say. Kindly sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.18 hrs.

(ii) Re: Reported observation made by the Prime Minister during the Round Table Conferences with Kashmiri Leaders

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Both the Houses had passed a resolution regarding it. The only thing that remains to be done in this regard is the ceding of Pakistan occupied Kashmir to India. A Round Table Conference was held before the visit of Mr. George Bush, in which self-rule or greater autonomy was discussed. In my opinion to talk of self rule at this juncture. ...*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, how is this so? I oppose what he is saying. How can he say this as. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Jammu and Kashmir is free. ...*(Interruptions)* To talk of independence of Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: We would also like to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* What is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Prof. Malhotra's speech will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to talk of independence of Jammu and Kashmir which is in integral part of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in a statement, Mr. George Bush said. ...*(Interruptions)* I repeat it, ...to speak of an independent Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the speech of Shri Malhotraji, nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Malhotraji should be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

* Not recorded

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I strongly disapprove of the statement. *...(Interruptions)* accusing hon. Prime Minister as. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to what I have said. I said to speak of an independent Jammu and Kashmir. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It must be expunged and deleted. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is anything unparliamentary, I will see and I will expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He should restrain himself. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I only said that the talk of an independent Jammu and Kashmir and to talk of self-rule. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

What is wrong in it?

12.22 hrs.

(At this stage, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

12.22¼ hrs

(At this stage, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti went back to her seat)

...(Interruptions)

12.22½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you kindly go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.00 p.m.

12.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time one by one. First, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to speak. I will give you only two minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that before coming to India, Mr. George Bush gave this statement that India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir's people should deliberate on the issue of Jammu-Kashmir and then come to a decision. This is Pakistan's language and Pakistan is saying this through America. There is no doubt that Kashmir is India's part, elections are being held there continuously. When Mr. Bush comes to India, our Government should clearly convey this to him that America should not interfere in the matter of Jammu-Kashmir. It is our matter, which will be decided between India-Pakistan. The people of Jammu-Kashmir have made it clear after elections.

The other thing I would like to say is that 70,000-80,000 people have been effected by terrorism in a bid to retain Jammu-Kashmir as part of India. The place has seen four wars, in which thousands of people have been killed. It is not proper to say today that Kashmir should be made independent, self-rule should be imposed there and it should be reverted to the situation that prevailed there before 1953 and some of the things of that time might be

brought back. I mean to say that Kashmir should be treated at par with Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is fatal to accord Kashmir a special status just because of it is a Muslim majority state as it would be dangerous for the country. If this theory is accepted then it means that we accept the two nation theory. If any district in India has Muslim dominated people then would it be accorded a special status. Hence it is not appropriate to talk about self rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI (Anantnag): Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, silence please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, first you should go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Kashmir's segregation from India would never be tolerated. The people of India would never tolerate this. The public would not tolerate if the Government of India bows down in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Sir, Article 370 is the bridge between India and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)* Any erosion there will result in eroding the relationship between India and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We condemn the statement of the Government of India. Where was the need to convene a round table conference before Mr. Bush's visit. We are not a subservient to America. ...*(Interruptions)* They should not intervene in the Jammu-Kashmir issue. I request the hon. Prime Minister to make it very clear to President Bush that he need not interfere in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasguptaji.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, first you should go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all, you are requested to go to your seat.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I will speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* I will take just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tripathyji, your name will be associated with Malhotraji, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I will take just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)* The recent proposal for nuclear cooperation and separation of civilian and military facilities which have been submitted to the United States has created a lot of confusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, please give me two minutes to express my opinion.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The reported news in the Media about the links of US President's visit with Kashmir issue and Pakistan President's formulation of "self-Governance" in Kashmir have further confused the people's mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What you have said will also be associated with Malhotraji's speech.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is our stand that we do not want a third party for mediation upon the issue of Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)* This is our internal problem and our country has enough capability to solve our own problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now, the US President is proposing to mediate on Kashmir issue.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Hereafter nothing will go on record. This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, this is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tripathyji, you may speak when debate commences. Please sit down now. Your version is not going to record.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panaskura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There should be a discussion on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Iran issue!

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Not today but some day. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, you have to submit notice

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sit, I have been.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Where would I raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is not here. Please give me two minutes time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, this is not a debate. This is 'Zero Hour.'

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Where can I raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir if not in this House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, if you want to speak, you should give notice at appropriate time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Since the Kashmir issue has been raised. I would also like to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to allow a debate. He is not speaking on your subject. He will speak on something else.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): If you are permitting a discussion, then I may also be allowed to speak. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Malhotraji, you have done it. ...(Interruptions) Let the other Members finish so that we can start the debate.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta is on his legs.

13.08 hrs.

(iii) Re: Acquittal in Jessica Lal Murder Case in Delhi

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panaskura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been trying, for the last several days, to raise a very important issue. Unfortunately, the House was not in a mood to listen. I am raising Jessica Lal's murder case in Delhi and the total police inaction. The issue is very clear. A lady, in her blooming youth, was murdered openly in a restaurant at 11 o'clock in the night in presence of so many people. Everybody knew who was the killer. Everybody knew how that group had come in a car but they have been acquitted.

What is the reason? The reason is very clear. The present Police Commissioner, who was, at that time, Joint Police Commissioner had conducted an inquiry and he had said that the evidence had been tampered with. A high police official had said that the evidence had been tampered with by the accused in collusion with some officials. That is the report and they wanted the police administration which was there, at that time, to conduct an inquiry, but it was not done. Therefore, two-gun theory was given by the prosecution to the court. This was deliberately done to let off the accused. This is one point.

The second point is, all the three witnesses have turned hostile.

The third point is that such a sensitive issue was left to be inquired into by the local police. The Criminal Investigation Department or the CBI was not involved.

The fourth point is, all the accused had money power and all the accused had very important connections with the corridors of power about which I do not want to name anybody.

So, the very conclusion is that the investigation has been diluted deliberately by the police to let off the accused and something more has to be added to the story. The judge who has given the judgement has now been promoted to become a judge of the Delhi High Court. *...(Interruptions)* Let us not talk of parties, let us talk of criminals.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb. Please do not make a running commentary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have a very simple point. The simple point is, since the lady was just a commoner and since the accused were very important persons and since they had enough power, firstly the police was bribed, the police had deliberately tampered with the evidence and important police officials asked the then Police Commissioner to investigate into the case.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please give me two minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given only two minutes to you, but you have taken more than four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Kindly listen to me. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter concerns the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let the hon. Minister speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the most important point is, the police at the bottom did not inquire and tampered with the evidence and the police at the top did not do the normal inquiry. As a result, the accused have all gone scot-free and the judge who had given the acquittal order has been promoted. So, one plus one plus one makes one thing clear, that is, justice, even in the Capital of the country, is denied. It gives the impression that even in the Capital of the country a lady can be killed in the open and police can be bribed.

Lastly, this matter comes under the Home Ministry of the Government of India. Therefore, I demand that the Government of India's Home Ministry must go to the court

for the re-opening of the case. The case must be re-opened, there must be a re-trial and it must be done by the CBI. An appeal should be made in the court for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. ...*(Interruptions)* This case should be handed over to the CBI for further investigation.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to associate myself with this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name will be associated with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all associate ourselves with the matter raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav will be associated with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, please take your seat. Your name has been associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this case should be reopen and it should go to higher court. It should be handed over to the CBI. The influential people have got themselves free due to their money power and connections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the case should be handed over to the CBI. All the accused have been acquitted. So, the promotion should not be

given to the concerned judge. It is a clear example of miscarriage of justice.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to associate myself with this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Madhusudan Mistry's name will also be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your and Basu Deb Acharia's name will be associated in the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has been associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have associated with whatever Mr. Dasgupta said.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, It is very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is replying.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I respectfully heard the observations made by hon. Member Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and other leaders and Members of the House on this issue. When this incident took place, I remember that the then Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson of the UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi expressed her deep concern on the day of the incident. I do not like to make any comment on what transpired in the trial court because it is not proper on my part to do that. This matter is the concern of the whole House including our party and I shall respectfully convey the concern of the entire House to the Home Minister today.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House has requested that the

case should be re-opened. The Government should make a statement on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Government to make a statement.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, there has to be a categorical response from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I want a categorical assurance from the Government that the Government would appeal to the higher court and the entire investigation would be handed over to the CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, your point has come on record. I cannot compel the Government to make a statement as you desire.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my duty is to respectfully convey the concern of the entire House to the appropriate desk of the Government and I shall do that. For information, I would like to submit that when this incident took place, the UPA was not in power, but the NDA was in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we want a response from the Leader of the House. It is a matter of grave concern. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman will make his submission now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Ramji Lal Suman now.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the Home Minister should make a statement. We want the Home Minister to make a statement on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, please associate my name with his matter.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has also been associated.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, our name should also be associated with this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Raghunath Jha's name should also be associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name will also be associated with this.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, my name should also be associated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The name of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav should also be associated.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Our party's name should also be associated with this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of all his party members should also be associated with this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has been added and associated with the matter.

...(Interruptions)

13.19 hrs.

(iv) Re: Situation arising out of strike by Advocates of Delhi Bar Association

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it is your turn. Now Shri Ramji Lal Suman will speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Advocates of Delhi Bar Association are on strike for the last two months. The secretary of Delhi Bar Association is on fast unto death. It is a very serious matter. The important thing is that certain courts from Tis Hazari court have been shifted to Rohini. What kind of judiciary system should we have, for this purpose Delhi

Bar Association has filed a CWP 437 in the Supreme court. Supreme Court issued stay order. The order was issued on 18.8.2000 and 24.1.2001 in favour of Bar Association of India; Despite the stay order of the Supreme court of India, the Delhi High Court vide their Administrative order shifted 29 courts from Tis Hazari District Court to newly constructed building in Rohini. The main issue is that in Rohini court complex, the Advocates do not have any facilities like car parking facilities and sitting facilities for them. Because of these reasons the advocates have gone on strike. As per the section 239 AA of the constitution, it is the duty of the Government to construct the court buildings and provide facilities there, it is not the duty of judiciary. For the past two months strike is continuously going on and no steps have been taken to initiate any dialogue with them. I do believe that there is no problem in this world, which cannot be solved through dialogue. Millions of people are affected due to strike.

On 17th February not only the Advocate of Delhi but also thousands of Advocates of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana also demonstrated in favour of Delhi Bar Association and presented a memorandum to Lok Sabha Speaker and the Government. Through you, I urge the Government to interfere in this matter and have talks with the Advocates. For this reason tension is being created and some untoward incident may take place. For two months no discussions have taken place and millions of people are being harassed. The Government should give a assurance in this matter and should solve this issue through dialogue. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Your point has come on the record. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a strange thing that some incident take place or a problem is there and the Government do not discharge their duties, and do not take action to initiate a dialogue or do not take any concrete steps to solve the problems. I think there can be nothing unfortunate than this thing. I would like the Government to make a statement on this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Some efforts should be made to break the strike by way of dialogue. Definitely some solution can be drawn out by way of dialogue with them. Strike for the last two months. *...(Interruptions)* It is not reasonable. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

The Government should look into the matter seriously and try to resolve the matter as early as possible. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji you associate yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Due to the on going strike of Delhi Bar Association, since 2nd January, and holding of demonstration on 17th February 2002, the judicial proceedings are being hampered. Keeping in view the hardships being faced by the common men and to remove the impediments in the judicial proceedings, the Government should constitute a committee to see whether setting up Courts in Rohini is proper. The government should interfere in this issue as on today 6000 Advocates are directly involved in it. It is a matter of concern for the advocates of the whole country and each and every State. I want that the Government should interfere in this matter and a committee should be constituted to investigate this matter. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I would also like to associate with them. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Hon'ble Ram Ji Lal Suman, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji hereby giving importance to the Advocate's strike in Delhi. *...(Interruptions)* Your leader's name has been called by giving due importance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already included the name of your leader in the record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The issue which has been raised here, I assure you that UPA Government believe in dialogue not in conflict. In this matter, talks should be carried forward in a democratic manner. What all you have suggested regarding the whole process? I

will today itself present all those suggestions before the Law Minister.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Law Minister definitely find solution for this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 11 listed in today's List of Business. Matters Under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. They will form part of the proceedings.

- (i) **Need to appoint programme staff at AIR station, Himmatnagar, Gujarat so as to make it operational**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The All India Radio station buildings have been built in Himmatnagar town of the Sabarkantha Constituency of Gujarat, which I represent. The AIR station is ready for almost more than 4 years, but it has not been operational due to non-appointment of the programmes staff. I have drawn the attention of the Government from time to time by raising the matter under rule 377 as well as by writing letters to the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting. It is a pity that despite my several representations the concerned Department doesn't seem to heed to the demand to make this AIR station operational by appointing the programme staff. Instead, the AIR station operational by appointing the programme staff. Instead, the Air Station, Himmatnagar is made 'relay station', which is highly objectionable.

Through this, I draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the demand of the backward district where a large majority of people are OBCs, tribals and Scheduled Castes, along with minorities.

- (ii) **Need to clear the proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing safe drinking water in the State**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Andhra

Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government for revival of sub Mission Programme & clearance of Projects worth Rs. 685.00 crores to Andhra Pradesh.

About 12,000 out of 15,000 NSS habitations in the State have been covered with safe drinking water with the help of Sub Mission Programme of Government of India and also loan taken from NABARD. People in the remaining 2,682 habitations are still suffering from excess fluoride brackishness etc. Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Project Report to cover all these 2,682 habitations with safe drinking water at a cost of Rs. 685.00 crores. Government of India may revive Sub Mission Programme and sanction Projects to cover all these 2,682 habitations with safe drinking water. The Project report is in the Department of Drinking Water Supply in Government of India.

As this proposal is pending for long I urge upon the Government to approve the same at an early date.

- (iii) **Need to undertake revision of pay scales for Readers/Associate Professors under Merit Promotion Scheme in State Agricultural Universities particularly in Hissar, Haryana**

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, revision of pay scale for Readers/Associate Professors under Merit Promotion Scheme (MPS) in the State Agricultural Universities, particularly that of Hisar is lying pending with ICAR. The Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Expenditure) - E.III (A) has agreed vide I.D. No. 7(13)/E III (A)-2003 dated 15.09.2004 that "Lectures (SG) under MPS are only allowed to become Lecturers (Senior Scale) under CAS with further promotion taking place in accordance with the provision of the CAS scheme".

Sir, I would request the Minister of Agriculture to look into this matter personally and announce the promotion scheme as agreed to by the Ministry of Finance in their letter dated 15.09.2004.

- (iv) **Need to set up high power T.V. transmitters at higher altitudes in Shimla Parliamentary Constituency, Himachal Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the problems regarding Doordarshan coverage in the far-flung areas of Shimla constituency. I have been raising this issue in this House earlier also.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

Sir, the topography and geographical conditions of this area is such that until state of Art and powerful transmitters are installed at the high places, lower areas, valleys and inaccessible areas would not be able to receive television signals. In absence of these transmitters the industrious and poor farmers and horticulturists would be deprived from the viewing doordarshan programmes.

Sir, these problems can only be solved if the modernization process is expedited and the operating as well as viewing process of doordarshan is made efficient. Sir, I request the Central Government to install high capacity transmitters and Dish-Antennas as much as possible in the places situated at high altitude such as Khada Pather, the Bari Dhar of Solan, Kathpol Ka Tibba and Churdhar in Sirmore.

(v) Need to construct an over bridge at Balitha railway crossing and widen the existing under bridge at Karambeli Railway level crossing in Vapi, Gujarat

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Railways through you towards the urgent need to construct an over-bridge at Balitha railway crossing and to widen the existing under bridge at Karambeli railway crossing in Vapi, Gujarat. Heavy vehicle traffic enters Daman from Dabhol via Balitha railway crossing at National Highway No.8. Heavy vehicle traffic enters Daman from Dabhol by crossing the Balitha railway crossing. As Balitha railway crossing is on Mumbai-Ahemdabad main railway line, this railway crossing remains closed most of the time and as a result, there are long queues of vehicles on both sides of this crossing. Balitha railway crossing is the main link road for National Highway No.8 which connects Dabhol, Somnath and Kachigaon in Daman. Therefore, there is an urgent need to construct an over bridge at this railway crossing.

Similarly, Karambeli railway level crossing is an important link road, which connects Mumbai-Ahemdabad road.

Hence, I would request the Government to issue directions to the concerned officials to start the survey work regarding construction of an over bridge at Balitha, railway crossing and for widening of the Karambeli railway crossing to alleviate the difficulties being faced by the common people.

(vi) Need to release adequate funds for Orissa under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched in the year 2000-01 with an objective to provide all weather connectivity to unconnected habitations. Orissa as you know is one of the poorest states in the country with a vast mineral deposit base and a long coast line, but due to lack of proper infrastructure the progress is being hampered. One of most neglected in the road network sector, Phase-III of the scheme was approved in the year 2003-04. The total allocation sanctioned for the State was Rs. 440.92 crores, however only 350 crores has been released till date. The Phase-IV scheme was approved in March - 2005 for State and total 398.72 crores were sanctioned, however till date only 97.75 crores has been released, All the works of Phase-III & IV are in progress, so it is requested to release the balance funds for smooth execution of the projects.

Then lastly Phase V and ADB assisted PMGSY was approved in August, 2005 for Orissa for Rs. 880.42 crores but necessary funds have not been released as decided.

I, therefore, request the Government to allocate the committed funds for the poor state of Orissa at the earliest.

(vii) Need to take measures to check circulation of counterfeit currency in the country

[Translation]

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs towards circulation of fake currency all over the country, behind which a large gang is involved. Persons who were engaged in printing of fake Rs. 500 currency notes have been caught in Jalna district of Maharashtra. Members of such gangs have reached upto rural areas.

I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister that it could have profound effect on the country's economy and this could lead our country to a great crisis in the coming years.

I would request the honourable Minister to issue directions to eradicate it completely and to save the country from this crisis.

(viii) Need to set up Manganese and Silica sand based Industries in Rewa Parliamentary constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Semaria which is in my parliamentary constituency Rewa, Madhya Pradesh has a huge reserve of Manganese. It is being smuggled to Bihar and Jharkhand through illegal mining at a large scale. If Government of India takes initiative to set up Manganese industry in the vicinity of Semaria, then the problem of unemployment will be solved not only in Rewa Parliamentary constituency but in the entire region and the unemployed hands which are being misled can be divested towards constructive direction. Like wise there is a large reserve of silica sand near Damora. Slate manufacturing industry can be set up there. Due to limestone reserves available there, two cement factories have been set up in Rewa district alone, which are not only earning profit but also contributing to the industrial development of Rewa.

I would therefore, request the Government of India to initiate necessary action to take meaningful and concrete steps in this direction.

(ix) Need for Central take over of Bisalpur Irrigation Project in Tonk district, Rajasthan so as to ensure its early completion

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Irrigation Department of Government of Rajasthan has completed the construction work of a canal and its channels in Bisalpur Project area in the Tonk district of Rajasthan. The proposals to construct drains and to complete the O.F.D. work under the Centrally sponsored scheme have been sent to the Ministry of Water Resources. The Principal Secretary to the Government, Water Resources, Government of Rajasthan had discussed these proposals in the process of approval of the project with the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on 14 May, 2004, apart from this, the Chief Minister has also made a request to the Minister of Water Resources on 21 March, 2005 in this regard. Minister of Water Resources has informed vide his letter dated 2 May, 2005 that the proposal for approval of the Bisalpur Project would be considered only after a project among the on going approved projects is completed or any other projected is halted in Rajasthan. This thinking is absolutely improper and against the interest of the farmers because at present Indira Gandhi Canal Project, Chambal Project and Sidhmukh Canal Project are being implemented in

Rajasthan under C.A.D., in which O.F.D. work in 11.75 lakh hectares has been completed till now, all these projects are wide spread, which may take almost 6 years to complete. I would, therefore, request the approval to include Bisalpur Project under centrally sponsored schemes may be issued immediately so that irrigation capacity so created could be utilized in actual terms.

(x) Need to fill vacancies and provide necessary amenities at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary for its smooth functioning

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary had started functioning in 1986 with single section school. In 2003, it was upgraded to three section school. Existing school building was constructed based on two section school. Classes are being conducted in activity rooms temporarily and 10 classrooms are needed urgently.

Even though status of School has been increased from single section to three section school, there is no substantial increase in teachers strength. There are about 14 vacancies and in addition to this, Vidyalaya is in need of another one Trained Graduate Teacher (Mathematics) for next academic year 2006-07. The Centre should take immediate steps to fill up these vacancies.

Internal roads in schools premises were formatted about 10 years back and these are in highly deplorable conditions. It requires recarpeting immediately.

This School, moreover, requires Resources Room (multipurpose theatre) to conduct functions.

Since the school has become three section school, there is an acute shortage of staff quarters. It requires another 8 (4 each of Type-II and Type-III) staff quarters.

School is having sufficient land for these purposes. I urge upon Government to issue orders for the above mentioned works.

(xi) Need to withdraw the move for closure of Government of India Stationery Office

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): The Ministry of Urban Development has not accepted the ERC Recommendation to close down the Government of India stationery office (GISO). Despite this, the matter is still pending with that Ministry which has to be taken up with Ministry of Finance for its rejection.

Since, the ERC recommendation is yet to be implemented or rejected, its closure of is resorted through back door by the Ministry of Finance by deleting Appendix IX from GFR which comprised of Rules regulating purchase of stationery articles for the public services and as a follow up of this, budgetary provision for GISO has been gradually reduced to 2.5 crores during the current year and is understood to have decided for further reduction in ensuring budget 2006-07. Virtually allowing all indentors to procure stationery articles from open market. As a result the GISO is crippled. Therefore, urgent need is to take positive decision by the Ministry of Finance by reintroducing Appendix IX in GFR and rejecting the ERC recommendation for closure of GISO as requested by the Ministry of Urban Development.

[Translation]

(xii) Need to provide basic amenities at Mata Shakumbhari Devi Shrine near Behat town in Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD (Saharanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of pilgrims visit Mata Shakumbhari Devi Shrine of Hindus near Behat township in Saharanpur district. But due to poor amenities availability the pilgrims have to face many difficulties. Government should take steps to increase facilities at this holy place so that better facilities are available to the pilgrims there.

(xiii) Need to grant licences to the tour operators with a view to attract foreign tourists in the country

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, foreign tourists face a lot of problems due to private operators. Tourist operators who assist foreign tourists are not issued licences owing to this foreign tourists get dejected and foreign exchange earnings also plummet.

Therefore, I demand from the Government that tourist operators may be issued licences at the earliest so that foreign tourists inflow increases in our country.

(xiv) Need to set up a new Southern Freight Corridor to boost the economy of the country

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): As conceived by the Union Government, Hon'ble Railway Minister has also

announced in the Budget that an exclusive freight corridor will be established as Eastern and Western Freight Corridor to give a boost to our Indian Economy. This Freight Corridor Project conceived at the cost of about 22,000 crores of rupees is expected to be taken up a joint venture involving private operators. I would like to lay emphasis that a Southern Freight Corridor is also a must to ensure Union Economic Growth. Tuticorin port in the Southern end of the country is emerging as a Modern port to handle bigger vessels. If an exclusive Southern Freight Corridor is to commence from Tuticorin linking Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi, it would be of immense help to industrial leaders. In and around these cities due to hub of industrial activity pertaining to Information Technology (IT) and Economic Processing Zones (EPZ), the need for a Freight Corridor has been felt for quite some time now.

Now, that Setusamudrum Project is on, this Southern Freight Corridor will be of great help to handle increased freight movement when the project is completed. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government, especially the Ministry of Railways to go in for setting up a new Southern Freight Corridor to benefit the emerging Tamilnadu in particular and the entire Southern India.

(xv) Need to set up a gas based power project in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh with a view to meet the shortage of power in the region

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country specially in Uttar Pradesh, the problem of power is persisting. In Uttar Pradesh specially in backward and rural areas, the problem of power shortage is continuing. My parliamentary constituency, Unnao, which is a backward area, is also facing power shortage and the situation is very grim. This area remains without power for a number of days and during summer, condition gets even worse. As a result of it, rural people, farmers and common man faces a lot of problems.

Hence, I request the Central Government that in view of power shortage in Unnao parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh there is a need to take steps for setting up of a gas based power project.

(xvi) Need to check foreign banks charging exorbitant rate of interest on the loans provided through credit cards in the country

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention

of the Government towards the Foreign Bankers, who are operating in India and charging exorbitant rate of interest to the Credit Card Customers which ranges between 40 to 50 percent per annum.

Sir, the citizens of India are getting the annual interest on the saving accounts from Nationalised Banks ranging between 3% to 4% per annum. At the same time the said Foreign Bankers are levying the interest at the rate of 3.18% per month from credit cards. Also for the period of the delay of 8 days the said Foreign Bankers are charges Penalty Extra Rs. 500/- per month.

Sir, Government used to think about raising the interest on PF from 8% to 9% per annum, but on the other hand the said Foreign Bankers are looting our poor citizens and collecting a sum of Rs. 8,000/- crores per annum by levying the exorbitant interest. Sir, though the R.B.I. is aware about this fact, it has not acted in time.

Sir, it is the duty of the Government (RBI) to ensure that the foreign bankers should maintain the interest rate on the credit card as per the rate maintained by the Nationalized Banks.

Sir, through you, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly instruct the Foreign Bankers to follow the banking interest guidelines to the RBI so that people may get the necessary relief.

(xvii) Need to provide funds to the Government of Maharashtra for undertaking lift irrigation scheme at Hanabarwadi and Dhanagarwadi in Karad Tehsil of Satara district in Maharashtra

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): There is utmost need to undertake lift irrigation scheme at Hanabarwadi and Dhanagarwadi in rainfed area of Karad Tehsil of Satara District in Maharashtra. The area is drought prone and dry as such the Central Government may allot the funds to Government of Maharashtra from Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme.

(xviii) Need to run a train between India and Pakistan via Husainiwalla border in Punjab

[Translation]

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN (Ferozpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that relations between India-Pakistan are improving. I congratulate you for introducing Thar Express

train. I would like to draw your attention towards Husainiwalla-Gandasinghwalla, Ferozepur, Punjab Indo-Pak border, which is most favourable border of India for developing trade relations between two countries. This border was closed after the 1971 war. Alongwith road movement Husainiwalla border is also favourable for train movement. This railway line is in working condition on both the sides. I have requested Hon. Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister a number of times to open this border.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to demand from Government of India that Husainiwalla Indo-Pak border should be opened at the earliest.

(xix) Need to release funds for early completion of all the pending irrigation projects in Purulia district, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Purulia is a drought prone and one of the backward districts of West Bengal. It is also non-industrial district. 90% of the population depend on agriculture. Only 30% of the agricultural land have the irrigation facility. Drought situation prevails almost every year. The major irrigation projects are incomplete and pending for a long time due to non release of funds by the Union Government. The UPA Govt. has promised in the Common Minimum Programme that all the pending irrigation projects will be completed.

I would therefore, urge upon the Central Government to release necessary funds to complete all the pending irrigation project in the district of Purulia.

(xx) Need to review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna in Kushinagar district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the money allotted under Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna, being implemented by the Government of India is not being properly utilized in rural areas of district Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Till now, 31 roads have been constructed under this project in this district. In the construction of roads neither hot mix plant was used nor soil was laid as per the norms. Local administration is not willing to take any action, in spite of complaints.

I would like to request the Government that it should get this construction work investigated from any independent unit so that necessary steps can be taken for avoiding wastage of crores of rupees.

13.26 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: India's Vote in IAEA on the Issue of Iran's Nuclear Programme

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up the item listed in the Supplementary List of Business regarding discussion under Rule 193. I shall now request Shri C.K. Chandrappan to raise a discussion on the Statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on 17.02.2006 regarding India's vote in the IAEA on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. The time allotted for this discussion is four hours.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to initiate this discussion under Rule 193 on the Statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on 17th February, 2006 regarding India's vote in IAEA on the issue of Iran's Nuclear Programme.

Sir, in the Statement, the hon. Prime Minister has said that we have very close relations with the country of Iran. He said that it was civilisational in nature, and also on issues we had very close relations throughout the period. But now we are raising this discussion to show the world that this House does not agree with the position taken by the Government of India in the IAEA meeting. A large number of Members belonging to different parties, cutting across the parties, including the Members on the Government side, are not in full agreement with the position taken by the Government of India.

Sir, in this discussion the Government's position will be questioned and also we will see the acrobatics that my friends on this side, especially the BJP, will do during the course of this discussion because they consider America as our natural ally, and we have to see how that natural ally is behaving in this context.

Now, Sir, coming to the Government's position, I agree with the Prime Minister that India and Iran were a

part of ancient civilisation in this world. Not only that, after the Independence, during the post-war period, India and Iran took more or less similar stand on many of the critical issues on which India was interested.

Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government a few issues. During different Indo-Pak wars, Iran took a position which was rather in favour of India. It was very difficult for a Muslim country to take that position but they took that position because they thought that India was just.

On the question of Kashmir, we received support from Iran in various international bodies. When Babri Masjid was demolished and the whole country was in great crisis, again it was Iran that took a position that it was not to be taken as a confrontation with Muslims, and the Muslim community in India should have a patient view about it. They helped India to preserve peace at that time.

Sir, one of the rare gestures of friendship Iran has shown is its agreement regarding the energy and oil with India, which is a non-Muslim country. India is one country which received a Most Favoured Nation treatment from Iran. So, these are all things that happened in the recent past.

Iran always took a position in favour of India on issues which we were confronted by India's enemies abroad, and it is to that Iran we have done injustice. I could understand if the Government did not want to favour Iran due to its own reasons. I can understand that. But there are countries favouring Iran in the IAEA. But why India failed to abstain? The argument advanced by the Government is not very convincing. First of all, it is not the national consensus that India should vote against Iran.

Secondly, if the security concerns are the great things about which we are concerned, then who does not know that in our neighbourhood Pakistan is having bomb? China is having bomb. Undeclared piles of nuclear arms are there with Israel. Israel is threatening the whole of West Asia, the countries whom they consider to be their enemies that they will use nuclear weapons against them. So, if in the neighbourhood another nuclear bomb is coming and that is the great concern that we are worried about, then I do not think it holds good because we live in a world, in Asia where, as I explained, there are countries in our neighbourhood having nuclear weapons with them. That does not mean that everyone should have nuclear weapon. I do not subscribe to that view. But that is precisely the argument that America is advancing.

They are asking why we are not signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Apparently, it looks very good that nobody should have nuclear weapons. Only those who have it, they will have it. No more countries will have it. We cannot agree with that. We are not agreeing to that.

Now, President Bush says that if Iran does not fall in line, they will attack that country. There are threats: "Iran and Syria are outlaw regimes." Who is to decide that regimes are outlaw regimes? Iran and Syria are outlaw regimes and they deserve no patience from the victims of terror. Do you know who made this statement? It was President Bush. It is a unilateral decision. He thinks that he can take unilateral decision and commit aggression on any country of his choice in the world today. We cannot agree with that. India cannot agree to that position. Some others might agree. We have seen this.

. With whose sanction, America committed aggression on Iraq? This House did not support that. It was discussed in the United Nations, not once but several times. The Security Council never gave permission. Then, President Bush and his Administration found that they would not get permission from the Security Council and they defied the UN. They called the NATO, their military allies, and they unleashed an attack on a poor country like Iraq.

It is not the question whether you support Saddam Hussein or not. Forget about Saddam Hussein. A country was ravaged. A country was attacked with all the weapons under their possession, excepting probably the nuclear weapons. A country was bombed to rubbles. One of the ancient civilisations of this world had been destroyed there, which was there on the banks of Euphrates and Tigris. That was done by President Bush. What was the excuse? He said: "They have weapons of mass destruction."

The UN inspectors, one after another inspected, but could not find anything. Then, they said: 'CIA has said so'. My goodness! The CIA said that and it becomes more important than what the UN inspectors say. In the name of what the CIA has said, they attacked a country, a non-aligned nation, one of the developing countries and attacked them and brought them to submission and the aggression still continues. They are there. Several thousands of their military-men are still there in Iraq. While saying that it is an outlawed regime, President Bush points his finger at Iran - 'we will treat you like Iraq'. Can we agree to this? He said of two countries outlawed regime like Iran and Syria.

Sir, now, let me mention this. The hon. Leader of the House is present here. There was an answer given by my friend, Shri E. Ahamed, the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs, in this House. The question was like this — whether there is an American pressure under which a certain agreement we have entered into with Syria is not being implemented. The answer he had given was no and the rest of the portion he said "does not arise". ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to say that he has mentioned about Iran and not Syria. ...*(Interruptions)* As a matter of fact, there are similar questions in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. That question has been corrected. Quite unfortunately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has been corrected.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E AHAMED: I had already corrected it. The Minister has a right to make corrections in the answers given in the House. I had given the correct answer.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The hon. Minister has to come here to correct to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: However, he had corrected it.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I have already given a notice to the hon. Speaker for permission to correct the answer to the Hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, we have given a notice of privilege against him for giving this answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before that he has corrected.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: No, he has to come to this House to correct the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, I have given the notice. I sought the permission of the Hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He had put forth a note for correction.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: He has to come and correct the answer on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: I am very sorry. My learned, good friend, who is a senior parliamentarian, is trying to mislead the House like this. As soon as it was brought to my notice, I had corrected it. I have asked the permission of the hon. Speaker to correct the answer in the House. I am told that I had to wait till Wednesday only because that is a question day for my Ministry. Then I will correct the answer in the House. At least, believe me. My answer in the Rajya Sabha was corrected. He is unnecessarily creating a disturbance in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister had already made correction.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: He has given a notice for correction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: I have already submitted to the Secretary-General. I have expressed my regret also as to what had happened in the Ministry. The same question I answered correctly in the Rajya Sabha. If there is any intention to mislead, then why should I give one reply here and one reply there? It was the mistake happened in the Ministry. I regret that and I corrected. I gave the notice for the permission of the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)* This is very bad. Every Minister has a right to correct the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the chapter should be closed. He has given a notice for the correction.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: It is because we have given a notice of privilege on which we are waiting the hon. Speaker's decision. We will raise it in the House. The question is when they say that this is a rouge country, they say that this is also a rouge country. Are we to dance accordingly? Are we expected to do that?

Now, we have discussed the American Ambassador's conduct in the House. I am not going into it as several discussions took place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. He has given a notice.

[Translation]

And he has felt sorry for the same. Where he has felt sorry then it should not have been raised.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, you are misunderstanding. I am not referring to that issue. That issue is over. We will discuss it when the privilege motion comes in the House.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, he has given a notice of privilege after I have corrected it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: The hon. Minister is excessively worried about the notice it seems. The Kerala elections also will not help. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, coming to the point about the American Ambassador, I do not use harsh words because he is the Ambassador of America. He said that unless we vote with the United States the nuclear agreements would die in the American Congress. My Goodness! From where does he get this audacity to threaten a country like India like this? He is threatening us — it will die there. I do not know whether it will die or whether at all it is coming up. I do not know.

Now the U.S. President is already slipping out. He said that India may not be given the right to reprocess the nuclear waste because we are not scientifically so developed. We are given, probably, the option that 'you buy it from us, we will sell you'. I do not know whether that is what the Government of India bargained for. But that is what President Bush said in unmistakable terms in the Asia Tie Society meeting in Washington.

That is again doubtful whether we are getting it. But we are told even then that it will die in the Congress 'unless you vote with us'. Is it not shameful that that Ambassador has been called to the Ministry? Did he regret? I could have understood if he had expressed 'I am sorry for it'. He did not say so. He is a mighty Viceroy-type

person. He said — 'I am quoted out of context'. We got thrilled. He said - he is quoted out of context. What is that out of context? He is the Ambassador representing a country. If he said anything, it has to be taken that it is the opinion of that Government. After saying that he said that he has been quoted out of context, we should have had the guts to tell him that we will not take that explanation. But the Government seems to have swallowed that explanation. He is still here. He is speaking about FDI, he is advising the Chief Ministers, he is giving us advice on policies.

Here the question is — let us remember for a while the National Common Minimum Programme. It says that 'we will uphold the traditional policy of non-alignment, independent foreign policy'. Is the Government doing that? What is this anti-imperialist foreign policy of non-alignment? It is not something that the Communists say. Now, nobody should think like that. It is a policy evolved through ages. India fought against imperialism along with more than 100 countries all over the world who were once colonies of the imperial powers. In those days, those colonial powers used to tell us that they are carrying the white man's burden of civilising the society. They always found a reason why they were in countries like India, in the continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America. They had a civilising mission.

Today we have united States. Especially after the demise of the Soviet Union, in a unipolar world, how does President Bush behave? He behaves as if he has the right to decide who is a rogue country, whose policy is good or bad or everything. He is deciding, at his sweet will, defying all the international laws, defying all the international organisations to which we are all already members. He can commit aggression against countries of his choice.

Sir, we do not think that even today the countries of the world are so poor or so weak that they have to submit to the United States like that. There are many issues on which countries, including India, take strong positions, but the USA hardly cares for them. Is it not a fact that they came out of the Kyoto Agreement on environment unilaterally? That is their respect for international agreements.

I told about the UN with what scant respect the US had defied UN and attacked Iraq. In the United Nations General Assembly, America stands so isolated that they have only two allies — Israel and Marshall Island. I do not know which part of the world it belongs to! With these two

allies, they are continuing. The world has denounced the economic embargo on Cuba in successive sessions of the United Nations. They have only these two friends, but they are strong. They deny the normal right of that country to survive in this globe. They may declare war against Cuba. Already undeclared wars are there. So, U.S. is a country that does not respect international laws, a country that does not respect its own commitment to other countries. Now the case at present is our own case.

Our Prime Minister signed an agreement, about which the Prime Minister is going to make a statement today, thinking that we are going to get reprocessing facilities of the nuclear waste, that facility will be there and it help us so that we catch up with the time. They say, probably you will not get as you are not so much developed scientifically and there are other countries which are developed and they will process it for you and we will send it to you. This is what President Bush said. He has not come so far. Now the Press has already reported that he will come, but he will not sign probably the nuclear agreement.

This is the kind of friend for whom we have betrayed a country that stood with us in those days when we were in difficulty, stood with us like a rock. Not only that, we should also see how they threatened and how we bend. I am sorry to say that it was the Prime Minister who made one of the first statements about the viability of Indo-Iran pipeline project, when he was in Washington, USA to sign the agreement with President Bush. Everybody was surprised because in this House, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was repeatedly saying that that is going to be an agreement which will make India self-sufficient in fuel, self-sufficient in energy. When our Prime Minister was visiting USA, he said 'I do not know. Probably the viability has to be studied.'

Now in this statement under discussion, he says that we are looking at it and professional experts are working on it, but Press reports said that the head of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was rolling because here the American Ambassador is threatening that you do not go with Syria. President Bush is saying that Syria is a rogue country. My sympathies are with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. He lost his portfolio. ...*(Interruptions)* I am waiting to hear your speech on this. You will have a good acrobatic show here. I will hear you.

Coming to the point what we should have done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than 25 minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: I am going to conclude. I will not put you in an embarrassing situation.

How we could have voted? We could have easily abstained. There were countries who are friends of India like Brazil, Argentina, etc. I have a list of countries who were all abstaining, and we voted with the European Three and P-3 great powers. Now, they say that we are in good company. No, Sir, you are not in good company.

As regards the great powers, you may say that China is there, Russia is there — though Russia is a different Russia today — but who does not know that they have the veto power. If the problem comes in the United Nations Security Council and if a decision is taken which is not to their satisfaction, then they can veto it. On the other hand, we are not even a Member of the Security Council. We can only sit and watch on the ringside of the Security Council. This is our position. Therefore, we should have abstained from it to show the people of Iran — I am not saying the regime of Iran — that you are not betraying the faith that they have bestowed in India all the time in the past.

While concluding my speech I will say that again a voting is coming on this issue in the first week of March, namely, on 6th March. We should put this shameful episode behind us. I do not say that we should vote for the Motion, and I do not say that we should vote with Iran — if you have very great difficulties — but you should abstain to show the world that India is not supporting those who are twisting our hands.

Sir, you might have read Macbeth. The Government's position today reminds me of four lines of Macbeth, which I will try to recall from my memory though I am not very good at memorising:

"All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this tiny little hand.

All the waters of the seven seas would not wash this blood from your hands..."

This is what lady Macbeth has been told for the historic betrayal. This is a tragedy, which the world remembers even today. Shakespeare told that all the perfume of Arabia will not sweeten this hand. It was eminent leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who evolved the

policy of Non-alignment. The policy of Non-alignment is no concern, but Bush's browbeating becomes a concern to you. I do not say capitulation and I do not say surrender, but you have given a dirty tilt to India's policy of Non-Alignment, which the people of this country will not accept. They will reject that policy, and I am sure about it. Therefore, I appeal, through you, to the parties in this House to make their position very clear as to what they think about it. I wait eagerly to hear what my friends from BJP will say about their natural friend.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Thank you, Sir. Today, we are discussing a matter consequent to the hon. Prime Minister's suo motu statement given in the House on 17th February 2006 with regard to the India's vote on Iran in the IAEA.

We all know the background of this issue, but just to recapitulate in brief, the whole issue started in September, 2005 when some sort of vote had to be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI: India was put in an awkward position apparently because the Government were not properly prepared.

Fortunately, for us, at that time, that Resolution was amended, and we could have an excuse for seeking more time. But even after that, on 4th February, 2006 we did not seem to have reacted properly with the kind of thought process that ought to have gone into it much earlier, from the very day when they took over in May, 2004. Even from September till February this year, when the second vote had to be given, and this time the Resolution was clearly against Iran, India again voted for it, and hence this problem had come up.

Before I get on to the objections and comments we have, I want to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that the way, as I said, this Government had handled this issue clearly indicates that ever since they came into the power in May, 2004, they did not seem to have given the type of importance that we should have given to Iran.

The hon. Prime Minister, in his Statement, has said that our relationship with Iran was 'civilisation' in nature. We have very old relationship with them. In fact, before partition, our boundary was, till 1947, with Iran. Before that and even after that, we have had good relations. The NDA

Government had tried to keep this relationship going. With proper diplomatic activities, we had been able to keep the situation in such a way that it was prevented from escalating. But after 2004, this Government seems to have either presumed or ignored, and I cannot imagine why, but we became suddenly remote from this problem of Iran getting weaponised nuclear system.

I think, the entire thought process of the Government as regards Iran was one-line agenda, and that was "gas pipeline-centred." Everything else did not matter to them. Apparently, they were under some impression that things would keep going. This problem of Iran getting into weaponised nuclear field is not new. They have been carrying out nuclear research for a long time. Some three to five years back, it was known that they were in the process of acquiring some capability for nuclearising their weapon system. It was not unknown; it was known. With proper diplomatic skills, backdoor diplomacy, making use of our historical friendship with Iran, and also the fact that we are one of the Founder Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and, therefore, we ought to have had much better say. We could have manipulated our way or used our position there in a manner that you could have, if not frozen, at least, kept this whole process going slow and tried to solve it. However, apparently, as I said, this Government did not think of doing any such thing and with the result, voting was forced, in a way, on this Government and forced on everybody. They were not prepared, they were taken aback, and they reacted in a knee-jerk manner. Having not planned their strategy properly, they just followed the leader. As Mr. Chandrappan said before me, I think, they were dumbstruck. They were shell-shocked, and they did not know what to do.

My objection and observation is that in diplomacy, these things should have been thought. It is not a one-day affair. It is a long process. But unfortunately, this Government with so many experienced people — they claim that they know how to govern; and we see that in some of the areas, they do really know how to survive — did not tackle it properly. In this context, I also want to say that it was known that Pakistan was helping them in becoming nuclear.

14.00 hrs.

It was known not only to us but also to the entire world. In the IAEA meeting, our representative has said this as far back as in November last year. I just quote from the letter that he had written to the IAEA. It reads:

"Information made available will shed greater light on the clandestine proliferation activities of foreign intermediaries, particularly of Pakistan based A.Q. Khan laboratories." So, it is known all over. I am really surprised to hear the Prime Minister say in para 7 of his suo motu statement: "Hon. Members are aware that the source of such clandestine proliferation to sensitive technologies lies in our neighbourhood." I do not know for what reason he was very hesitant to name Pakistan. I do not know why he was hesitating to tell Pakistan that we know what they were doing, that everybody in the world knew it. This sort of confusion is in no way a diplomatic necessity. First of all it is known everywhere. Secondly, we are directly affected by it.

The USA started alleging that Iran is violating the NPT and is working on its programme to weaponise its nuclear systems. Then these two meetings took place and we voted against Iran. What was the repercussion of that vote? As per the statement of the hon. Prime Minister, up to 2003-04 Iran was helping, coordinating and cooperating with the IAEA. After 2004, gradually they started building up their nuclear programme. That is what I said. That was the time when this Government did not do anything of what it ought to have done. The repercussion of the vote is that Iran has now stopped cooperating with IAEA. They have started processing enriched uranium openly. I do not know how that has helped the whole process.

We are emerging as a world power. We are proud of it. The nation is proud of it. But we also have certain responsibility. When we started landing up in that position of an emerging world power, powerful player in this area, we have the responsibility to see that this area, all areas about which you are talking, does not become an erupting volcano. It is already a volcano with the type of various problems that are taking place. Apart from this there are many problems taking place in this area which are threatening not only our country but also the whole region. Therefore, being an emerging world power, we ought to have taken active part. What did this Government do? It has made no use of our ancient relationship with Iran. The Government could have tried to convince them; seen their point of view; held discussions with them; and then tried to reach a stage where a mutually agreeable solution could be found.

I have read in today's newspaper that the idea of Uranium being enriched in Russia is again taking shape. Why is this happening after the vote? Could all this have not been done much earlier during 2004? Could we not

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

have tried to explain to Iran, tried to meet what they wanted, tried to prevent them, tried to advise them, or tried to suggest them that their going nuclear was not in the interest of the entire world? That area is already a volcano and it is ready to erupt. So, as a nation, apart from other things as an emerging world leader, we have some responsibility. I think this Government has totally failed on this issue.

I would like to now bring other things to the notice of UPA Government and its leaders. I do not know why the Opposition was not properly consulted on this issue. I am quite sure the Opposition leaders could have conveyed their views. They may have agreed or disagreed, the Government may have accepted their views or not accepted. But the Government did not even consult the Opposition leaders. On major issues, whether this issue or the issue of US Ambassador's statement on this - which the Prime Minister has not talked about but I will - there has been no substantive consultation. We have all been saying that foreign policy of the country is a continuous process. It is neither your policy nor our policy. It is a continuous process. We should rise above party politics. I say it with great sadness. I do not know why you have kept to yourselves as if it is an internal affair and did not consult the Opposition.

All this leads me to wonder that after the 4th of February, 2006 and even after 24th September, 2005, why this Government reacted the way it has reacted. The only thing I can surmise is that this Government is not prepared. Again post-September, 2005, then, even after 4th February and until now, as I said, they started feeling shell-shocked. They seem to have been mesmerized and did not know what to do. Then they gave a knee-jerk reaction, and on 4th February, 2006, they voted. They followed the "leader," follow the "boss" and vote. They had not taken the step in their own interest. We have not taken the step based purely in our national interest. If they had taken the step in the national interest, the entire nation should have known the same. There would have been no opposition. I do not think anybody would disagree if it concerns the national interest. If it was very much in the national interest, that should have involved everyone. But our impression is that this Government was so shell-shocked. If you are going in an area, which is not thickly populated, particularly in the forest areas, when you see a rabbit, the moment the rabbit sees the light, he freezes or mesmerises. If there is a shikari sitting inside, he takes the potshot. I think that this Government just did that. There was no consultation, no planning and no proposals with the result we have now

landed in a state where our friends from the Left are making very serious noises, quite rightly some time.

The Government should have handled the whole situation better. Now, having said all that, I wish to make one thing very clear. The strategic interest of the nation must always come first - everything, everywhere. In this case, our national interest is clear, at least, according to us, we do not have to have another nuclear weapon State in this region, which I have already said that it would be a 'volcano'. We have no doubt about it. We do not want another nuclear weapon State in this region. But was forcing a vote, only option was available to us. It was not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maj. General (Retd.) Khanduri, please do not address the individual, address the Chair.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I am sorry, Sir.

I can see my *bhanja* sitting there and smiling. This smile will vanish very soon when you see the consequences.

Sir, again I am only stating that there is no diverse thinking if national interest is taken care of but the Government has failed to take the nation in confidence in both votings. It is both creating enemy and also not putting its points properly in regard to a nuclear weapon State in the region. This could have been done. There is no difficulty. I would like to remind the Government as to how we have been managing the matter of a nuclear weapon State in the Region. As I read out, another nuclear weapon State would be added in the Region, along with Pakistan. This is a very important point. I do not think that if it had been addressed properly, this situation would not have arisen. Even the Left, I think, must see the reason. Of course, I do not know if they would, because they are very agitated about our trying to obstruct Iran becoming a nuclear weapon State. But what did they do when Pokran-II happened in India in 1998? On India becoming a nuclear weapon State in 1998, the left objected to it vociferously, objecting and hurling adjectives and abuses at the then Indian Government. All the same, the Government should have seen the national interest and consulted all political parties particularly the main opposition. And the Left parties are their "co-partners." They have been speaking against the Government many times but ultimately they support the Government. They are not going to walk out of the Government. Therefore, in this case, I would like to repeat

that even at the cost of misunderstanding, misinterpreting, we have no difference of opinion and that we do not want Iran or any other country in this Region to be a nuclear weapon State. But my objection is only to the way the Government had reacted. They have mishandled the whole issue and in the bargain, India is being treated as if there is a lack of friendship or devoid of friendship with Iran, which is a long-standing friend. The Government also have not been able to put up our national interest in proper perspective.

Thirdly, what have they merely done? Their action is that of the "camp follower" of USA. Our vote was not based on our national interest but because somebody is telling them to do this or that. This is the impression Government have created. Therefore, the Government has totally failed on this. We are of the opinion that proper home work, active anticipatory diplomacy, back-stage diplomacy, utilising our ancient friendship with Iran and also trying to convince the USA that they cannot go too far every time and everywhere, should have been done. But in our opinion, this was not done. That has resulted in a very awkward situation. We did not utilise our status as the founder member of the IAEA and also our growing international power.

Now, I come to another aspect, that is, about Mr. Mulford's comment. We all know about those comments. They are related to our vote on Iran. I do not have to talk about what he said and what was his objection. But again, I wanted to see the reaction of this Government. Once again, they were thunder-struck, and dumb-founded. There was no reaction for two days when such an amazing statement was made by an Ambassador. It was virtually as if we are slaves. There was no reaction of the Government for two days. And then the hon. Prime Minister had to go to Assam and say that "to err is human." It is very nice. When such a wrong statement has been made, when such an arrogant statement has been made, the Government of India has to say that "to err is human." I want to convey to the hon. Prime Minister that in diplomacy, just as in a war, there is no way that one can hide and seek shelter behind this statement - to err is human. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): What is the objection in that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: When he was in Assam, he gave that statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Khanduri says.

(Interruptions)...*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I was saying that in a diplomacy just as in war, one cannot hide behind one's mistakes. One cannot say that to err is human. In a war, if one makes a mistake, he is shot dead. Similarly, in diplomacy, if one makes a mistake — it was not a mistake, it was an arrogant blunder — one gets dumped or sacked. One cannot just wish it away by saying that to err is human. It is more surprising and more insulting that the hon. Prime Minister in his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in Rajya Sabha, spent some time on the letter written to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He was expressing his anger and anguish. It was rightly so. I agree that he has got all the justification to show his anger for that letter. But there is no anger or anguish expressed when the nation is humiliated and insulted. There is no word for that except to say 'to err is human'. What message are they conveying? It is a shameful act. I do not know how the Prime Minister can do such a thing. I know, they have to please the Left. But, there are many ways to please them. Is it at the cost of the nation that Government want to please them? Please do not lean so much backwards and Leftwards; your back-bone might get damaged. I take it an amazing incident. I am not saying that he should not have said what he said about West Bengal that it was a wrong action. But a much bigger blunder had been done by insulting and humiliating the nation. There is nothing about that, there is no castigation.

Before I end, I want to make two points. One is that we believe that the friendship between India and USA is necessary. The strategic friendship between India and USA is good in our interest also.

But this friendship must be on equal terms. At no point of time, you should seem to be or perceived to be following them as a younger brother, as if big boss is calling, you are following them, or as a slave just following the dictates.

Therefore, as the Left were just wanting me to make it clear, I am making it clear that we are for making strategic friendship with USA but not on their terms, not as unequal

* Not recorded.

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

partners. It should be on the basis of equal partners. Here, I would like quote what President Clinton had said once, when he was talking about such issues: "Friends do not have to agree on every issue. They just have to have an honest relationship about it."

We are now in a position, Sir, when nobody can push us around. Those days are gone when we were depending on PL-480 or somebody's help. India does not need that sort of help now. India does not have to compromise. We are now a country, which can have friendship on our terms. But the impression that has gone is that we are just tagging behind somebody who is powerful. I hope that this impression is wrong, that it is not so; and this Government is not going to follow this sort of a policy towards USA or towards any country. We want friendship. A long-term strategic friendship with USA will be good and in our interest. Today, we have as much to give to USA as they have. They are no more the donors and we are no more the receivers.

Therefore, Sir, in the end, I would make three points. Our national interest and strategic interest has to be protected. There should be no compromise on it. We will always support this Government as long as the things are in the national interest. In this context, I would also want to convey to the Government that they as a Government of the largest democracy, which is emerging as a world power, have a responsibility in this entire region. It is the responsibility of this Government to help in defusing the situation and prevent its eruption as much as it is possible.

The second point that I would like to make is that we must develop our relationship with Iran. It is our ancient friend. This incident has taken place. We should try and remove the misunderstandings. Iran is, as the Prime Minister himself said our civilisation friend. As has been brought out, they have helped us in times of our difficulties. We must not be ungrateful to anybody. Our national interest has to be explained to them. Similarly, their national interest has to be understood. As I just quoted President Clinton, we do not have to agree on everything friends do not have to agree on every point. They do not have to agree with us and we do not have to agree with them. But there must be an honest attempt to convey to them that we want to be friends with them, and of course, it has to be subject to the limitations of their interest and our national interest.

With that I complete my statement by saying that the handling of the situation by this Government, as regards

the Vote on Iran has been pathetic and most unsatisfactory. I hope, they have learnt a lesson from this, particularly, in relation to consulting all parties, all Opposition leaders.

14.19 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened two hon. Members expressing their views on the issues of Voting on Iran at IAEA on two occasions on nuclear related issues to Iran.

An impression is attempted to be created that by these actions, we have entered into some sort of hostile relationship; or some sort of animus has been created between India and Iran. Mr. Chandrappan has gone to the extent of using the words that we have betrayed the interests of Iran.

Factually, it is not correct. On 21st February, after the voting on 4-5 February, my colleague Shri E. Ahamed had been at Tehran and he had the privilege of calling on His Excellency the President Ahmadinejad on 21st February.

Once again he explained our position and that position is this. Our strong and abiding commitment to maintaining and promoting the most friendly and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries is there. It was appreciated by His Excellency the President in right spirit and he conveyed, through Shri Ahamed, that friendship between India and Iran must be maintained and nothing should be allowed to disturb that relationship.

I would like to comment on the rationale of two voting in September and in February; but before that, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the statement which the hon. Prime Minister made and which speaks of the relationship between India and Iran.

When we take part on sensitive issues like our relationships with very old friends, we should avoid or at least try to avoid, being too hyperbolic or being too rhetoric. After all, what is foreign policy? Foreign policy of every nation including India is an extension and promotion of its basic fundamental national interests. It is applicable to USA; it is applicable to India; it is applicable to Iran; and it is applicable to everybody. That policy is being pursued not only after Independence, but that was being pursued even before Independence.

I would not like to score a debating point by referring to the views of some of the political parties who have

forgotten what they said - because foreign policy is a continuing one — about the role of India at a very particular momentous historical point.

I would just like to point out that the policies which we are pursuing is the enlightened national interest. What is that enlightened national interest? I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to what the Prime Minister informed in the House in his Statement. It is from the bottom paragraph of Page 2 where the Prime Minister stated:

"Our unshakeable conviction that such a sensitive issue, which concerns the rights and international obligations of a sovereign nation and a proud people can only be addressed through calm, reasoned diplomacy and the willingness on all sides to eschew confrontation and seek acceptable compromise solutions "

We are trying to do so exactly the same and nothing more, nothing less. What did we do in September?

The hon. Member may recollect that in September there was a Resolution of EU III, UK, France and Germany, two of which are the Permanent Members of the Security Council. Germany is not the Permanent Member. EU III brought a Resolution and the substance of that Resolution was to refer the matter to the Security Council. It is not that we did not take any initiative. We took the initiative. We talked to everybody concerned. As Gen. Khanduri has pointed out, of course he has used very strong words like an ex-General. In the battlefield he cannot make a mistake because a mistake wins a shot on the spot and death. In diplomacy also he used such words. There may not be death but some moment of embarrassment or awkwardness. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that the language and the phrases which you have used have the military sense. That is the lighter side of the story.

The point which I am trying to drive at is that at that point of time our negotiating position was that if EU is dissuaded from referring it to the Security Council and given a chance of diplomacy to play some more time within the IAEA family, we should try to do that. We did that exactly. It was not referred to. It was deferred till November. Time was given. Most respectfully I would like to submit that even in IAEA, as like all international fora, decisions are taken through consensus. In IAEA only twice they were through votes. One was in September and another in February. What happened in February? Efforts were being made. Russia was also making efforts. They were

talking. We were also talking. We explained our position that we do believe, we stated in a very clear unmistakable term, that Iran has the legal right to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with its international commitments and obligations. It is incumbent upon Iran to exercise its right in the context of safeguards that it has voluntarily accepted upon its nuclear programme under the IAEA. We are exactly trying to do that with the help of other countries.

When the discussions took place informally amongst the various leaders, suggestions were made to try to evolve a consensus among the NAM countries. You have noticed the voting pattern in February. Out of 16 Non-Aligned Countries, including one Observer Brazil, three - Syria, Cuba and Venezuela - voted against it. Five remained abstained and eight of the Non-Aligned Countries including India were with P-5 countries. Whether at that point of time the option could have been taken to remain abstain or not is a matter of judgement. He has never stated, the whole text of the Prime Minister's Statement if you have studied, that the position is finally not yet clinched because the situations are evolving.

Certain stories have appeared even today in the newspapers that a serious exercise is being made by the Russians and I understand as per the newspaper report, Iran Nuclear Atomic Energy Chief, Shri Gholam-Reza-Aghazadeh said that we have reached a basic agreement on the creation of a joint venture to enrich Uranium.

I do not know what is the authenticity of the report because the details are yet to be ascertained. But if such an arrangement is being agreed upon, to my mind, it is a welcome development. In international arena every moment and every opportunity is to be seized to defuse the tension. What is our basic policy? What was our nuclear policy prior to 1998 and after 1998? Even after 1974, the stated position of this country was — and there was a broad consensus — that we have the capacity, we have the competence. But when we told the whole world for going against nuclear proliferation, when we opposed the nuclear proliferation and stockpiling we did that from the high moral position that we have the competence, the strength, the technology and the capacity, still we are on the threshold level. We are keeping our nuclear options open. But in May 1998, we closed that option and went for weaponisation. I am not going into the merit whether we did the correct thing or incorrect thing as, that has happened. When it has happened and when you have

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

done that, it is the *fait accompli*. The paste has come out of the tube and you cannot put the same paste in the same tube. It is simply not possible. India is a nuclear weapon State and very responsibly and unilaterally, India declared its nuclear doctrine of No First Use and No Use Against Non-Nuclear Weapon State. But at the same time, we must have credible deterrent, if we are attacked. As we have declared No First Use, it may happen that we may have to retaliate after being first attacked and that attack should be such which will be unacceptable to the attackers. That is the nuclear doctrine which we have. Till date, we are truthfully pursuing that policy. There is no deviation. It has been recognised. But does that mean that we have given up the path of non-proliferation? We have accepted the obligation of NPT of nuclear weapon States responsibility and obligation of following certain discipline but we did not sign NPT and we have no intention of signing NPT because we consider it as a flawed Treaty and it is discriminatory. But those who accepted the NPT and are signatory to NPT and have accepted the obligation, is it wrong to expect or to say that you have every right to pursue your programme for peaceful purposes but whatever obligations you have accepted under the safeguard arrangements please do pursue them? We have exactly done that and nothing more or nothing less. We are pursuing that policy. We do believe every country has its sovereign right to pursue its own policy. Every country has its own right to meet its energy requirements through peaceful utilisation of nuclear sources. But when you have accepted the international obligation and discipline of the international organisation, please try to do that.

Shri Chandrapan had asked as to whether we agree with the concept of somebody's rogue State. Who told we have accepted that? We have never accepted that. We neither had accepted it before, nor shall we accept it now or in the future. We have our own perceptions about each country. The very basic fundamental of our foreign policy is that we have no territorial ambition at the cost of others. We have no ideology to export. Therefore we are neither exporting any ideology, nor we have any territorial ambition. We believe, in letter and spirit, in the peaceful co-existence of each and every State. That is the fundamental policy we have accepted.

Where is the deviation? So many things have been brought within the purview of India's decision to vote on two occasions in the IAEA. I have mentioned that even without being a signatory to NPT India became a nuclear weapon State, whether it is recognised or not recognised is a different matter. What would happen to the nuclear

energy agreement which the hon. Prime Minister and President Bush signed on 18th of July? The hon. Prime Minister will make a statement on that and the hon. Members would have ample opportunity to discuss about it. We need not bring it within the purview of this discussion. But the short point that we are trying to arrive at is that this decision was taken independently keeping in view the broad consensus that we wanted to have. Surely, diplomacy is not Don Quixotic and we cannot play the role of a Sancho Panza.

India is a responsible State. India is a responsible country and its behaviour must be responsible. That is why I gave the example of what transpired between the Minister of State Shri E. Ahamed and His Excellency, the President of Iran on 21st of February when the interactions took place. Every country understand that. These nuances, these diplomatic usages are to be kept in view. Somebody may have a particular perception about a country. But it is not necessary that one will share that perception with that country. In the past it has happened. We have not shared that perception. When India had to help in the liberation struggle of Bangladesh, many countries had different perceptions. But that did not mean that we should have to sever our relationships with every country that had different perceptions.

Shri Chandrapan had used the word 'betrayed'. Betrayed whom and why? Please do not depend on incorrect factual positions. Every country takes its own decisions keeping its national interest in view. We do recognise the value of our friendship with Iran. That is why the hon. Prime Minister twice stated that it is their legitimate right as a sovereign nation, as proud people to pursue their own policies. No country can interfere with it. But at the same time, most respectfully we are pointing out about certain obligations that you have to accept. Please try to see that those obligations are fulfilled and that too not a decision has to be imposed upon.

What did we say? The hon. Prime Minister in his statement, in the last part has said,

"We have a strong and a valuable relationship with Iran which we would like to take forward in a manner that is mutually beneficial. We have great respect and admiration for the Iranian people with whom our fraternal ties go back to several million years. We have every intention to ensure that no shadow is cast on these bonds."

On a number of occasions, friendly countries differ

and take different decisions. There is nothing new in it. In international practice, this is common. We never supported Iraq issue when it was brought up. I do not think there is any similarity or there is any relevance in this. We never believe in even unipolar world. We believe that many more power centres are emerging. Russia is emerging; China is emerging and economic power centres are emerging. In the whole history of the world, in the whole history of diplomacy, if you just try to categorize a period of ten to fifteen to twenty years, to my mind, it would be some sort of a misinterpretation of event and history. Our foreign policy is firmly wedded with our ideological value systems which we have evolved through our Independence struggle and which we have pursued from the very beginning. There is no question of deviating from there. But, at the same time, it is to be kept in view that the world is not stagnant. It does not remain in a particular time frame and in a particular ideological frame. We have seen that in the first half of the last century there were countries fighting against each other. You shut your eyes and try to remember the littoral States of the Mediterranean. The history of Europe has been dominated for almost 300 years by those countries, by fighting against each other including the First World War and the Second World War in the first half of the last century. England, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy are the countries who fought against each other for 300 years. But we have seen a metamorphosis in the last 50 years of the last century. These very countries were not merely talking of a common market. They started with a common European market. Today, they are talking about common currency, common security policy, common foreign policy, European Parliament and new political ideologies which are emerging from the horizon. Can any dynamic policy remain stagnant of the old theory of Balance of Power which prevailed before the establishment of UNO in the first half of the last century? Is that old concept of Balance of Power (BOP) relevant today?

Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, my most respectful submission is, we greatly honour and value our relationship with Iran. In IAEA, we will continue to pursue to evolve a consensus, to evolve an arrangement which will be applicable and acceptable to all the concerned countries. We do feel that in a sensitive matter like this, we should have more time, more patience and more talks and not to precipitate by taking a confrontationist position. We should try to eschew as far as possible rhetoric and high sounding words. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Sir, I would like

to have a clarification. We do agree with the Minister as regards our friendly countries. As far as the Sixth Meeting to be held in Vienna with the Board of Directors of the IAEA, should we to take that our country is not going to participate in the matter of discussion? Even in case we participate, should we to take that we are not going to vote against Iran? This is my first question.

If it is not there on some diplomatic reasons, as you rightly said, Sir, that uranium enrichment, if it is made on the soil of Russia, if Iran agrees for that, that is a good diplomacy. We do agree. If it is going to be done in Iran, others may not agree as per the guidelines of IAEA. Are we to take that, on that force, matter will be again put off as far as voting is concerned on sixth? If it comes up for voting, how will you take it?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member is a knowledgeable person. As I mentioned, in IAEA only, twice the voting took place — in September and the last February. Earlier, every decision was taken through consensus. I do not have the full facts. Details are yet to be made available. But what appears in the newspaper, as per the statement of the Chief of the Nuclear Energy of Iran, is that in the discussion which is taking place between Russia and Iran, some solution is possible. If it actually takes place, I have stated that it is a welcome development and we should try to pursue it, yet if it is possible. But, at this point of time, it is difficult to make any commitment as to what will happen on the sixth.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my disappointment with the conduct of the Government has been further deepened after the Prime Minister's statement, by the intervention of the hon. Defence Minister. Once a management trainee asked the teacher: "Sir, what am I to do when I cannot convince the buyer about my product?" The teacher said: "Confuse him." If you cannot convince, confuse him." The Prime Minister has tried to confuse and the Defence Minister has tried to further confuse. The issue is not whether there will be a joint venture with Russia or, for that matter, whether it will be a consensus on the sixth of March or not. The first thing is whether the Government has changed its stand from the pre-24 September to the post-24 September and the February 3 voting. Why is this change? It is because changes have taken place in the world; changes have taken place in Europe. It is not like that. The Prime Minister is speaking about the changing times. The Defence Minister is waxing eloquent about changing time. Why is this change between the pre-24 September stand of the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Government of India and the latest stand? Is the Government of India convinced that Iran has violated? There is no proof. IAEA has never stated this. A country has been trying to engage itself in peaceful nuclear use and its centrifuges being used on a very, very small scale. The experts have opined, the global experts on nuclear weapons have opined that the status of Iran with regard to uranium enrichment is at such a low level that Iran will take several decades to reach that stage. Iran has voluntarily accepted additional safeguards. Go anywhere, speak to anyone and inquire anything you like.

Iran also agreed and said: "You can see anything you like; visit any place in any location; you can do whatever you like to do but we have a right to pursue our independent nuclear programme for peaceful purposes." That is the situation. It is a re-doing of the Iraq scene. The same thing is happening. It is said that Iran is an axis of evil. This is there in the State of the Union Address of the American President. The regime changed long back.

What do the pre-emptive interventions mean? I have nuclear power. I threaten you. I will not allow anyone else to have it. As a country, India was suffering from nuclear apartheid policy for 30 years from 1974. I am not using the word 'betrayal.' Iran has always stood by India on the issue of terrorism, on the issue of Islamic country doing some thing else, on the issue of Kashmir, extending a helping hand in the Iranian gas pipeline, and almost on every issue. Even in respect of meeting the Taliban menace, India was having an access to West Asia because of Iran. I am not using the word 'betrayal.' What has Iran done against you? Please tell me about that. Has Iran done anything? But what has the US done? It used Iraq against Iran.

Speaking about terrorism, I would submit that it is the super terrorist who created Osama Bin Laden, who encouraged the Shah of Iran to have the nuclear weapons, to start the nuclear programme. When democracy started gaining ground, the Shah was patronised and tried to be helped by America. It is destabilisation. We have to see the context of the American game plan. It is not only about sanctions for decades against Iraq. More than one lakh Iraqis were already killed. It was said that Iraq was having Weapons of Mass Destruction. They sent the inspector. They suddenly stopped it. There is no inspection. Dr. Hans Blix, the most reputed inspector, said that the US has a game plan. They are not interested in any inspection; they are not interested in finding out the truth. Ultimately, what happened? It was found out that Iraq had no Weapons of

Mass Destruction but the country was destroyed, looted and democracy is gone for ever.

14.53 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

Mr. Saddam is in jail. It is doing so not only in the case of Iraq but it is doing the same thing in Iran, Venezuela. For decades, sanctions against Cuba are continuing. Many Latin American countries are suffering. It is said: "You visit America. You are my friend and I am with you." It is not any discovery. The theme is: "Be with us or against us." There is the State of the Union Address saying "Be with us or against us. India, be with us. Or, we shall consider you are against us. We will not allow you to pursue your independent, sovereign nuclear research programme." The same thing is happening in the case of Iran.

So, with a heavy heart and full of anguish, I would say that in the last 56 years, many things happened to India. There were many ups and downs. But, never before, has any Government surrendered in such a manner and succumbed to the threat. Has it ever happened before?

The US Ambassador Mr. David Mulford was saying: "Vote in favour of America, along with America against Iran. Otherwise, our US Congressmen will kill your Indo-US Defence Treaty." Is he not sermonising how the Left Parties should behave? Is he not writing a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, going beyond his diplomatic jurisdiction? He is threatening. Is the threat coming only from Mr. David Mulford? Please refer to the speech of Ms. Condolezza Rice on 26th January.

If you go back, several Congressmen, several important individuals belonging to the American Establishment are threatening. Have we come out with any public statement by the Prime Minister or by anyone in the Government? If this is not pressure what is it? We are not convinced about it. It is unacceptable. The Left has been consistently trying to convince and caution the Government. You are committed in the CMP for an independent foreign policy. Do not go. You are already getting isolated. Look at what is demonstrated in elections. The Congress is losing ground. It is getting isolated. It is forgetting its own legacy. I am not using any hard word but as if they are ridiculing their own past by trying to redefine nonalignment. What does they say? One new nuclear weapon State in our neighbourhood is not in national interest. Is Israel not

there? Have you spoken a word about Israel which is always threatening, threatening daily, and which has a plan to attack Iran with US? No. Iran is to be targeted. We remember here they say that the world has changed. No, it is they who have changed. In this very House, when the Iraq resolution came — India has a track record — let us not use the word 'condemnation'.

[Translation]

Ninda will do in hindi, but they threatened. NDA used to threaten and Congress has also followed the same path. Then Congress has said

[English]

we do not agree with the position taken by the NDA Government. Now, what has happened? You have changed. Yqu are succumbing to 'with us or against us'.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Can I just. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he agrees, I have no objection otherwise I would not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be in the air. Nothing will go on record. You shall continue.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, still I am not using any hard word. The Congress Party has a glorious legacy of anti-imperialism. It is India which is not only a founder member of NAM, it has always championed the cause of NAM. But what happened on the sidelines of this February

debate, February resolution? It was Malaysia. Malaysia had to Chair the NAM meeting. Sir, amongst 16 members, three were against it and five abstained. Had the UPA Government taken the initiative — everyone was waiting — the story would have been different. But India has forgotten its leadership role in NAM. That is the tragedy. That is the thing. But, still I am not using any hard word because they may salvage the situation. We believe in their sincerity. It happened in the past also. We believe that when another occasion will come on 6th of March, they will rectify the situation. It is because if they do not rectify the situation, what will happen? What is the post-September and post-February situation? Iran has voluntarily accepted the additional protocol. Go anywhere, see anything, speak to anyone but we have a right to pursue our nuclear programme for peaceful means. You know that it is such a small measure. The centrifuges are so small that nuclear weapon State level cannot be achieved by it. We know that. They are very conscious about their obligations, so they had accepted voluntarily additional protocol but they were conscious about their sovereign rights.

15.00 hrs.

All the acquisitions were made prior to 2003 and more than 15 countries have violated it in various ways. In 2003, what was the position of Indo-Iran relationship? On 26th January, 2003, India had invited the President of Iran as the Chief Guest of our Republic Day. What was the agreement signed? There was a civil airlines agreement? Pakistan got panicky that Iran may allow India to go forward in such a manner that it will not be helpful for Pakistan. You know all these things, but what happened? You have been consistently taking a position that the solution will have to be found on the basis of consensus. Yes, the IAEA framework is on the basis of consensus and it will be done within that framework only. But how will it be referred to the UN Security Council now? Now, they have decided to withdraw from the additional protocol and said that they would remove inspections and shall continue to pursue their peaceful nuclear programme.

Sir, on this, there is a relationship to the Indo-US defence deal made on the 18th July, 2005 and it is not in India's national interest. If I say that it is in national interest to kill somebody, will it be right? If the Government does something wrong in the name of national interest, the people of this country will not accept it. Even the supporters of this Government are not accepting it, even the partners of this Government are not accepting it, leave alone the people of India. You are already getting isolated from the

* Not recorded.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

people of this country. The people are proud of their anti-imperialistic heritage and legacy, the heritage and legacy of the Non-Aligned Movement and if you pursue this wrong path, if you show your back to them, I caution you that the people will also turn back from you. I caution you again that Iran has not done anything wrong till today. I am not holding any brief for Iran. But as you know, inside Iran, the moderate people are raising their voice of democracy against the fundamentalism. After hearing the American President's State of the Union speech, even the moderates were infuriated. That is their game plan. There is a game plan of regime change. Ms. Condoleezza Rice has taken a huge fund, for the regime change, to be used in Iran. They plan pre-emptive intervention. What does it mean? What have they done in Iraq? In the face of such a situation where a helpless country facing the blackmail of the imperialist power militarily threatening along with Israel, we have left the country which never left us. Is it a change of course?

Sir, when the Prime Minister speaks about change within the Congress Party, I do not believe that he is speaking with introspection. Why is there this sudden change, sudden turn-around? It is unacceptable to us. I think this Government will revise its position and on the 6th of March, more pressure should be mounted. The American President is coming here. So many stories are going on. We have listened to the speech of the American President which he delivered at the Asia Society. It is containing certain dangerous things. We do not know what will happen. But he has his eyes on the huge Indian market of upper middle class. He says that Indians will be looking forward to the US for refrigerators and washing machines. The American President is speaking about Indians who are dominating the IT field in his own country.

We have our 35,000 boys and girls doing excellent jobs in international bodies and we are looking forward to America for washing machines. What idea has the American President about India? But still what can be done? He has his own views.

The New York Times has stated that India has acted in such a manner under US pressure. It is not the Left's mouthpiece nor any other progressive Left newspaper, but it is the New York Times which has stated this. The advice of the Left has been ignored, the views of the partners of the Government have been ignored and the Government has decided itself to go it alone under pressure. This will be disastrous for this country because there is no proof that Iran has done anything wrong. If any suspicion was

there with regard to the pre-2003, Iran clearly offered itself to examine, to visit, to inspect, to speak and to go to any location and stated, 'if you want additional safeguards, we are agreeable to the additional protocol'.

The hon. Defence Minister said, 'we have not signed NPT and we consider it to be a flaw, we consider it to be discriminatory'. Yes, but within the NPT, Americans game is to divide between the NPT countries also. That is the Americans plan to perpetuate the additional protocol. If you look into the whole scheme of things, sanctions continuing, the regime changed, fund is being taken, Israel is being prepared for a military attack and ultimately where voting has never taken place, voting has taken place in IAEA.

There has been a change in India's stand along with that of US after 18th of July. We should speak about 18th of July Indo-US Defence deal when the situation comes, when the occasion comes. But India has committed a grave mistake. It is unacceptable to us. It is in violation of the commitment made by the Congress and the UPA through the NCMP to the nation. This is the plan of America and we are just being a party to it and knowingly or unknowingly we are being put into a trap.

I am not quoting the eminent physicists, but after almost three years of go anywhere, see anything, interview anyone, inspections, etc. the IAEA inspectors have not found any indication that Iran had or ever had a nuclear weapons programme. That is the view. Iran is committed to non-proliferation. Iran is pursuing its peaceful nuclear programme. America does not like it. America wants to redominate West Asia. They have a plan similar to the plan they had in Iraq and now, we, in India, are being a party to this game plan. It will be disastrous for a country which is known for its non-aligned role, for its role as independent and anti-imperialist throughout its history.

Sir, I am concluding and adding two-three things to it. The Government is taking a position that P-5 countries have taken such a position, what can we do. Is it independence? China, Russia and other P-5 countries are in the Security Council. Will they support India to be a member of the Security Council? What is the US position? Even after the Indian Prime Minister had gone there and pleaded for it, they refused it bluntly. They were considering Japan and not India.

Those who are in the Security Council can take a particular stand. Some NAM countries may take a particular

stand. But we have a leading role and we have an independent position. Instead of trying to redefine nonalignment, you are over-emphasizing things like changes that have taken place or might have taken place. Rather this Government should have introspection. I am not using any hard word. 'Introspection' is never a hard word. If you do introspection, it will be good for them, it will be good for the country, and it will be good for the UPA Government. They should not forget that on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme only, this Government came to power. If they consistently ignore the correct and rational views of the Left Parties, then they will have to face the consequences. This is a sensitive issue. I am just cautioning them once more. This Government will get one more chance. Let the Government take a corrective measure. There is time even now to retract the position. Please do not succumb to the US pressure. Be independent in the true sense of the term so that the people of India can know that this Government has demarcated itself from the NDA Government, and do not speak in the tune of the RSS:

"We do not want any new nuclear power in our western neighbourhood."

The RSS has said: "We do not want any Islamic nuclear power anymore." Please do not speak in their voice. You differentiate from them. Otherwise, your fate will be similar to theirs. They had been into the dustbin. Please do not pursue their path, demarcate yourself, emphasize your independence and just revise and review your role on the 6th of March when you get another chance.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly I thank you because you gave me the opportunity to take part in this debate. We are discussing on India's stand in IAEA with relation to Iran, that how far is it justified, how far is it favourable for India, favourable to Indian traditions and favourable for our national interests.

Sir, I regret to say that after hearing the Hon. Prime Minister's statement and today its justification by Hon. Minister of Defence. I felt dejected and it got certified that India which was known in the world as founder of Non-aligned movement and for creating conducive environment for easing world tension, today it has been taking all steps under the influence of only world power and has become its puppet and tool. This is very unfortunate.

Sir, However, the Hon. Minister of Defence did say one thing that every 10-15 years conditions of the world change and according to those conditions our non-alignment policy and foreign policy also gets changed. As far as foreign policy and non-alignment are concerned, there can be changes depending on the conditions prevailing in the world, but only a weak nation changes its basic tenets.

Sir, our foreign policy is the result of our national struggle and we have accepted from the very beginning that India will make continuous efforts for democracy and fundamental rules of secularism and against imperialism and colonialism.

Hence, we supported nations in their democratic struggle and we not only gave verbal support to them in their cause but also gave weapons to those countries, which were struggling democratic powers. But today we regret for the same. Whenever such crucial moments have come in Indian foreign policy, the Government have tried to evolve consensus in the country. The Hon. Minister of Defence and the Hon. Prime Minister have stated in their statement that we gave vote against Iran because we wanted to evolve consensus in the world. It is the fundamental responsibility of any Government that before trying to evolve consensus in the world it should strive to evolve consensus within the country. When the question of voting cropped up in September, the Hon. Prime Minister was away and he had taken this decision single-handedly. He said that we have to vote in favour of America against Iran. It created a general opinion that he is somewhat bending at the behest of America and he got his decision approved in the meeting of the council of Ministers after returning from there. It was the first occasion in the history of foreign policy of India when we did not discuss it even within the Cabinet. Sitting miles away from the boundaries of this country, the Prime Minister made this decision himself and got it approved in the sub committee of the Cabinet later. Thereafter, no efforts were made to take even his cabinet colleagues into confidence, and those who were supporting from outside, they were made to understand from a distance.

We all know what has been happening in this country in the past. In 1998, when Deve Guada ji's Government was in power with not much support, and that Government too had to face the international pressure of signing the CTBT. Not only the opposition and other parties, but the Government took the whole House into confidence under

[Shri Mohan Singh]

that much pressure. The matter was discussed and it was unanimously decided that the Government should not sign the CTBT. Now, you say that we voted against Iran so that we might not be isolated from the rest of the world. We were standing alone in the world at that time too, but we had the courage to take the decision of not signing the C.T.B.T. because it is contradictory, discriminatory and partial, and so, we won't sign it and we didn't sign it. As a result, India lost its due place in the UN Security Council. But what this Government has done, we all know when Iraq was attacked, Vajpayeeji's Government was in power. We are their strongest critics, their opponents, but he took the whole country and all the political parties into confidence and thereafter, the whole House deplored and criticized America for attacking Iraq. There was a controversy over a word. In English, it was 'deplore' and in Hindi it was 'criticise' we criticized it. There was a time when Shri Chandrashekhar's Government was in power, we may call it a weak Government. Very few people of his party were in the Lok Sabha. At that time, America had attacked Iraq. Fighter planes of America started coming to India for refueling. The Government built a consensus and unanimously declared that this is a matter between Iraq and America. India will not allow American fighter planes to land here for refueling at any cost and India stood by her stand. But, it is a matter of regret that when it came to Iran this time we are following this since its beginning, it is a matter of shame that the Prime Minister of a sovereign country who signed an agreement with America on 18th July and then came to this House, the House discussed it, and I feel ashamed to say that the Prime Minister who is answerable to the President of India is becoming accountable towards President Bush. What can be more shameful. Some parties in the House supported him on this while others did not — whether its accountability can be towards President Bush. It was announced on the 26th of January, when we are celebrating our Republic Day. Ours is a democratic country. We are making efforts to strengthen the democracy in the country. When we are celebrating the anniversary of our Republic on 26th January at that time, American Ambassador David C. Mulford said here that if India votes against Iran in coming February, it would be deemed that the intention of India is not bad, and therefore, an agreement has been signed between the Prime Minister and our President, it would be easier for us to honour the agreement. Following his statement, India voted against Iran. It is but natural to feel that the foreign policy of India is being steered by America, not by India herself. The Government of India did not make any efforts to clear the situation. This is very sad.

I would like to say that when India used to be a weak nation, when its 60% of the population lived below the poverty line, at that time, President of Egypt Shri Abdul Kamal Nasir had nationalized Suez canal and protesting it armies of Israel, France and Britain attacked Egypt. And one person raised his voice against that attack and the voice was that of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. Although, it did not have any impact on the countries of the world, but it did create a deep impact on the people of Britain and thousands of them gathered the residences of their Prime Minister. And Britain had to call her army back. That was the time when the pitch of the voice of India, was so high that the people of those countries used to listen to it, whether their Governments let it go unheard and in people's pressure, the Government used to change their decisions. But what is the situation today? Our Prime Minister gave a statement in the House and said that not only all the P-5 countries including Russia and China had supported the motion in the voting held during this month, but it had the support of important non-aligned and developed countries like Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Yaman, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Since Sri Lanka has supported it, India will also support it. What can be more shameful thing for the country? Earlier India used to take decision, taking the lead and then Sri Lanka, Ghana and Egypt used to follow. Now, the scene has changed. Sri Lanka takes the initiative and India follows her. The situation can't be worse.

Each country of the world has its own security concerns and India is no different. During the 1970-71, when India fought for the independence of Bangladesh and made it free, at that time, seventh fleet of America landed over India in Diego Garcia, it was natural for India to get worried. We used to tell the world to follow disarmament and to destroy their nuclear weapons in a phased manner, but following the incidents of 1970-71, India started to think afresh about its security concerns. Keeping this in view, India did her first nuclear test in Pokharan. The world said that India is chalking out its own nuclear programme and making nuclear bomb. Smt. Indira Gandhi replied to it by saying that we are doing nuclear test for the development and for the security of the country. She did the nuclear test and sent out a message to the world that we are capable of making nuclear bomb. But we are not making bomb because our security concerns are not that wide.

In 1998, pressure was put on us for signing the C.T.B.T. We made atom bomb at our own, when we came

to know from the reliable sources that with the help of America and China, Pakistan is now capable of Making atom Bomb. So, India should think that each country of the world has its own security concerns. Iran, too, has its own security concerns, and it is in this sense because its neighbouring country Iraq is being governed by America's puppet Government. ...*(Interruptions)* America is telling the whole world that we are fighting against terrorism. We have started a world war against global terrorism. But I would like to say that their war is not against terrorism, but it is against a particular religion. America's image before the world is now such that she is fighting against Islam not against terrorism. In these circumstances, Iran's concerns are genuine and her security concerns are very much like those of India's in 1970-71. So, I would like to give some suggestions to the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

I suggest that in the summit of the international Atomic Energy Agency scheduled to be held in March India should vote in favour of Iran.

Secondly, India should make efforts to change the terms and conditions of NPT and CTBT at international fora, global Scenario has changed and security concerns of all the countries have changed and even the countries who have already signed the NPT should also make efforts afresh to bring changes in all the conditions of the NPT keeping in view their security concerns.

Thirdly, if Israel has Atom Bomb, Pakistan has Atom Bomb and if Iran is also developing its nuclear Bomb, keeping in view its security concerns then not only India but any power of the world should not come in the way of Iran's nuclear programme and on the contrary they should ensure India's cooperation in Iran's nuclear programme.

Fourthly, after voting against Iran such news continued to appear in the international media that America is planning to attack Iran on the lines of Iraq and India did not refute these news in any of the international media. India should take the stand that in case America attacks the Iran on the lines of Iraq, India will not remain a mute spectator but it will support Iran. India should give this assurance to the people and the Government of Iran. India should initiate its effort to evolve consensus on the initiatives being taken by the Russia and China and to extend its nuclear support to Iran in its security and strategic preparedness and India should not follow its foreign policy towards Iran according to American dictates but it should follow its independent foreign policy and extend its support in development of Iran's nuclear programme.

With these suggestions I conclude and thank you.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, different opinions are coming on the discussion here on the issue of Iran. For this reason not only the other parties but the coalition partners should also be taken into confidence. Such an important international issue is being discussed here and we want to know the stand of the Government on this issue, since India and Iran share friendly relations since ages. In the ancient period, the traders of India and Iran used to do tradings through Arabian sea.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated in his statement that India and Iran have been maintaining mutually very cordial relations since ages. The proposed gas pipelines project between India and Iran is a shining example of deep friendship between India and Iran and there is mutual consent on this project. I am saying this because if we share such an old relation with Iran then why knowingly or unknowingly we are spoiling this relationship? If under the threat of developed countries or under the pressure of America, our relations with Iran are strained or similar circumstances arise or any question mark is put on our relations then this will cause serious implications in the long run. The logic of changed circumstances, time and policies being put forward here are not trustworthy. Past instances show that the stand taken by America is not reliable. Iran had categorically stated that it wants to become a nuclear power and do not want to develop atom Bomb. Iran has never said that it intends to create unrest in the world by developing an atom Bomb. Iran's nuclear programme is aimed at peaceful purposes like power generation etc. It is fundamental right of any country to carry out nuclear research programme for peaceful purposes, but America has always created hurdles in the nuclear programmes aimed at civilian and peaceful purposes and has created an international lobby against Iran. I would like to ask that how can we rely on American plea and stand? I am saying this because the third world countries were having great expectations from India. I think their trust in India has been shattered. The diplomatic policy adopted by India has caused gross disappointment among third world countries. I would like to reaffirm here that India is a big sovereign country of the world. India has followed the policy of non-alignment since the time of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. India has followed the principal that each independent country should follow its foreign policy and carry out its programme as per its wide interests. I want to quote National policy studies. What Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had said that time? You are changing the

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

strategy with time and circumstances but where the change is visible. He said that —

[English]

"Referring to free India's role in the world, in his broadcast to the nation as Vice-President of the Interim Government, on September 7, 1946, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had declared:

We propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power politics of groups, aligned against each another, which had led in the past to world wars and which may again lead to disasters on an even vaster scale. We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible and the denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war. We are particularly interest in the emancipation of colonial and dependent countries and peoples, and in the recognition in theory and practice of equal opportunities for all races.

This by no means meant a neutral or negative approach to international affairs. India chose to adopt a policy of non-involvement in military or political groupings or blocs, and of involvement, as far as her circumstances permitted, in world affairs in the furtherance of world peace and freedom of colonial territories."

[Translation]

What change has been effected, which policy has been changed, but I individually and on behalf of my party do not agree with the logic given by India under the pressure of European Union. By voting against Iran regarding its nuclear programme India has abandoned our policy of non alignment since the time of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. We have spoiled our relations with our old friend Iran. In future the reality will come out, as when American attacked Afghanistan and subsequently Iraq on the pretext of biological weapons then real target of America were oil wells of Iraq and not the biological weapons. Though, attack was done on the pretext of biological weapons but its real targets were oil well. America has followed the culture of taking over the economy of a helpless country and I think it has been successful in its efforts. He takes the name of biological weapons and puts fake blames. Likewise, he has surrounded Iran. The way they lied before attacking Iraq, we have apprehensions that no attempts are being made to catch hold of Iran. On this pretext they might not attack Iran, therefore, Mohan Singhji and Rupchand Palji have rightly mentioned that today we are

supporting them. We fear that we may have to support them at the time of aggression against Iran also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: When the situation of aggression increased, since we have our past experience according to which America is not trust worthy. There is no need to rely on America because the way American attacked Iraq, we brought a motion in Parliament to send our troops there. I think that the Government need to reconsider the step they have taken because the India should by no means should be a party in the America's forthcoming strategies of attack. This is my opinion. Therefore, India should stand by its policy of non-alignment and should stay away from it. We need not follow the footsteps of any country.

I would request you that by signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has a lawful right for the peaceful use of nuclear energy as per their international Commitment and the responsibility. It was not there in the statement made by hon'ble Prime Minister. Therefore, I want to say that Iran running their peaceful nuclear research Programme for the development of their country but why it is not acceptable to America? ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have rung the bell, I am concluding within one or two minutes. India by all means should stand by their friendly country.

We have centuries old relations with Iran. The Prime Minister has himself said that the International Atomic Energy Agency had sought answers on so many questions arising out of the Iran's nuclear activities. They had also cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency in some respect. Then what was the justification behind creating an atmosphere of hostility against Iran, when it was ready for any type of cooperation. Even after the positive signals given by Iran, why efforts were made to catch hold of it on the pretext of their nuclear research programme. India had also been a party in referring this matter to the Security Council. I think that now we cannot rewrite the past and therefore we need not stand by it in future. Let be gone be bygone international environment is such that we can not do much regarding it. But now on 6th March when the need to support this issue will arise, we need to be careful on this. Our non-aligned movement should not suffer, now there is still time make amends.

Prime Minister had told the House that India has taken the decision on the issue of Nuclear Proliferation Programme keeping our security concerns in mind. Prime Minister gave this logic. Is Israel not attacking the Palestine or is this treaty not enforceable on our other neighbouring countries who are conducting nuclear research programmes? Is this logic not applicable in these cases and is it only applicable to Iran that their nuclear programme be a cause of our security concerns. Many of our neighbouring countries are carrying out nuclear research programme. What is the Government's stand on them, what is their strategy. What diplomacy is being adopted, the Government should explain its stand on this issue?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, your time is over. I have already called the name of the next hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is a big question before the Government. I think that the decision taken by India against Iran is a cause of concern for the International community, especially for the third world countries. Therefore, I want to state categorically that India should by no means, yield before America. We are a sovereign country. We have every right to take our own decisions.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: On 23rd February President of America George Bush had made a statement, that has been published in newspapers also, he said that Indo-American Nuclear Pact is already in jeopardy. He also stated that India must bring all its nuclear programmes under the scanner of IAEA. He has started putting conditions from the beginning. Once you start supporting that imperialist country, you start supporting their monopoly, you see for yourself that it has already started demanding excessively. They have started issuing warnings. On the issue of Indo-American civilian nuclear deal, our Nuclear Scientific Advisor, Shri C.N. Rao says that India cannot leave its fast Breeder Reactor, FBR to civilian nuclear programme. If she thinks that it is coming in the way of its national interests, then it can come out of the treaty. Why we backbite. We should remain careful

beforehand. They have started issuing warnings to you in this manner. I want to state clearly that our country is the largest democratic country of the world. Therefore, whatever strategy is planned with America, we should stand by our age old friendly countries like Iran.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you were here, you would realize the difficulty. Please conclude now. If you were here, you would have realized the position.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Lastly, I want to mention, that who cares about the past. Every new morning brings a new hope. Therefore, America will not extend her hand to you in the hour of need. You should take care of this. The third world countries believe in you and our country has the capability to lead the third world countries because we are the largest democracy of the world. Therefore, we should think over it.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as it is known to everybody that Bahujan Samaj Party believes in "equality and humanity" when it comes to conduct, ideology and principle and that is why it is emerging as a symbol of self respect and honour of the entire society in the country. Alongwith this we believe being a leading national party that it is our duty to keep a careful watch on foreign policy of the Government alongwith the internal politics and strictly resist any action of the Government which is against national interest.

Today foreign policy of India has become a topic of discussion not only at international level but in India also, because people of India feel that it seems that by voting against Iran, in International Atomic Energy Agency India has not only hurt its foreign policy of non-alignment and neutrality but has also taken this step under the duress of America.

Besides this, regular supply of oil and gas is not only necessary for the progress of any country but it is infact backbone of a country. The President of America has himself said that America is addicted to oil and they can not live without it. Similarly, today China has become one of the biggest purchaser of oil to sustain its pace of progress and it is purchasing oil wells as well to ensure that its increasing demand of oil is fulfilled in the future also whereas India seems to be bent on antagonizing Iran which is a reliable nation and a major oil supplier quite

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

ignoring its increasing demand of oil and gas. The Congress Government at the Center perhaps feels that by opposing Iran in United Nations Agency (I.A.E.A.) and by imposing various ban on Iran through United Nations for continuing its atomic programme, it will hit upon a long term solution for the problem of power with the support of western countries particularly America but common people are finding it difficult to digest it because whenever we have relied upon western countries they have cheated us. We can safely say this on the basis of our past experience with America.

An agreement between India and Iran is in its final stage, according to which Iran will supply oil and gas in huge quantity to India through pipeline. America is against this oil and gas pipeline and is compelling India to fulfil its energy needs by setting up nuclear plants. But the scientists and experts believe that India will have to rely on oil and gas for its energy needs for the coming two-two and a half decades to run its economy. Ironically over the last several years America itself has not set up any nuclear plant to generate electricity but has laid down thousands of miles long pipelines upto Turkey to ensure supply of oil from Caspian region and Tajakistan, Ujbakistan etc. so as to fulfil its demand of oil from these remote countries also.

We also oppose nuclear agreement with America at the cost of Iran because due to conditions laid down by America it also seems to endanger the dignity and security along with nuclear programme of our country. Dr. Manmohan Singh's statement in the House has entangled this matter further because in it the Government has been unable to give assurance of safeguarding interests of the country and guarantee of security to the public in a convincing way.

The UPA Government under the leadership of Congress is unable to give any answer to the question raised by our scientists that due to continuously changing strategies of America, how would India foil America's attempts of wresting control over maintenance of nuclear plants, technical datas. Apart from this, it has also not been told how the nuclear reactor which is proposed to be imported from America at a huge price and which runs on expensive imported fuel would prove to be beneficial for India from economic and strategic point of view.

The thinking of the common people is that so far India has saved itself from the clutches of foreign countries to a large extent in economic matters but they apprehend that India who has faced sanctions imposed by America

and other western countries from time to time might get caught in a 'nuclear trap'. Through this nuclear deal whose repercussions would have to be faced by the people of this country with the downtrodden being the worst hit.

The most disturbing fact is that on the one hand we are throwing cold water on the possibility of supply of oil and gas for many years to come by going against Iran under the duress of America and despite that America is not ready to accept India nothing more than 'second grade nuclear power' which will have far reaching adverse effects. Though nuclear deal is more important for America than India because through this America would be able to make a big Asian country i.e.; India move over to its side against Iran and it is apprehended that it would fulfil its interests. We should carefully consider the interests of our country. Before signing an agreement as treaty with the countries with whom we do not have a history of smooth relations.

Being an independent, sovereign and self respecting nation it is not acceptable to Indians that India should categorize the civilian nuclear plants and defence nuclear plants on the guidelines of foreign powers and moreover it should be such which is credible, transparent and acceptable from the point of view of America.

In common parlance, the deal means that the categorization of nuclear plants as civilian should be right from the point of view of America and India should be accountable to America instead of United Nations Nuclear Agency, no sovereign and self respecting country would accept it.

In the end I would like to state that a decision should have been taken on Iran issue by convening an all party meeting. Interest of India is above all. If the Government have not yet taken any decision in this regard then there is still time to call an all party meeting and decide the strategy and foreign policy of India.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, our foreign policy has never been as controversial as it is now because in the past we really used to discuss our foreign policy on non-partisan lines. We always believed that foreign policy is that of a nation and that of a country. Therefore, each one of us, who are the constituents of the nation, will subscribe to that policy because that is in the

best interests of the nation. Unfortunately, we have seen lately that we are debating it on partisan lines, creating a sectarian atmosphere as a result of which, it is not serving the nation as it should be. Therefore, I think, it is the best interests of the country that our foreign policy should be discussed, debated with all most all the constituents of the country, representing all the political parties. Then only, we should arrive at a consensus, which should be reflected in the positions that we take in the international arena to avoid a division, that appears to have taken place within the country. Therefore, my request is that the Government, in future, must take all political parties, all shades of opinion into confidence before shaping up the policy and taking a decision and position in the international arena.

Nowadays, we are knowing about the foreign policy through newspapers – not only the Opposition members but also our Leader of the Opposition. When I was listening to the intervention of the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, he also seems to be knowing about what is happening in the international arena through newspapers. He said that there has been a deal, which is likely to take place between Russia and Iran, and he said that he was saying this on the basis of newspaper reports. Our Defence Minister of India, a Member of the Cabinet Committee on Security, a very senior politician and a Leader of the House knows about what is happening in the international arena only through the newspaper. So, it seems that our media has better access to what is happening world wide than our Leader of the House, which present a really sorry state of affairs. Therefore, it is not the Opposition, who has the prerogative of only knowing from the media but also seems to be the Leader of the House. Therefore, I think, now we should know about the foreign policy, not through the media, but what we discuss, debate between the different political groups, should be reported in the media. Therefore, I would like to make the first request that let the Government take everybody into confidence.

I was listening very carefully and therefore, I decided to speak to the intervention of the Defence Minister, who spoke very eloquently on various aspects. I genuinely believe that the friends of a country can keep changing. It is a dynamic world. India is now one of the fastest growing economies of the world. We are a billion plus people. Therefore, I do not think anybody can cow us down. Therefore, I genuinely believe that we should take our decisions on foreign policy in the national interests.

In any case, the foreign policy is only a manifestation of our domestic policy. It is only an extension of what we

are trying to do in our country. Therefore what is happening in the sphere of foreign policy should be a reflection of that. Therefore, I believe in what Chanakya said way back, who is one of the founders of the foreign policy of the world, and the principles of the foreign policy of the world. He said that the interests are permanent. Therefore, if our interests are permanent, we keep changing. We can always take positions. It has to be in the national interest, undoubtedly. But my request to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the hon. Leader of the House, I am sorry, Sir, would have been to spell out what was that national interests which really forced us to take a decision in the IAEA meeting, referring Iran case to the United Nations Security Council. It is not just saying camouflaging. Our decision in the garb of saying that it was in the national interest is really imperative for us to know as to what was the specific national interest which compelled the Government to take that decision.

If we know about it, I am sure, all of us will support it. Therefore, what is that national interest needs to be spelled out very clearly?

The second question that comes to my mind is this. When the Iran issue was referred from IAEA to the United Nations Security Council, what was the threshold that Iran had reached which compelled it to be referred to the United Nations Security Council? The threshold is not properly explained at the time of intervention. Therefore, I would request and I am sure that this debate which is going to continue for some time, will be replied to by the hon. Prime Minister who is holding the foreign portfolio with him realising the importance of it. I am sure, he will be able to respond to it. When he responds to it, I would really like to know what was that threshold which was reached. Now that it is referred to the United Nations Security Council, what are the options that are there with us? In any case, India has been trying to be a permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. It is not a member of that. What role can we play now after it is referred to the United Nations Security Council? Are we still feeling that there is room for diplomacy, and if so, on what lines is it progressing? That is something which, I am sure, we will be knowing from the hon. Prime Minister when he replies and also about what is the action that is going to be taking place.

Hon. Leader of the House mentioned about one more point. He said that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed called on His Excellency, the President of Iran. He said, based on what transpired

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

between them, Iran seems to be quite well disposed towards India even after this vote. I was very glad to know that. But this is our version. I would like to know whether the Iranian Government have issued any official statement confirming that Iran also believes in continuing the relations with India. I would like to know what is the status now of our on-going negotiations with Iran on various oil related issues, whether it is the pipeline or whether it is the supply of natural gas? What is the relationship that is going to take place now? I would really like to know about it.

Thirdly, the hon. Leader of the House mentioned about a very important point that India is a very responsible country and we always have taken that position. During the time when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India in 1998, we took a decision, a considered decision to go nuclear for the simple reason because that was in the best interest of India. We realised to have a credible difference which is really going to help India because in the backyard and even in the front-yard, we have got countries who could be posing threat to India by using nuclear weapons. So, nuclear deterrence was considered to be the problem of India's national interest. Therefore, we did it. Therefore, he mentioned very correctly that this is the India's stated position subscribed now more or less by all the parties in the country. In that case, if Iran tomorrow decides to take a similar position and say that it would like to be weaponised for the simple reason because that is in the best interest of Iran, what would be the Indian Government's stand? I would really like to know about it from the Government.

One more point is this. North Korea is likely to be also one of the cases similar to Iran because North Korea profess that they also have similar position. There is a dialogue going on. Suppose, a similar situation develops which compels the Government of India to vote against it in the IAEA meeting. What will be India's stand in relation to North Korea? I would like to know about it.

There are two issues and I will end. We have been for a long period of time, saying that we want a peaceful world, we want a world which is a nuclear free world. We believe that nuclear weapons should not destroy the humanity as is seen in front of the world. In this clear scenario, I would like to know whether the Government of India is thinking of pursuing this bigger picture, the laudable objective of making sure that the world becomes a real nuclear free world, if so, whether that agenda is spelt out.

We have correctly taken a position that we are opposed to NPT because it is totally biased, it is totally blurred. Therefore, we oppose it. At the same time, in the absence of that, are we pursuing the same agenda? I would like to know about that. The Prime Minister has been saying and I agree that India does not want any more nuclear State in its backyard. In that position, what does it really mean? Where does that backyard extend to? How far we would like to go? What type of territories does it like to cover? I would like to know from the Government about this.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Rupchand Pal started his speech with a very interesting point that a salesman or a management student is told: "If you cannot sell, confuse." I am sure, he says that he is really confused. Now, I would like to know from him whether he would like to buy the product or he would like to reject the product.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Mahtab. You have got five minutes to speak.

Before Mr. Mahtab starts his speech, I would request that whenever an hon. Member is addressing the Chair, please avoid frequent floor crossings.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to discuss the Statement by the hon. Prime Minister regarding India's vote in the International Atomic Energy Agency on the issue of Iran Nuclear Programme. Here, in the suo motu Statement on Iran by the Prime Minister on 17th February, two things have been very notable.

The first thing is that Prime Minister has categorically stated: "As a signatory to the NPT, Iran has the legal right to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy." The second thing is that "since 2003, when IAEA began seeking answers to a number of questions arising from Iran's nuclear activities, some of which were undeclared to the IAEA, in previous years." Subsequently in November, 2004, Iran agreed with the EU-3 – France, Germany and the United Kingdom, to voluntarily suspend all enrichments and reprocessing activities until questions relating to its past nuclear activities were clarified. Since August last year, Iran has renewed production of uranium hexa fluoride and thereafter, has resumed uranium enrichment."

These are the four dates on which the Prime Minister has based the argument upon. I would like to dwell on these four points. The basic question which is being raised inside the House and outside the House is that if we can live with China and Pakistan, what is wrong with Iran

going nuclear? If India is not a signatory to the NPT unlike China, why is India bothered about NPT violations? As India needs nuclear energy to produce electricity, so also Iran. Mere dependence on fossil fuel is giving rise to green house gases. These are the international issues.

What is that Resolution and how the Member-countries in IAEA have behaved? The first Resolution was on 24th September, 2005. Out of 35 countries in that Governing Board, 23 countries voted in favour, and India was also part of it; 11 countries abstained; and Venezuela was the only country, which voted against the Resolution. On 4th February, the vote was taken. In that vote, 27 countries voted in favour; three voted against, and five abstained. Among those who voted in favour, two were the Muslim countries, namely, Egypt and Yemen. Indonesia, Libya and Algeria abstained. Only Syria supported and voted in favour of Iran. Notable converts were Russia and China.

Sir, what is that Resolution which was adopted on 4th February?

What are its implications? The Director-General of the IAEA, Nobel Prize Winner, Dr. D.L. Baradei has made it clear that the Agency's report on the Iranian compliance or otherwise has been under investigation since 2002 and it should be ready only next month, that is, March. Therefore, this Resolution is meant only to be a report to the Security Council and not a statutory referral. Russia and China which abstained last time on 24th September, have now joined hands with the West, that is, USA plus the three countries of the EU, to exert pressure on Iran to comply with the IAEA safeguards.

I would just mention here that in 1998, India unilaterally declared a moratorium on nuclear explosion during the NDA regime when Shri Vajpayee was heading the Government as the Prime Minister. This prepared a ground for agreement which was signed by the US President and Indian Prime Minister recently. Shri Vajpayee had offered military bases - this is no news and it is open to everyone - to the US when Mr. George W. Bush took military action in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda.

Iran, in 1965 and during the Bangladesh War, supported Pakistan. The Shah of Iran blamed India instead of Yahya Khan and Bhutto and called us aggressor. In the Organisation of Muslim Nations, Iran backed Pakistan in its claim over Kashmir. In 1965, during Johnson's regime, the Johnson's Administration had asked Pakistan to take tanks and arms from Iran, supplied by US, via West Germany and other European countries.

During the last 50 years, Non-alignment has undergone various changes. India has bitter memories both during the Chinese aggression and during Bangladesh war. Most of them did nothing in favour of India. Even Sukarno sided with Pakistan, who was supported to power by Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru had never encouraged NAM to be a third force or a forum to mount a campaign against USA or the West.

I would ask a very simple question here. Recently, the CPI(M) Politburo has passed a Resolution. In that Resolution, the Government was condemned for casting its vote in the IAEA Board of Governors' Meeting. It has condemned US; it has also condemned the other three European Union countries. But there is no mention about Russia; there is no mention about China. Why?

What is Iran's history and what is its present policy? Iran has signed a Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968. IAEA has asked Iran to come clean. Iran permitted the UN inspectors to go through its nuclear programme. They have reported that Iran was seriously pursuing a plan to build a nuclear plant to make a bomb. Iran's Nuclear Research Programme began in 1967. US supplied nuclear research reactor to Iran. It signed the NPT in 1968 and ratified it in 1970; and it planned to construct up to 23 nuclear power stations by 2000 with the help of US and other countries.

IAEA inspected most facilities regularly but in November 2005, reported that Iran has not been transparent. The problem lies that Iran today wants to be compared in its treatment as a signatory to the NPT with three nations that have not signed the Treaty; Israel, India and Pakistan, all nuclear weapon States. Can we accept Iran with the plants to enrich Uranium and re-process Plutonium which will put them just a screwdriver turn away? It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister had to be defensive on an issue of national importance. What is vitiating the atmosphere today is the attempt by some to present the vote as some kind of an affront to a specific community. This seems an insult not only to the secular character of this country but also to the common sense and patriotism of the minority community. What India has done is more of national interest. Yes, it coincides with the US viewpoint. Do not project this as some kind of a surrender ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may highlight only important points. Please do not go into details because time is very short.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would just like to mention that the foreign policy is not a holy cow. Political Parties have every right to differ with the Government. There is no rational section in India today which wants Iran, which has been quite irresponsible in its international dealings, to go nuclear. I have also mentioned that our domestic lobbyists for Iran are activated by two considerations; one stream driven by blind anti-Americanism and the second stream has other parochial considerations. I would say that India's decision is based on genuine national interest. Those who say that the Indian policy on Iran is not independent should explain whether Russia and China do not have independent policies. How supporting Iran and opposing 26 other nations would serve India's national interest, especially shielding the 16 years of clandestine proliferation. Is it not interesting to note that those who fervently support Iran are also opposed to India having nuclear arsenal? It is difficult to understand the rationale. With these words I say that the manner in which the Government has voted in favour that it should be decided in the Security Council, I think no wrong has been done. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. I may tell you that Shri Chandrapan has already taken more than half an hour. You will get only five minutes. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman Sir, 4 hon. Members from my party have to speak and as yet only one hon. Member has expressed his views. When would the rest of three Members get time to speak?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After him your Party Member will get a chance to speak.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I am sorry, Sir, I must say that I am extremely sad. We are saddened, we are sorry because it seems our traditional historic and the policy which was a gift of Nehru is now sought to be forgotten. Undoubtedly, gradually India is distancing itself from Non-Alignment. India and the present Government led by Congress is also distancing from the economic policy that was pursued earlier.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was saying that there has been a change in the world. I accept there has been a

change but what is that change? The change is that the world has become uni-polar. Secondly, America - particularly Mr. Bush - considers itself to be the guardian of international politics. There is a change, of course, because the strong Non-Aligned Movement that we had and of which we are proud of is fast disappearing. Thirdly, India which was the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement for the reasons known to it is gradually diluting its policy. That is the change, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was talking about.

My simple question to the whole nation is that what was the need for India to vote for the resolution. We could have remained neutral. The argument that is being given is that Russia and China voted for it. Therefore, India should vote for it. I do not buy that argument. No country is a model to us. We are our own conscience keepers. Therefore to lean upon the argument that Russia and China have voted for it therefore there was no reason why we should not vote for it, I do not buy this argument.

Then, voting for the resolution without being neutral means what. It means this will be referred to the Security Council where India has no role to play. Therefore, why do you want the matter to be referred to the Security Council? The matter could have been discussed in the Atomic Energy Commission itself. In the Atomic Energy Commission, there are enough provisions by which the violations of the Agreement can be taken care of. The whole method that America is taking today is to take the controversy to the Security Council and have a stamp on its decision and being strengthened by the so called decision of the Security Council to intensify their aggressive attack. That is what we are afraid of. Our feeling is whether we did it intentionally or without intention. We are abetting the policy of the American imperialism. That is the question I am putting to. Let us remember for once at least that it is not a question whether Iran stands betrayed. There may be a linguistic difference but the fact remains, we did not stand by Iran in the crucial hour of their own peril. We did not stand with them. What was the need for that? There was a need because we have our own economic interest with Iran. That economic interest we do not have with Pakistan but with Iran we do have.

More importantly, the Government of India is trying to influence even our economic policy. The hon. Minister has corrected his position and I thank him because the truth has come out. What is the truth? The Government of India's own public sector ONGC and China wanted to have a joint venture in Syria. Now this gentleman working

in the American Embassy comes and advises not to go to Syria. Mr. Mulford advises India on economic policy. Mr. Mulford writes a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Embassy of the same country advises India not to invest jointly even with China with whom you seem to have developed some intimacy for the time being.

The Government is very intimate with them now. Even they are opposing a joint investment in Syria. Therefore, taking all these factors together, the American imperialism, the Bush Administration would like very much to influence the economic policies of India. At the same time, they would also seek to dictate or try to influence, if the Congress party is little allergic to the use of the word 'dictate' then I can replace it with 'influence' and if they are angry with the use of the word 'surrender' then I can substitute that word with 'tilt', and this tilt is taking place in the background of their overall supervision of Indian politics. America is, in fact, supervising India. It reminds me of a book, titled 'American shadow lengthening over Indian sub-continent'. That was by Shri Natarajan many years ago. Today it seems that it is applicable. Therefore, we are alarmed; therefore, there is an element of suspicion; therefore, there is an element of distrust and therefore, there is an element of anger.

Why did the Government vote? Why did the Government not remain neutral? What would have been the difference? The hon. Prime Minister has opted not to reply to the debate today. I take exception to this. The hon. Prime Minister had the time to make a statement on the Atomic policy, but he does not have the time to reply to the debate because he feels that after only Mr. Bush has left India that he can speak out freely. I am sorry that I have to ask this question. After all, it is great India that he represents. Is it that Dr. Manmohan Singh, the hon. Prime Minister of the country believes that the reply should be given after Mr. Bush has left India? What could have been the reasons for that?

Sir, I have a definite feeling that India is deviating from the policy of non-alignment. The meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Energy Commission, that meeting was presided over by Malaysia and not India. We are losing our position. We are losing our position amongst many non-aligned nations. We are losing our position with regard to America. Why did India vote and not remain neutral? India had to vote for it because we have accepted America virtually as the undeclared guardian of Indian politics. Mr. Mulford is here to speak on regional trade, another gentleman is here to ask India not to make

investment in Syria and America is there to speak on the politics of the Left. This was not the environment during the time of the late Indira Gandhi or during the time of the late Jawaharlal Nehru. Maybe, this is the change that Shri Pranab Mukherjee was referring to.

Sir, living in a uni-polar world, India must stand on its own foot firmly to speak firmly and take a stand saying that thus far and no further. Let us not speak of world changes, but let us say that we have our own courage to face even the strongest military power of world. By doing so India can re-emerge as the leader of the non-alignment movement. Perhaps, now we are losing much and gaining nothing. Maybe, the Government is gaining the friendship of Mr. Bush but we are losing the goodwill of the non-aligned nations and definitely they are losing the goodwill of the Left, at least on the issue of foreign policy. This is not a warning. This is a sad expression of the unfortunate development that is overtaking the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sachin Pilot may speak now.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what about the proportional time to be given to different parties?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will be called later. The second round has not begun.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Second round means our turn will come after 43 Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You would not lose a minute. You will get the time allotted to you without losing a minute. All your party Members will be called. I assure you on that point. Nobody will lose even a minute. From Shri Sachin Pilot, we will be taking the second round. With Shri Sachin Pilot, the second round is starting.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Sir, we are debating, in this august House, a very important topic and, I think before I proceed, it is important to place on record a few facts.

A lot has been said earlier about the relationship between India and Iran. The previous speaker was talking about how the Indian people and the Indian Government have let down or betrayed the people of Iran. Let me reassure you Sir, and through you to this august House, that when it comes down to supporting the Iranians in their crisis and in their natural calamities, the Indian people and the Indian Government have stood by the Iranians and will continue to do so in future. Many centuries before

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

even Christopher Columbus discovered United States of America a few hundred years ago, the Indian people and the Iranians were trading, having links, were travelling and doing commerce. It is in the late 1960s that Iran chose to sign the Non-proliferation Treaty. Trade between India and Iran is approximately around 5.5 to 6 million dollars. The relationship between the two countries will continue to be strong. But, as on today, India has certain needs. India has to import 75 per cent of its energy requirements from overseas and its percentage is bound to grow by 90 per cent by 2015. We have energy independence, and energy security is of crucial importance. That is why, the Prime Minister has stated that the proposed pipeline is under consideration. Experts are evaluating it and we are committed to the pipeline.

A question was raised about what was the need and what was the national security concern in which Government of India took the stand that we took at the IAEA Board. The Middle East has 35 lakh Indian nationals working there. It is stated that the Government policy is that we do not want to have another nuclear power in our extended neighbourhood.

16.29 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Keeping in mind all the decisions that are taken at the IAEA, we find that there are only two occasions when vote was required to be cast. In the past, India has favoured diplomatic efforts and it has favoured dialogues to resolve long pending issues. And 2003 was the time when certain events came to light and certain clandestine nuclear activities were directly linked to the now famous A.Q. Khan of Pakistan. It was not in our national interest to allow any country in our extended neighbourhood to possess such a nuclear capability.

Iran is a very important country for India. It has 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which is second only after Russia. We look forward to having energy cooperation with Iran. It is important also to understand the circumstances which arose when the Indian Government took the stand that it took.

There was a talk about why we did not abstain from voting.

Sir, I would like to point out that it was because of the efforts of the Indian Government that many times this decision was deferred and voting was not required. When

it came down to the vote, of the 35 members of the Governing Body of the IAEA, only three countries, namely, Syria, Cuba and Venezuela voted against it. Indonesia, Algeria and South Africa were among the five countries who abstained. More importantly, now I felt, and the Government also feels, that there is a growing world opinion and India has long stated that we stand for complete disarmament. But India is a country that has not signed on the NPT. Therefore, it is wrong to equate any other country with India. We are not a signatory to the NPT. We stand by 'No-first-use'. We stand by peace. In our thousands of years' history, there has not been a single instance of external aggression. The only time we have had armed conflict is to protect our own territory. We stand as a peaceful country. I think, it is important for us to export that ideology around the world.

The hon. Prime Minister also made a suo motu statement in Parliament about our position on Iran. Sir, it is very clear that the Government's policy is to extend all support for any country which engages in producing energy through nuclear means. France, for example, produces 85 per cent of its energy through nuclear means. India is also reaching out to do the same and follow in generating electricity through nuclear power. It is a legitimate right of every country, including Iran, to engage in generating electricity through nuclear technology. India has been a supportive of that. But if a certain country is not living up to its obligations to its people and to the world community, it is also important for us to realize that India is now being looked upon a global power. We have to discharge our responsibility according to our position, our geopolitical position, not only in South Asia but on a multilateral platform, on world platform. That is why, the Government took a decision to understand and to realize the changed global realities. It is wrong to say that we are choosing between US and Iran. India is not a small country where we have to make a decision under pressure.

I would like to remind you that during our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, when we were engaged in liberating the then East Pakistan in 1971, the Americans threatened to send the seventh fleet to the Bay of Bengal. We did not deter. In a large country of a billion people we are much stronger than we think we are. It is all that confidence which gives us the courage to take a decision on world platform, on global platforms, which only follows these strategic national interests of our country. That is the only objective of the Indian Government. The foreign policy is not a case of ownership of this Government or that

Government. It is a continuous policy. This Government has nothing but strengthened our national interest not only in the neighbourhood but around the world.

Sir, I am hopeful that not only this august House, the political parties they represent here but the people in the country will realize that while moving forward into the future, the kind of responsibility that is being pushed, ushered upon the shoulders of the Indian Government, we are in a position of strength to discharge them. As far as the nuclear issue is concerned, if it is for peaceful purpose which India is always professing. Iran is more than welcome to do that. But if the obligations are not met, if responsibilities are not discharged, then, I think, the world looks upon India to play a crucial and important role which is what the Indian Government has done. I hope, this august House and the people outside will continue to support the Indian Government and its policies to make a point and to prove that we are here for nuclear energy that is processed on peaceful means. But any activity that is undertaken, which does not serve our national interest, we will stand up and we will make sure that we are heard.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I endorse the foreign policy stand taken by the Government with regard to Iran, though I do not appreciate the way it was done.

It is not in India's interest to see that Iran acquired nuclear weapons. India can clearly neither ignore nor minimise the strategic implications and the adverse consequences of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

With regard to that, when we discuss about the IAEA Board Meeting and the Resolution of 5th February, 2006. We have to compare it with the Resolution that was taken up on 24th September, 2005. When we compare the two, we can clearly see that there is a climb down by the Western countries led by the United States of America. The new Resolution does not find that Iran's action constitutes any non-compliance in view of the article XI (LC) of the IAEA Charter. It simply requires the Director General of the IAEA to report, not to refer as mentioned by Shri Pal, to the Security Council that certain steps are required to be taken by Iran. This Resolution will not trigger any punitive action by the Security Council on Iran. The report is intended to keep diplomatic efforts on track; to enable the Director General of the IAEA to pursue his line of investigation including interviewing the relevant scientists to get to the bottom of Iran's nuclear activities. The new Resolution is also not a value judgement on

Iran's action. It is only expected Iran needs to satisfy the international community that its nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes. Being a signatory to the NPT, should Iran not discharge its obligations and its commitments? India has no quarrels with the list of Confidence Building Measures which are considered necessary such as suspension of enrichment of uranium; ratification of the additional protocol implementation of the transparent measures. By bringing the Confidence Building Measures to the Security Council, the Board has established new parameters for the responsible behaviour by Iran.

I will make another point. Is it not true that the new Resolution takes note of a document in Iran's possession which deals with production of uranium metal hemisphere which is related to fabrication of nuclear weapon components? What does it mean? It means that Iran has left all options open in its pursuit to nuclear technology. That is why, it is potentially in India's interest to have been in the forefront of the vast majority of the international community questioning the many clandestine devices through which nuclear technology, nuclear materials have been transferred to Iran from Pakistan. My point is here. Why did the UPA Government, the Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister, not do so? Please contrast the behaviour, the attitude of the Government of India with the assertiveness of Egypt in the IAEA vote. What is it that the Egypt did? Egypt did get a reluctant United States of America to accept an amendment to the Resolution implicitly critical of Israel's nuclear monopoly of the Middle-East. But it is very much surprising that while making a statement in this august House, the Prime Minister did not even mention the name of Pakistan. What did he say? He rather said that Iran's use of centrifuges were imported from third countries. I repeat the words "third countries."

Which are the countries from where this was imported? It was only from Pakistan. Everybody knows that the father of the nuclear bomb in Pakistan, Dr. A.Q. Khan opened a super market, a black market of this nuclear technology in the world. He supplied this nuclear technology clandestinely not only to Iran, he supplied it to North Korea, to Libya and everywhere. But we kept mum. Why did the Government of India not insist that this resolution should be passed only after it is ascertained that from which country it has been imported by Iran? So, that is a failure. Sir, the impression that this UPA Government has given, it might have done certain things, but the impression that it has given is that it has functioned under pressure. It has functioned just like a rubber stamp.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

It has functioned under pressure from some other country, whereas India should have taken the lead. If India wants to become a superpower, is it the behaviour of this country to simply follow the dictates of another country? This is the impression that has gone to the people. This is the impression that has gone to the entire world. So, that is where my objection lies that this Government has failed there.

Secondly, the hon. Members from the Left are specifically talking about the Non Aligned Movement. India was a leading member of this Non Aligned Movement. So, that is why Iran was with us. So, it is our responsibility to be with Iran for all time to come. Sir, what sort of Non Aligned movement we were in? I will just give you one example. Forcing this country to pass a resolution against the United States of America for attacking Iraq and keeping mum while USSR was attacking and was entering Afghanistan, occupying Poland, occupying Czechoslovakia, was it the responsibility of a nonaligned country like India? India was never a nonaligned country. During the time of the cold war, India was with USSR. That was the main reason for which we lost 50 years in quarreling with the biggest democracy of the world which is the United States of America. That was the main reason for which the United States of America was against us. Now, the entire world saw that. Anybody who was born before 1917 saw during his lifetime the evolution of an ideology and the fall and collapse of the same ideology also, which was so fragile. That is what I meant to say. The UPA Government should not listen to what the Left says. They should only go by the national interest. They should only go by, as has already been mentioned, by the enlightened self-interest of this country. To me and to BJP what is the meaning of this enlightened self-interest, the Non Aligned Movement? The Non Aligned Movement for India means being able to take its own decision independently. I fear that probably we have not been able to do it. India was able to take. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will just complete, Sir. India was only able to take this independent decision during the time of the NDA Government led by Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and which this UPA Government has failed miserably. That is what my charge is.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: My name has been taken, Sir. I am just reading a part of the 4th February report.

"Request the DG to report on the implementation of this and previous resolution to the next regular session of the board for its consideration and immediately thereafter to convey together with any resolution from the March board that report to the Security Council, convey to the Security Council for the benefit."

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India's vote in favour of the Resolution at the IAEA was not simply a foreign policy issue, but a question related to the direction the country was taking while entering a new world order. At the same time, our foreign policy was compromised. We departed from the age-old tradition of Non-Alignment Movement, which, I still feel that in the present international scenario, there is more need for the Non-Alignment Movement than it was before. To stop the hegemony of US, I think the nation should rise once again to revive the Non-Alignment Movement.

Sir, the whole controversy started on the 9th of February, 2003 when then Iranian President Mohammad Khatami had gone on record and stated and showed Iran's programme and efforts for building sophisticated facilities at Natans Nuclear Reactor. One of the IAEA Safeguards Agreement says that a country has to declare the starting of construction or they have to stipulate within 180 days before introducing any nuclear facility. Iran did not violate any of the agreements of the IAEA by showing the facility at Natans.

Secondly, what would be the stand of US if tomorrow Iran says that the IAEA Charter gives it the right to go out of the IAEA because it is in their country's superior interest?

Thirdly, Iran's nuclear programme started in 1960s under the auspices of the US. They had a bilateral agreement. The United States of America had encouraged Shah of Iran to go for it. In fact, Stanford Research Institute had done a survey in 1973 stating that by 1990 Iran would require 20,000 megawatt of electrical power supply. Then, in 1975, Massachusetts Institute of Technology signed a contract with the Atomic Energy Department of Iran to train Iranian nuclear engineers. So, this programme was started by the US. After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, America developed cold feet. Iran was not interested in its nuclear programme. After the bombing of Israel on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, Iranians had said that they have to go in for a nuclear programme and that too for civilian purposes.

Sir, as of now, Iran's oil production is 70 per cent

compared to pre-revolutionary level. Does Iran not have a right to go for civilian nuclear energy programme when it is a member of NPT? This is a blatant example of American imperialism. America is using IAEA to settle its scores with Iran. It has clearly stated that in the axis of evil North Korea is there, Iran is there and Syria is there. They have destroyed Afghanistan, they have destroyed Iraq and now they want to go and destroy Iran under the guise of IAEA Resolution.

My next point is, Iran had always stated that any Western country is welcome to come and complete the Busher II Civilian Nuclear Reactor. It was agreeing to any Western country could come and do that. But Americans had always stopped the Czechoslovakians and the West Germans from going and completing that nuclear reactor. Here I want to give one example. The nuclear plant in the Czech Republic which was started by the then Soviet Union was halted in 1992. In 1994, a guarantee of \$317 was given by the US Export Import Bank and an American electrical company participated and completed this nuclear reactor.

Sir, I would now bring out the political fall-out of this decision of our country. First of all, it gives a bad taste in the mouth, especially for my party to stand in the same league wherein the BJP is supporting the Government. The formation of this UPA Government was for upholding certain principles and I believe and my party believes that we cannot stand with any decision wherein the BJP is supporting this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

When America asked them to walk, they crawled. We do not want this Government to do that. I do not want to argue. Let me complete please. ...*(Interruptions)* They did crawl. We know what happened with all other things. I do not want to mention them over here. ...*(Interruptions)* I know it is in the national interest. I am laying my view point in the national interest.

Sir, what are the apprehensions of Iran? The apprehensions of Iran are that US will attack it, Israel will attack it, in its neighbourhood there are 150,000 US troops in Iraq and also already President Bush has signed, in January 2003, a plan called CONPLAN 1822, wherein President Bush has clearly stated that this plan envisages a deployment of mini-nukes to target underground sites in Iran.

What will be the fall-out of this Iran issue? India imports 90 million tonnes of crude oil. If there is a slight

increase of one dollar, there is an additional burden on the Exchequer of 650 million dollars. I would request the Government that on March the 6th when the issue comes up, we have to change our stand. You must also look into this that after Iran there are more than two crores Shia Muslims living in our country. There is going to be a huge political fall-out. They can get their own information on what is happening in Kerala, what is happening in West Bengal, what is going to happen in Tamil Nadu. We are here so that the secular forces get strengthened.

Sir, I would like to bring one last point to the notice of this House and then end my speech that this decision has not gone down well with the secular minded people, especially the Muslim minority.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Now, this Government has come to this phase. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Swain, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 initiated by hon. Member Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

When we recall the Government of India's action in the last meeting in February of the Atomic Energy Agency and also think about the next meeting of the same authority on the 6th of March, we cannot but recall the happenings in Iraq before the American onslaught on the country took place. There also, more or less, a similar situation took place. You see, accusation and allegations were made against Iraq, which were ultimately found to be wrong or not based on facts. But, we saw the onslaught of America on Iraq.

Since, for the last so many months, after the Iraq assault, America has been threatening Iran and Syria. We can foresee what the Americans' intentions are vis-a-vis Iran in the near future. In this matter, I think, India's decision at the last meeting of referring Iran's matter of the nuclear energy to the Security Council, which is again going to come up on the 6th March, has certainly not being well received in the country.

I have been listening with great attention to the intervention made by the hon. Minister of Defence, where

* Not recorded.

[Shri Subrata Bose]

he spoke at length, I felt that his intervention did not really explain India's change in stand between the period pre-September and post-September.

What necessitated India to vote in favour of the Resolution which wanted or desired that this matter should be referred to the Security Council; I think, has not yet been very clearly explained to the people of India.

Sir, we have been talking about independent foreign policy of India, which India has been pursuing and which we want India to pursue. The foreign policy of a country is always guided by the fact that whether an issue is in its national interest or it is not in its national interest. If we always remember that what will be in the interest of our country, then we can be sure also that an independent foreign policy will emerge on all issues facing the countries of the world. I think, in this matter India has to consider very deeply whether, in the meeting on the 6th March, we should reverse the stand that we have taken last February. I think, the time is still there for us to make our position change and clearly tell the world that we follow an independent policy and we are not guided and not pressured by any country however powerful that country may be.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government and also to the hon. Prime Minister who holds today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to consider deeply what the country feels about it, what should be in the interest of India, and then only take steps or take a stand on the 6th March, which stand should satisfy the people of India that the Government has taken the stand in the national interest and we are following an independent foreign policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE. Sir, I have done.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion has been initiated by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. When I heard him speaking, there was a lot of China-centric views which he projected here. China has abstained from voting in the IAEA meeting, and so also he suggested that India should have abstained from voting. But, Sir, in today's world, the biggest threat facing us is fundamental terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Religious fundamentalists like RSS. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Not RSS but like fidayeen, jihad which have disturbed the entire world and has disturbed the equation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: What has Iran got to do with jihad? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing irrelevant would be recorded.

[English]

Please take your seat.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, it was only after 9/11 the Americans realized the threat of terrorism but India had been fighting terrorism since 1947.

17.00 hrs.

We have been fighting terrorism since 1947. So, when the question of voting against Iran's nuclear facilities came in the IAEA, I think it was right on the part of the Government which has taken this step. But at the same time, there has been a diplomatic flaw. There has been a flaw by the MEA of the ruling Government because previously it had been seen that whenever a foreign policy decision is taken—foreign policy is a non-partisan issue—all the Parties get united, then a foreign policy framework is initiated and it is moved. This was done by the last NDA Government. So, this flaw should not be repeated in future. When a foreign policy statement or a resolution of a reference is made, the view of the Opposition, the view of the House and the view of the people should have been taken whereas this UPA Government unilaterally took action. This is completely wrong as per India's diplomatic statesmen.

Here I would not like to repeat the voting pattern because everybody has said about the same thing. It is because we have got a research paper from the same place. Here, I would like to refer to the speech of the hon. Leader of the House, hon. Pranab Mukherjee. He was mentioning about the old theory of balance of powers, which is not relevant today. What is relevant today? Terrorism is relevant today. We have to fight it. We have to fight terrorism and to do that, action should be taken against all the terrorists, fundamental countries and theocratic States which are uniting against democracies to disturb democracies. They have initiated a lot of action.

For example, today the President of Iran goes on record. He has said Israel should be wiped out from the map of the world. He has gone on record. A homeland was created for the Israeli people. They suffered during the Second World War in the gas chambers and in the prison camps of the fascist regime. A homeland was created for them. Do you want to wipe out that country? It cannot be done.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: From whom? From whose land, Israel was created? It is from the Palestinian land.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is their own land. It was their land before.

Therefore, now the connection between Iran and Pakistan comes to fore. When the hon. Prime Minister made his statement, he never mentioned about Pakistan. He never mentioned about the A.Q. Khan connections. A.Q. Khan was the profounder of the Islamic bomb. I am not saying this from my own brain. I am reading this from the newspapers. From magazines and from articles, we come to know that the profounder of the Islamic bomb was Mr. A.Q. Khan who supplied P2 centrifuges to Iran. This was known through his Malaysian connections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Therefore, I would like to say here that the move, which the UPA Government made unilaterally, should not have been done. Otherwise, we support it because the same terrorism could have been imported to our country in future. We have already faced it in Parliament. The terrorist attack, the fidayeen attack had taken place here in Parliament. It had taken place in Ayodhya. It had taken place in various parts of the country. Recently, our scientist was killed in Bangalore.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Now, Prof. M. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. M. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. M. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)*...

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I rise to support the suo moto statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister on Iran issue. In fact, I appreciate and applaud his transparent approach of providing the factual position leading to India's vote in International Atomic Energy Agency on 5.2.2006. When large amount of concerns were expressed and apprehensions were mounting high in the country, the hon. Prime Minister came to the House of the People of India and he was willing to give the factual position about the Iran issue in the House of the People. Therefore, we should all appreciate wholeheartedly his bold approach of coming on his own and presenting the case.

Sir, I perused every word of the statement of the hon. Prime Minister which gives the whole background to the issue, affirms our long-term ties and friendship with Iran and also promises that India will continue to maintain this friendship with Iran without any jeopardy. It also gives a commitment that before the UN Security Council initiates its action, it will pursue all the diplomatic efforts to resolve this issue in an amicable way.

Sir, I am unable to agree with many of the views expressed by our friends on the other side who said that India, by voting on Iran issue, has bartered its interests, that it has betrayed Iran, that it has surrendered its independent policy to USA and it is trying to dance to the tunes of somebody. I totally disagree with all these allegations because they have not been borne out of substantial facts.

I listened with rapt attention to what Shri C. K. Chandrappan spoke. He spoke for 30 minutes. Only at the last one minute, he said that India should have abstained from voting. No other argument is given as to how the interests of India would suffer on account of voting against Iran on 5.2.2006. They have not also substantiated as to how our independent policy has been sacrificed. In fact, if you look into the background in which the Iran issue has come up, we have nothing to fear that Iran has been building up arms. But there are a number of suspicions on the Iran's capability of using nuclear power both for civilian

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

purpose as well as for the nuclear weapons. Iran is suspected to be enriching uranium in order to produce nuclear weapons.

A.Q. Khan of Pakistan named Iran as one of the countries, others being Libya and North Korea, which was involved in clandestine nuclear proliferation by his network. The threat of a nuclear-weapons State in the neighbourhood would be detrimental to India's interests. This concern is exacerbated by the local politics of the region which has seen a number of conflicts like Iran-Iraq war and two Gulf Wars as well as there is a regime change in Iran in 1979. The possibility of an unstable political control in a nuclear-weapons armed-State could have grave consequences for India. For example, the statement by Iran's current leadership to wipe out Israel off the map indicates its willingness to tread dangerous ground.

Now, our stand in IAEA may help us to know the intention of nuclear programme of Iran. We have not done anything against Iran in this regard. We want only an intentional suspicion about Iran to be cleared. We have not voted for a war on Iran nor for military occupation by the US and, therefore, we should not say that our interest is jeopardised or the interest of Iran is at stake by our vote.

We have been trying to find out an acceptable solution to Iran issue through various compromises. In fact, we are caught in a dilemma and had to strike a balance. On the one hand, we had to uphold Iran's rights under the NPT and at the same time look at the concern of the international community. From 2004 India has been playing a leading role in arriving at a consensus on Iran issue. We have tried to mobilise the world opinion in favour of Iran and we should remember that we are only one among the 35 countries and we alone cannot do anything in the Board of IAEA except going along with the bigger powers. India being one of the major parties of the world had to vote for the Resolution of 5th February.

What is the nature of this Resolution? This Resolution says that the Director General of IAEA will inform the U.N. Security Council about the negotiations that are going on and secondly before March there will be a Board meeting where the final decision will be taken. Even if a final decision is taken, it is not going to a war against Iran or against anybody; but it is only to ask Iran to show whether they have weapons or not. Therefore, the Government has not done anything against betraying the interest of Iran in this case. It also says that the U.N. Security Council should not precipitate any action before March. So, only if all

these negotiations fail, then the U.N. Security Council will enter into the scene.

The argument that India has been subjected to pressure by U.S. is also not correct. We have not succumbed to any pressure. Our hon. Prime Minister would be the last person to yield to any pressure of the U.S. The Hon. Prime Minister is first and foremost a patriot, a nationalist and then only an economist and Prime Minister. Therefore, nobody need to have any doubt about his integrity. By voting against Iran, the Government has not sacrificed any of the public interest of India. Therefore, I fully support the statement of the Government. I would only wish to say that when our interest coincides with the interest of the international community we should not say that we are aligning with the U.S. We have never danced to the tunes of America whenever they wanted. For instance, when America wanted India to send its troops to Iraq, when Iraq was in hostility with the U.S., we did not send our troops. At that time NDA was in power. The whole Government, including the Congress Party, pledged not to send the weapons or the Army to Iraq and we defied the whip of USA.

Therefore, when something is not in consonance with the public interest or national interest, we have not sided with anybody. But whenever the interests are coinciding, we are supporting and they are supporting us.

Today we must understand that India is a global power. India is emerging as one of the major powers and we cannot isolate ourselves for various reasons. Therefore, I would only request the people not to emotionalize this issue but think calmly with a restraint and understand the issues and lead the people of this country to greater achievements. Let us not blame each other by giving rhetoric statements.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, I rise to speak on a very important debate. I would like to endorse the view of the UPA Government, but not in the way as they have carried it out on the Iran vote. The way they carried it on with the Iran vote I do not endorse that. I would begin by saying that India and Iran have traditional ties and we had friendly relationships with Iran during the ancient times. India has always worked on wide range of issues with Iran. Especially in recent times we are working on the issue of Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. I must bring to your notice that Iran is a major oil and gas centre. We need gas to be used for the *aam aadmi*. So, we need to work and cooperate within the region also.

At this stage, I must also mention that Iran signed the NPT and it should conform to the NPT. The Iran issue could be seen since 2003 and it is mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement in the first page.

It says that these rights and obligations must also be seen in the context of the development since 2003 when IAEA began seeking answers for a number of questions arising from Iran's nuclear activities. I must say at this stage that the UPA Government has grossly mismanaged India's vote in the IAEA regarding Iran issue and it did not take into consideration the entire Parliament, all the political parties. When the Government was led by our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, everyone was consulted. Under his leadership, he took into consideration all the political parties. He brought everyone together and considerations of all political parties were taken into account.

The Prime Minister's statement goes on to state that our neighbour has always assisted Iran. I would like to ask the UPA Government who is this neighbour. In the statement, he has mentioned at page 2 that such clandestine proliferation of sensitive technologies lies in our neighbourhood. Who is that neighbour which has been providing assistance to Iran? Let the Government state who that neighbour is.

Sir, I must also say that India is a sovereign country. We must think for our nation as a whole, cutting across party lines and no one should be directing us in any manner, in any of the things. We feel that it has been the West. The western powers have always looked at us as an emerging market-country. Right now, we are becoming a global super-power. We have our own foreign policy and no one should be telling us what to do. I must say that we have been pressurised and hassled by the West and the US with regard to this vote, but we must consider our national issues ourselves and we must have broad consultations to bring the state of our national issues together.

17.18 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

At this stage, I must say that we are proud of our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for making India a nuclear power State and creating new avenues and vistas for our country. He has created a step on which we have taken the country forward.

I must end by saying that we must bring all of us together, and proper consultations should have taken place prior to the Iran vote. I wish, this would happen in future.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I rise to speak on this very important matter. This is the testing time for India and India is at the crossroads whether to follow the path of Non-Aligned Movement and independent policy that we have been pursuing since our Independence or to succumb to the pressure of a few developed countries.

We are not opposed to the US as such; we are only opposing the policies being adopted by the US administration under the leadership of Mr. Bush. You know and all the Members are also aware of the stand the US had taken during our 1971 conflict with Pakistan. The US had moved its fleet to wage a war against us during 1971 War. Hon. Prime Minister has said in his statement that it is a matter of concern for us that there is tension in this region where our vital political, economic and security interests are involved, which affect us. Do we sincerely feel that Iran is the only potent threat to India? Does this region not have any threat from the other Middle East countries? We are also surrounded by three nuclear powers. Let us build national consensus on this issue. What happened during the NDA regime? We had to send our troops to Iraq, but the Government of India, at that time, had debated that issue on the floor of the House. We had a national consensus on the issue of our foreign policy.

Why are we unnecessarily deviating from our norms, and our independent foreign policy? This is my question.

I earnestly urge our hon. Prime Minister that we have had to vote twice, and we voted against Iran in the IAEA. It would be better if we abstain from voting the third time. A lot of countries are abstaining from voting including the NAM, and developing countries also. This time also we have to vote on the Iran's proposal with Russia. Therefore, we have to come out with a proposal. If there is a proposal and it is settled peacefully, then there is no question of any conflict. Hence, we have to use our diplomatic channels also.

Once a matter is reported to the United Nations Security Council, then it comes under the purview of the United Nations Security Council. Therefore, all that happened with Iraq will happen tomorrow with Iran also. If you go through the Telegraph newspaper or other newspapers, then you will find that preparations are

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

already going on in this direction. Now, negotiations are going on, and America is preparing itself to attack Iran. They are a signatory in the NPT, and there are some obligations and duties also that they have to follow. Iran also have to follow certain obligations as they are signatory in the NPT.

We are not a signatory in the NPT, but we are now going against Iran's interest. We have carried out the Pokhran test, and we have atomic power. They also have to produce energy for civilian purpose for their own country. Therefore, they are going for this. US is planning all these things because they want to wage a war against Iran.

I would humbly request the hon. Prime Minister, through you, that there should be a national consensus on this issue. Many parties are supportive on this issue. On the other hand, the Communist Party and certain other political parties are not supporting it. It means that there is no unanimity on this issue. I feel that we have to unitedly fight for our foreign policy on national issues. Therefore, my Party is against the Government's action for support in the IAEA against Iran.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next speaker is Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh. You will be allowed to speak only for two or three minutes.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I stand to debate on the discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on 17-02-2006 regarding vote in the IAEA on the issue of Iran's nuclear policy.

Sir, a lot has been debated on this issue, and a lot of views have come forward. One of the views that was expressed by my friends between was that: "We need to have a consensus on the foreign policy." I have always thought that we have always had a consensus on the foreign policy. In an occasion like this it is not surprising that the BJP is supporting this move. Now, you can take it that we are supporting the US move, but it cannot be said like this. We must get together and support any move in the foreign policy in the interest of the country. This is the view that we are projecting here.

Sir, I am making the point that this support does not mean that, as such, we are against the Iranians. We have had links with them both historically and otherwise, but when it comes to the issue of national interest, then it becomes of prime importance. Therefore, we support them.

I remember in the days of Pokhran-II atomic blast, most of the countries, which were very very friendly with us like Japan, Australia, a lot of European countries, etc. became our enemies at that time.

They thought that India has done something which is not in their interest and they thought that they must not support India on this issue, but that does not mean that they became enemies for ever. That is what I am saying here that we have had very good relationship with Iran. There were times when they were against us also on the issue of 1965 War and on other issues. But in this post-Cold War era, we have to consider our national importance as the main theme.

Let me also talk about NAM, which my friends had referred to. NAM is not today, what it was at one time. It has lost its relevance. I do not know what NAM means today. In the post-Cold War, I feel that NAM has lost its importance and that is not an issue today.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, there is a saying in Oriya:

"Swarg ku Nisuni Nahi, bada badhiya ku Jawab Nahi." The loose translation of that would be, "There is no ladder to Heaven, and you cannot retort to the biggies."

Sir, many learned colleagues have already spoken extensively on this issue and we see a common platform for both the biggies — the Congress and the BJP. They join hands where it suits them. It has to be taken into consideration that the enlightened foreign policy of an illustrious ex-World Bank Economist must be very clearly understood. Rome had enlightened Europe. We have to now consider which part of Europe is enlightening the foreign policy of India. Is it the same enlightenment that made this Government to take a head-count of all Muslim soldiers in the Indian Army? It has to be given very serious thought.

We, members of the Biju Janata Dal, are all small fries, I mean, the small, little parties in this august House. When the biggies join, like I said, obviously, we have no role to play, whether it is my friend sitting at the back or people like us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That interruption will not go on record. Only the speech of Shri Tathagata Satpathy will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

* Not recorded.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Article 6 of the NPT says that all five acknowledged nuclear countries "have to make progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons clearly with the ultimate aim of eliminating these weapons." Ultimately or unfortunately, the very five acknowledged nuclear countries are using their position and ability today to increase their economic power. Today, nuclear power is taking secondary position to economic power. We have to understand that.

America invaded Iraq or Afghanistan or whichever other territories not with an aim to diminish the threat from terrorism or the Muslim fundamentalists, but to grab the oil, to grab the economic resources that are available in those countries. It is a pity that we, as a country, have not been able to evolve a very clear, precise, independent foreign policy. India may dream of a world where there is complete disarmament, but Sir, it has to be taken into consideration as to whether it is possible in today's world.

To be precise, there are 915 installations world-wide that are under the IAEA scrutiny. Out of these 915 installations, only 11 installations are in the known nuclear-power countries. The interesting fact is, when a country like India opts for scrutiny under IAEA and certain reactors, certain installations come under their scrutiny, they are there under their scrutiny forever. However, for those five countries, the installations that are under scrutiny can change. Today it will be that installation and tomorrow it will be another installation. There is a choice which they can play on, there is freedom.

Russia or China should never be our ideals. They are playing their own games. In our economic policy whenever we talk about anything we always compare ourselves with Russia or China. They might be biggies in their own right but India has its own path, which it has followed from the days of Mahatma Gandhi. We have to adhere to that policy. Unfortunately, the two biggies in this House have drifted away, miles away from the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

It is time that we also looked at our own convenience and our own needs. When we talk about energy needs of India, we only talk about sporadic supply of energy to the rural India, the true India where the agriculturists, where 85 per cent of our population lives. Electricity is a commodity which they get for two-three hours in a day. When we base our calculations, we base our calculations on that sporadic supply of energy to rural India, which the user would be best able to speak on. When we vote

against Iran, we forget where our convenience lies. It is in the interest of India and we all have to be very clear about it whether anybody admits and speaks or not. It is in the interest of India to see that our energy demands of tomorrow are taken care of. Are we doing that? No, we are not doing that because America does not want us to do that.

We can remove the Petroleum Minister in India at the behest of America. He is not a colleague of mine; he does not belong to my party although it would have been great if one of my party members would have been the Petroleum Minister. The Petroleum Minister can be removed because he does not suit the desires of America. Like the WMDs of Iraq, which never ever surfaced even after Iraq has been under occupation for a year, when they talk about the nuclear possibilities or nuclear capabilities of Iran, they are possibilities or capabilities as thought of, or as dreamt of, by the US. It is not the situation in reality.

If the US thinks that it now needs the oil of Iran, India will raise its hand and say, 'Yahoo! Let us do it.' If you have China which is an atomic power sitting next to you with lots of bombs, if you have Pakistan sitting right next to you with more bombs, what difference does it make if Iran also has bombs?

To sum up my speech I would say this much. You have today a unipolar world. You have to consider what exactly you want. Total disarmament is India's dream. Very good! But is that possible? No. So, what is the alternative? Total armament. Let everybody be armed. That is the best deterrent against any mischief monger.

We have to consider this and we have to take a view where the enlightened opinion of an economist does not come into play in our foreign policy but the enlightened opinion of the people of this country comes into play.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are holding a serious discussion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You also be serious.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: All the ruling constituent parties have agreed that foreign policy should be based on consensus. I only want to remind the NDA that the Prime Minister has taken this stand. Terrorism takes its toll both on mankind and nations. I am referring to India's note

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

on Iran's nuclear programme. Just as Muslims are a red tag to President Bush, similar is the case with BJP. All I want to say is that all of us should support the stand taken by the Prime Minister and the UPA Government in this regard. Even if there is opposition within, we should put up a united front during Mr. Bush's visit. We should create a congenial atmosphere for US aid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the time of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi we all have always opposed terrorism. After being a victim of terrorism America has began to appreciate our stand in this regard. It has given a call to put an end to terrorism. To root out terrorism from the world, we must put up a United Front. There is a need to unite against the terrorists who brought down the Babri Masjid. Therefore, the NDA should support the nuclear policy of Shri Man Mohan Singh, Shri Vajpayeeji is present here. In the nation's interest we supported him fully in this regard. Now its their turn to do likewise. Our party supports this policy and it would continue even if you do not.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the hon. Prime Minister's statement on the Iran issue. We believe that India's vote in the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors in favour of United States of America is a big mistake and it is against the non-aligned policy and against the national consensus on the foreign policy. We heard several discussions from this afternoon. Of course, there are differences of opinion as to whether we are really non-aligned and as to what is non-alignment. Our learned friend, Shri Swain's interpretation of non-alignment, I do not think, even the B.J.P. will agree. The non-aligned policy of India has emerged as a consensus of all the political parties in this country, through there were some slight differences. It is an anti-imperialist policy and it is because of the anti-imperialist traditions of this country, this policy has emerged. Now, on the question of Iran, several arguments have been raised, and I am sure, I do not think that those who are arguing in favour of this vote against Iran are really convinced of this.

It is really not in the interest of the nation but it is in the interest of Uncle Sam. It is a very clear thing. Unfortunately, in the last one and one and a half years, we believe that the pressure on the Indian foreign policy and on the internal policy is on the increase from the USA, from the WTO, from the World Bank and all these types of organizations. It is getting reflected somewhere or other. It

is not a surprise. Suddenly this type of a vote is not a surprise. What shocked all of us is this. After the first debate when there was a discussion on the Iran issue throughout the country, there was a shocking statement or a comment by the US Ambassador in India Mr. Mulford in which he openly threatened that if India votes against the wishes of the US, the nuclear deal between India and US will be stopped and the Congress may reject it. It is an uncalled for statement. We believe that the Ambassador of such a big country, openly threatening and trying to force the Government of India to change its policy is totally uncalled for. Almost all the political parties in this country have condemned it. The explanation given is that his statement was quoted out of context. It is very much in the context. The statement is in the context of the Iran vote in the International Atomic Agency. The statement is very clear. We all thought that at least after this statement, if there is some sort of indecisiveness in the Government of India whether to vote on this side or that side, as a country of self-respect, India would vote against the US pressures. But, unfortunately, instead of taking at least a neutral stand, India has decided to vote along with United States of America. It is a very unfortunate thing that even the Government of India did not feel it fit to demand that he should be called back because of this type of blatant interference in the internal affairs of any country.

Now, there are several arguments that have been raised that this voting is done in the enlightened national interest. Is it against the national consensus of this country? Has it not emerged after a long long years of debate in this country? Hon. Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee has explained at length about this national interest. He said that there was no betrayal towards Iran. He has said that Iran is a country which stood with us several times when there was a need. A country in need is a friend indeed. Unfortunately, we did not take into consideration even this aspect whether it is a betrayal of Iran or not. But it is definitely a betrayal of the non-aligned movement; it is a betrayal of the Nehruvian policy on foreign affairs. This should be taken into consideration and this should be set right.

I think, in the last few years, never has this national consensus been so blatantly rejected. This national consensus should be kept in mind. I suggest that, like in the United States of America, this Parliament should have the right to ratify every foreign policy and it should not be left only to bureaucrats or to the decision of the Government. In the United States of America, every international agreement is to be ratified by the Congress. Our

Constitution should be amended so that these types of mistakes are not repeated in future. I even say that it is not too late to set things right and the national consensus should be taken into consideration.

Independent Foreign Policy should be restored and India's prestige should be restored in the Non-Aligned Movement.

17.45 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the United States

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, there will be a *suo motu* Statement by the hon. Prime Minister on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the United States.

Mr. Prime Minister.

*THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to inform this august House of the status of discussions with the United States on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation. Substantive aspects of this are reflected in the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 that President Bush and I agreed upon during my visit to Washington DC last year. I would like to use this occasion to outline the context and core elements of the Joint Statement, before detailing the status of the ongoing negotiations.

Hon. Members are aware that our effort to reach an understanding with the United States to enable Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation was based on our need to overcome the growing energy deficit that confronts us. As India strives to raise its annual GDP growth rate from the present seven to eight per cent to over 10 per cent, the energy deficit will only worsen. This may not only retard growth, it could also impose an additional burden in terms of the increased cost of importing oil and natural gas, in a scenario of sharply rising hydrocarbon prices. While we have substantial reserves of coal, excessive dependence on coal-based energy has its own implications for our environment. Nuclear technology provides a plentiful and non-polluting source of power to meet our energy needs.

However, to increase the share of nuclear power in our energy mix, we need to break out of the confines imposed by inadequate reserves of natural uranium, and by international embargos that have constrained our nuclear programme for over three decades.

Established through the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and sustained by the commitment of scientists like Dr. Homi Bhabha, our nuclear programme is truly unique. Its uniqueness lies in the breadth of its overarching vision of India mastering a three-stage nuclear programme using our vast thorium resources, and mastering more complex processes of the full nuclear fuel cycle. Consequently, our civilian and strategic programmes are deeply intertwined across the expanse of the nuclear fuel cycle. There are hardly any other countries in a similar situation. Over the years, the maturation of our nuclear programme, including the development of world-class thermal power reactors, has made it possible to contemplate some changes. These are worth considering if benefits include gaining unhindered access to nuclear material, equipment, technology and fuel from international sources.

However, international trade in nuclear material, equipment and technologies is largely determined by the Nuclear Suppliers Group — an informal group of 45 countries. Members include the United States, Russia, France and the United Kingdom. India has been kept out of this informal arrangement and, therefore, denied access to trade in nuclear materials, equipment and various kinds of technologies.

It was with this perspective that we approached negotiations with the United States on enabling full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India. The essence of what was agreed in Washington last July was a shared understanding of our growing energy needs. In recognition of our improved ties, the United States committed itself to a series of steps to enable bilateral and international cooperation in nuclear energy. These include adjusting domestic policies, and working with allies to adjust relevant international regimes. There was also a positive mention of possible fuel supply to the first two nuclear power reactors at Tarapur. US support was also indicated for India's inclusion as a full partner in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Research Project and the Generation IV International Forum.

But more importantly, in the Joint Statement, the United States implicitly acknowledged the existence of our nuclear weapons programme. There was also public

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recognition that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technologies, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other States which have advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. The Joint Statement offered the possibility of decades-old restrictions being set aside to create space for India's emergence as a full member of a new nuclear world order.

On our part, as the hon. Members may recall from my suo motu statement on July 29 last year, we committed ourselves to separating the civilian and strategic programme. However, this was to be conditional upon and reciprocal to, the United States fulfilling its side of the understanding. I had stressed that reciprocity was the key and we expected that the steps to be taken by India would be conditional upon and contingent on action taken by the United States. I had emphasised then — and I reiterate today — that no part of this process would affect or compromise our strategic programme.

I now come to the negotiations that have taken place in the past few months. While these have been principally with the US, there have been discussions with other countries like Russia, UK and France as well. At the political level, I have maintained contact with President Chirac of France, President Putin of Russia, Prime Minister Blair of the UK. I have also raised this subject with the Heads of State or Government of Norway, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Czech Republic and Ireland — all members of the Nuclear Supplier Group. I also met President Bush in New York last September and discussed implementation of the July 18 statement. In the same period, several American Congressional leaders and policy-makers have visited India in the past few months, many of whom met me. We have amply clarified our objective in pursuing full civil nuclear energy cooperation for our energy security and to reassure them of India's impeccable non-proliferation credentials.

At the official level, we have constituted two groups comprising key functionaries concerned with strategic and nuclear matters. They included the Department of Atomic Energy, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Armed Forces and my Office. These two groups were respectively mandated to draw up an acceptable separation plan, and to negotiate on this basis. The directive given to both groups was to ensure that our strategic nuclear programme is not compromised in any way, while striving to enlarge avenues for full civil nuclear energy cooperation with the international community. The negotiations by our officials have been extensive and prolonged. These have focused

on four critical elements: the broad contours of a Separation Plan; the list of facilities being classified as civilian; ...*(Interruptions)* the nature of safeguards applied to facilities listed in the civilian domain; ...*(Interruptions)* and the nature and scope of changes expected in US domestic laws and NSG guidelines to enable full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India.

Hon. Members may be assured that in deciding the contours of a separation plan, we have taken into account our current and future strategic needs and programmes after careful deliberation of all relevant factors consistent with our Nuclear doctrine. We are among very few countries to adhere to the doctrine of 'No first Use'. Our doctrine envisions a credible minimum nuclear deterrent to inflict unacceptable damage on an adversary indulging in a nuclear first strike. The facilities for this, and the required level of comfort in terms of our strategic resilience have thus been our criterion in drawing up a separation plan. Ours is a sacred trust to protect succeeding generations from a nuclear threat and we shall uphold this trust. Hon. Members may therefore be assured that in preparing a Separation Plan, there has been no erosion of the integrity of our Nuclear Doctrine, either in terms of current or future capabilities.

The Separation Plan that is being outlined is not only consistent with the imperatives of national security, it also protects our vital research and development interests. We have ensured that our three-stage nuclear programme will not be undermined or hindered by external interference. In fact, our three-stage nuclear programme may continue to receive the full support of our Government, including through the construction of new facilities. We will offer to place under safeguards only those facilities that can be identified as civilian without damaging our deterrence potential or restricting our R&D effort, or in any way compromising our autonomy of developing our three stage nuclear programme. In this process, the Department of Atomic Energy has been involved at every stage, and the separation plan has been drawn up with their inputs.

Therefore our proposed Separation Plan entails identifying in phases, a number of our thermal nuclear reactors as civilian facilities to be placed under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, amounting to roughly 65 per cent of the total installed thermal nuclear power capacity by the end of the separation plan period. A list of some other DAE facilities may be added to the list of facilities within the civilian domain. The Separation Plan will create a clearly defined civilian domain where IAEA

safeguards apply. On our part, we are committed not to divert any nuclear material intended for the civilian domain from designated civilian use or for export to third countries without safeguards.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, negotiations are currently at a delicate stage. In our dialogue with our interlocutors, we have judged every proposal made by the US side on merits but we remain firm in that the decision of what facilities may be identified as civilian will be made by India alone and not by anyone else.

At the same time, we are not underestimating the difficulties that exist in these negotiations. There are complex issues involved. Several aspects of the nuclear programme lend themselves in the public discussions to differing interpretations, such as the Fast Breeder Programme or our fuel-cycle capabilities such as re-processing and enrichment requirements. The nature and range of strategic facilities that we consider necessarily outside safeguards constitute yet another example. We have however conveyed to our interlocutors that while discussing the Separation Plan, there are details of the nature and content of our strategic requirements that we cannot share. We will not permit information of national security significance to be compromised in the process of negotiation.

18.00 hrs.

It is essential to recall that the July 18 Statement was not about our strategic programme. It was intended to be the means to expand our civilian nuclear energy capacities and thereby to help pave the way for faster economic progress. In seeking to achieve this objective, we appreciate the need for patience to remove misperceptions that abound. I reiterate that India has an exemplary record on non-proliferation and this will continue to be so. All in all, one major achievement so far is that a change its now discernible in the international system. We believe that when implemented, the understandings reflected in the Joint Statement will give India its due place in the global nuclear order. The existence of our strategic programme is being acknowledged even while we are being invited to become a full partner in international civil nuclear energy cooperation.

I must emphasize that the nation is justly proud of the tremendous work of our nuclear scientists and the Department of Atomic Energy in mastering all the key aspects of the full nuclear fuel cycle, often under very

difficult circumstances. The tremendous achievements of our scientists in mastering the complete nuclear fuel cycle — the product of their genius and perseverance — will not be frittered away. We will ensure that no impediments are put in the way of our research and development activities. We have made it clear that we cannot accept safeguards on our indigenous Fast Breeder Programme. Our scientists are confident that this technology will mature and that the programme will stabilize and become more robust through the creation of additional capacity. This will create greater opportunities for international cooperation in this area as well. An important reason why the US and other countries with advanced nuclear technologies are now engaging with India as a valued partner is precisely because of the high respect and admiration our scientists enjoy internationally, and the range and quality of the sophisticated nuclear programme they have managed to create under the most difficult odds. This gives us confidence to engage in these negotiations as an equal partner.

As I said, many aspects of the proposed separation plan are currently under negotiation. It is true that certain assurances in the July 18 Statement remain to be fulfilled — the supply of imported fuel for Tarapur I and II, for one. Some elements, such as US support for India's participation in the ITER programme; have materialised. The issue of the nature of safeguards to be applied to facilities designated civilian also remains pending resolution. I seek the indulgence of this House not to divulge every single detail of the negotiations at this time. However, this august House can be assured that the limits are determined by our overarching commitment to national security and the related issue of the autonomy of our nuclear programme. Our Government will take no step that could circumscribe or cast a shadow over either.

I am aware that concerns have been raised over information being shared with outsiders, but not with our own citizens. Members may be assured that nothing that could compromise our nuclear deterrent has been shared with anyone. On this aspect, there is no reason for concern or doubt.

As I said at the outset, our approach is defined by the need to utilise the window of opportunity before us, to find a solution to our energy deficit. We have also been guided by the need to dismantle international restrictions, which, when achieved could unleash our scientific talent and increase commercial potential in the nuclear and related sectors. The nation will be kept informed, through this august House.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Members so desire the time of the House may be extended.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bill is very important. Therefore, the time should be extended. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, when will the discussion on this take place? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it was decided in the meeting of the leaders in the morning that response to the Iran debate shall be made by the hon. Prime Minister and that too before six o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When will the discussion on this statement take place? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You may give proper notice under the rules for a discussion on this. It is not my duty to decide about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

First you will have to give a notice for a discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has commented upon very important points. We would like to have the opportunity of sharing our views with the hon. Prime Minister and the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they give any notice for having a discussion on this, we have no hesitation for a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: BAC will decide that.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, but we wish that this discussion takes place as early as possible and not be linked to the visit of any dignitary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give notice to the office of the hon. Speaker.

The discussion under rule 193 will continue and now the House will take up Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill. If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House by one hour.

18.06 hrs.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

"That the Bill to further amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 be taken into consideration".

Sir, in view of the sharp decline in employment opportunities as also the stagnation in the sale of khadi products during the past few years, it has become necessary to make suitable changes in the khadi and village Industries Commission (KVIC) structure, to bring in modern management techniques and to strengthen the KVIC in order to make khadi and village industries products competitive. Therefore a decision has been taken to revive the khadi and village Industries Commission under the National Common Minimum Programme.

2. The Government, keeping the aforesaid in view formed a ten member expert Committee in December, 2004. This Committee has been entrusted with the task of reviewing the structure of KVIC, its function and its performance and to recommend suitable measures to strengthen it. The Committee presented its Report in April, 2005.
3. The Government, after giving serious consideration to the recommendations of the Expert Committee presented the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 22.8.2005 to make necessary changes in the present khadi and village Industries Commission Act, 1956. This Bill provides to make the provisions of the present Act relating to the structure and functions of the

Commission more professional and according to the present needs.

4. Some of the important amendments proposed in the Current Bill are as follow:

- (a) To provide for the eligibility condition of ten years experience in the related field for appointment as regional member in the Commission.
- (b) To include two more Members representing marketing and banking sectors as part time experts in the Commission.
- (c) To provide for a law to ensure regular sittings of the apex level board of the khadi and village Industries Commission.
- (d) To provide for a new consultancy mechanism at the regional level. Six Regional Committees (proposed), each headed by a Member (including Chairman) representing a particular region of the country, would work as a medium of dissemination of the concerned programme monitor the progress of the schemes and review the problems faced at the regional level.
- (e) To constitute the Commission in such a manner as it would be able to concentrate more on policy matters, programmes and schemes, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission would be responsible for the monitoring, direction and guidance of the Commission and its day to day management.
- (f) To provide for execution of certain functions of the Commission through specified agencies.
- (g) To give voting rights to the ex-officio Members.

Some of the other proposed amendments in the Bill include empowering the Central Government to reconstitute the Commission after its dissolution, to clearly define the functions and rights in respect of the Commission the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Advisor, and to make it clear that the Chairman and the Members would hold office at the pleasure of the Central Government,

which would not be more than five years of continuous period.

The said Bill was sent to the Departmentally related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry for review and recommendations. This Parliamentary Committee submitted its report on 13 December, 2005. The Parliamentary Committee recommended amendments only in 4 clauses out of the 14 clauses in the bill. The amendments suggested by the Parliamentary Committee are as follow:

- (i) To provide for appointment of five non-official expert Members instead of three in clause 3 of the Bill.
- (ii) To issue notification for nominating a member within 30 days by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government concerned, by amending Clause 8 of the Bill substituting Chairman, State Khadi and Village Industries Board with the representative of each of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board of the region or with the representative of the State Government, as the case may be.
- (iii) To make a provision for the - nomination of a representative of an institution with a very good record from each states of the region as a member of the regional committee by amending the Clause 8 of the Bill.
- (iv) Under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act by amending the Clause 6 of the Bill, designate Khadi and Village Industries board as National Khadi and Village Industries Board.
- (v) By amending Clause 2 of the Bill in order to increase prescribed Capital Investment limit to One lakh fifty thousand rupees for each artisans or worker of the hilly areas and to increase the population limit of small cities which come under the definition of 'rural areas' under the section 2 of the KVIC Act upto 20,000.

There will not be any change in the basic objectives, rights and functions of the KVIC due to the proposed amendments in the present KVIC Act. In fact it is expected and hoped that these proposed amendments will help KVIC to execute its functions in a more efficient and timely manner by providing it with a professional outlook and it will enable the commission to play its significant role of

[Shri Mahavir Prasad]

creating continuous and extensive employment opportunities in rural areas of the country in a more efficient way.

Therefore, for amending the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, based on Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2005 and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Industry, the august House is requested to consider and pass the proposed amendments.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I have a submission to make.

It appears that the Bill has got the unanimous support of the House. After the scrutiny of the Bill by the Standing Committee, I had discussed about it with several leaders of the Opposition. So, it will be nice if we can pass the Bill unanimously without discussion. It is because every Party is in agreement with the passing of the Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. We will take the motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I have a point to make here. It was decided in the BAC that we will discuss this Bill for two hours. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Amendment of Section 2

Amendment made

Page 1, line 7 to 9 substitute:

'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (herein after referred to as the principal Act)

(i) in clause (f), for the words "ten thousand", the words "twenty thousand" shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (h), in sub-clause (i),—

(a) for the words "fifteen thousand rupees", the words "one lakh rupees" shall be substituted;

(b) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided further that in the case of any industry located in a hilly area, the provisions of this sub-clause shall have effect as if for the words "one lakh rupees", the words "one lakh and fifty thousand rupees" had been substituted."

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir please grant permission to the members who want to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

— Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our members are ready to speak and you are getting the Bill passed. ...(Interruptions)

Clause 3 Amendment of Section 4

Amendment made

Page 2, for line 15 to 17 substitute.

"(b) four non-official members of whom each member shall be from the following disciplines, namely:—"

(4)

Page 2, for lines 18 and 19 omit "the discipline of". (5)

Page 2, for line 20 substitute "marketing," in place of discipline of marketing (6)

Page 2, for lines 23 and 24 substitute:-

"(iii) one member having expert knowledge and experience in Rural Development; and

(iv) one member having expert knowledge and experience in Technical Education and Training;" (7)

Page 2, for line 35, substitute 'financial advisor' in place of 'one financial adviser' (8)

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, actually we were told just now that the Business Advisory Committee had given two hours for this Bill. So, some Members here wanted to speak. They have not been able to speak. Let them speak in the Third Reading. ...(Interruptions) Yes, let them speak now. ...(Interruptions) When the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said it, they stood up. But, you could not perhaps notice them. You went on to say that the Bill be taken into consideration. Even if that has happened, it does not matter. At the Third Reading, they can speak. There is no problem.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I checked up with the parties if there is any name. Only two names were there and they were absent. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: That is not the issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have to help the

Chair as to how the course will be conducted. ...(Interruptions) I asked all the floor leaders. ...(Interruptions) I asked your Deputy Leader also. I do not know whether he is powerful or you are powerful. ...(Interruptions) Okay in the Third Reading, as the Leader of the Opposition says, they can speak.

[Translation]

I would request that he should maintain co-ordination with his deputy leader. ...(Interruptions) It is OK. I accept it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Third Reading, you can speak.

Clause 6 Amendment of Section 10

[Translation]

Amendment made

Page 3, for line 23 to 25 substitute:-

"6. Section 10 of the principal Act shall be numbered as sub-section (1) thereof and,-

(a) in sub-section (1) as so numbered, for the words "Khadi and Village Industries Board", the words "National Khadi and Village Industries Board" shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (1) as so numbered, the following sub-section sections shall be inserted, namely:-" (9)

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Insertion of new Section 12A

[Translation]

Amendment made:-

Page 4, for lines 3 and 4, substitute:

"(b) one representative of each of the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards of the States or, as the case may be, the Government of each State in the Zone, to be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government concerned-member;" (10)

Page 4, line 8 omit "and" (11)

Page 4, line 10 for "member.", substitute "member; and" (12)

Page 4, after line 10, insert—

"(f) one representative of an institution of repute, working for at least ten years in the Khadi or Village Industries sector and having a good record of performance, from each State in the Zone, to be notified by the Central Government-member." (13)

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title and commencement

[Translation]

Amendment made

Page 1, line 4 for "2005", substitute "2006" (2)

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

[Translation]

Amendment was made.

"Fifty Seven" be substituted in place of "fifty six" at line 1, page no. 1

(Shri Mahavir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, before the Bill is passed, let them speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After he moves it, they can speak and then the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak Khadi and Village industries which is a vast subject and I apologise that I have not put on the Khadi clothes even though I am speaking on the subject. I am not feeling well and I was also not aware about the subject of discussion for today. However I feel happy to speak on this subject. It would have been better if this subject had been allotted four to five hours for discussion so that several other hon. Members could air their views. Khadi is not a cloth alone, it represents an ideology. Today, there is a need to propel and promote the Khadi and village industries of the country. This sector is providing employment opportunity to approximately 62 lakh people in the country and a large number of villages have blossoming industries. The rural India has kept alive the slogan of Mahatma Gandhi. Khadi and village industries was a brainchild of Mahatma Gandhiji and it also assumed the form an Act through the Parliament in the year 1956.

There is a need to make several amendments in it. There is a provision of six zones and one Member from each of the zones in it. There is also a provision of an expert Member in it. I request the hon. Minister to increase the number of the zones as the six zones are not sufficient for representing the entire country. There is a need to increase its number to ten and also to increase the number of its Members and those of the expert Members. Mumbai is the headquarter of the Khadi and village industries where the people of the other parts of the country can not reach. Therefore there should be the office of the Khadi and village industries in each region of the country and the existing system needs to be strengthened. There is also a need to enlighten the people about Khadi even outside the Parliament. The trend of Khadi is an decrease and most of the people are unaware about the new khadi products like organic food items etc. that have found favour among the users. However these products have not been getting desired encouragement from the government. The handmade Khadi of South Africa has been named as African Khadi. Khadi is the handspun cloth of silk, woolen and cotton fibers and there is a need to make its publicity even abroad. Unless we are sincere about our commitment to know the foreigners won't adopt it.

Khadi is not a cloth alone but the voice of the nation and a national movement. Weaving Khadi makes one feel in syne with the dignity of the nation. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to use Khadi maximum. Though I wear Khadi, I am not putting on it today and extend my apology for not wearing it. I am also sorry for those Members who though have put on Khadi but are not participating in the discussion.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): What has BJP got to do with BJP.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: Khadi be seen rising above party politics whether it be commitment, BJP or other parties. Khadi is our national symbol. Therefore, not taking much time, I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay attentions to the North Eastern states where there is centuries old tradition of hand spun cloth.

[English]

Khadi means what? A piece of cloth which is hand-spun, hand-woven and made in India out of cotton, woolen, silk or mixture of any of these two.

[Translation]

This is the definition of Khadi and it is very important to know it. Therefore, it is very necessary to introduce Khadi at the places that are aloof from it for example in Arunachal Pradesh where Khadi used to be there but the people were not aware about its definition. Though they used to wear handmade clothes yet they were not aware that it is Khadi. Khadi culture has been everywhere but government did not make any effort to do any propaganda in this regard. Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister to strengthen the office of Deputy Chief Executive office i.e. Regional office of Khadi in North East. The office has staff shortage and I have seen it myself. The headquarter in Mumbai posts the officers in the area but they do not stay there on the pretext of illness. There is a need to strengthen that office either by appointing the people from North East. If possible, the number of zones be increased and there is also a need to make people aware about and arouse in them love for Khadi.

Sir, with these words, I conclude by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lalit Mohan Shukla-
vaidya — Not present.

Shri P. Karunakaran — Not present.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Khadi and village industries (Amendment) Bill. The Khadi and village industries is such an important subject that it warranted a compressive debate on it. As was mentioned about Khadi was Khadi was the source of inspiration for the freedom struggle and Gandhiji made khadi and Charkha a household name and this way Khadi played such an important role in the freedom struggle. Besides, Khadi and village industries also provided employment to millions of unemployed people. However during the last few years, Khadi kendras have reached a situation where they have become sick or on the verge of closure. NDA Government had announced for providing a 500 crore special package and provide employment to 20 lakh people to revive the industry but nothing was done during the past five years. Now, the amendment Bill under consideration has spelled out its revival in very unambiguous terms. Wherein the number of Members have been increased. The Chairman or the Member of the Khadi Board should have at least 6 years

[Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh]

of experience either in the field of Khadi, village industries, economics or technology. Hence, the present Government have created the ground for strengthening the infrastructure of the khadi and village industries. I am hopeful that this step would usher in new revolution in the field of Khadi and village industries and the poor will get employment in the process of strength-ening the industry. Khadi, a symbol of freedom will be kept alive to fulfil the dream of Bapuji. All the proposed amendments whether it be Article 2A, 4A or 13A or 19A, are very effective amendments. Therefore, I support it and conclude.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has presented the Khadi and Gramodyog Amendment Bill, 2005 to amend the Khadi and Gramodyog Act, 1956. I rise to support the Bill. Since many hon. Members have spoken on this issue and this Bill has been presented to pass it unopposed, therefore, I'd not like to speak more in this regard. There has been a considerable discussion in the Standing Committee. As it has been stated that everyone should wear khadi. I also wear it many times and even today I am wearing it. A rebate of 30 per cent is given on Khadi clothes for some time. I'd like to say that many-a-time this should be given during a year, i.e. 30 per cent rebate should be given four to five times so that people can make a habit to wear khadi. Many leaders wear kahdi. Once upon a time I came to you along with the Kolhugana Society. Budget is going to be presented tomorrow. Khadi should be made service-tax free in the budget. All the products of the Khadi and village industries should be made service tax and other taxes free. All have made a mention of the amendments made to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bill. I'd like to appreciate hon. Minister for presenting such a nice Bill. He is a minister who does well. Subsidy and other assistance should also be given to the Khadi and village industries. It should be made service tax and other taxes free. This is my request.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. Actually, the manner in which this Bill has been brought through, I should record my protest in the beginning. Initially I should say that at least the Leader of the House is aware, so also the mover of this Bill and to some extent Shri Nikhil Kumar, who is sitting at the back, is also aware in what manner khadi had played a greater role in the freedom struggle.

In the Vedic literature the mention of khadi is there. But the Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, revolutionised the idea of khadi. Khadi became a symbol of Swadeshi. Khadi became a symbol of self-dependence. Khadi became a symbol of self-reliance. Khadi became a symbol of our Independence struggle. But it took around ten years, from 1947 to 1956, that a cohesive unit is to be formed.

It was necessary to discuss this because unless we should understand in what manner the Khadi and Village Industries Commission was established in 1956, what were the two divergent ideas that were being debated during that time. Also, we have to remember what Miraben used to say during that period. She was of the opinion and today also, there are two different opinions on this because the manner in which during freedom struggle Khadi and Gramodyog were being propagated and encouraged was not with Government support and Miraben held that view. She was of the opinion that the Government, the establishment is a great giant. The moment you come into that fold, seek its support, that giant will kill you by its embrace. This was her view.

Ultimately, time and again, no matter how many committees, how many empowered committees or commissions which were appointed for review of this Khadi and Gramodyog, all have become a futile exercise. It may be Karve Committee, it may be Asoka Mehta Committee, in every ten years, invariably, a number of committees have been formed. Ultimately, a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, was also formed to give an impetus to Khadi and Gramodyog.

Subsequently another Committee was also formed. Arthur Anderson Committee was formed as to how to market the khadi products. Another Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant, was also formed.

I will come to the basic question. Should khadi be propagated only by giving subsidy or should the financial institutions come forward to support the Khadi and Gram Udyog in such a manner that it can be remunerative and it can be industrially viable? These are the basic questions. You see what we get today in this Bill. I would be educated if the hon. Minister apprises us in what manner the policy is being guided. The Standing Committee has taken a decision. The Bill is being piloted. I am sure that this Bill will also be passed. But what is the ultimate problem that the Khadi and Village Industries are facing today?

Sir, thanks to you, with the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition, we are speaking on this Bill though for a small time. But the problem lies here, whether the Government would make it clear as to whether it is going to accept what the K.C. Pant Committee recommended. The K.C. Pant Committee recommended giving full subsidy throughout the year — in the month of October, whole month subsidy would be given and in every month subsequently only for seven days subsidy would be given. Are you going to accept that? Are you accepting another policy which was also being discussed in this country at the highest level in the Government quarters that only the financial institutions would support? As the Members of the Lower House, the House of the People, and being the member, Co-Chairman of the District level Committees and as we sit at the State-level Committees, we also interact with the bankers. We know in what manner the financial institutions come forward to finance the khadi and village industries.

Should we say — as the Railway Minister is present here — that all fabrics, that are being purchased by the Railways would be khadi? Should we say that all the Government Departments would purchase khadi fabric? That will give support in a bigger way.

Which are the States which have been benefited? I am really astonished to find this information. Actually this did not dawn on me earlier. I went through the question put by a hon. Member as to how many people have been engaged or employed. Khadi and village industry is in a non-farm sector, and the people who are engaged for earning, are also doing only part-time job. It is not a full-time job and it is only a part-time job. How many people have been engaged, and which are the States? They are West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka. These are the five States where the employment is more. In a place like Orissa, in 2002-03, only 2,000 people were engaged. Subsequently the figure went up to 4,000. The number of khadi and village industries is not more than 3,000 to 4,000 in the whole country. I am mentioning the agencies which are actually engaged in this.

I will just like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this problem because he is aware about the Kalahandi problem. There are a number of institutions which are working, giving gainful employment to the needy people but they are not being paid for the service which they

have rendered. They weave thread. They produce cloth. A unit purchases that and that unit finally sells it in the market.

Their money should rotate. In some places, it is blocked. Then, the people are not getting their money for three years or four years. It is the Khadi and Village Industries Commission which is responsible. I would urge upon the Minister to please look into it. A number of letters have been written to you. I am referring only to Kalahandi. I am not referring to my district where also there are certain problems. You have put up a unit. There has been a building for a sliver plant but no machine is being installed there. Why sliver is to be brought from Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu? Why States like Orissa will not have a sliver plant where you have a building for that purpose?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The other aspect is the administrative setup. At one point of time, it was decided in the initial stage in 1956 that Khadi and Village Industries Commission should function independent of the Government's interference. In the last 50 years we have seen that it has not given us the result. Should we say that now we are turning the wheel, there will be Government's intervention? In every five years, as the Bill states, the Government will appoint the Chairman; the Government will appoint the Board; and the Government will organise a number of zonal Committees, as was mentioned. If you are having zonal Committees, why not have it in such a manner whereby every State will be benefited?

With these words, I would say that the Minister should consider the points which I have raised.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Khadi and Village Industries (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Also, I thank our beloved leader, Dr. Kalam and Tamil's Jupiter, our Thalapaty Thiru M.K. Stalin without whom I would not be here.

Sir, KVIC Bill is one of the important Bills. In the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government has decided to revamp the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. This has been necessitated mainly because of the deep decline in employment in the khadi sector and nearly stagnant sales of Khadi over the years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, this is not a meeting place.

Please continue.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI: Now it is high time for the Khadi Village and Industries Commission, which is needed, to take effective measures to introduce modern management and practices and make the khadi products competitive in the globalised economy and to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas through the schemes, projects and other activities of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

The subject of khadi and village industries is the great theme and thinking of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji. Khadi and Village Industries Commission is the country's largest rural development supporting agency in the modern India. Mahatma Gandhiji conceived khadi as an expression of the Swadeshi spirit and at the same time an opportunity to provide self-employment, self-sufficiency and self-dependency for every man and woman involved in khadi activities.

In the year 1989, our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had started a scheme for women self-help group, called Poomalai Scheme, in Tamil Nadu as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhiji. This gives self-sufficiency, self-dependency and self-employment to women. What our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi started in the year 1989 is now functioning successfully in Tamil Nadu.

KVIC should be available for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden people who are working in the following sectors and industries, namely, coir, rubber, cashew, handloom, powerloom, palm, handicraft, food processing, sericulture, wool, wood, leather, pottery, etc. People who work in the industries may have taken loan payable to the societies. That should be waived and they should be encouraged to produce the proposed materials in which they are good.

They should be helped by giving loans and subsidies through banks and co-operative societies. Their products should be purchased by the Department without any hurdle and they should be paid immediately without any delay.

The KVIC should help the poor producers by meeting them in person and guide them to get rid of their difficulties whether in procuring raw materials or sale of finished products.

Even, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission can guide them properly for getting proper loan from the banks and co-operative societies.

KVIC should give guidance to the poor producers by educating them recent technology, marketing trends and viability to improve Khadi and Village Industries. While we welcome foreign investment for industries, we should give more importance to khadi which is a tribute to khadi and our tradition.

Sir, with these words, I support this Bill and I conclude my speech.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to participate in the consideration for passing of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as moved by the hon. Minister, Shri Mahabir Prasad. This Bill is to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Act, 1956. I support the Bill with all its amendments.

Sir, at the very outset, I would like to place on record the fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body, autonomous of course, established in the year 1956, under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

The primary aim of the Act was to provide the establishment of a Commission for the development of Khadi and Village Industries in the country. However, it has been found out that the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission faced some original inherent difficulties. At the same time, there has been a steep decline in employment in the Khadi sector. Further, the sales of Khadi products have become more or less stagnant for the last about a decade or so.

Sir, in the backdrop of these administrative and financial difficulties in the working of the Commission and also the decline in the sales and employment in the Khadi sector, the Central Government dissolved the then Khadi and Village Industries Commission and constituted an Expert Committee. As the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out, this Expert Committee submitted its report on the 6th April, 2005. Now, the present United Progressive Alliance Government is duty bound to incorporate these accepted recommendations of the Expert Committee. This can only be possible by amending the provisions of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. Hence the present Bill, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission

(Amendment) Bill, 2005. *...(Interruptions)* While participating in the discussions, I would like to state certain facts.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Sir, perhaps, I am the second person from the party to speak on this Bill. I would take just a few minutes. *...(Interruptions)* Our founding fathers have rightly stated that India live in the villages. Village Industries are the pillars of our civilisation. Extinction of village industries would completely ruin seven lakh and odd villages of the country. If village perishes, India will perish too. India will not be an India again. Her own mission in the world will get lost. Exploitation of the village means complete ruin of the village civilisation.

Sir, if the particular character of the village industry is maintained, there would be perhaps no objection to the villagers using even the modern machines and tools that they can make and can perhaps afford to use. We have to make a choice between India of the villages that are as ancient as herself and India of the cities which is a creation of foreign domination.

Sir, mechanisation is good when the hands are too few for the work to be accomplished. It is an evil when there are more hands than required for the work as is in the case of India. The problem with us is not how to find leisure for the teeming million population of the country, but the problem is now how to utilise their idle hours. It remains a fact that the way to take work to the villagers is not through mechanisation but that it lies through the revival of the industries which is being propagated by our villagers.

When we find that our needs are not properly supplied, we go to the village. I would like to draw your kind attention and through you the kind attention of this august House to the Khadi mentality of the Father of the Nation. His Khadi mentality tells that the cities must subserve the village when the foreign domination goes. Khadi to him is the symbol of unity of Indian humanity, and its economic freedom and equality. Therefore, ultimately, in the poetic expression of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 'Khadi is the livery of India's freedom'.

Sir, Khadi mentality means decentralisation of the production and distribution of the necessities of life. Therefore, the formula so far evolved is that every village

is to produce all its necessities and a certain percentage in addition for the requirements of the cities. Production of Khadi includes many things. Among them, except for dyeing purposes, the others are all being practised effectively everywhere in the villages.

I think, Sir, the time is running out. I am very thankful to you. Of course, my friends are insisting that I should tell that I have been always wearing Khadi only. That is exactly what I recommend and my friend Shri Rijiju apologised for not wearing Khadi only today as he mentioned in his speech.

Coming back to a very small and important point about some of the States, I come from a State, Manipur, which is famous for Khadi and Village Industries. We have got the handloom and handicraft which are so famous. It is not only in my State but other States also which have the same problem. When we are in Independent India, what actually happens is we do not develop the khadi and village industries properly and all that we do is we depend on modern materials, blended materials and now we do not use Khadi properly and that way our Khadi consumption has come down. This is one State, Manipur, where we have got cotton growing in all the hill areas. Now not even a single seed of cotton is available. Because of this, the market has almost become captive market. It is not only for my State but this is true for the entire country.

With these few words, I support the Bill and hope that the House will unanimously pass it.

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I welcome the KVIC Amendment Bill 2005. This Board that commenced its service in the year 1923 is to be strengthened still as it is to be developed further to ensure proper growth of its activities in the rural areas. In the mean time we have witnessed several lacunae in its functioning due to stagnation of its products and mismanagement of funds and inappropriate marketing. The present government at the Centre as per the common minimum programme seeks to address to the needs of the rural poor by way of creating jobs and ensuring remunerative prices for their produce, products and goods and providing marketing avenues for the goods made by the tribals in the backward areas. This bill aims at addressing to these felt needs and hence I welcome and support this bill.

At a time when FDI is sought to be allowed in retail

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

sector, it is heartening to note that the things spelt out in the common minimum programme is also taken note of. This bill aims at giving boost to village industries in the backward rural areas. KVIC sets up units in places with a local population of about 20,000 people as per 1991 census data. Now the demographic picture has changed and there is a need to increase the number from 20,000 to 50,000 considering the rise in population. Presently there is one KVIC office for every eight districts. The people coming from far flung areas to a KVIC office that serves many districts find it difficult to get timely financial help in the form of subsidies. So I urge upon the government to go in for setting up such office in every district. The subsidy to Khadi and Village industry units are now disbursed through all banks. At this juncture I would like to impress upon the Minister to ensure that subsidy is extended to people through all nationalised banks in the local areas. As far as Tirunelveli District is concerned Khadi and Village Industries Board could create only 225 jobs in the past ten years. This shows how poor the operation of KVIB is. In order to give a boost to the manufacturing and production units that come under KVIC, there is a need to open retail outlets in every bus station and railway station throughout the Country. Government must take steps to provide space in all these places to sell KVI products that could help the rural poor. Steps must be initiated to stem the rot and red-tapism that results in delayed disbursement of subsidy. We must go by the principle and the motto with which this movement was conceived and carried forward by Mahatma Gandhi the Father of our Nation.

19.00 hrs.

So, I would like to impress upon the UPA Government to take forward that mission to fulfil the aspirations and improve the lot of the rural poor. I extend my support to this Bill and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is now 7 o'clock. After passing of this Bill, I have a list of Special Mentions also. There are three Members to speak on this very Bill.

If the House agree, the time may be extended by half an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, I rise to support this Bill on behalf of the MDMK and our

beloved leader Shri Vaiko. The founding father of Dravidian Movement Arignar Anna said that we would strive to ensure smile blooming in the gloomy faces of the poor. "The key to swaraj is not with the cities but with the villages. When I succeed in getting the villages rid of their poverty, I have won swaraj for you and for the whole of India" said Mahatma Gandhi. Saying so he commenced a movement to boycott foreign cloth and encouraged the cloth spun and woven by our rural people. He adopted Khadi and Village Industries Movement as a strategy that formed part of Swadeshi movement during our freedom movement. As far as Tamilnadu is concerned, at Chennai as early as in 1948, the first Khadi and Village Industries Board unit in the then Madras Presidency was established by Mahatma Gandhiji. We feel proud of that and with that pride I welcome this piece of Legislation to give a boost to Khadi Industries in the Country that will ensure development in our rural areas. In the foot steps of Mahatma Gandhi this movement is taken further. At this juncture I would like to mention two or three points. Industrial investment ceiling has been lifted from Rupees Fifty thousand to Rupees One lakh. Similarly the criteria to establish units based on the local population is sought to be increased from ten thousand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Sir, I have not even started my speech. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill presented by hon. Mahavir Prasad ji. The reason being that it is a campaign launched to provide employment to the people of rural India where India and her spirit is enshrined and also to provide work to every hand. I think only presenting and passing of this Bill in the House is not going to deliver anything, rather we would be able to make it a success through strong political will. Last year Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji had emphasized on using Khadi in Railways and he was admired across the country for taking such a bold and courageous step. If this is implemented in letter and spirit and does not remain confined to papers only, I feel that we would be able to achieve good results. The Chief Minister of Gujarat hon. Narendra Modi also tried to sensitise us towards use of Khadi saying that if we want to pay true homage to Bapu, all common people and all our leaders should go for purchasing Khadi one day.

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

...(Interruptions) Mistri ji, there is no need to be angry. He has said it for all leaders to go to purchase Khadi. The comments which are being made this time, were made that time also. But on that day the purchase in a very good quantity of Khadi items was made and the same practice remained continued even after that day. It was very good initiative. We wouldn't be able to make it a success by giving subsidy only. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the name of a member of your party as the next member to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: This is the easy and simple way for providing employment and making rural people self-reliant. I think as far as this issue is concerned, consensus must be evolved with entire political will.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Since there is a shortage of time, I'll conclude my speech within a few words. We are taking this Amendment Bill to its ultimate goal keeping in view the fact that the Khadi Gramodyog Commission had been becoming a white elephant for the past some years and Bapu's dream was not being materialized in the right spirit. We also hope that all the obstacles and bottlenecks in the way of functioning of Khadi Gramodyog Commission will be removed through this Bill by giving a professional touch to Khadi sector and thus the people will not be deprived of its benefits. I hope that the required forward linkage and marketability could be enhanced accordingly. Besides, Khadi could be made a self-sustaining and self-dependent sector and the Bapu's dream of rural society in villages could be materialized. I welcome the hon. Minister to present this valuable Bill introduced by the UPA Government and support it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I also want to speak on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are late. Members of your party have already spoken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I'd like to tell the august House that 10 hon. Members have participated in this discussion and all of them have expressed their own ideas. I've noted all the ideas of them. But, through you, I'd like to tell that the Amendment Bill, we have brought in, is a revolutionary one. Under the leadership of the UPA Government's Prime

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA's Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi, I'd like to achieve the destination where none has reached so far. I want to go there where Khadi has not at all been introduced so far. I desire to go to the downtrodden and the women. I desire to propagate Khadi amongst those who are unemployed and belong to weaker sections. Thought there's a shortage of time, I'd like to tell this august House that now I have included scientists, training specialists, marketing department specialists and specialists on rural upliftment in this Bill, since there were some shortcomings in the Act enacted in 1956. Similarly, the entire nation has been divided into six parts for the better coordination amongst the different items of work of Khadi Aur Gramodyog Commission. And by dividing it into six parts, we want to make a headway by establishing a coordination between both the State Khadi Board and the KVIC. With these words as well as suggestions of you all, I'd like to assure Shri Chandrakant ji, Shri Rijuju and Shri Ganesh Singh ji that this move should start from here and not from Gujarat and the move should cover the entire India containing messages of Khadi and Mahatma Gandhi. I would like to urge upon you to take all the people to the path of progress under the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh removing all the bottlenecks. I would like to tell Mahtab ji.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I'd like to tell Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab that I've seen Kalahandi. I assure him that I would take an initiative on the suggestions given by him and as much as possible. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, Rs. 98 crore were spent in 2004-05 in KVIC. Can you ensure that it will be doubled in this coming financial year? An amount of Rs. 98 crore was spent in KVIC in one financial year. Please assure us that you will double it up.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I invite you. Come to me and meet me personally. I will let you know the entire map.

At Last, I would like to say Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy that he should not get nervous. This amendment will bring about a radical change in Khadi.

With these words, I would like to request this august House. ...(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring this thing to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that a letter in this connection was also handed over him and a provision of money was also made for the poor people of Kalahandi by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission, but the same was not released. Therefore, I would like to know from you as to when it is likely to be released. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I will consider it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ultimately, I request all the hon'ble Members of the House to pass this amendment bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take Special Mentions.

Shrimati Minati Sen — Not present;

Shri Ramji Lal Suman — not present;

Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil — not present.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity for speaking on this very important topic. This country is agriculture dominated country. The economy of the country is based on agriculture. Eighty percent people of the country depend on agriculture. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the monsoon in the country. It is the rabi

*Not recorded.

session in agriculture now and the temperature has gone up substantially which is adversely affecting the rabi crops.

Sir, agro-scientists have opened that the agriculture produce will be affected adversely due to high temperature. It has put a question mark on the production of crores of tones of foodgrains in the country. One hand, the temperature is going up in the country and the farmers are suffering due to short supply of power on the other. They are tormented with the problem of short supply of power. They are facing a lot of difficulties due to shortage of power in the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Choudhary Bijendra Singh, please continue your speech.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling that temperature had gone up alarmingly in the month of February this year that would adversely affect the rabi crop of the farmers and it would affect the wheat the most.

Sir, our Prime Minister, our UPA Chairperson. Smt. Sonia Gandhi are talking about raising the funds in the budget and stressing upon the need of giving more and more funds in the agriculture sector in order to augment the agro-produce in the country and improve the standard of living of the farmers so that the growing capacity of the farmers can be scaled up. But neither the growing capacity in the agriculture is being scaled up due to stroke of high temperature and rising prices nor there has been any improvement in the condition of the farmers, due to which the growth of our production of food grains has retarded and the farmers are feeling themselves very helpless due to their paupering condition. The stage of temperature what is today is all account of providential calamities.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to formulate schemes under such circumstances or direct the State Government for supply of more and more power so that a declining trend of temperature can be insured and some relief can be given to the agriculture and our easy access can be made in the direction of achieving of target which we have fixed otherwise the farmers will be ruined. If the production is less, it will certainly cause to losses to the nation and this may further pose a threat to the same. It may ruin farmers and may affect economy of the country.

With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity for speaking in this important matter.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with him.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): I would like to associate with the hon. Member, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I raise an important issue of urgent public importance related to providing rail and road linkages to various major and minor ports in Gujarat. There is an urgent need to provide rail linkage to the ports of Bedi, Porbandar, Hajira and Bharuch-Dahej. There is also need to provide road linkages to ten ports (Alang-Trapaj, Jam Nagar joining Rajkot, Dwarka State Highway, Rozi-Bedi, Purbandar, Okha, Pipavav-Jafraabad, Mundra, Navalakhi, Bhavnagar and Hajira).

I urge the Government to execute these works at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia — Not present.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Alleppey District of Kerala, a train collided with a car at an unmanned level crossing yesterday. It is an urgent need that all level crossings be converted into manned-level crossings. Otherwise, such human tragedies may occur again and again. I would request the Railway Board to see that either a foot overbridges are constructed or manned level crossings are provided in place of all unmanned level crossings. Unmanned level crossings are a danger to human life. So, I once again bring this matter to the notice of the Railway Board.

***SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai):** Sir, Some four months back, one Mr. Karuppaswami of Kattanur village in Thiruchuzhi Union in Virudhunagar District of Tamilnadu along with 115 people went to Jordan in search of job. They were lured by recruitment agencies who promised them lucrative job opportunities there. They had been cheated by those who gave them false promises. They were sent to Jordan through a pipe line agent in Guindy, Chennai in arrangement with the sub agent called Michaelraj from Madurai. In the last four months they were not given any work permit or job there. They had been left abandoned in Amman the capital of Jordan. After that they were left to fend for themselves and went about searching for jobs. In the meantime when they approached our Indian Embassy there, the Diplomats have cold shouldered them.

Our mission officials have ignored them though the poor workers pleaded for help.

Currently all these 115 people have been confined in a single room in a building called Albourn in Liath Road in the City of Amman in the Capital of Jordan. It is reported that they are famished with nil or negligible food. I have already written a letter to our Hon. Prime Minister who holds External Affairs Portfolio too. I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to bring home this hapless men taking appropriate measures at the earliest.

I also urge upon the Union Government to identify the cheats in the garb of recruitment agents who lure and snatch away lakhs of rupees from the unsuspecting poor people who believe they can get overseas jobs somehow. These imposters must be brought to book and must be punished under criminal laws. I urge upon the Government to save these people from the misery and direct our Mission in Jordan to act swiftly and efficiently.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, the sudden outbreak of the Avian Flu in the western region of our country is much alarming. The causality of poultry reassembles the one devastated China and East Asian countries three years ago. Though the Government has confirmed that affection of the Flu is localised in the western region, the poultry farmers of my home State, Tamil Nadu, are panic stricken. Namakkal, Erode and Coimbatore districts are the bee centres of poultry farming. Available statistics show that nearly 1.98 crores eggs are produced a day in the Namakkal zone, which is one of the largest producers of poultry products in the country. Nearly 60 lakh eggs are transported to Kerala every day, the largest buyer in the country; and nearly Rs. 30 lakh worth goods are exported to the Middle East and African countries. The rapid actions taken by the Government deserve due appreciation in containing the viral siege, such as banning of serving poultry products in Airways and Railways, to prevent spreading of infection through contacts detaining consignments carrying poultry products, etc.

But the poultry farmers and traders of poultry products feel that they are suffering for no fault of theirs as the consignments from Namakkal and others of Tamil Nadu, carrying 40 lakhs eggs to neighbouring States are detained. Similarly, entry of vehicles carrying poultry feed also are banned. The apprehension is that the poultry farming will be closed without being affected by Avian Flu.

Under these circumstances, ways and means curating

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

and rehabilitating measures are to be contemplated for implementation on war footing. Adequate compensation should be paid to the poultry farmers and backyard breeders for the loss sustained by them.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme was introduced in the year 1993 when Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Labour Minister. The Scheme was approved by Parliament in the same year. Before introducing the scheme, it was given to understand that a monthly minimum pension will be paid to each of the beneficiaries at the rate of Rs.2,000 per month. It was also given to understand to the poor pensioners that every year, the scheme will be revised and interim relief will be paid. After the introduction of the Scheme in 1995, only four times interim relief was paid. From 2000 onwards, no interim relief was paid.

Though the Scheme was approved by Parliament in 1993, the Trustees have implemented the Scheme only from November, 1995. Ten years have lapsed and it is high time to revise or modify the Employment Provident Fund Pension Scheme.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to revise the Employment Provident Fund Pension Scheme and give the arrears of interim relief since the year 2000.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Matuhra): Sir, with your permission, I would like to put forth my speech right form here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, I had given you time earlier, but you had taken otherwise.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh had grown up their crops diligently with high hopes in their minds despite being drought situation in the state but unfortunately, the crops especially of potatoes, mustard and gram have ruined completely during the winter season due to snowy winter and frosting. Near about 22 districts of Uttar Pradesh including Mathura and Agra have come under the grip of drought and frosting, thereby leaving the farmers as heavy sufferers. This time the farmers had sown a record mustard crops in the form of consuming less water requirement but every farmer was affected due to frosting and if any deficiency was there, it was also met by this damned

cankorous insect known as Chepa after being cankered by crop of it, thereby leaving the farmers with heavy heart aspiring for the cast. The area is prominent potato producer. This time the affect of winter has been considerably grievous which has caused a heavy loss to the potatoes crop. The assessment made by the Government of UP in connection with loss suffered by the farmers is undermined. In my constituency the crops of potatoes and mustard were destroyed 60 to 80 percent where as the percentage of the destroyed crops in the assessment has been shown only 30 to 60.

Therefore, I request the Government to issue direction to the Uttar Pradesh Government for making due assessment of destroyed crops and take constructive steps for providing payment of insurance amount at compensation to the affected farmers so as to make good the loss suffered by them to some extent.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may kindly be permitted to raise the following few lines:

The Railway Recruitment Examinations for Group-IV posts held on 26th February, 2006 were cancelled following a leakage of question papers. The examination which was conducted at 23 centres in New Delhi has been cancelled after the special Task Force of the Delhi Police arrested some people who were selling question papers of the examination.

Leakage of question papers of various competitive examinations have become very common nowadays. It will deny job to the poor job-seekers of the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to conduct a thorough enquiry in this regard and take strict actions against the culprits within the Railway Department and outside to prevent such incidents of leakage of question papers of Railway Recruitment Examinations in future.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a reference regarding shortage of BSNL phones in various districts of Chhattisgarh. There is because of paucity of BSNL range between 5 kilometer to 10 kilometer in the district and due to this reason the consumers are unable to get mobile phone facility. Where there is a such gap, the range should be enhanced there. The number of employees in mobile

service should also be increased. The line gets disconnected during talking time. So, I would like to say that most of the phones belonging to MPs get disconnected or do not work there. It should be looked into. We have to suffer due to poor connectivity. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to pay heed to this problem.

There is shortage of pre-paid and post-paid connections there. At least four or five thousand of applications from a single district for prepaid or post paid connections have been submitted. They should be provided connections and people should be accorded sanctions to mobile service. The phones and mobiles do not function in the jungle areas and satellite arrangement should be made available with such areas to facilitate smooth telephony as the soldiers and security personnels have to take support of telephony in order to tackle with naxalite problems. Confidential thing through phones can not be exchanged and police administration and Chhattisgarh administration are unable to pay heed this problem due to

poor teleconnectivity and a number of people get killed due to this problem. This type of law and order problem could be solved with the help of phones.

Therefore, I would like to demand from Union Government that necessary mobile service such as idea and other service facilities be extended to far-flung areas so that people living there can use telecommunication and mobile service.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet on 28th February, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

19.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 28, 2006/Phalgun 9, 1927 (Saka)

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