

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 13, 2007/Sravana 22, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

(At this stage, Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just listen.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not prepared to listen to the Speaker?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what are you trying to do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are behaving like such persons that I cannot even describe it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not ashamed of yourselves?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not write even one word.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am unable to follow you. We are human beings not machines.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are very serious matters to be discussed. Please sit down.

[Translation]

Please, go to your seats. A full fledged discussion will be held on this subject. We shall seek a Statement from the hon'ble Prime Minister. You shall get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, we shall have a discussion on the flood situation at 14.00 hours.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*]

(At this stage, Shri Harikewal Prasad and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the hon. Leader of the House at the leaders' meeting has offered that the hon. Prime Minister will make his Statement on this Nuclear Agreement issue at 2 p.m. After that the House shall take up the discussion on the flood situation which

is of extreme importance to the country. I appeal to all of you to please allow the discussion to continue. The discussion on the flood situation will start at 2 p.m., soon after the Statement of the hon. Prime Minister, probably at 2.30 p.m. Therefore, the statement would be made by the hon. Prime Minister at 2 p.m. followed by a very important discussion on the flood situation which will continue until it has concluded.

I appeal to all sections of the House to permit this important discussion to be continued. The country is watching us. If we do not properly and in a civilized manner discuss this important issue, then there is no justification for this Parliament to exist. I earnestly appeal to you to please co-operate. Please do not hold this House to ransom. You are insulting the people of this country. The people have not sent us here to raise slogans.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the hon. Leader of the House to arrange for the presence of the hon. Prime Minister at 2 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister will make his statement at 2 p.m....(Interruptions) and after 2 p.m. the House could take up the discussion on the flood situation. There is no problem in that ... (Interruptions) The House should transact normal business. I would request the hon. Members to go back to their seats and resume the normal Question Hour ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Leader of the House for suggesting that the hon. Prime Minister will make a Statement at 2 o'clock. I would request him to arrange for his presence at 2 o'clock. After his Statement, the debate on the flood situation will start. Now, I would request the hon. Members to allow me to continue with the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Unorganised Workers Social Security Bill, 2007

*21. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any report containing some recommendations from the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS);

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission has also recommended the imposition of social security tax for the benefit of workers in the unorganized sector;

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

(e) the progress made in finalizing the Unorganised Workers Social Security Bill, 2007 so far;

(f) whether the modifications suggested by various stakeholders have since been incorporated therein; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its report, the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) has recommended for national minimum social security benefits for unorganised sector workers which, inter-alia, include life and disability cover, health insurance, old age protection and any other scheme as deemed necessary.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) The proposals and the suggestions

received thereon were examined. The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill is under active consideration and Government intends to introduce the Bill during the current session of Parliament.

Rise in Prices

*22. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including wheat, rice, pulses, edible oil, vegetables, sugar etc. continue to spiral up despite the steps taken by the Government to contain the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the prices of different essential commodities alongwith the extent of rise registered during the last six months;

(c) the reasons attributed to the rise in prices;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the relationship between forward trading and price rise;

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

(f) the steps taken to check the rising prices;

(g) whether the farmers are unable to reap benefits out of this price rise; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Prices of foodgrains, especially of wheat, pulses and edible oil had registered increase during the previous year (2006-07). Government has taken a number of measures to contain the prices of essential commodities, as a result of which, the prices of Wheat, Rice, Atta, Gram dal, Tur dal, Sugar and Tea are by and large stable. Prices of Mustard Oil show a hardening trend. Prices of potato and onion have also hardened since last month. Groundnut oil prices have increased due to a decline in domestic production.

(b) The details of prices of different essential commodities along with the extent of rise registered during the last six months is given in Table below:

Commodity	Retail price at Delhi (Rs. per kg)						Variation
	As on 7-8-2007	Last week 31-7-2007	Last fortnight 24-7-2007	Last one month 7-7-2007	Three months back on 7-5-07	Six months back on 7-2-07	<u>7-8-07</u> 7-2-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00
Wheat	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.00	12.00	12.00	0.00
Gram dal	33.00	34.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	36.00	-3.00
Tur dal	39.00	40.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	36.00	3.00
Atta	13.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	13.00	13.00	0.00
Sugar	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	16.00	19.00	-3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundnut oil	110.00	107.00	107.00	103.00	101.00	94.00	16.00
Mustard oil	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	56.00	56.00	4.00
Vanaspati	60.00	59.00	59.00	57.00	57.00	56.00	4.00
Tea (Loose)	106.00	106.00	107.00	106.00	106.00	109.00	-3.00
Milk	19.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	1.00
Potato	13.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	9.50	6.00	7.00
Onion	14.00	14.50	14.00	13.00	10.00	20.00	-6.00
Salt	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	1.00

(c) The basic reason for rise in prices of above food articles is demand and supply mismatch. Demand for these commodities is growing on account of increase in population and income. This has coincided with hardening of international prices at the same time. Additional factors viz., changes in consumption pattern and seasonal factors also have had an impact on the domestic prices of these commodities.

(d) The Government has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to examine as to whether and to what extent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities.

(e) The report of Committee is awaited.

(f) Government has taken various measures to contain prices of essential commodities. Some of the important measures are as under:

- (i) State Trading Corporation floated a global tender on 26 June 2007 for import of 10 lakh Mts of wheat and will import now 5.11 lakh Mts (+/-5%) during 2007-08.
- (ii) To facilitate imports by private parties, period of validity of import of wheat at zero duty has been extended up to 31-12-07.
- (iii) Government decided to release in February

and March, 2007, upto 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic).

- (iv) Export of wheat has been banned w.e.f. 09-02-2007. The ban will remain in force up to 31-12-2007. The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been revised since 1-7-2002 for APL and BPL, while the Central Issue Prices for AAY has not been revised since the launch of the scheme in December 2000. The Central Issue Prices are as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)

	APL	BPL	AAY
Wheat	610	415	200
Rice (Grade 'A')	830	565	300

- (v) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31-3-07 to 1-8-2007 and further to 31-3-09.
- (vi) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of kabuli chana w.e.f. 7-3-07). The ban on exports

of pulses was initially upto 31-3-07 and was further extended upto 31-3-2008, vide DGFT Notification dated 9-3-2007.

- (vii) NAFED, PEC Ltd., MMTC and STC would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses during 2007-08. Out of the total contracts of 10.40 lakh tonnes made by these agencies, 2.43 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 31-7-07.
- (viii) Import duty on palm group of oil was reduced initially by 10 percentage points in August 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January 2007.
- (ix) With effect from 13-4-07, the import duty on palm group of oils has been further reduced by ten percentage points, making the import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) at 50% and that on refined palm oil at 57.5%. The Government has also withdrawn the 4% additional countervailing duty on all edible oils. With effect from 23-07-07, the import duty on palm group of oils has been further reduced by five percentage points, making the import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) at 45% and that on refined palm oil at 52.5%. As a consequence, import duty on crude palm oil has been brought down to 45% from the level of 80% prior to 11-8-2006.
- (x) With effect from 23-07-07, import duty on crude sunflower oil reduced from 50% to 40% and refined sunflower oil from 60% to 50%. Import duty on sunflower oil was reduced earlier by 10 percentage points in January 2007 and further by 15 percentage points in March 2007.
- (xi) With effect from 23-07-07, import duty on Soya bean oils reduced from 45% to 40%.
- (xii) Ban on export of skimmed milk powder w.e.f. 9-2-2007 valid upto 30-9-2007.
- (xiii) Steps were taken by Reserve Bank of India to reduce liquidity in the system by increasing the cash reserve ratio and repo rates.

- (xiv) Reduction in retail prices of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1 per litre both in November 2006 and in February 2007.
- (xv) As a measure of abundant precaution, Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23-01-07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23-01-07. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.
- (xvi) FMC has on, 27-2-2007, directed all the three National Exchanges that no new futures contracts in wheat and rice shares be launched. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC has stated that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions should be allowed.
- (xvii) To contain volatility in the futures prices of wheat, pulses, etc. Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has taken required regulatory measures such as imposition of limits on open position, reduction in limits on daily price fluctuations and imposition of additional/special margins.
- (xviii) An Expert Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study impact, if any, of the trading in forward markets on the prices of the commodities.
- (xix) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government has issued a Central Order dated 29-08-2006 under the Essential

Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has, on 27-2-07, extended the validity of the Central Order by another six months.

(g) To give the farmers an opportunity to get remunerative prices based on market forces, the Government have framed Model APMC Act and circulated to all State Governments/UTs to amend their present APMC Act on its lines. 15 States have amended their APMC Acts and partial amendments have been made in 4 States. The Bihar Government has repealed their Bihar APMC Act whereas Tamil Nadu provides provisions for reforms. Rest of the States are in the process of bringing amendments to their respective APMC Acts. According to the amended Acts, the farmer can sell directly to the purchaser without necessarily bringing it to the Mandi. Many farmers have taken advantage of this choice to get remunerative prices in line with market forces.

(h) In view of the answer to (g) above question does not arise.

Self Employment Schemes for the Youth

*23. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the self-employment schemes of the Union Government and the State Governments have made any appreciable impact in providing employment to the educated youth;

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

(c) the quantum of Central funds allocated, released and utilized under the said schemes during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Central Government has been implementing Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) meant for promotion of Self-Employment among the educated unemployed throughout the country. The progress made under the scheme during the years 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 is given in the enclosed Statement-I. State-wise details of funds released and utilized by States/UTs during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise Status of Progress Achieved by the Government under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last Three Years

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07*		
		Target allocated (Nos.)	No. of cases disbursed by banks	Estimated Employment generated#	Target allocated (Nos.)	No. of cases disbursed by banks	Estimated Employment generated#	Target allocated (Nos.)	No. of cases disbursed by banks	Estimated Employment generated#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NORTHERN REGION										
1.	Haryana	10200	7755	11633	10600	9565	14348	11000	10254	15381
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3000	2853	4280	3000	2929	4394	4700	3327	4991
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	3000	639	959	3000	544	816	3000	555	833
4.	Punjab	9200	8372	12558	9200	8043	12065	9200	7312	10968
5.	Rajasthan	18200	12919	19379	18700	13868	20802	19200	14149	21224
6.	Chandigarh	100	206	309	100	72	108	100	33	50
7.	Delhi	4500	819	1229	4500	682	1023	4000	471	707
NORTH EASTERN REGION										
8.	Assam	15000	8256	12384	15000	5671	8507	10300	2648	3972
9.	Manipur	1500	387	581	1500	383	575	1500	129	194
10.	Meghalaya	1400	568	852	1400	564	846	800	181	272

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Nagaland	1200	109	164	2800	2379	3569	1000	541	812
12.	Tripura	3000	1747	2621	3000	2032	3048	3000	1196	1794
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	850	440	660	1050	447	671	400	213	320
14.	Mizoram	200	142	213	1000	472	708	1000	55	83
15.	Sikkim	100	32	48	100	31	47	40	32	48
EASTERN REGION										
16.	Bihar	16000	10396	15594	25000	12072	18108	11400	7490	11235
17.	Jharkhand	9000	4804	7206	9000	4566	6849	9000	4541	6812
18.	Orissa	18000	11339	17009	18000	12823	19235	15600	12459	18689
19.	West Bengal	24000	3796	5694	24500	4616	6924	4600	3118	4677
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	400	142	213	200	150	225	200	107	161
CENTRAL REGION										
21.	Madhya Pradesh	28000	20642	30963	32000	20909	31364	32000	16519	24779
22.	Chhattisgarh	6000	3276	4914	6800	3463	5195	8400	3658	5487
23.	Uttar Pradesh	52000	42534	63801	52500	40040	60060	53900	40784	61176
24.	Uttaranchal	7000	6637	9956	8000	7404	11106	8000	6069	9104
WESTERN REGION										
25.	Gujarat	12500	6406	9609	9600	6347	9521	9900	5729	8594
26.	Maharashtra	39000	21819	32729	36000	23817	35726	38200	19588	29382
27.	Daman and Diu	50	4	6	50	14	21	50	8	12

28. Goa	500	45	67.5	500	43	65	500	20	30
29. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50	22	33	50	24	36	50	3	5
SOUTHERN REGION									
30. Andhra Pradesh	43000	22542	33813	43000	21334	32001	43000	11668	17502
31. Karnataka	24000	13931	20897	24000	19246	28869	24000	15396	23094
32. Kerala	25500	16553	24830	28000	21447	32171	28000	19190	28785
33. Tamil Nadu	25000	16902	25353	27000	19534	29301	27000	20282	30423
34. Lakshadweep	50	4	6	50	5	8	50	0	0
35. Pondicherry	650	329	494	650	348	522	750	297	446
Not Specified		897	1346		1397	2096		886	1329
All India	402150	248264	372396	419850	267281	400922	383840	228908	343362

Source: RBI *Provisional #Estimated employment generated calculated @ 1.5 per case disbursed case.

Statement-II

State-wise details of funds allocated/released by Government of India and utilised by State/UTs under PMRY during last three years

(Amount Rs. lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Funds released	Funds utilised	Funds released	Funds utilised	Funds released	Funds utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	293.34	187.81	176.72	188.78	191.95	NR
2.	Assam	100.71	87.44	77.80	NR	1.73	NR
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.39	3.54	4.54	5.83	0.42	NR
4.	Bihar	19.87	20.41	0.00	13.08	0.00	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	50.84	30.52	41.02	34.73	38.06	NR
6.	Delhi	0.00	NR	0.00	NR	0.00	NR
7.	Goa	0.00	NR	0.00	0.12	0.00	NR
8.	Gujarat	53.07	29.21	13.38	28.90	0.00	NR
9.	Haryana	74.20	43.76	45.64	60.04	38.60	68.18
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.12	14.06	15.03	10.67	26.77	NR
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	NR	11.71	NR	10.30	NR
12.	Jharkhand	34.56	17.03	0.06	33.28	14.62	3.32
13.	Karnataka	173.19	163.16	124.08	139.09	165.91	NR
14.	Kerala	175.75	165.13	176.63	211.27	202.33	64.33
15.	Madhya Pradesh	265.38	164.66	226.32	114.15	209.89	NR
16.	Maharashtra	173.92	145.05	128.04	146.74	112.62	132.67
17.	Manipur	4.55	8.82	1.23	5.11	8.24	NR
18.	Meghalaya	8.29	9.58	8.22	10.61	5.52	5.78
19.	Mizoram	3.24	2.96	8.22	4.75	0.00	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Nagaland	17.12	13.44	22.03	19.51	6.79	10.12
21.	Orissa	147.50	111.35	135.46	134.26	128.31	122.67
22.	Punjab	81.45	20.17	55.67	52.75	0.00	NR
23.	Rajasthan	104.30	103.41	109.97	126.83	124.90	NR
24.	Tamil Nadu	136.75	128.27	155.27	159.27	156.28	NR
25.	Tripura	21.24	19.20	22.70	20.44	20.39	20.56
26.	Uttar Pradesh	644.91	359.17	422.85	446.25	388.87	NR
27.	Uttaranchal	92.76	52.58	64.16	56.63	83.49	NR
28.	West Bengal	19.12	20.27	29.10	36.17	4.96	NR
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.51	0.33	0.55	0.82	0.89	0.09
30.	Chandigarh	1.02	1.17	3.98	1.43	1.15	0.87
31.	Daman and Diu	0.03	NR	0.03	NR	0.11	NR
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.20	NR	0.19	NR	0.12	NR
33.	Lakshadweep	0.14	NR	0.05	NR	0.04	NR
34.	Pondicherry	4.74	2.08	0.57	2.22	3.38	3.51
35.	Sikkim	0.25	0.29	0.89	0.46	0.52	0.00
Total		2715.43	1924.86	2082.12	2064.17	1947.16	432.08

NR—Not Reported by State Government.

* As the cut off date for completion of disbursement for the year 2006-07 has been extended upto 30-6-07 therefore most of the State/UTs did not furnish the utilisation certificates of funds for the year 2006-07.

Note 1: Under the PMRY, funds are released for Subsidy and Entrepreneurial Development (ED) purposes. The funds for subsidy are authorised to RBI, the RBI releases these funds to the implementing banks. Hence, the Statewise detail of funds released for subsidy is not available. The funds for ED i.e. Training Contingency etc. are released to States/UTs.

Note 2: Surplus/Deficit of previous years are adjusted in subsequent years.

[English]

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

Supply of Wheat to States

*24. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested for an increase in the supply of wheat to their States, this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to increase the supply of wheat to the States particularly to Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of increase demanded and allocated and the time by which it is likely to be supplied;

(e) whether the said increase is likely to be met through imports; and

(f) if so, the steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from a number of

States for an increase in the allocation of wheat for Above Poverty Line (APL) category under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). A Statement-I of such requests received since January, 2007, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the position of stock of wheat in the Central Pool, requests received from the States have been considered and adhoc allocations of wheat have been made as given in the Statement-II enclosed. Such an adhoc additional allocations has also been made to Gujarat State.

(e) and (f) The additional allocations have been made from the available stocks in the Central Pool. To augment the domestically procured stock, the Government has already taken a decision to import upto 50 lakh tons of wheat in 2007-08.

Statement-I

Requests Received, during 2007, from the States/UTs for Increase of Wheat Allocation under TPDS

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Request for wheat (tons)	Date of request
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9000	28-04-2007
2.	Bihar	41100	18-4-07
3.	Goa	2856	11-4-07
4.	Gujarat	137816	21-3-07
5.	Himachal Pradesh	13340	13-3-07
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	18450	16-1-07
7.	Kerala	37325	24-4-07 and 26-7-07
8.	Nagaland	10000	10-02-07
9.	Rajasthan	157682	24-3-07
10.	Tamil Nadu	10000	12-6-07
11.	Uttarakhand	8000	25-4-07
12.	Uttar Pradesh	270000	26-3-07
13.	Mizoram	624	17-4-07

Statement-II

*Additional Allocation of wheat to States under APL Category for the Months from
September 2006 to July 2007*

(In Tons)

Sl. No.	States	September, 2006	October, 2006	November, 2006	December, 2006	January, 2007- March, 2007 (per month)	April-July 2007 (per month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	300	300	300	300	300
3.	Assam	4000	4000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4.	Bihar	4000	4000	2000	2000	2000	2000
5.	Chhattisgarh	3000	3000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Delhi	8000	8000	10000	10000	10000	5000
7.	Goa	500	500	500	500	500	500
8.	Gujarat	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
9.	Haryana	2500	2500	1500	1500	1500	1500
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3500	3500	3500	3500	6500	6500
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
12.	Jharkhand	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
13.	Karnataka	4000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
14.	Kerala	5000	6000	8000	8000	8000	8000
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
16.	Maharashtra	5000	6000	10000	10000	10000	10000
17.	Manipur	300	300	300	300	300	300
18.	Meghalaya	300	300	300	300	300	300

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Mizoram	300	300	300	300	300	300
20.	Nagaland	300	300	300	300	300	300
21.	Orissa	4000	5000	4000	4000	4000	4000
22.	Punjab	2500	2500	2500	2000	12000	3000
23.	Rajasthan	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
24.	Sikkim	300	300	300	300	300	300
25.	Tamil Nadu	4000	5000	5000	5000	6250	6250
26.	Tripura	800	800	800	800	800	800
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
28.	Uttarakhand	5000	5000	5000	5000	10000	5000
29.	West Bengal	10000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
30.	Andaman Nicobar	100	100	100	300	300	300
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50	50	50	50	50	50
32.	Pondicherry	100	100	150	150	150	150
33.	Chandigarh	50	50	50	50	50	50
34.	Lakshadweep	50	50	Nil	50	50	50
35.	Daman and Diu	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total		100000	100000	100000	99750	119000	100000

[Translation]

Import of Wheat

*25. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) the quantum of wheat produced and procured during 2006-07 and 2007-08 so far;

(b) whether there has been a shortfall in

procurement of wheat as compared to its requirement under different schemes in the country during the current year;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor indicating the quantum of wheat procured by private agencies during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has decided to import wheat and rice to meet the shortfall;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity, price, time-schedule and countries from where it is to be imported;

(f) whether some countries have asked for relaxation in quality specification; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that good quality wheat is distributed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the fourth advance estimates released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in July, 2007 the production of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 is estimated at 748.09 lakh tonnes as compared to final estimates of 693.5 lakh tonnes in RMS 2006-07.

The procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 by the Government agencies (State agencies and FCI) for Central Pool was 111.04 lakh tonnes as compared to 92.25 lakh tonnes in RMS 2006-07.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Against the estimated requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of wheat required for TPDS and other welfare schemes during 2007-08, the Government agencies have procured a quantity of 111.04 lakh tonnes of wheat in RMS 2007-08 despite taking several steps to enhance procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 (details are at Statement-I enclosed). The procurement was less than the estimated requirement due to low market arrivals and high private participation in procurement. As per returns filed, the purchase of wheat by large companies, who have purchased more than 50,000 tonnes each, is 18.76 lakh tonnes as of 30th July, 2007.

(d) The Government has decided to import wheat in RMS 2007-08 in order to meet the requirements of TPDS and other welfare schemes, and to maintain sufficient buffer stocks for food security. There is no proposal to import rice.

(e) The Government has decided to import the required quantity of wheat, but upto 50 lakh tonnes during 2007-08. So far the State Trading Corporation (STC) has placed orders for import of 5.11 lakh MTs wheat. The names of the countries, suppliers, quantity,

price details and time-schedule are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) Yes, Sir. Request has been received from USA for relaxation in quality specifications.

(g) Only wheat meeting tender specifications will be allowed to be imported into the country.

Statement-I

Steps taken by the Government to maximize procurement of wheat in (RMS) 2007-08

- (i) The MSP for wheat was fixed at Rs. 750 per quintal for RMS 2007-08, an increase of Rs. 100 per quintal, in order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat. Now, according to the Fourth Advance Estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the estimated production of wheat is likely to be 74.89 million tonnes in crop year 2006-07 compared to 69.35 million tonnes in crop year 2005-06.
- (ii) An incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP was also given in RMS 2007-08.
- (iii) Import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in 2006-07 which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central Pool and the wheat stocks (as on 1-4-2007) were more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of RMS 2007-08.
- (iv) Wheat exports on private account have been banned upto 31-12-2007. Wheat exports from Central Pool are also banned.
- (v) Decision was taken to release 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under OMSS in February and March 2007 to cool the market prices before the start of RMS 2007-08.
- (vi) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 1-3-2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or

- Individual which purchases wheat beyond 50,000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.
- (vii) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2007 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat.
- (viii) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted upto 31-12-2007.
- (ix) 13128 centers for wheat procurement were opened by Government agencies in RMS 2007-08 as compared to 8985 centers in RMS 2006-07.
- (x) In order to encourage wheat procurement in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, etc. Commission to Societies/sub-agents was enhanced to 2.5% on the lines of the Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana for RMS 2007-08.
- (xi) NAFED was also engaged to procure wheat on behalf of FCI during RMS 2007-08.

Statement-II

Details of countries, suppliers, quantity, price details and time-schedule for import of 5.11 lakh MTs wheat for which orders have been placed by STC

Country	Name of Supplier	Quantity (+/-5%) In Lakh tonnes	Price in US \$ per MT C and F (FO)	Time Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
Canada	TOEPFER International, Asia, Singapore	1.28	317.95	October/November, 2007
Any Country	CARGILL International S.A., Singapore	0.65	324.10	September, 2007
Any country	CARGILL International S.A., Singapore	0.65	327.10	October, 2007
Canada	TOEPFER International Asia, Singapore	1.28	328.95	October/November, 2007

1	2	3	4	5
Russia	RIAS Trading Switzerland	1.25 S.A.,	329.95	September/October, 2007
Grand Total		5.11	Weighted Average Price is US \$ 325.59 PMT C and F (FO)	

**Opening of New Offices of
EPF Commissioner**

*26. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received representations for opening new offices of the Employees Provident Fund Commissioner in certain areas in view of the difficulties faced by the employees in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for opening of new offices of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Commissioner;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for setting up of EPF Commissioner Offices in the districts where the beneficiaries of the Provident Fund are quite large in the number during the last three years; and

(e) the progress/achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A large number of representations have been received during the last three years from various quarters for opening of new offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

The proposals for opening of an office in a State is recommended by the Regional Committee of the State

and subsequently considered by the Executive Committee in accordance with the criteria prescribed.

The sanctioning of new offices is governed by the norms/parameters devised by the National Productivity Council and approved by the Executive Committee, Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. The following factors are generally taken into account for opening of different categories of offices:—

- Workload Factor
- Service Level Factor
- Enforcement Level Factor

The number of offices opened during the last three years is 10; in addition, two sanctioned offices have not yet been made operational.

[English]

Teledensity in Rural Areas

*27. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of teledensity in the rural areas of our country is very less inspite of the cutting edge technology hubs developed in the cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the specific steps taken for providing better telecom services in the rural areas of the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) New Telecom Policy 1999 envisaged a target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by the year 2010. As against the same, the rural teledensity is 6.45% as on 30-06-2007.

(c) The steps taken during the last three years for providing better telecom services in the rural areas of the country include inter alia:

- (i) Support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (ii) USOF support for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 undisputed accessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 by November 2007.
- (iii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas.
- (iv) Relaxation of norms by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for laying cable upto 5 Kms of exchanges against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms based on demand and techno-commercial consideration.
- (v) Deployment of Mobile Network in all the Highways to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.
- (vi) Support from USOF for the innovative scheme of sharing of infrastructure by USO Fund to set up 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in the country.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price for Crops

*28. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural produces for which the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP);

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure stability in the prices of the agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Prices are not fixed;

(c) whether the farmers are facing a lot of problems in selling their crops at MSP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 25 crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar (Tur), Moong, Urad, Cotton, Groundnut-in-shell, Sunflower seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard, Sunflower, Toria, Copra, Jute and Tobacco and Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for Sugarcane.

In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of a State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). However, the amount of loss to be shared between Central Government and the concerned State Government is restricted to 25% of value of procurement. Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

(c) and (d) Appropriate procurement arrangements are made by the designated agencies to buy agricultural produce at MSP in different States. Further, with the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers.

If the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the Government, farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market.

Food Security Mission

*29. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains is rapidly declining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a Food Security Mission to increase the per-capita availability of foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Development Council has discussed the proposal regarding Food Security Mission in its conference held in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The per capita availability of foodgrains has been fluctuating over a period of time. The same for the last three years is shown in the following table:—

(Kilogram per year)

Year	Per Capita Availability of Foodgrains
2004	168.9
2005	154.2
2006(P)	162.3

The apparent decline in per capita availability of

foodgrains is due to a decline in production particularly in 2002-03 and 2004-05 caused by drought conditions and aberrant weather.

(c) to (f) In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the per capita availability of foodgrains, the National Development Council (NDC), in its meeting held on 29th May, 2007, adopted a resolution to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million, 8 million and 2 million tonnes respectively by 2011. Government has initiated action to implement the NDC resolution, through the National Food Security Mission.

Bidding Process for Import of Wheat

*30. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government had invited tenders from international wheat suppliers for importing wheat during the current year;

(b) if so, the total number of bids received along with the details of the agencies which had submitted the said bids;

(c) the lowest and the highest prices quoted in the bids received by the Government;

(d) the reasons for wide variations in the bid prices;

(e) the final prices and quantum of wheat along with the agencies through which it was approved for import;

(f) the current status of the said bidding process;

(g) whether the Government later procured wheat at prices higher than the bid price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

Two tenders were invited for purchase of one million tons each of wheat.

(b) and (c) In the first tender dated 30-4-2007, a total number of 7 bids were received from the following bidders with prices ranging from US \$ 265.50 per ton C and F (FO) to US \$ 302 per ton C and F (FO).

1. Cargil International S.A., Switzerland
2. Rias Trading S.A., Switzerland
3. Toepfer International—Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore
4. Concordia Agritrading Pte. Ltd., Singapore
5. Adani Global Pte. Ltd., Singapore
6. Glencore Grain B.V., Rotterdam
7. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), USA

In the second tender dated 26-6-2007, a total number of 7 bids were received from the following

bidders with prices ranging from US \$ 317.95 per ton C and F (FO) to US \$ 370 per ton C and F (FO).

1. Cargil International S.A., Switzerland
2. Rias Trading S.A., Switzerland
3. Toepfer International—Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore
4. Concordia Agritrading Pte. Ltd., Singapore
5. Agrilink Asia Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
6. Glencore Grain B.V., Rotterdam
7. Louis Dreyfus Commodities S.A.

(d) The bid prices quoted depend upon demand and supply position of the commodity, origin of wheat, arrival period, discharge ports, freight and other commercial considerations.

(e) The imports are done through State Trading Corporation of India. The final prices and quantum of wheat which were approved for import are as follows:

Name of Supplier	Quantity (+/-5%)	Price (US \$ per Ton C and F (FO))
TOEPFER International, Asia, Singapore	1.28	317.95
CARGILL International, S.A., Singapore	0.65	324.10
CARGILL International, S.A., Singapore	0.65	327.10
TOEPFER International, Asia, Singapore	1.28	328.95
RIAS Trading, S.A., Switzerland	1.25	329.95
Grand Total	5.11	

Weighted Average Price is US \$ 325.59 per ton C and F (FO)

(f) Orders have been placed for import of 5.11 lakh tons of wheat for delivery during September-November, 2007.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

Package for Increasing Agricultural Productivity

*31. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any package for increasing agricultural production and productivity;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes finalized alongwith the benefits likely to accrue therefrom; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the resolution adopted in the 53rd meeting of the National Development Council on Agriculture and related issues held on 29th May 2007, the Government of India is in the process of formulating two schemes on increasing agricultural production and productivity in the country. These two proposed schemes are the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACA).

(b) and (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Food Security Mission is being formulated to enhance the production and productivity of rice, wheat and pulses in the country. The Mission is proposed to be implemented in identified districts of the country with 100% funding by the Government of India for assistance for demonstration of improved production technology, distribution of quality seeds of high yielding varieties and hybrids, popularization of newly released varieties etc.

In addition, Government of India is also working on an Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACA) to incentivise the States to increase agricultural funding for enhancing agricultural production and productivity. The states are to prepare State and district agriculture plan for their agricultural sector more comprehensively and to ensure the baseline share of agriculture and allied sector in its total State plan expenditure to avail the assistance under Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACA).

Besides accruing income to farmers and ensuring food security to the people through increased production and productivity, the National Food Security Mission envisages additional production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tons respectively by 2011-12. The proposals are being accorded the highest priority for early implementation.

Rate of Interest on EPF

*32. SHRI P. MOHAN:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) the rate of interest allowed on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the said rate is lower than the rate of interest given by the Nationalized Banks on the deposits made by senior citizens;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the interest rate on EPF to bring it at par with the rate being provided by the Banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is also a demand for increasing the EPF interest rate in proportion to the income from EPF;

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

(h) the time by which the EPF interest rate for 2007-08 is likely to be declared alongwith the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The rate of interest declared by the Government for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 was 9.5% and 8.5% respectively. The rate of interest

recommended by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund for the year 2006-07 is 8.5%. However, the rate of interest for the year 2007-08 has not so far been recommended by the Board.

(b) and (c) As per the information provided by SBI, the rates of FDs offered to senior citizens have ranged between 5.50% to 8.75% during the period 1st January 2004 to 31st March, 2007.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal. The rate of interest declared to be credited in EPF Accounts in any particular year is determined in such a manner that there should be no overdrawal on the Interest Suspense Account as a result of debit thereto of the interest credited to members' accounts.

(f) and (g) While recommending the rate of interest for a particular year, the estimated liabilities on account of interest payable to members as well as estimated interest earnings are taken into consideration by the Board. The recommended interest rate is directly proportional to the earnings realised on EPF investments.

(h) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has yet not recommended the rate of interest for the year 2007-08.

Interest Rates for Agricultural Sector

*33. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lower interest rates for the agricultural sector and provide cheaper farm inputs in view of the growing distress of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Corpus Fund for the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the fund;

(e) whether the Government has also set up/proposes to set up special zones for the farmers;

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

(g) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) In the Budget speech for 2006-07, the Union Finance Minister had announced the Government's decision to ensure provision of crop loans to farmers at the rate of interest at 7% p.a. with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on principal amount. This policy came into force with effect from Kharif 2006-07 and has been continued for the year 2007-08 also. Government is already subsidizing other major inputs like Fertilizers and Seeds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Relief to Poultry Industry

*34. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and Reserve Bank of India had issued instructions to provide relief to the poultry industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the condition of the poultry industry has improved due to these instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In wake of the distress caused to the

poultry sector by isolated incidence of bird flu in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in February-March 2006, the Government had announced a financial relief package on 30-3-2006, which included following measures:

- (i) A moratorium of one year on repayment of existing principal and interest for term loans and working capital due to all scheduled banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks.
- (ii) Conversion of working capital into term loan. The first year of repayment was to be after the expiry of moratorium period.
- (iii) Re-scheduling of term loans availed by poultry units over an additional period of two years from the agreed tenor of the term loan.
- (iv) After conversion of working capital into term loan, poultry units to be permitted to draw additional working capital depending on the commercial viability of each unit.
- (v) Barring willful defaulters, Reserve Bank of India not to treat defaulted accounts as NPAs.
- (vi) Grant of one time interest subvention of 4% for a period of one year on the outstanding principal amount as on 31-3-2006 (not including any part of the principal amount that had become overdue).

The Reserve Bank of India and NABARD issued necessary instructions in this regard to all concerned Banks on 4th April and 5th April 2006 respectively. The Government also gave an amount of Rs. 107.00 crore to the Reserve Bank of India for implementation of interest subvention granted to all poultry units, as mentioned at (vi) above.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The above financial measures, coupled with release of maize at a concessional rate for use in poultry feed, has enabled the poultry units to continue being in business, reduce their operating costs,

utilize their revenue streams for day-to-day operations and, in general, tide over difficult months by benefiting from deferment of repayment obligations and infusion of additional cash flow from banks.

Low Off-Take under PDS

*35. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-take of the wheat allocated to the States for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been very low during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details of the allotment and the off-take of wheat under PDS for the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for low off-take of wheat from PDS during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) During the year 2006-07, the offtake of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been 102.52 lakh tons against the allocation of 144.19 lakh tons which is 71% of the allocation made. During the year 2007-08 (upto June 07), the offtake is 24.88 lakh tons against the allocation of 30.57 lakh tons, which is 81% of the allocation made. In comparison with earlier years, the offtake during 2006-07 has been higher.

(b) The state-wise allocation and offtake of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto June, 07) is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Different reasons may contribute to low offtake of foodgrains in various States/UTs such as local production and availability of foodgrains, resources crunch faced by States/UTs, efficiency of distribution by State Government agencies, local food preferences of people, etc.

Statement

*Allocation and offtake of Wheat for the year 2006-2007 and 2007-2008
(upto June, 2007) under TPDS*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
		2006-07		2007-08 (upto June 2007)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.152	55.593	20.262	8.088
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.59	5.135	3.258	0.21
3.	Assam	254.226	250.049	65.091	62.174
4.	Bihar	1132.097	494.652	223.038	119.077
5.	Chhattisgarh	120.65	55.977	17.142	11.343
6.	Delhi	486.296	400.943	118.53	97.607
7.	Goa	11.532	5.57	2.103	1.931
8.	Gujarat	824.374	468.146	144.456	104.233
9.	Haryana	463.72	248.722	92.241	63.402
10.	Himachal Pradesh	172.683	178.169	60.504	50.916
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	243.26	228.773	66.408	63.923
12.	Jharkhand	348.394	285.971	85.755	70.835
13.	Karnataka	367.874	298.504	95.184	69.796
14.	Kerala	330.183	281.975	80.22	65.857
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1614.274	1348.314	352.287	312.118
16.	Maharashtra	2071.718	1381.121	397.974	291.781
17.	Manipur	11.588	8.236	2.718	1.543
18.	Meghalaya	7.696	7.29	2.19	1.626
19.	Mizoram	10.36	8.988	2.772	1.882
20.	Nagaland	34.714	34.186	9.048	8.691
21.	Orissa	155.734	132.29	35.379	31.268

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Punjab	353.032	118.312	42.366	17.982
23.	Rajasthan	1335.72	915.414	270.312	233.865
24.	Sikkim	5.35	5.381	1.635	1.335
25.	Tamil Nadu	95.58	90.18	30.099	23.847
26.	Tripura	26.96	21.474	6.411	5.261
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2080.878	1497.246	388.407	384.464
28.	Uttaranchal	143.302	128.276	58.146	36.561
29.	West Bengal	1603.714	1290.941	379.542	344.339
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.946	4.7	1.887	1.126
31.	Chandigarh	9.39	0	0.252	0.583
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1.596	0.36	0.582	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.728	0.12	0.186	0.01
34.	Lakshadweep	0.433	0.05	0.15	0
35.	Pondicherry	2.05	1.41	0.45	0.28
Total		14,418.79	10,252.47	3,056.99	2,487.95

[Translation]

Strengthening of Cooperative Societies

*36. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme or schemes to strengthen the cooperative societies with a view to promoting agricultural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount provided for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the strategy of the Government to ensure timely utilization of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made by the Task Force on revival of Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions (Chairman: Prof. A. Vaidyanathan), Government of India has approved the package for revival of the Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions involving financial, legal and institutional measures. Provision of financial assistance has been linked to legal and institutional reforms. The liability of funding the financial package will be shared by the Government of India, State Government and Cooperative Credit Structure based on origin of the losses and existing commitments. The

magnitude of the total financial assistance under the package is estimated at Rs. 13,596 crore.

(c) Government of India has so far provided an amount of Rs. 1,425 crore as its share towards implementation of the revival package for Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) which is the implementing agency and has made a further provision of Rs 1,500 crore during the current financial year.

(d) To ensure timely implementation of package, the implementing and monitoring committees constituted at National, State and District levels regularly review the release of funds alongwith monitoring and implementing the package. The release of funds by Government of India under the package is dependent mainly upon:—

- (i) State Government accepting the Package
- (ii) State Government signing MoU with GoI and NABARD
- (iii) State Government amending the Cooperative Societies Act through Ordinance/Bill, and
- (iv) State Government releasing its share.

[English]

Decline in Ground Water Level

*37. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the depletion rate of ground water in various States has been very alarming and the Union Government has received representations in this regard from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has circulated any draft bill to States for adoption in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of the States thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the depletion rate of ground water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country in consultation with the State Governments. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100% with significant decline in long term trend of ground water level in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both), 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100% with significant decline in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods).

(c) In view of report of declining ground water table in certain areas of the country, the Ministry of Water Resources has drafted and circulated a "Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" to all the States/UTs.

(d) So far, 10 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted legislation on ground water. Action in this regard has already been initiated by 19 States/UTs namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, NCT of Delhi and UTs of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Andaman and Nicobar. 6 States/UTs namely, Punjab, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have taken a view that such legislation is not necessary for their States.

(e) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to take suitable action for arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States. However, based on the survey reports, some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water level in the country are:—

- (i) Constitution of 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with the objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among various stakeholders.
- (ii) Preparation of 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq. km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.
- (iv) Implementation of 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the Central Sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground Water' in IX Plan.
- (v) Implementation of a demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" by the CGWB in identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) Implementation of 75 artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting studies by CGWB during XI Plan.
- (vii) Constitution of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, notification of 43 Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management and notification of 65 Over-exploited areas in various States for registration of ground water abstraction structures.
- (viii) Direction issued by the CGWA to Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-Exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the Building Bye-Laws.

Defects in Arjun Tank

*38. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mobility defects have been detected in the Main Battle Tank, 'Arjun', during its field trials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the German's MTU 838 Ka-591 engine has also given some problems during the trials;

(d) if so, whether any help has been sought from Germany to rectify the defects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The mobility defect noticed during field trials of MBT Arjun tank was regarding failure of piston rods of Hydro pneumatic Suspension Unit. The cause of defect has been analysed and corrective action has been taken to eliminate the defect.

(c) Yes, Sir. It may kindly be noted that the engine model fitted on MBT Arjun is MTU 838 Ka 501.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The defect of premature warning of air filter was noticed. The cause of defect was analysed and rectified in consultation with the specialists of M/s MTU, Germany.

Suicide by Farmers

*39. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of suicide by farmers are increasing rapidly in various parts of the country, particularly in Vidarbha region, despite the rehabilitation package;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years and this year so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Statement based on the information furnished by the State Governments on suicide by farmers is enclosed.

(c) and (d) State Government have broadly identified the following reasons for farmers' suicide:—

- Crop failure
- Indebtedness
- Drought
- Social and Economic insecurity

(e) A Special Rehabilitation Package has already been launched by Government of India for 31 Districts, from where high number of farmers' suicide, was reported. These districts are in four States of Andhra

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package is being implemented over a period of 3 years and includes both immediate and medium term measures. The Package involves a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore.

Besides, the Government has taken a number of initiatives to alleviate the problems of the farmers including small and marginal farmers. These, inter-alia, include the announcement of a credit policy in the year 2004 to increase the flow of Institutional credit to the Agriculture Sector. From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh at reduced rate of 7% per annum. For the smaller borrowers who may not have the necessary assets as collateral, the banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50000/-. The Government has also announced a package for revival of cooperative credit structure. A major effort has been initiated for diversification of agriculture. National Horticulture Mission has been launched since the year 2005 for ensuring end-to-end approach with backward and forward linkages covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under Irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain water harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Government)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2004	1251	
		2005	632	
		2006	448	
		2007	114	

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Karnataka	2004-05	271	
		2005-06	163	
		2006-07	320	
		2007-08 (upto 10-7-2007)	73	
3.	Maharashtra		Total	(of which Vidarbha)
		2004	632	441
		2005	595	431
		2006	2355	1448
		2007 (upto April, 2007)	607	375
4.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841	
		2007 (upto April, 2007)	13	
5.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upto March, 2007)	26	
6.	Punjab*	2004	11	
		2005	6	
7.	Gujarat*	2004	7	
		2005	7	
		2006 ((upto 30-5-2006)	1	

*This information reported vide Government of Punjab letter dated 21-03-06 relates to the cotton belt of Punjab. Government of Punjab has also reported that number of suicides by farmers due to debt burden in the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 2, nil, 3 and 3 respectively. However, upto date data regarding suicide is awaited from the Governments of Punjab and Gujarat.

NB: The Nil report has been received from the State/UTs namely, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Haryana, Delhi, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar. The information from rest of the States/UTs is awaited.

[Translation]

Losses in MTNL

*40. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Delhi is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the time since which it has been running in losses;

(c) the amount of loss incurred in each year from the last loss-making financial year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. MTNL as a whole has earned profit of Rs. 681.74 crores in 2006-07. However, MTNL Delhi Unit has incurred a loss of Rs. 4.59 crores in 2006-07.

(b) The main reason for the loss in Delhi Unit is the stiff competition and reduction in landline. A large number of connections in MTNL Delhi are from legacy system requiring fixed costs to maintain, which are difficult to reduce (being committed payments). This is the 1st year in which Delhi Unit has exhibited operational loss.

(c) Loss incurred is Rs. 4.59 crores in Delhi Unit for the year 2006-07, for the first time.

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the situation.

- Introduction of various schemes to attract new land line subscribers and sustaining existing landline base.

- More emphasis on adding GSM and Broadband connections.
- Bringing Delhi and Mumbai units under 95 dialing facility (local call).
- Introduction of Flexible tariff policies.
- Rationalization of expenditure to reduce Administrative and Operative cost.
- Implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to reduce staff cost.
- Overseas operation as an operator.

[English]

Flood Problem in North East

124. SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused to the infrastructure including flood control equipments, houses, crops and other property by the recent heavy rains and flood that hit Assam and other States in the North East;

(b) the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and aid given by Central Government to mitigate the sufferings of the victims and to mitigate the losses and to revive the damaged infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have so far reported damage due to heavy rains/floods etc. during the current southwest monsoon from northeastern part of India. As per the preliminary information received from these states, the extent of damage to life and property is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The total estimated cost of the damages to houses crops and public properties as reported by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh is around Rs. 6.00 crores.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake rescue and relief operation in the wake of natural calamities out of corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), in which both the Central and State Governments contribute. In addition, the Central

Government provides financial assistance to the States in the wake of calamity of a severe nature from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) after following the laid down procedure. The details of the allocations made for 2007-08 by Central Government towards its share and the first installment released under CRF is given in the enclosed Statement-II. No memorandum seeking additional financial assistance from NCCF has been received from the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement-I

(a) Extent of Damage Caused due to Floods in Assam during 2007

Sl. No.	Particular of Damage	Number
1.	Total number of districts affected in flood	26
2.	Number of Villages affected	946
3.	Crop area affected (in lakh hectares)	3.55
4.	Population affected (in lakhs)	67.48
5.	Number of human lives lost in floods	35
6.	Number of houses damaged	10091
7.	Number of PWD roads damaged	773
8.	Number of S.P.T. bridges damaged	66
9.	Number of RCC bridges damaged	25
10.	Number of pipe water supply schemes affected	301
11.	Number of Irrigation schemes damaged	5

(b) Extent of Damage Reported by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Particular of Damage	Number
1.	No. of houses damaged	16

Statement-II***Details of the Releases made toward Central Contribution and State Contribution and the First Instalment of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund***

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Allocation made under CRF during 2007-08		Amount Released by the Central Government
		Central Contribution	State Contribution	Central Share
1.	Assam	153.36	51.12	76.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.48	7.49	11.24

*[Translation]***Wimax Service by BSNL**

125. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to introduce mobile WIMAX services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has plans to introduce WiMAX services in the country, which will support mobility in future.

(b) BSNL will be floating a tender for procurement of WiMAX systems based on IEEE 802.16e-2005 standard. Mobility feature will be supported by these systems in future. BSNL has plans to provide WiMAX services through Franchisees.

New Technique for Crop Estimate

126. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use new techniques for crop estimate; and

(b) if so, the time by which the new technique is likely to be used?

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) A plan scheme 'Crop Acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE)' is introduced by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in collaboration with Department of Space (DOS). This scheme aims at developing and upgrading the methodology of area and pre-harvest production assessment of crops using remote sensing technology. A project called "Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observations" (FASAL) has been launched in August, 2006. This project aims at integrating agro-meteorology, land and space borne measurements, using the techniques of econometrics, to make early and in-season multiple forecasts of area and production of major crops. Implementation of FASAL project involves three phases of two years each.

*[English]***Conversion of Central Telegraphic Office**

127. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert all the Central Telegraphic Offices as Telecom Customer Service Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the facilities likely to be offered by both BSNL and MTNL to its customers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Central Telegraph Offices are not working under MTNL. BSNL Central Telegraph Offices are providing all telegraph as well as telecom services to the customers. Hence, there is no need felt to convert Central Telegraph Offices into Telecom Customer Service Centres.

Drought Situation in States

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

(a) whether certain parts of the country are currently in the grip of drought;

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

(c) the extent of loss suffered by each State as a result thereof during the current year;

(d) the assistance and foodgrains sought, State-wise; and

(e) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to overcome the problem as on 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) No State Government has so far reported any drought situation in the wake of inadequate/deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2007. However, ready availability of funds exist in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the States to enable them take immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought.

*[Translation]***Task Force for Land Development Bank**

129. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any task force for revitalizing Land Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to merge Land Development Bank with Regional Rural Banks; 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 Government constituted a Task Force on revival of Rural Cooperative Credit Structure (Long-Term) under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan which has since submitted its report and the Government has initiated the process of consultation on its recommendations with various stakeholders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Improved Varieties of Various Crops**

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan for development of high temperature tolerant varieties of wheat, maize and other crops in order to face the challenge of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to develop high temperature tolerant varieties of crops and to educate the farmers in the matter?

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) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is laying emphasis on development of crop varieties that are tolerant to high temperature. Wheat varieties such as NIAW 34, RAJ 3765, RAJ 4037 and DBW 14 are capable of withstanding rise in temperature. In rice, varieties namely Rasi, Vajram, Gobind, Uma, Swarna, Salivahana and the hybrids DRRH-2 and Suruchi have high temperature tolerance. Maize hybrids such as HM 5, HQPM 1, Shaktiman 3 and Shaktiman 4 are available which have performed well in high temperatures, experienced particularly during rabi seasons.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Specific research projects are in operation to develop high temperature tolerant varieties of crops. Farmers and developmental departments are appropriately advised regarding use of tolerant varieties and related management practices.

Internet, E-Mail and Computer Facilities

131. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in the rural and tribal areas of the country particularly in West Bengal and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The DIT (Department of Information Technology) had earlier taken up a Scheme and established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at the Block level in 8 States of the North East at a projected cost of Rs. 242 crores, for establishing and running these CICs for 5 years, after which the CICs were to be managed by the State Governments concerned. A further 68 CICs were also established in the North East in 2005. Out of these a total of 45 CICs have also been set up in Sikkim.

Further, the Government has recently approved a Scheme for facilitating the establishment and running of 100,000 broad band Internet enabled kiosks termed as Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country including West Bengal and Sikkim, for a period of four years. These centres would be established through a Public Private Partnership and it is envisaged that these centres would provide Government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. The detailed guidelines of the CSC Scheme are accessible at www.mit.gov.in.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Farmer Call Centre in Orissa

132. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Farmer Call Centres in Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering for opening of more such centres;

(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) to (e) Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) are currently located in 14 places as per the list given in the enclosed Statement. The entire country is being covered from these 14 places. Queries of farmers of Orissa State are being attended by the KCC located in Kolkata.

KCCs were established by a private vendor selected by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation through the prescribed processes. Fresh tender has been invited for the purpose. It indicates that KCC may be located in 27 places as per the list given in the enclosed statement covering the entire country.

Statement

Locations of KCCs

Sl. No.	Existing locations	Locations indicated in the tender document
1	2	3
1.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
2.	Guwahati	Guwahati
3.	Kolkata	Kolkata
4.	Indore	Jabalpur
5.	New Delhi	New Delhi
6.	Ahmedabad	Anand
7.	Chandigarh.	Chandigarh
8.	Jammu	Jammu
9.	Bangalore	Bangalore
10.	Kochi	Trichur
11.	Mumbai	Nagpur
12.	Jaipur	Jaipur

1	2	3
13.	Chennai	Coimbatore
14.	Kanpur	Kanpur
15.	—	Samastipur
16.	—	Imphal
17.	—	Shillong
18.	—	Aizwal
19.	—	Kohima
20.	—	Bhubaneswar
21.	—	Shimla
22.	—	Gangtok
23.	—	Agartala
24.	—	Dehradun
25.	—	Ranchi
26.	—	Raipur
27.	—	Itanagar

Army Museum

133. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether condition of the Army Museum is very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy/scheme has been formulated by the Government to address the problem of mismanagement in the museum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (d) The Indian Army does not have a central museum. However,

Regimental Centres of different corps and a few Formation Headquarters have museums. These are well maintained.

[English]

Reduction in Call Charges

134. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing demand from telecom industry for reduction of duties, like revenue share, spectrum charges and other duties;

(b) if so, whether 28% of call charges presently go back to the Government in the form of various duties;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce these duties as a part of its measures to bring down call charges considerably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) A Committee has been constituted to study the present structure of taxes and levies applicable in the telecom sector.

Nationalisation of Rivers

135. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to nationalize some of the rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of rivers which are identified for the same and the amount allocated for each of the same;

(c) the time by which the rivers are likely to be nationalized;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend the same in the near future; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Ratio of Animal and Human Population

136. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures and animal and human population in the country, State-wise;

(b) the growth rate of livestock, State-wise;

(c) the per capita availability of fodder for the animals in India and other countries; and

(d) total areas of pasture land in India and other countries?

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 Livestock Census in the country was conducted in 2003 and that of the Human census was conducted in 2001. The Statewise comparative figures of livestock population vis-a-vis human population and the statewide growth rate of livestock population are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The per capita availability of fodder for the bovine animals in India for the year 2003 is as follows:—

Year 2003	Green Fodder	Dry Fodder	Total
1	2	3	4
Estimated Total Fodder Production (million tonnes)	462.05	393.88	855.93

1	2	3	4
Total Bovine Population (million)—2003	283.45	283.45	283.45
Per capita Availability per Bovine animal per day (kg)	4.47	3.81	8.27

Data in respect of other countries are not being maintained.

(d) The total areas of pasture land in India and some major countries during the year 2005 are given below:—

Country	Area ('000 Ha)
1	2
India	10530

1	2
Australia	395407
United States of America	237600
Russian Federation	92099
Kazakhstan	185098

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union territory	Human Population (in '000)	Livestock Population (in '000)	Growth Rate of livestock (%)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76210	48195	33.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1098	1257	21.12
3.	Assam	26656	13829	8.72
4.	Bihar	82999	27162	**
5.	Chhattisgarh	20834	13493	-0.37
6.	Goa	1348	212	-14.24
7.	Gujarat	50671	21655	8.65
8.	Haryana	21145	8885	-14.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6078	5116	-2.07
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10144	9899	7.27
11.	Jharkhand	26946	15826	**
12.	Karnataka	52851	25621	-10.19

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	31841	3481	-18.89
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60348	35617	5.48
15.	Maharashtra	96879	36763	-7.23
16.	Manipur	2167	971	-7.60
17.	Meghalaya	2319	1551	8.94
18.	Mizoram	889	280	26.32
19.	Nagaland	1990	1349	13.59
20.	Orissa	36805	23391	0.23
21.	Punjab	24359	8608	-12.68
22.	Rajasthan	56507	49136	-10.10
23.	Sikkim	541	337	23.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	62406	24942	3.38
25.	Tripura	3199	1458	-30.74
26.	Uttaranchal	8489	4943	7.77
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16198	58531	3.75
28.	West Bengal	80176	41619	12.49
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	356	196	4.30
30.	Chandigarh	901	31	-11.87
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	220	78	-9.54
32.	Daman and Diu	158	10	-7.02
33.	Delhi	13851	373	1.34
34.	Lakshadweep	61	52	77.71
35.	Pondicherry	974	133	9.95
All India		1028610	485002	-0.08

Note: **Bihar had not conducted Livestock Census in 1997.

Overcharging by ISPs from Subscribers

137. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Internet Service providers (ISPs) charge subscribers for value additions without obtaining their explicit consent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No such complaint has been received regarding overcharging by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(c) TRAI had issued a Direction to Internet Service Providers on 12-09-2005 directing that 'no chargeable service or optional packs shall be provided to a customer without his explicit consent and any service, which was earlier being provided free of charge, shall not be made chargeable without the explicit consent of the customer'.

Recruitment under Short Service Commission

138. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been given to both men and women eligible for service under Short Service Commission (SSC) in the flying Branch of the IAF;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing the male to be recruited in Short Service Commission (SSC) in the IAF's Flying Branch;

(c) the extent to which the shortage of pilots in the Flying Branch of the IAF will be met by allowing male to be recruited in Short Service Commission;

(d) the total shortage of Pilots in the IAF flying branch and the time by which it is likely to be met;

(e) whether the term of engagement of SSC officers

in the flying branch has been revised to 14 years with no extension; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the term of engagement followed previously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the shortage of officers in the Flying branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Government has recently approved proposal to make men eligible for recruitment under Short Service Commission (SSC) in the Flying branch. The women were already eligible for recruitment under SSC in Flying and some other branches.

(c) The inductions made under the revised scheme would be done in a phased manner commencing from January, 2008.

(d) Presently the total shortage of pilots as on 2nd July, 2007 is 683. These vacancies shall be filled up as per normal procedure.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The revision has been done in order to ensure optimal utilization of the services of these trained pilots in the IAF.

The term of engagement followed previously was 10 years with one extension of 4 years.

[Translation]

Indo-China Joint Military Exercise

139. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether outlines have been drawn for Indo-china joint military exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 29 May 2006 between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the

Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China for exchanges and co-operation in the field of Defence. The MOU, inter alia includes provision that both the countries will endeavour to hold joint military exercises in the fields of search and rescue, anti-piracy, counter terrorism and other areas of mutual interest.

Poor Signal in Dolphin and Garuda Service

140. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the signals of mobile services of M.T.N.L. namely Garuda and Dolphin often are not received whereas signals of mobile services operated by other companies are received at every place in Delhi and Mumbai; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Signal of Dolphin/Garuda services of MTNL is being received at most of the place in Delhi/Mumbai and mobile service is at par with other private operators. However, nearly 342 numbers of BTS in Mumbai and nearly 307 numbers of BTS in Delhi are being added to further improve the coverage and meet the additional capacity requirement.

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

[English]

World Bank Loan for Vocational Training

141. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing loan to improve the vocational training system in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount of loan provided during each of the last three years; and

(c) the manner in which the projects in States are proposed to be implemented and the role of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) International Development Association (IDA) has approved a credit of US \$ 280 million (equivalent to Rs. 1231 crore) towards central share for taking up the 'Vocational Training Improvement Project' for upgradation of 400 ITIs in June, 2007. No amount has been provided in the last three years.

(c) The Project envisages upgradation of 400 Industrial Training Institutes on a cost sharing basis between Central and State Government in the ratio of 75:25 respectively except North Eastern States and Sikkim where it is 90:10. The State Government would be responsible for implementation of the Scheme in the respective State.

[Translation]

Arable Land

142. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land categorized as arable in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of farmers recorded in the country during the last three years, 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) As per available estimate, the arable land/cultivable land in the country, during 2005-06 is 182.58 million ha. and number of farmers are about 120.82 million as per the Agri. Census 2000-01. The State-wise extent of arable land and number of farmers are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement***State-wise Arable land (Cultivable land) and Number of Farmers in the country*****(Area in 000 hectares and Number of Farmers in 000)**

Sl. No.	Name of States	State-wise extent of Arable land and Number of Farmers	
		Arable land (Cultivable land)*	Number of Farmers**
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15772.00	11532
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	314.00	107
3.	Assam	3224.00	2603
4.	Bihar	6639.00	11574
5.	Chhattisgarh	5590.00	3255
6.	Goa	197.00	64
7.	Gujarat	12412.00	4134
8.	Haryana	3780.00	1528
9.	Himachal Pradesh	804.00	914
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1050.00	1443
11.	Jharkhand	4184.00	NA
12.	Karnataka	12905.00	7079
13.	Kerala	2323.00	6657
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17337.00	7360
15.	Maharashtra	21167.00	13258
16.	Manipur	245.00	149
17.	Mizoram	218.00	76
18.	Meghalaya	1058.00	214
19.	Nagaland	644.00	144
20.	Orissa	7473.00	4067

1	2	3	4
21.	Punjab	4270.00	997
22.	Rajasthan	25630.00	5819
23.	Sikkim	154.00	51
24.	Tamil Nadu	8164.00	7859
25.	Tripura	310.00	479
26.	Uttar Pradesh	19307.00	21668
27.	Uttaranchal	1511.00	891
28.	West Bengal	5749.00	6790
29.	Delhi	58.00	28
30.	Pondicherry	31.00	38
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	24.00	11
32.	Chandigarh	2.00	1
33.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	24.00	14
34.	Daman and Diu	2.00	6
35.	Lakshadweep	3.00	10
Total		182575.00	120820

*As per information from Directorate of Economics and Statistics

**As per Agri. Census 2000-01

Development of Livestock

143. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of livestock in various States in the country;

(b) the amount of funds allocated for the said schemes during the current financial year; State-wise; and

(c) the estimated number of persons engaged in

animal husbandry in Uttar Pradesh who have benefited from the said schemes so far?

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 Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented for the development of livestock in various States in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not make State-wise allocation under

any scheme relating to livestock development. However, funds are released to the States on the basis of availability of funds, viability of proposals received from them and their past utilization. A Statement indicating the scheme-wise allocation made during the current financial year is also given at the same Statement.

(c) In Uttar Pradesh, while 35 lakh persons have benefited from 'Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme', 30 lakh under 'Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms' and about one crore have benefited under the scheme 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases'.

Statement

Scheme-wise Allocation during 2007-08

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	BE 2007-08
1.	National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme	51.00
2.	Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme	8.13
3.	Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms	17.70
4.	Rural Backyard Poultry Development (New)	18.04
5.	Integrated Development of Small Ruminants (New)	10.22
6.	Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds	2.21
7.	Assistance to States for Piggery Development (New)	9.48
8.	Livestock Insurance	35.00
9.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	52.11
10.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	3.15
11.	Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme	24.95
Total		231.99

[English]

Report of Swaminathan Committee

144. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swaminathan Committee appointed to study the problems of various districts in Kerala facing agricultural distress has since submitted its final report; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and Government's reaction 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) Study to suggest programmes for development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district and for mitigation of agrarian distress in Idukki district has been

assigned to M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. The Foundation has submitted its final report in respect of development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district on 6th August, 2007.

(b) Details of recommended activities are given in the enclosed Statement. Government will consult various stakeholders on the recommendations made by the Foundation.

Statement

Details of recommended activities contained in the report by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation on Measures to Mitigate Agrarian Distress in Alappuzha and Kuttanad Wetland Ecosystem

Sl. No.	Details of Activity
A	A. Strengthening Ecological security
Task 1	Protection and ecological restoration of the water spread area
Task 2	Measures for salinity and flood management in Kuttanad
2.1	Modernisation of TMB to manage salinity and minimize ecological decay
2.2	Improving the efficiency of the TSW and leading channel
2.3	Regulation of floodwater in Kayal area near C and D and Rani-Chithira Blocks
2.4	Complete construction of AC canal with removal of all blocks
2.5	Monitoring and assessment
2.6	Supporting research study by a consortium of competent organizations on TMB operation and Kayal ecology
Task 3	Measures for pollution control
3.1	The use of domestic toilets linked to ferro-cement septic tanks either individually or a cluster of few houses
Task 4	Total elimination of aquatic weeds
4.1	Systematic programme all over Kuttanad and rest of Alappuzha for elimination of water hyacinth
Task 5	Measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters
5.1	Promote mangrove restoration along the banks of Vembanad Kayal and Kayamkulam Kayal
5.2	Programme for revival of productivity for Pearl spot (<i>karimeen</i>) and giant prawns on a life cycle approach
Task 6	Improving health and sanitation
6.1	Install roof top rainwater harvesting for all houses using ferro-cement tanks
Sub Total	

Sl. No.	Details of Activity
<i>B. I.</i>	<i>Agriculture based livelihoods</i>
Task 1	Declaring Kuttanad as a Special Agricultural Zone
Task 2	Provide infrastructure support to paddy cultivation
2.1	Need for restoration of KWS, Onattukara and Thuravoor-Pattanakkadu rivers, canals, drains and water bodies like ponds
2.2	<i>Orumuttus</i> Creation of 33 permanent Kottachira across Kariyar
2.3	Provision of other infrastructure to promote paddy cultivation
2.3.1	Supply of pumps and Agricultural machinery for common use at padasekharam level
2.3.2	Onattukara first paddy cultivation charges
2.3.3.	Promotion of rice-sesame rotation in Onattukara
Task 3	Enforce a Crop Calendar
3.1	Certified seed production for Kuttanad and Onattukara
3.2	Support for soil test based fertilizer application
3.3	Pest forecasting and early warning service
Task 4	Strengthening research and extension
4.1	Promoting location-specific research, training and capacity building
4.1.2	Establishing Centre for Farm Machinery Research, Development and Training
4.1.3	R and D on coconut climbing machine
4.1.4	The capacity of Duck Hatchery at Niranam
Task 5	Economic viability
5.1	Price and Marketing
5.1.1	Establishment of paddy go-downs in Kuttanad
5.2	Farm labour employment security and welfare
5.2.2	Training youths in skilled agricultural jobs like farm machinery operation
5.2.3	Establishing and supporting 'Agri-Clinics' in study area
5.3	Farmer and Farm labourer welfare measures
5.3.1	Production bonus enhancement in Purakkad Kari

Sl. No.	Details of Activity
5.3.2	Immediate relief to farmers for restarting agricultural and economic activities
5.3.3	Establishing crushes for the use of women labourers
Task 6	Coconut-based enterprises and integrated farming
6.1.1	Supporting a crash programme on re-planting diseased and low yielding palms
6.1.2	Massive coconut revival programme for improving health and productivity
6.1.3	One-time support for establishing integrated livestock and crop production in garden land
6.1.4	Providing insurance cover to ducks—subsidy on premium
6.1.5	Promotion of cluster based and market linked value addition—one time support to clusters for infrastructure
6.2	Paddy fish integration for economic and ecological security and farmers' training
6.3	The DoA-DoF-KAU jointly train and build the capacity of farmers
B-II	Inland Fisheries based livelihoods
Task 1	Actions to promote fishery wealth of Vembanadu <i>Kayal</i> .
1.1	Cluster based Cage—subsidy support
1.2	Ranching, involving large-scale hatchery-reared production of post-larvae
1.3	Fish hatcheries for raising adequate quality fingerlings
1.4	Fresh water prawn and <i>karimeen</i> urgent conservation measures RRS, Kum
Task 2	Promoting fishing infrastructure, capacity and fishermen welfare
2.1	Group based enterprise on ornamental fish culture
2.2	Cold storage facility for the fishing communities
2.3	raining and capacity building of fishermen and fingerlings production, improving sanitation and hygiene in processing units in Kuttanad
B. III	Water Tourism in Kuttanad and local ecology
Task 1	Infrastructure support to facilitate responsible tourism
1.2	Introduction and promotion of farm tourism involving farm families

**Rationalization of Duties in
Telecom Sector**

145. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussions with telecom operators for rationalization of duties in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the telecom operators have demanded single levy tax structure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee constituted for the purpose held discussion with the Telecom Industry Association.

(b) The matter is under examination of the Committee.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is one of the demands of the telecom operators.

(d) The matter is under examination of the Committee.

[Translation]

Bird Flu

146. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bird flu cases reported in each State during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the assistance provided to each infected State during the said period; and

(c) the steps being taken to check spread of bird flue 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 present wave of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) commenced in Hong Kong in 1997. India, however, remained free of the disease till 2006. The outbreaks in India are as below:—

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. First outbreak
(18-2-06) | — | Navapur (Maharashtra),
Uchchal (Gujarat) |
| 2. Second outbreak | | Jalgaon (Maharashtra) |
| (a) Phase I | — | 14-03-06 |
| (b) Phase II | — | 28-03-06 |
| (c) Phase III | — | 04/05-04-06 |
| (d) Phase IV | — | 18-04-06 |
| 3. Third outbreak
(25-7-2007) | — | Village Chingmeirong,
East Imphal District,
Manipur |

(b) The Government of India shares cost of compensation for culled birds, destruction of feed and feed materials and operational expenses (on defined heads). The Government of India share is charged to the scheme 'Assistance for States for Control of Animal Diseases' (ASCAD). In the 2006 outbreaks an expenditure of 785.12 lakhs has been indicated by the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on compensation for poultry and feed of which 50% is central share. The Government of India will contribute as per approval pattern on operations in Manipur.

(c) The steps taken to control and contain and to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza in poultry are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

**Measures taken to prevent the spread of
the disease**

The following measures were taken in Manipur to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza:

1. Demarcation of infected and surveillance areas was carried out in accordance with the Action Plan. An area of 0-5 kms was designated as the Infected Zone and a further area of 5-10 kms was designated as the Surveillance Zone.
2. The poultry, both backyard and commercial, has been culled in a radius of 0-5 kms around the affected farm premises. Approximately 3.36 lakh birds have been killed in the control operations.
3. Other infected materials such as poultry eggs, feathers, feed, feed materials, protective cloth used by the staff engaged in operations etc. has also been destroyed. Approximately 25,242 kg of feed material and 28 thousand eggs have been destroyed.
4. Thereafter cleaning and disinfection of the infected premises/area has been undertaken, which is under progress.
5. Physical surveillance in the 5-10 km area is being continued to ascertain if there is any further unusual mortality. No unusual mortality has been reported in the surveillance zone as well as from anywhere else in the State.
6. The Government of India has maintained strategic reserve of poultry vaccines. The option of vaccination is thus available to the country. However, vaccination has not yet been introduced in the country.
7. The personnel involved in containment work were provided personal protective equipment and brought under cover of Tamiflu by the health authorities.
8. It is the policy of the Government of India to pay compensation to owner for culled poultry. The costs are being shared on a 50:50 basis with the State Government. Approximately 75 lakhs Indian Rupees have been paid as compensation.

Moreover, the following measures have also been

taken up by the Government of India to prevent spread of the disease to other States:

1. Action Plan for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza for Animal Husbandry has been prepared and circulated by Government of India to facilitate action by the State Government.
2. Import of poultry and poultry products has been banned completely from Avian Influenza positive countries.
3. All the State Governments have been alerted to be vigilant about the outbreak of the disease if any.
4. Border security formations and custom field formations have been alerted.
5. State of the north-east specially those bordering outbreak countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and China have been alerted.
6. Nationwide surveillance is continuing. Approximately 1,43,000 samples have been tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal since February 2006.
7. Testing for Avian Influenza have also been started at Regional Level viz., Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune and Jalandhar. So far, approximately 37,000 samples have been tested in the regional laboratories.
8. The training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment started in October 2005 at regional level is continuing. The training was shifted to State level basis by the Government of India from September 2006. More than 30% of the veterinary workforce under employment of Government has been trained as Master-Trainers for further field trainings.
9. A National workshop on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was

organized at Pune during May 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July 2007.

[English]

Inflated Bills in Jammu and Kashmir Region

147. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is sending inflated bills to its subscribers in the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether mobile service as well as Internet service is out of order in Jammu and Kashmir and people are suffering due to the inefficiency of BSNL; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the services in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2006-07 against more than 25,38,31,478 bills issued through out the country, excess metering complaints were received only in respect of 74320 bills. Excess metering complaints received are only 0.03% against 0.1% (of the total bills) permitted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). In Jammu and Kashmir Circle of BSNL also percentage of excess metering complaints is within permissible limit prescribed by TRAI.

(b) and (c) Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile telephone service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily in Jammu and Kashmir and is in general Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI at present. Cellular mobile network of BSNL is being continuously optimized for its

performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. Generally, Internet and Broadband services in Jammu and Kashmir are normal and outages are within the controlled limits. However, during the recent fire incident at Chandigarh on 30th June, 2007, services in Jammu and Kashmir were disrupted and could be restored only on 5th July, 2007. Services are now functioning satisfactorily.

[Translation]

Pending Water Projects between India and Nepal

148. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water projects lying pending between India Nepal as on date;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be executed;

(c) whether the Government had a dialogue with the Nepal Government on this issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) At present, seven water resources projects between India and Nepal are at different stages of investigation and feasibility studies. The dialogue between India and Nepal is a continuous process through the Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources.

[English]

Improvement in Coconut Gardens

149. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for replanting and rejuvenation in coconut gardens in traditional in Coconut growing States is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of implementation; and

(c) the funds provided/proposed to be provided 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has submitted a project proposal on "Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens in Traditional States" for revival of coconut gardens with main emphasis on Kerala State to be implemented during XI Plan, over a period of 6-7 years. The Proposal has been reviewed by this Department in consultation with the representatives of Government of Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and CDB. The Board has accordingly revised the project for in-principle approval of the Planning Commission. The scheme envisages the following main components:—

- (i) Cutting and removal of old, unproductive and senile palms and replanting.
- (ii) Rejuvenation of existing coconut palms by integrated management.
- (iii) Production and distribution of quality seedlings.

(c) The proposal envisages the following financial pattern:—

(i) Central Assistance	Rs. 1358.62 Crores
(ii) Farmers contribution	Rs. 2524.54 Crores
(iii) Credit from financial institutions	Rs. 883.50 Crores
Total	Rs. 4766.66 Crores

[Translation]

Attrition of Pilots from Armed Forces

150. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilots employed with forces are leaving their jobs to join private airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the forces are facing acute shortage of pilots as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Government to deal with the situation; and

(e) the number of pilots joining private airlines after leaving the forces during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pilots are allowed to leave the forces either on superannuation or on premature retirement/resignation. As per extant instructions, premature retirement and resignations are not allowed on the ground of joining private airlines. Premature exits from the forces are regulated keeping in view the operational considerations.

(d) The improvement in job profile of the pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

(e) as per extant guidelines, Defence Service Officers of the rank of Colonel or equivalent and above are required to obtain prior permission of the Government for any commercial employment, beyond which the Government is not involved. As such, the data on the number of pilots joining private airlines after leaving the forces is not maintained by the Government.

[English]

Telephone Revolution in Rural Areas

151. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revolution on telephone have not reached to the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the private telephone operators and even BSNL are failed to achieve the target providing telephone facilities in rural areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to take the telephone revolution to the rural areas in the country;

(f) whether the Government has an elaborate strategy to ensure that the North East users in IT-Revolution of sorts;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the broad features of the strategy and the goals contemplated in this regard; and

(h) the allocation likely to be made for funding the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) New Telecom Policy 1999 envisaged a target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by the year 2010. As against the same, the rural teledensity is 6.45% as on 30-06-2007.

The steps taken for providing better telecom services in the rural areas of the country include inter alia International Money Order Services:—

- (i) Support from Universal Service Obligation fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (ii) USOF support for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 undisputed accessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 by November 2007.
- (iii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas.
- (iv) Support from USOF for the innovative scheme of sharing of infrastructure by USO Fund to set up 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in the country.
- (f) and (g) The Department of Information

Technology (DIT) had taken up a Scheme and established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at the Block level in 8 States of the North East at a projected cost of Rs. 242 crores, for establishing and running these CICs for 5 years, after which the CICs were to be managed by the State Governments concerned. A further 68 CICs were also established in the North East in 2005.

The Government has recently approved a Scheme for facilitating the establishment and running of 100,000 broadband Internet enabled Kiosks termed as Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country including the North East, for a period of four years. These centers would be established through a Public Private Partnership and it is envisaged that these centres would provide Government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. The detailed guidelines of the CSC Scheme are accessible at www.mit.gov.in. Under the Scheme guidelines, the States have also been given the choice of integrating the CICs into the CSC Scheme.

(h) The total cost of providing support for setting up and running these centers over a four year period is estimated at Rs. 5742 crores. Out of this the Government contribution is estimated at Rs. 1648 crores, of which Rs. 793 crores is estimated to come from the State Government and Rs. 856 crores from the Central Government. The balance contribution is estimated to come from the private sector. The CSC scheme was approved by the Government in September 2006.

Merger of Programmes for Animal Breeding

152. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the merger of National Programme for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding with National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals;

(b) if so, the reasons for the merger; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

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 Planning Commission had advocated to club the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding and National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, under one major scheme—"R and D for Livestock Breeds". The Planning Commission believes that clubbing of certain schemes would lead to convergence of objectives, thereby improving the efficacy and efficiency of Plan spending. However, Department has intimated the Planning Commission that for the time being these schemes would be implemented in the existing form.

[Translation]

Procurement of Equipments

153. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is incurring loss of revenue due to procurement of substandard equipment of BSNL, CDMA and GSM system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of companies which have supplied sub-standard equipments to BSNL; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the said companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Vacant Posts of Scientists in DRDO

154. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of scientists

are lying vacant in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for high rate of attrition and the adverse impact on development of new products and defence warfare systems;

(c) whether in absence of better salary and perks, facilities and flexibility, the interest of scientists in DRDO is declining; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to check attrition of scientists from DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Presently, the strength of scientists in DRDO is 6872 against a sanctioned strength of 7255 scientists. This minimal shortfall are being filled up with the annual recruitment.

(b) The attrition rate of scientists from DRDO is only marginally higher than that in private sector industries. Scientists who had resigned have indicated personal/domestic ground as the reason for leaving DRDO. However, it is assumed that increased opportunities available in private sector industries is the major reason of such attrition. There has been no substantial impact of such attrition on development of new products and defence warfare systems.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. After the Fifth Pay Commission, some incentives were given to the scientists which include two additional increments and Professional Update Allowance. In addition, Pay Scales and other allowances/incentives has been submitted to the Sixth Pay Commission.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

155. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the perennial horticulture crops are not covered under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Joint Group has recommended for

extending insurance coverage to perennial horticulture and vegetable crops also; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing 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) and (b) No, Sir. Perennial horticultural crops are not yet covered under the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) due to non-availability of adequate past yield data and multi-picking nature of these crops.

(c) yes, Sir.

(d) In view of peculiar nature of perennial/plantation horticultural crops Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) which is the Implementing Agency of Crop Insurance Scheme, is in the process of formulating separate crop-specific schemes for these crops.

[Translation]

Accidents and Deaths at Work-Place

156. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers killed in accidents at work-place in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to improve the working conditions, health status and safety of workers at work-place;

(c) whether there is any policy of the Government to rehabilitate the families of labourers killed in such accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of families rehabilitated during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the amount of compensation provided to the families of deceased during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details of the labourers killed in accidents at work place in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

(b) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has enacted comprehensive legislations namely, The Factories Act, 1948, The Mines Act, 1952 and the Dock workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and the Rules and Regulations frames thereunder which incorporates all measures concerning working conditions, health status and safety of workers employed in the Factories, Mines and Ports.

(c) to (e) Compensation to the families of the deceased is provided under the Workmen Compensation Act.

State-wise information on the compensation paid in the case of deaths and employment injuries, as available in respect of State Governments is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

The Number of Labourers Killed in Accidents in Factories (Provisional)

State	2004 Fatal Injuries (Killed)	2005 Fatal Injuries (Killed)	2006 Fatal Injuries (Killed)
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	90	134	157
Assam	12	5	4
Bihar	6	4	5
Chandigarh	0	1	—
Chhattisgarh	47	73	—
Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	5	9
National Capital of Delhi	5	17	15
Goa	13	15	8
Gujarat	221	200	184
Haryana	64	38	30
Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1
Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	—
Jharkhand	21	23	17
Karnataka	48	34	64
Kerala	10	18	13
Madhya Pradesh	34	36	33
Maharashtra	153	173	177
Manipur	0	—	—
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	—	—
Orissa	39	37	70
Pondicherry	4	6	12
Punjab	39	56	48
Rajasthan	52	52	61
Tamil Nadu	53	57	78
Tripura	0	2	0

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	86	78	117
Uttaranchal	12	10	31
West Bengal	63	64	75
Total	1081	1142	1209

Note: The Factories Act, 1948 not yet introduced/no registered factories in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Lakshadweep.

— Not Available

Source: Correspondence with Chief Inspector of Factories of States/UTs.

Statement-II

*No. of Labourers Killed in Accidents in the Major Ports of India
during 2004 to 2006*

Sl. No.	Ports	2004 Fatal	2005 Fatal	2006 Fatal
1.	Mumbai	01	03	07
2.	J.N. Port	02	03	00
3.	Kandla	04	05	07
4.	Marmugao	01	02	01
5.	Kolkata	04	05	01
6.	Paradip	02	01	02
7.	Visakhapatnam	02	01	03
8.	Chennai	07	05	11
9.	Cochin	00	00	02
10.	New Mangalore	02	03	02
11.	Tuticorin	03	02	00
Total		28	30	36

Statement-III**State-wise Number of Persons Killed in Mines during 2004-2006**

Sl. No.	State	No. of persons killed in Mines		
		2004	2005	2006
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	18	26
2.	Assam	3	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	10	8	7
4.	Goa	1	0	9
5.	Gujarat	1	2	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	3
7.	Haryana	1	0	0
8.	Jharkhand	38	55	78
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1
10.	Karnataka	1	3	4
11.	Kerala	1	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13	16	16
13.	Maharashtra	12	8	8
14.	Orissa	11	23	11
15.	Rajasthan	22	10	20
16.	Tamil Nadu	7	7	14
17.	Uttaranchal	1	1	1
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2	1
19.	West Bengal	17	13	11
All India		160	169	213

*Figures are provisional.

Statement-IV**State-wise Information on Compensation Paid in the Case of
Deaths and Employment Injuries**

Sl. No.	State	Amount paid (In Rupees)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29661913	29798582	32586883
2.	Assam and Meghalaya	1457299	1442235	1414202
3.	Bihar	15554710	15155730	15760497
4.	Chandigarh	1547591	1612578	2102090
5.	Chhattisgarh	1957915	1756764	1792135
6.	Delhi	16552821	16425457	16785825
7.	Goa	1905918	2014659	2646791
8.	Gujarat	37699244	36211225	36204362
9.	Haryana	17854230	17817524	17534798
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1235692	1037869	1184286
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	541851	529412	682921
12.	Jharkhand	2518178	2937043	3097392
13.	Karnataka	23964460	23143233	24138637
14.	Kerala	19032970	18640728	18690190
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14278770	13512081	15367278
16.	Maharashtra	65114078	61486429	61901426
17.	Orissa	8044176	8288823	8128113
18.	Pondicherry	826555	951242	989824
19.	Punjab	22956270	22104795	23341316
20.	Rajasthan	25452857	24773379	24537236
21.	Tamil Nadu	39228636	38174026	39431359

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Uttar Pradesh	47597919	48695967	50526594
23.	Uttaranchal	1583696	1392422	1644910
24.	West Bengal	35670160	32665530	32317638

[English]

Water Level of Narmada Dam

157. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the river dams including Narmada Dam have been filled above the danger mark, even before the Monsoon this year;

(b) if so, what is the danger mark, and the maximum level to which they were filled this year; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to prevent and avert any danger and rehabilitation of the people displaced thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Narmada Dams have not been filled above danger mark before on-set of monsoon during this year. Central Water Commission is monitoring 78 important reservoirs spread all over the country and none of these was filled above danger marks before on-set of monsoon.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Increase in PDS Prices

158. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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 reduce the per capita allocation and increase the price of

foodgrains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to various categories of beneficiaries;

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

(c) whether the Government has also decided to cut down the allocation made to the States under PDS;

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

(e) the impact of the said move on welfare schemes being run by the Government?

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) and (d) No, Sir. Per capita allocation under TPDS has not been reduced, only total allocation for APL category has been reduced/rationalized.

Keeping in view the reduced stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, the allocation of wheat for Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) category has been rationalized to each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's offtake, whichever was lower. A 25% cut on this was imposed in respect of rice consuming States. However, there has been no change in the overall allocation/entitlements for BPL and AAY categories.

Thereafter, in view of the improved stock position and to keep prices of wheat in the open market under check, the Department of Food and Public Distribution

has released about one lakh tonnes of wheat under APL category for all the States/UTs for the months of September, 2006 to July, 2007.

Similarly, keeping in view the stocks of rice in the central pool, the allocation of rice for APL category under the TPDS has been rationalized, from April, 2007, on the basis of each State's maximum monthly offtake for the last three years. This decision has also been made uniformly applicable to all State/UTs.

However, keeping in view the requests received from the North Eastern States and Sikkim, the Central Government has enhanced w.e.f. July, 2007, the allocation of rice for the APL category to 1.5 times of their existing allocation.

(e) There is no impact of the above decisions for other foodgrains based schemes.

Awareness of MSP

159. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government known that poor are not aware about the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government in coordination with respective State Government to create awareness amongst the farmers about MSP;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Impact Assessment Survey has been conducted to determine the extent of deprivation of benefits of MSP to the farmers; and

(e) 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) to (e) According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted by National Sample Survey

Organization (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January-December, 2003), 71 per cent of farmers did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price (MSP). 10 per cent understood what MSP meant but not of the procurement agency. Remaining 19 per cent understood the idea of MSP and also knew the procurement agency.

To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through schemes like support to State Extension Programmes, Mass Media Support to Agriculture, Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres. Further, these are displayed in the Department's website, Mass Media Programmes and exhibitions/Kisan melas.

Loans to Farmers

160. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers who could not repay their loans upto June 07 taken last year have been deprived of fresh loans this Kharif season; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose to help such 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) and (b) As per extant banking practice, the banks have discretion to deny fresh credit to the defaulters. However, in the event of natural calamities, extant guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities are followed by Banks. The guidelines, inter-alia, permit banks to:

(i) Convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years, depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops;

(ii) Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers.

[Translation]

Excess Rent Paid by FCI

161. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is paying higher rent to State Warehousing Corporation of Maharashtra for storing foodgrains in its Godown particularly at Nanded;

(b) if so, the extent of losses caused to the Food Corporation of India as a result thereof; and

(c) whether responsibilities have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the officers held responsible?

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. The Food Corporation of India is paying charges for storage of foodgrains to the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) godowns including godown at Nanded at par with the rate applicable for the storage of foodgrains in Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) godowns.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Consequential Unemployment in Sahara Airlines Staff

162. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of the consequential unemployment to a large number of employees including contract and non-technical staff working in Sahara Airlines on its management being taken over by Jet Airways after the sale agreement recently executed.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of employees likely to be affected;

(c) whether the Government has ensured an equitable percentage of the profit earned by Sahara Airlines from the sale towards granting reasonable compensation to the employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken up by the Government to safeguard the interest of the employees who are likely to lose employment by way of the sale proceed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment has not received any complaint/report/dispute so far regarding termination of services of employees of erstwhile M/s. Sahara Airlines.

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

(e) Safeguards to protect the interests of workers are provided under various Labour legislations like Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, etc.

Rejuvenation of the Agricultural Sector

163. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a new strategy to rejuvenate the agriculture sector;

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

(c) the details of the resolution on contract farming adopted to enhance the production of agriculture products?

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) National Agriculture Policy aims to attain growth rate in excess of 4% per annum in the agriculture sector through efficient use of resources and conservation of soil, water and bio-diversity. The strategies formulated by Government to rejuvenate the agriculture sector, inter alia, include the following:—

- (i) Enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure with focus on progressive institutionalization and for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small and marginal farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity;
- (ii) Ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
- (iii) Promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
- (iv) Accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
- (v) Strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
- (vi) Optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and watershed development in dryland/rainfed areas; and
- (vii) Reforming agricultural markets.

(c) A model law on marketing formulated by the Government of India has been circulated to State Governments for considering suitable amendments to their concerned Act. The model law, inter alia, provides for an institutional arrangements for registration of sponsoring companies, recording of Contract Farming Agreement, indemnity to farmers land and lays down a time bound dispute resolution mechanism. Several State Governments have already initiated amendments to promote contract farming.

Indigenous Production of Defence Equipment

164. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up

new defence production units in the country to minimize dependence on arms manufactured by foreign countries;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of new production units proposed in the Eleventh Plan; and

(e) the role of private sector and details of plans to produce equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government proposes to set up two new defence production units of which one is for the production of Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS), and the other is for production of new generation carbines.

(b) to (d) The project for production of BMCS at Nalanda has already been approved by the Government. The revision in project cost is now pending approval. The unit for production of new generation carbines is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Private sector companies can obtain industrial licence for production of arms and ammunition and set up manufacturing facilities.

[Translation]

Fund for Quality Control of Seeds

165. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned and released for seed quality control scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether lesser funds than the sanctioned funds have been released to the States;

(c) If so, the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be released;

(d) whether the State Governments have sought the release of additional funds under the above scheme; and

(e) 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) The details of funds released under the component "Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds" of the Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Seed

infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Seeds" to various States during last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) are given in the enclosed Statement-I to III.

(b) to (e) Funds are not earmarked for individual States. The funds are released based on the proposals of the State Governments as per the guidelines.

Statement-I

Details of funds released to various State Governments under the component "Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds" of the Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Seed Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Seeds" for the year 2004-05 State-wise

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Assistance for Government	Strengthening of Training Laboratories	Total Amount Seed Testing
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	15.00	15.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.50	15.00	15.50
5.	Delhi	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	0.50	15.00	15.50
7.	Goa	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	0.50	—	0.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.50	15.00	15.50
11.	Jharkhand	—	15.00	15.00
12.	Karnataka	—	—	—
	Kerala	0.50	15.00	15.50
	Madhya Pradesh	—	15.00	15.00
	Maharashtra	0.50	30.00	30.50

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	0.50	—	0.50
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	15.00	15.00
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	0.50	—	0.50
21.	Punjab	0.50	—	0.50
22.	Pondicherry	—	15.00	15.00
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	—	1.00
26.	Tripura	0.50	—	0.50
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	15.00	15.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.50	30.00	30.50
29.	West Bengal	0.50	15.00	15.50
30.	Others: NSC/SFCI/CSTL	5.00 (NSC) 1.00 (CSTL)	15.00 (SFCI)	21.00
Total		13.00	240.00	253.00

Statement-II

Details of funds released to various State Governments under the component "Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds" of the Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Seed Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Seeds" for the year 2005-06 State-wise

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State Government	Assistance for Training	Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratories	Strengthening of Seed Certification Agencies	Total Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	20.00	15.00	36.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	0.50	—	—	0.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	0.50	—	—	0.50
6.	Gujarat	—	10.00	—	10.00
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	1.00	10.00	—	11.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	1.00	10.00	—	11.00
13.	Kerala	—	—	—	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	10.00	—	10.00
15.	Maharashtra	—	10.00	—	10.00
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	—	10.00	—	10.00
21.	Punjab	0.50	10.00	—	10.50
22.	Pondicherry	0.50	—	—	0.50
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—
24.	Sikkim	—	10.00	—	10.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	10.00	—	11.00
26.	Tripura	—	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
30.	Others:	5.00 (NSC) NSC/SFCI/CSTL	—	—	—
Total		11.00	110.00	15.00	136.00

Details of funds released to various State Governments under the component "Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds" of the Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Seed Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Seeds" for the year 2006-07 State-wise

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.00	—	—	—	—	20.00	18.00	60.00	15.00	115.00
15.	Maharashtra	—	45.00	—	25.00	1.00	20.00	—	—	—	91.00
16.	Manipur	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	—	11.00
17.	Mizoram	0.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.50
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	2.00	—	—	—	—	20.00	10.00	30.00	15.00	77.00
21.	Punjab	1.00	—	—	25.00	—	10.00	—	10.00	—	46.00
22.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	2.00	—	—	25.00	1.00	10.00	30.00	—	—	68.00
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.00	10.00	15.00	45.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	2.00	45.00	2.20	75.00	1.00	10.00	10.00	30.00	—	175.20
26.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	15.00	25.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2.00	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	30.00	—	42.00
28.	Uttaranchal	4.00	—	—	25.00	—	10.00	24.00	20.00	15.00	98.00
29.	West Bengal	—	—	—	25.00	—	—	—	30.00	—	55.00
30.	Others:	1.00 (CSTL)	—	—	—	—	—	—	30.00	—	38.50
	NSC/SFCI/CSTL	7.50 (NSC)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(NSC)	—	—
	STL/CSCB	0.12 (CSCB)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00	—	—
									(CSTL)		
Total		31.12	135.00	4.40	275.00	4.00	140.00	224.50	408.14	75.00	1297.16

*[English]***Fishery Research Institute in Orissa**

166. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fishery Research Institute at Burla in Orissa has been closed down;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor indicating the date since when it has been closed down;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive the said Institute; and

(d) if so, the steps 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre is in the process of closure.

(b) The Burla Centre of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), was established in 1963 in Burla, district Sambalpur, Orissa State for studying the harvest and post-harvest technology of fish in the Hirakud reservoir in Orissa. The centre has conducted studies on the harvest and post-harvest technology of fish in that region for the last four decades. Generally, a Centre to work on reservoir fisheries is not permanently located in one place and has to attend to the problems of different reservoirs so that technologies developed by ICAR are made available to other parts of the country. Earlier also, the Nangal Centre of CIFT, established in 1964 was closed in 1970 after completing the work as also those at Goa and Chennai.

During X Plan, in view of the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee for merging/shifting of Burla Centre, for consolidation of research efforts, it was decided to close the Centre since the objectives for which the Centre was created, have been accomplished. The main Consideration for decision of closing/shifting of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of Headquarters for strategic and applied research. The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has issued order for closing down the Centre on 21st April, 2007.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Ethanol Production from Sugarcane**

167. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities for producing ethanol from molasses are available in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide facility for producing ethanol directly from sugarcane juice;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of progress made in this regard so far; and

(f) the time by which this scheme is likely to be finalized?

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) Yes, Sir. According to the industry sources, there are 105 distilleries having capacity of production of about 1500 million liters of anhydrous ethanol annually which is sufficient for 10% blending with petrol at the current level of petrol consumption.

(c) Government does not provide any facility for production of ethanol. The facilities have to be created by the sugar factory itself.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

*[English]***Crisis in Rationing System**

168. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public Distribution System in Kerala is facing a severe crisis due to the reductions made in food subsidies;

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

(c) whether the demand for wheat under Public Distribution System in the States has increase due to the changed food habits of consumers and shortage of wheat in open market;

(d) if so, whether the Government has decided to restore the wheat Quota to the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

(c) The State Government has reported that the demand for wheat has increased due to the changed food habits of consumers.

(d) and (e) On the request of the State Government, and adhoc/additional allocation of a total of 83000 Tons of wheat for the APL families has been made to the State of Kerala from September, 2006 to July, 2007. In addition to this, the Government has also decided to make one time special allocation of 21000 tons of rice to the State of Kerala during the month of August, 2007 for the Onam festival.

Impact of Dams on Flow of Water in Rivers

169. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the impact of barrages and dams on the flow of water in the rivers;

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

(c) the amount allocated for dredging of rivers; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure adequate flow of water in these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir. No project specific study was conducted after the construction of barrages and dams on the flow of water in the rivers. However Central Water Commission (CWC) has been examining the hydrology and water availability of water resources projects during project appraisal stage before endorsing the project to the Technical Advisory Committee for Investment clearance of Planning Commission. A brief note on the Impact of Dams/Barrages on Rivers is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Does not arise; Government of India and constituted a Multi-disciplinary Committee in October 2001 under Dr. B.K. Mittal. Ex. Chairman, Central Water Commission to study the problem of silting of rivers which concluded that siltation is not pronounced and alarming. It opined that desilting of rivers is not an economically viable solution and is effective only marginally in minimizing the magnitude of flood, that too, for a short period. It has recommended that dredging in general was found to be ineffective and should not be resorted particularly in major rivers.

(d) 2nd meeting of Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) held on 14-5-2003, constituted Working Group under the chairmanship of Member (RM), CWC to advise on the minimum flows in the rivers to conserve the ecosystem. The report of Working Group was submitted to WQAA during August 2007 and the report is yet to be accepted by the Authority and further course of action to maintain minimum flow of water in the rivers will be taken accordingly.

The noticeable impact on river flows would be to the extent of the withdrawals and the evaporation which would take place from the impoundment which occurs due to the hydraulic structures on the river. Quantification has not been attempted for any project as yet in Central Water Commission/Ministry of Water Resources.

Whenever projects are examined from the Hydrology

the overall utilizations of upstream projects are taken into account. This helps in firming up the water availability and the design flood series. The concept of series and parallel projects are studied instead of individual projects. There is a component of return flow (ranging from 7 to 10% of the application) from the utilisations that are projected and they tend to stabilize the low flows over the year. The projects on rivers help in attenuation of flood hydrographs which in turn mitigate the flood ravages. The surface storage of Water reservoirs recharges the ground water, thus ensuring year-long supply of fresh water to the nearby communities.

While the projects are scrutinized the impact of sedimentation on the life of reservoirs is studied. The Moody's nomogram is extensively used to evaluate the trap efficiency of the catchment being studied. The trap efficiency of dams varies from 0.01 to 90% depending on the area where the dam is being considered. Provisions are suggested for flushing of the reservoir with sensitized digital transformation to increase the life of the projects. The periodic flushing ensures that the settled sediment in the reservoirs travel to the downstream and gives boost to the silt balance in the downstream river regime.

[Translation]

Indo-US Joint Military Exercise

170. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and American warships conducted joint exercise conducted joint exercise at Chennai port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether American warships were equipped with atomic weapons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian forces conducted similar exercises with the forces of other countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the effect of such joint exercises on morale of Indian forces; and

(h) whether disclosure of Indian secret defence preparations to such countries have adverse effect on our defence production and war preparation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Indian forces conduct joint exercises with forces of other countries from time to time. Some of the countries with whom exercises have been conducted in past include USA, UK, Russia, France, Oman, Singapore, Japan, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc.

(g) During joint exercise, service personnel gain from the experience of other forces especially in the field of advance technology available with them. It also facilitates inter operability in times of need in situations like disaster management etc.

(h) Appropriate measures are in place to ensure that secret defence preparations are not disclosed during such exercise.

[English]

Expansion of Ordnance Factories

171. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to further expand the ordnance units in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Committee set up for the purpose; and

(d) the recommendations made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for augmenting the manufacturing capacity for armoured vehicles including the facilities at OF Medak. The proposal is at a preliminary stage and a decision is yet to be taken.

(c) and (d) No committee has been set up for this purpose.

**Strategy for Safeguard of
Labour Laws**

172. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether International Labour Organisation (ILO) has urged the Ministry to fulfill its commitment on safeguarding labour laws in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

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

(c) whether global experiences suggests that SEZs have infringed upon the rights of the workers: and

(d) if so, the strategies to be adopted by the Government to safeguard the interest of the labourers and implement the Labour Laws in SEZs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The ILO has confirmed that it has not had any discussion with Ministry of Labour and Employment on safeguarding labour laws in the SEZs in India.

(c) No, Sir. The ILO has not mentioned any such observation.

(d) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 does not preclude applicability of the labour laws in SEZs.

Production of Palm Oil Seeds

173. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for increasing the production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds including palm oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government to face the challenge of acute shortage of pulses and oilseeds 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) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds, pulses and oilpalm in the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for critical inputs such as quality seeds, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, Integrated Pest Management Technology, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Bio-fertilizers, gypsum/pyrite liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes etc. to encourage farmers to cultivate oilseeds and pulses. 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 Front Line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). For the development of Oil Palm, financial assistance is provided for planting material, cultivation cost, drip irrigation, diesel pump sets etc. under ISOPOM.

(c) To address the acute shortage of oilseeds and pulses in the country, a special plan for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses has been implemented under ISOPOM during kharif-2007 in major oilseeds and pulses growing states. Besides, it is envisaged to launch National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising wheat, rice and pulses during XI Plan to enhance the production and productivity of these crops and make the country self-sufficient in foodgrains. NFSM-Pulses is proposed to be implemented in 168 districts in 14 states.

Bio-Diesel from Jatropha

174. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jatropha can be easily converted into biodegradable diesel and its plantation can help reverse soil deterioration; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for development of Jatropha Cultivation in bad soil and drought conditions?

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 implementation of Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds has been initiated by Government of India to promote cultivation of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs) including Jatropha which has rich oil content and capacity to check soil deterioration. The oil of Jatropha can be converted into bio-degradable diesel after trans-esterification.

NOVOD Board has undertaken plantation of Jatropha over 10,185 ha. especially in degraded areas in 21 states in the country.

Performance of DRDO

175. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has appreciated for its high standard of performance and delivery of weapons for Defence Services;

(b) if so, whether DRDO was apprised that the delay at development stage may run the risk of obsolescence of weapons;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether DRDO, Indian Airlines and Armed Forces jointly can enhance and modernize the Production System;

(e) whether DRDO was assured all help for rapid development of Defence Industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. DRDO has made significant contributions towards development of tactical and

strategic weapon systems for Defence Services. Many of the Systems have already entered serial production and induction.

(b) and (c) DRDO ensures that the weapons, at the time of offering to Users for trial and induction, are state-of-art technologies and are not obsolete.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. DRDO has been supported and encouraged by the Government for rapid development of defence industries. DRDO has also offered technical help to Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories in smooth absorption of various technologies for production of weapon systems. Modernization of Defence Production System is an ongoing task with DPSUs, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and also through involvement of private sectors.

[Translation]

Genetic Engineering Tests

176. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are ignorant about the genetic engineering tests conducted by the Government and it is endangering the crops and plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of India through Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has provided financial assistance during the year 2006-07 to Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi to organize public awareness workshops on issues related to Genetically Modified crops with a focus on post release monitoring in all the cotton growing States in the country. BCIL has organized these workshops at State level as well as District level in all the genetically modified (GM) Bt. Cotton

growing states. Similar efforts were undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in various GM cotton growing areas. Publications in local languages highlighting the methods of cultivation of Bt. Cotton were distributed to farmers. Kisan Goshti was conducted in Maharashtra.

These public awareness endeavor educated farmers about the risk associated with the spurious GM seeds and post release management of GM crops, especially Bt. Cotton.

[English]

Integrated Nutrient Management System

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

(a) whether the Government has launched a National Programme for promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management System based on the soil specific condition of each geographical region in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such programme is likely to be launched?

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) Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which envisage soil test based judicious and balanced use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity.

Government is also contemplating to launch a new Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Promotion of Balanced Use of Fertilizers" during XI Plan with more emphasis on infrastructure development for soil and fertilizer testing, use of organic manures and creating awareness of farmers and extension workers through training and demonstrations.

Refund of Excess Amount by Telecom Operators

178. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding amount of the refund of security deposit with telecom operators by customers who have changed services during the last three years;

(b) the reasons in which the excess money could not be refunded to the customers;

(c) whether the customers may claim to refund these money;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilised these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government does not maintain information regarding refund of Security deposit by the service providers.

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

(c) to (e) Customers can claim refund of security deposit after closure of their connection subject to adjustment of outstanding dues, if any.

Telephone Operators

179. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operators were given licenses in each of the telecom circles in the country;

(b) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed to limit the number of operators in a circle; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) List of Number of Access Service Licensee Companies in each service area is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

List of Number of Telecom Access Services Licensee Companies

Sl. No.	Name of Service Area	Number of Unified Access Services and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services Licensee Companies
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	8
4.	Chennai	4
5.	Delhi	7
6.	Gujarat	7
7.	Haryana	7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
10.	Karnataka	7
11.	Kerala	7
12.	Kolkata	7
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7
14.	Maharashtra	7
15.	Mumbai	8

1	2	3
16.	North East	5
17.	Orissa	7
18.	Punjab	8
19.	Rajasthan	8
20.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	4
21.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	2
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	7
24.	West Bengal	7

Note: One Basic Service Licence has been granted to M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for all India except Delhi and Mumbai service areas and one Basic Service Licence has been granted to M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Delhi and Mumbai service areas.

[Translation]

Base Depots of FCI

180. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of base depots of Food Corporation of India is the country from where foodgrains for both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) beneficiaries is not supplied simultaneously;

(b) whether there is any proposal to supply foodgrains for both the categories simultaneously from all the base depots of FCI;

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

(d) 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) to (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is supplying wheat and rice under Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) schemes simultaneously from its base depots to the State/Union Territory Governments or their nominees.

Control and Funding of NCCT

181. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to have full control over National Council Cooperative Training (NCCT);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total corpus fund provided to NCCT and the policy of the Government in regard to the said fund;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Jawaharlal Nehru International Cooperative University; and

(e) if so, the time by when it is likely to be set up?

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) No, Sir. There is no proposal to have full control over National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT). NCCT is a Committee of National Cooperative Union of India fully funded by Government of India to conduct the training programmes in cooperative sector in the country. It is the policy of the Central Government to ensure functional autonomy and democratic management of Cooperative institutions.

(c) A corpus fund of 200.00 crores has been created to finance the training programmes conducted by the NCCT. The Government of India has contributed Rs. 100.00 crores to the corpus fund with a matching contribution from National Cooperative Union of India/

other cooperative institutions. This corpus fund is managed by a Committee constituted under the rules governing the management of the fund. Only the interest earnings of the corpus fund will be utilized to meet the expenditure on training programmes conducted by NCCT and the corpus fund will remain intact.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal from the Government to set up Jawaharlal Nehru International Cooperative University. However, the National Cooperative Union of India has proposed to set up Jawaharlal Nehru International Cooperative University with main campus at Vaikunthbhai Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management at Pune and off campus at the Regional Institute of Cooperative Managements and Institute of Cooperative Managements. The Ministry of Agriculture has given "No objection" for establishment of the proposed University.

[English]

Delay in Purchasing Order of BSNL

182. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Board reviewed the 45.5 million GSM line tender as reported in the *Financial Express* dated July 17, 2007;

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

(c) whether Joint Forum of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Unions/Associations have also drawn the attention of the Government to the delay in releasing the purchasing order;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Sir, since the Government is yet to announce spectrum policy for 3G services, Board of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

(BSNL) had taken a review of the GSM tender with the possibility to restrict order to 2G component. BSNL employees had also raised their concern against possible restriction of order on 3G component and requested for immediate release of purchase order. However, based on the legal opinion, BSNL Board has decided to maintain the provision of the tender including 3G component.

[Translation]

**Opening of More Vocational Training/
Education Centres**

183. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vocational Training/Education Centres functioning at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more such centres to train maximum number of unemployed youth of the country;

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

(d) the target fixed and funds allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the number of unemployed youth likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) DGE and T under the Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing Craftsman Training Scheme in the country. There are 5114 Industrial Training Institutes/Centres functioning in the country. State-wise position of ITI/ITCs in the country is given in the enclosed Statement. In addition to this Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level.

(b) to (e) Vocational Training is a concurrent subject. At the Central level, Government of India is responsible for prescribing norms, standards, development of course curricula, grant of affiliation and trade testing and certification. New Industrial Training Institutes/Centres are setup by the State Governments as per their requirement.

Statement

NORTHERN REGION

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	Number of Government ITIs	Seating Capacity (Govt.)	Number of Pvt. ITCs	Seating Capacity (Pvt.)	Total ITIs/ITCs	Total Seating Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Haryana	81	13,477	25	1428	106	14905
2.	Himachal Pradesh	55	5649	8	980	63	6629
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	38	4332	0	0	38	4332
4.	Punjab	110	14351	71	4716	181	19067
5.	Rajasthan	91	9472	45	3868	136	13340
6.	Uttar Pradesh	185	38644	128	13284	313	51928
7.	Chandigarh	2	1048	0	0	2	1048

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. Delhi		14	9364	48	2548	62	11912
9. Uttaranchal		57	6088	16	1592	73	7680
Sub-Total		633	102425	341	28416	974	130841
SOUTHERN REGION							
1. Andhra Pradesh		92	24239	476	87346	568	111585
2. Karnataka		131	21340	610	38576	741	59916
3. Kerala		82	16176	467	43945	549	60121
4. Tamil Nadu		71	24812	605	62191	676	87003
5. Lakshadweep		1	96	0	0	1	96
6. Pondicherry		7	1336	8	664	15	2000
Sub-Total		384	87999	2166	232722	2550	32021
EASTERN REGION							
1. Arunachal Pradesh		2	368	0	0	2	368
2. Assam		24	4536	3	84	27	4620
3. Bihar		29	10496	29	4472	58	14968
4. Jharkhand		14	2564	22	3124	36	5688
5. Manipur		7	540	0	0	7	540
6. Meghalaya		5	622	2	320	7	942
7. Mizoram		1	294	0	0	1	294
8. Nagaland		3	404	0	0	3	404
9. Orissa		27	7328	147	16660	174	23988
10. Sikkim		1	140	0	0	1	140
11. Tripura		4	416	0	0	4	416
12. West Bengal		49	11956	18	964	67	12920
13. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1	220	0	0	1	220
Sub-Total		167	39884	221	25624	388	65508

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
WESTERN REGION							
1. Goa		11	2652	4	420	15	3072
2. Gujarat		135	70500	129	16626	264	87126
3. Madhaya Pradesh		136	19538	33	2860	169	22398
4. Chhattisgarh		80	8984	57	5880	137	14864
5. Maharashtra		347	67390	267	29794	614	97184
6. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1	228	0	0	1	228
7. Daman and Diu		2	388	0	0	2	388
Sub-Total		712	169680	490	55580	1202	225260
Grand Total		1896	399988	3218	342342	5114	742330

[English]

**Defence Expenditure in
Non-essential Areas**

184. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether expenditure of the Defence Forces in non-essential areas is to be rationalized in keeping with other development requirements of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether enormous resources are spent by Defence Forces on the construction and maintenance of messes and regimental halls/community centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these facilities are scarcely used and require huge manpower to maintain them; and

(f) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Requirement of funds for Defence

Services is worked out every year through a rigorous process of in-house scrutiny of the projections made by the Services. The requirement of funds is also examined by the Ministry of Finance which decides the final allocation keeping in view all other developmental requirements.

(c) and (d) The expenditure being incurred on construction and maintenance of messes and other authorized buildings constitutes a small fraction of the total allocation on defence.

(e) and (f) These facilities are used on as and when required basis. Its maintenance does not require huge manpower and is carried out by the existing maintenance agencies, such as Military Engineering Services (MES).

[Translation]

Assistance to Farmers

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

(a) the number of institutes under his Ministry providing direct assistance to the farmers;

(b) the financial assistance provided to these institutes during the last three years; and

(c) the number of the farmers assisted by the said institutes 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Fund for Benefit of Telephone
Subscribers**

186. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has constituted a fund for the benefit of telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the sources of finance for the fund;

(c) whether the Government has made any initial contribution to the fund; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has established the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.

(b) The Fund has been established through issue of a regulation, viz., "Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007" (6 of 2007) dated 15th June, 2007 in gazette of India. Any amount charged from the subscribers in excess of the rates of telecommunication service determined under any regulation or order or direction made under the TRAI Act, or amount in excess of the rates announced by the service providers, where the rates have been notified

under market forbearance and which could not be refunded to the concerned subscribers and thus lying as unclaimed with the service providers, shall constitute the corpus of the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007 does not provide for government funding.

Firing Ranges for Military Exercises

187. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved a strategy to ensure full utilisation of Field Firing Ranges for military exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in future programmes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Army has a strategy to ensure full utilisation of Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) for field firing and conduct of unit/sub-unit level exercises. The review of this strategy is an ongoing process. The main aspects of the strategy are as follows:—

(i) Planned allotment of FFRs so that units and formations derive optimum training value;

(ii) Sectoral division of large size acquired FFRs for firing different equipments to achieve simultaneous utilisation by a number of units of Army and Air Force;

(iii) Bulk allotment of large size FFRs at Army Headquarters level and sub-allotment of FFRs to lower formations at Command Headquarters level for optimum utilisation of FFRs throughout the year; and

(iv) de-centralisation of control of other FFRs to the lower formations for maximum utilisation.

Submarine Cable Links

188. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and MTNL are planning to lay submarine cable links from India to Singapore and Malaysia and another through West Asia to be extended in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost of the project;

(c) whether the cost of the project is four times more than the actual cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of consultants for the project and criteria adopted in selection of consultants;

(f) whether BSNL/MTNL is considering alternative plans for the cable links in view of heavy cost; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Eastern segment has been planned from India to Malaysia and of Singapore with branches to Bangladesh, Myanmar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Thailand and Indonesia. The Western segment has been planned from India to United Arab Emirates and/or Saudi Arabia with branches to Pakistan, Oman, Iran, Qatar and Kuwait. As per the Preliminary estimates worked out by M/s. Datawave Ltd., the Phase-I consultant to examine feasibility/viability of the project and Return on Investment, the estimated cost of the project is US \$ 400 million excluding terminal build etc.

(c) to (g) M/s. Datawave Ltd. of United Kingdom was appointed as Phase-I consultant to examine feasibility/viability of the project and Return on Investment. M/s. Axiom of France has been appointed as Phase-II consultant for providing assistance to MTL team till the completion of the project. Both these consultants have been selected through open global bidding process.

The above preliminary cost is only an estimate and shall be firmed up after tenders are finalized. However, the possibility of a land route to Singapore via Myanmar is also being explored.

[Translation]

Starvation Deaths

189. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether many cases of deaths due to starvation have been reported from various States during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to provide foodgrains to the affected families in the country in order to check the recurrence of such cases 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No incident of starvation death has been reported by any State/Union Territory so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure food security to all, the Targeted Public Distribution System is being implemented all over the country through 4,89,000 Fair Price Shops. Additionally, foodgrains are provided free of cost under relief works like Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, National Food for Work Programme and Annapurna Yojana.

A Central scheme for establishing Village Grain Banks for Antyodaya and BPL families in food scarce areas, is also under implementation in many States. Such families can get foodgrains on loan basis from the Village Grain Banks established in their areas.

[English]

**Review of Progress of Vidharbha
Package for Karnataka**

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

(a) whether the Government had a review meeting on August 3, 2007 at Bangalore to review the progress under the Vidharbha Package for Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount so far provided 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government held a review meeting of performance of agriculture sector in Karnataka at Bangalore on 3rd August, 2007, which inter-alia, also reviewed the progress of implementation of special rehabilitation package for farmers in six suicide prone districts of the State. Rs. 1290.85 crore has been released till 27th July, 2007 under the rehabilitation package for the farmers in six identified suicide prone districts of the State.

Sharing of Water with Bangladesh

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

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have held talks in New Delhi to finalize a water sharing deal with respect to Teesta water;

(b) if so, the details of the deal finalized; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir. A Secretary Level Meeting of Water Resources between India and Bangladesh has been held at New Delhi on 7th-8th August, 2007.

(b) and (c) The Bangladesh side presented the computed dependable flows and modalities of sharing of Teesta waters for consideration. The Indian side proposed principles for interim sharing of Teesta waters, pending the decision on long term sharing based on Joint Scientific Study. It was agreed that two proposals would be examined and the details would be worked out further at Technical level headed by the Member, JRC of the two countries at the earliest for consideration in the next JRC meeting for final decision.

[Translation]

Garlic Cultivation

192. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote garlic cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For enhancing horticulture production including garlic, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States, are being implemented in the country wherein assistance for area expansion under horticulture crops alongwith technical guidance for quality seed production of improved varieties to the growers is provided through extension programmes, which help in enhancement of area, production and productivity of horticulture crops including garlic.

[English]

Water Projects from States

193. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for development of water projects received from various States particularly Bihar and Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof indicating the projects sanctioned and pending with the Union Government alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the details of the funds provided for the sanctioned projects during the said period, project-wise; and

(d) the number of the projects completed and those still pending for completion, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present, 187 new irrigation project proposals (103 major and 84 medium) have been received from various State Governments including

states of Bihar and Gujarat. Of these, 111 projects (59 major and 52 medium) are under different stages of appraisal and remaining 76 projects (44 major and 32 medium) have been techno-economically accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to compliance of a few observations. State-wise abstract of these projects is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Details of the projects to which investment clearance has been accorded during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II. Approval for the projects depends on promptness with which State Governments comply to the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

(c) The project-wise details of the Central Assistance released under AIBP during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) State-wise details of the projects/project components completed under AIBP are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Major			Medium			Total		
		A	B	Total	A	B	Total	A	B	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	5	11	2	6	8	8	11	19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
6.	Goa, Daman, Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	3	2	5	1	—	1	4	2	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	1	2	—	2	2	1	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	4	3	7	4	3	7
11.	Jharkhand	4	4	8	—	—	—	4	4	8
12.	Karnataka	5	3	8	6	—	6	11	3	14
13.	Kerala	1	1	2	2	—	2	3	1	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	3	8	—	—	—	5	3	8
15.	Maharashtra	12	5	17	27	8	35	39	13	52
16.	Manipur	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	2
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	2

19. Orissa	2	4	6	1	7	8	3	11	14
20. Punjab	4	2	6	1	1	2	5	3	8
21. Rajasthan	3	5	8	4	4	8	7	9	16
22. Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Tamil Nadu	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	02
24. Tripura	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
25. Uttar Pradesh	5	6	11	1	—	1	6	6	12
26. Uttarakhand	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	01
27. West Bengal	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	01
Grand Total	59	44	103	52	32	84	111	76	187

A—Project under various stages of appraisal.

B—Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR subject to certain observations.

Statement-II**List of Irrigation Projects Approved by Planning Commission from April 2004 to June 2007**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Name of State	Major/ Medium	Estt. Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Benefits (Th. ha.)	Date of Approval
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Pothra Nalla Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	63.08	9.380	01-12-2004
2.	Utawali Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	35.78	5.394	02-12-2004
3.	Bansagar Canal Project	Uttar Pradesh	Major	570.35	150.132	29-07-2004
4.	Modernisation of Dadi Canal	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	11.10	4.526	14-09-2004
5.	Anadpur Barrage Project Across River Baitarani	Orissa	Major	482.26	56.72	30-12-2004
6.	Modernization of Lahchura Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	88.30	46.485	05-05-2005
7.	Minimata (Hasdeo) Bango Multipurpose Project (Revised)	Chhattisgarh	Major	1312.32	433.500	20-05-2005
8.	Mongra Irrigation Projects	Chhattisgarh	Medium	83.64	9.431	07-01-2005
9.	Balh Valley (Left Bank) Irrigation Projects	Himachal Pradesh	Medium	41.64	5.394	10-06-2005
10.	Gul River Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	65.736	3.025	09-11-2005
11.	Punand Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Major	157.78	10.846	05-12-2005
12.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP	Andhra Pradesh	Major	1331.30	102.00	08-12-2005
13.	Punpun Barrage Scheme	Bihar	Major	102.26	13.898	13-01-2006
14.	Haranghat Lift Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	49.2085	4.819	16-03-2006
15.	Palemvagu	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	29.1287	6.23	17-03-2006

16. Sriram Sagar Project Stage-II	Andhra Pradesh	Major	1043.14	193.871	20-03-2006
17. Thotapalli Barrage Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	415.87	78.443	20-03-2006
18. Pench Diversion Project	Madhya Pradesh	Major	583.40	96.519	10-04-2006
19. Peddavagu Diversion Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	124.64	6.00	27-06-2006
20. Mathadivagu Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	50.40	3.440	27-06-2006
21. Gollavagu Reservoir*	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	84.08	3.845	27-06-2006
22. Rallivagu Reservoir	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	33.30	2.430	27-06-2006
23. Tadipudi Lift Irrigation	Andhra Pradesh	Major	376.96	83.599	27-06-2006
24. Pushkara Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	379.503	75.235	27-06-2006
25. Mav Khul Irrigation Project—ERM	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	12.8241	9.3522	06-07-2006
26. Nandi Canal Irrigation Project—ERM	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	6.4615	3.060	06-07-2006
27. Martand Canal Irrigation Project—ERM	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	27.71	6.498	06-07-2006
28. Babul Canal Irrigation Project—ERM	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	12.3361	3.077	06-07-2006
29. Dadi Canal Irrigation Project—ERM (Rivesed)	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	49.95	4.65013	06-07-2006
30. Hardoi Branch System (ERN)	Uttar Pradesh	Major	105.2997	306.055	8-12-2006
31. Valligallu Reservoir	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	143.67	10.525	22-12-2006
32. Widening, Strengthening and Providing 10 m wide Roadway on Alipur Bund on Left Bank of River Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh	Flood Protection	42.20	—	22-12-2006
33. Kachnoda Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	88.67	10.85	03-01-2007
34. Nilwai Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	90.50	5.260	12-02-2007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35.	Dhom Balakwadi Tunnel Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Major	475.29	12.620	23-03-2007
36.	Lal Nalla Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	103.49	7.320	23-03-2007
37.	Kar Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Medium	170.04	6.744	23-03-2007
38.	Arunavati River Project	Maharashtra	Major	224.16	25.155	23-03-2007
39.	Lower Wardha Irrigation Scheme	Maharashtra	Major	875.70	51.655	23-03-2007
40.	Khadakpurna River Project	Maharashtra	Major	578.56	24.864	23-03-2007
41.	Tarali Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Major	504.96	19.498	23-03-2007
42.	Kandi Canal Project	Jammu and Kashmir	Medium	53.70	3.229	30-03-2007
43.	Godavari Lift Irrigation	Andhra Pradesh	Major	6016.00	286.000	23-03-2007
44.	Gutpha Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	171.91	15.699	23-03-2007
45.	Alisagar Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	227.90	21.770	23-03-2007
46.	Musunumilli Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	207.00	15.676	23-03-2007
47.	Peddavagu Project (Komaram Bhim)	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	202.59	10.927	23-03-2007
48.	Bhupathipalem Reservoir Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Medium	47.23	6.516	23-03-2007
49.	Sutiapat Reservoir Project	Chhattisgarh	Medium	46.95	6.960	09-04-2007
50.	Dolaitabi Barrage Project	Manipur	Medium	98.37	7.545	10-05-2007
51.	Bembra River Project	Maharashtra	Major	1276.87	70.756	14-06-2007
52.	Rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch	Punjab	Major	123.30	68.624	30-3-2007

Statement-III

Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/Grant Released under AIBP during 2004-05 to 2007-08

Sl. No.	Name of State/Project (Started in Plan)	Amount								(Rs. in crore)
(1)	(2)	2004-05		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 as on 9-4-07	Total CA Since inclusion of project in AIBP		(16)	
		Loan	Grant	Total	Grant	Grant	Grant			
(1)	(2)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(16)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		

Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects**ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. Siram Sagar (Stage-I) (III) (C)	219.2200
2. Cheyyeru (Annamaya) (V) (C)	15.3300
3. Jurala (VI)	245.1890
4. Somasila (V)	44.5250
5. Nagarjunsagar (II) (C)	26.4300
6. Madduvalasa (V) (C)	41.8000
7. Gundalavagu (V)	4.0050
8. Maddigedda (V)	3.7920

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Kanupur Canal (III) (D)							1.9200
10.	Yerrakalva (V)	4.0873	1.7517	5.8390				28.4630
11.	Vamsedhera Ph. I	14.8246	6.3534	21.1780		6.6830		37.1160
12.	Flood Flow Canal of SRSP				120.0000	127.4000		247.4000
13.	Siramsagar Project-II				2.2690	72.0000		74.2690
	Swamamukhi Med Irrigation Project					5.9310		5.9310
	61 Minor Irrigation Schemes					27.0000		27.0000
14.	Tadipudi LIS					48.2200		48.2200
15.	Pushkara LIS					33.1155		33.1155
16.	Ralivagu					6.7095		6.7095
17.	Gollavagu					28.3500		28.3500
18.	Mathadivagu					28.3500		28.3500
19.	Peddavagu					50.6250		50.6250
	Gundlakamma Reservoir					39.7425		39.7425
20.	Valligallu Reservoir					36.0855		36.0855
21.	Ali Sagar LIS					13.5000		13.5000
22.	J. Chokkarao LIS					298.1300		298.1300
23.	Guthpa LIS					10.9500		10.9500
24.	Nilwai					2.8500	6.1500	9.0000
25.	Khomaram Bhima					7.7800	74.5400	82.3200
	Sub-Total 1	61.2829	26.2641	87.5470	140.1580	843.4220	80.6900	1707.4880

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	93 Ongoing MI Schemes							
	(Arunachal)—Total	1.0000	9.0000	10.0000	18.0000	27.0000	0.0000	106.5000
	ASSAM							
31.	Pahumara (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)	0.0075	0.0675	0.0750	1.7550			6.1400
32.	Hawaipur LIS (VI)							4.9650
33.	Rupahi LIS (Andhra Pradesh. 1978-80) (C)							0.6550
34.	Dhansiri (V)	2.8700						31.6900
35.	Champamati (VI)	0.7330						13.7330
36.	Borolia (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)				3.6000			12.5370
37.	Kolonga (V) (D)							0.5000
38.	Burhi Dihang LIS (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)							4.2240
39.	Bordikarai (V) (C)							7.0130
40.	Mod. of Jamuna Irr. Project (IX)				7.2450			16.2800
41.	Integrated Irr. Scheme in Kollong Basin (V)							12.9820
	6 MI Schemes in 1999-2000							1.5200
	46 MI Schemes in 2000-2001							5.7770
	5 New MI Schemes in 2001-02							1.1050
	3 MI Schemes under Kartavi AAC in 2002-03							0.4150

40 Nos. MI Schemes						2.1280
7 Surface MI Schemes (New)						0.3915
5 Ongoing MI Schemes under KACC						0.6243
3 Ongoing MI Schemes under KACC						0.4150
2 Surface MI Schemes of 2001-02 (KAAC)						0.5440
3 Surface MI Schemes of 2002-03 (KAAC)						0.2720
5 New MI Schemes of (KAAC)						0.8150
Killing Irrigation Scheme under KAAC						0.4500
3 Ongoing and 5 new MI Schemes (KAAC)						1.9440
4 MI Schemes NC Hills						1.3335
33 Ongoing surface MI Schemes						2.6250
13 New surface MI Schemes of KAAC						1.7900
12 Ongoing MI Schemes of KAAC	0.5525	4.9725	5.5250			5.5250
11 New MI Schemes of KAAC	0.2445	2.2005	2.4450			2.4450
2 New MI Schemes of KAAC	0.1125	1.0125	1.1250			1.1250
13 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes of KAAC	0.1785	1.6065	1.7850			1.7850
11 New MI Schemes of KAAC	0.4336	3.9024	4.3360			4.3360
2 Ongoing and 11 New MI Schemes of NCAC	0.1639	1.4751	1.6390			1.6390
28 Ongoing MI Schemes						3.7260

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	25 Ongoing MI Schemes (KAAC)				11.7178	15.3300		27.0478
	9 New surface MI Schemes (KAAC)				6.5294			6.5294
	4 new surface MI Schemes (KAAC)				0.3600			0.3600
	22 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes (KAAC)					7.8100	10.7200	18.5300
	38 New surface MI Schemes (KAAC)					1.7400	3.1800	4.9200
	2 New MI Schemes of KAAC in 2006-07					2.0250		2.0250
	4 New MI Schemes (KAAC) 2006-07					1.9035		1.9035
	3 New MI Schemes					1.4600		1.4600
	(Assam)—Total	1.6900	15.2370	16.9300	34.9332	30.2685	13.9000	216.2250
	BIHAR							
42.	Western Kosi Canal (III)	13.9160	5.9640	19.8800	5.9640	1.7000	16.3000	191.0490
43.	Upper Kul (V)	0.9345	0.4005	1.3350	0.0750			22.5790
44.	Durgawati (V)				1.4000			65.0900
—	Bansagar (V)							83.5000
45	Orni Reservoir (V)							11.4005
46.	Bilasi Reservoir (V) (C)							3.3900
47.	Sone Canal Modernisation (VII)	11.2000	4.8000	16.0000	8.7990	1.5300	14.6700	136.1590
48.	Batane (V)							3.3350
	(Bihar) — Total	26.0505	11.1645	37.2150	16.2380	3.2300	30.9700	516.5025

CHHATTISGARH

49. Hasdep Bango (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (C) 105.9400

50. Shivnath Diversion (V) (C) 3.5400

51. Jonk Diversion (IV) (C) 7.6000

52. Koserteda 2.0475 0.8775 2.9250 1.5640 12.1990

53. Mahanadi Reservoir 6.1005 6.1005

27 Minor Irrigation Schemes

7.5150 7.5150

16 New MI Schemes

17.1600 18.9500

27 New MI Schemes

1.4000 13.4500 14.8500

Sub-Total 1

2.0475 0.8775 2.9250 7.6645 10.7050 30.6100 176.6945

CLA Released under Fast Track Programme

54. Barnai

2.6500

Hasdeo Bango (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)

137.8400

Sub-Total 2

140.4900

(Chhattisgarh)—Total

0.0000 0.0000 10.7050 30.6100 317.1845

GOA

55. Salauli Phase-1 (IV) (C) 0.4550 0.1950 0.6500 17.7500

56. Tiltari (V) 1.9100 18.3400 113.3000

(Goa)—Total

1.9100 18.3400 151.3000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	GUJARAT							
57.	Sardar Sarovar (VI)	420.0000	18.0000	438.0000	339.6000	121.8885	162.4200	4327.1585
58.	Jhuj (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (C)							4.7400
59.	Sipu (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (C)							6.4550
60.	Mukteshwar (VI)							10.8630
61.	Hamav-II (V) (C)							0.0650
62.	Umaria (V) (C)							0.1350
63.	Damanganga (IV) (C)							9.4700
64.	Karjan (V) (C)							7.6000
65.	Sukhi (V) (C)							5.6500
66.	Deo (V) (C)							0.5000
67.	Watrak Kadana RB Canal (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (C)							3.1100
68.	Aji-IV (IX)							11.1080
69.	Ozat-II (VIII)							12.1100
70.	Brahamini-II (IX)							4.0000
71.	Bhadar-II							0.8860
	Sub-Total 1	420.0000	18.0000	438.0000	339.6000	121.8885	162.4200	4403.8305
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme								
	Sardar Sarovar Project (VI) (FTP-I)							188.0000

Sardar Sarovar Project (VI) (FTP-II)	64.7500	27.7500	92.5000	185.0000
Sub-Total 2	64.7500	27.7500	92.5000	373.0000
(Gujarat)—Total	484.7500	45.7500	630.5000	4776.8305
HARYANA				
72. Gurgaon Canal (III) (C)				2.5000
73. WRCP (VIII)	7.7945	3.3405	11.1350	76.0400
74. JLN Lift Irr. (V) (D)				12.0000
(Haryana)—Total	7.7945	3.3405	11.1350	90.5400
HIMACHAL PRADESH				
75. Shahnehar Irrgn. Project (VIII)			8.8340	71.2450
76. Sidhata (IX)	0.1125	1.0125	6.0750	21.3000
77. Changer Lift (IX)	0.0640	0.5760	1.1475	8.6375
42 MI Schemes in 1999-2000				2.4220
60 MI Schemes in 2000-2001				4.2950
26 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.1925	1.7325	1.9250	1.9250
2 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06			0.6930	0.6930
102 New Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06			13.3290	13.3290
84 Ongoing MI Schemes			1.7100	18.1200
(Himachal Pradesh)—Total	0.3690	3.3210	30.0785	141.9665

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	JAMMU AND KASHMIR							
78.	Marwal Lift @ (IV) (D)							0.3000
79.	Lethpora Lift @ (IV)	0.0445	0.4008	0.4453	0.3008			3.3161
80.	Koil Lift @ (V) (D)							0.5000
81.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal (VII)				7.5600		14.2000	43.3930
82.	Mod. of Pratap Canal (VII)				2.9160	2.7000		12.1060
83.	Mod. of Kathua Canal (VII)				0.9990			7.6160
84.	Rajpora lift (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)	0.1416	1.2744	1.4160	4.7700	1.8900	3.4700	18.7040
85.	Marwal Lift (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)	0.1550	1.3950	1.5500	4.4208	1.8450	3.5300	23.4768
86.	Igorthay (IX)	0.0500	0.4500	0.5000	0.2700			9.6300
87.	Rafiabed Lift Irrigation (IX)	0.2391	2.1521	2.3912	2.8270	1.6546	3.2700	15.7998
88.	Zaingir Canal (IX) (C)	0.1002	0.9018	1.0020	0.6992			4.8492
89.	Mod. of Dadi Canal Project					3.2670	5.4500	8.7170
	26 new surface MI Schemes							1.1900
	28 ongoing surface MI Schemes				2.2500			8.2500
	28 surface MI Schemes	2.4400	2.1960	2.4400				4.2400
	54 surface MI Schemes	0.3000	2.7000	3.0000	7.4250	2.2200		12.6450
	26 ongoing surface MI Schemes				2.2500	5.6250	9.3800	17.2550
	Harjitar LIS (Minor)					0.6750		0.6750
	Nilang Lake Budgam (Minor)					0.3375		0.3375

Budshah Pond (Minor)		0.3375	0.3375	0.3375
62 New Surface MI Schemes in 2006-07		10.3300	10.3300	10.3300
90. Mod. of Martand Canal		4.4600	4.4600	4.4600
91. Mod. of Mav Khul		2.4300	2.4300	2.4300
(Jammu and Kashmir)—Total		12.7445	36.6878	39.3000
JHARKHAND				
92. Gumani (V)		1.3620	0.3900	31.4020
93. Torai (V) (D)				2.5000
94. Latratu (VII) (C)				2.1300
95. Kansjore (VII)			0.4800	11.0400
96. Sonua (VI)		4.1965	1.7985	18.3460
97. Surangi (VII)		1.7675	0.7575	12.1500
98. Tapkara Res. Scheme (VI) (C)				0.5150
99. Upper Sankh (V)		5.7890	2.4810	10.6100
100. Panchkhero		3.1465	1.3485	5.5420
(Jharkhand)—Total		14.8995	5.0370	94.2350
KARNATAKA				
101. UKP Stage-I (IV)		81.0971	98.4752	853.8530
102. Melprabha (III)		8.4000	12.0000	90.5600
103. Hirehallia (VI)				40.7500
104. Ghatprabha (V)		43.4630	19.5000	267.1050

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
105.	Karanja (V)							77.1400
106.	UKP Stage-II (IX)	168.4970	36.1830	204.6800	95.3571	78.6597	104.8100	1172.0398
107.	Gandorinala (VIII)	13.3350	5.7150	19.0500	2.5410	4.7500	45.5300	97.2410
	UKP St. I Phase III					32.6582	43.5200	76.1782
	Sub-Total 1	314.7921	81.5031	396.2952	140.7759	160.3729	193.8600	2719.1720
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme								
	Hirehalla							23.4900
	Karanja							99.6400
108.	Maskinata (C)							3.2200
	Sub-Total 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	126.3500
	(Karnataka)—Total	314.7921	81.5031	396.2952	140.7759	160.3729	193.8600	2845.5220
KERALA								
109.	Kallada Project (III) (C)							32.5000
110.	Muvattupuzha (V)	34.6080	14.8320	49.4400	9.3591	13.9280		1129.3171
111.	Karapuzha					2.7188		2.7188
	(Kerala)—Total	34.6080	14.8320	49.4400	9.3591	16.6488	0.0000	164.5359
MADHYA PRADESH								
112.	Indira Sagar (VI)	87.4580	37.4820	124.9400	41.9504	9.8900	94.7700	804.7144
113.	Bansagar (Unit-I) (V)	19.9717	8.5593	28.5310	15.6000	0.8300	7.9500	352.3270
—	Bansagar (Unit-II) (V)	47.6000	20.4000	68.0000	18.1420	4.0400	38.7000	169.5220

114. Upper Weinganga (V) (C)									50.1060
— Raighat Dam (V)	8.4000	3.6000	12.0000						42.2030
115. Sindh Phase-II (VI)	79.9540	34.2660	114.2200	24.5290					373.3890
116. Sindh Phase-I (IV)									14.8760
117. Mahi (VI)	22.4000	9.6000	32.0000	8.2600	5.3600	33.2000			129.1510
118. Baniarpur (V)	18.3330	7.8570	26.1900	6.3750	0.7600	7.2500			81.6910
119. Urmil (V) (C)									2.3910
120. Banjar (V) (C)									1.4000
121. Bawanthadi (VI)	19.5230	8.3670	27.8900	2.4501	0.5100	4.9200			54.1001
122. Mahan (VI)	8.0990	3.4710	11.5700	4.8000	0.3700	3.4900			25.6300
123. Ontkareshwar (VIII)	49.9520	21.4080	71.3600	9.1119	1.9900	19.0800			121.7059
— Bargi Dam RBC 16 Km.-63 Km. (V)				25.5480					25.5480
— Bargi Div. Pro. Canal (63 Km. to 104 Km.)				11.3302	2.0600	19.7600			33.1502
17 Surface MI Scheme 2006-07					22.5000				22.5000
Sub-Total 1	361.6907	155.0103	516.7010	168.0966	48.3100	229.1200			2304.2006
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme									
124. Bargi Dam RBC 16 Km.-63 Km. (V)									98.0300
Bargi Div. Pro. Canal (63 Km. to 104 Km.)									65.0000
Sub-Total 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			163.0300
(Madhya Pradesh)—Total	361.6907	155.0103	516.7010	168.0966	48.3100	229.1200			2467.2306

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	MAHARASHTRA							
125.	Gosikhurd (VI)	106.9586	45.8394	152.7980	30.0477	2.0900	20.0300	241.3157
126.	Surya (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (D)							13.5500
127.	Waghur (V)	10.7380	4.6020	15.3400	7.6068	4.3400	41.5800	148.5868
128.	Bhima (III) (D)							44.5050
129.	Upper Tapi (IV) (C)							7.7000
130.	Upper Wardha (V)	30.7580	13.1820	43.9400		29.0385		197.9945
131.	Wan (VI) (C)	4.5710	1.9590	6.5300				59.5636
132.	Jayakwadi (V) (C)							43.7350
133.	Vishnupuri (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80) (C)				1.4145			5.4145
134.	Bahula (V) (C)	3.5000	1.5000	5.0000	0.5700			11.5240
135.	Krishna (III)	20.6850	8.8650	29.5500	13.9290	82.8036	82.2400	173.9866
136.	Kukadi (Andhra Pradesh 1968-69)	44.0636	18.8844	62.9480	24.2880	41.6216	55.4600	270.1856
137.	Upper Manar	11.9980	5.1420	17.1400	5.3960	3.9955		35.9735
138.	Hatwane	24.5000	10.5000	35.0000				50.4955
139.	Chaskman	33.9500	14.5500	48.5000	10.3032	9.2625	12.3400	95.3777
140.	Upper Pen Ganga	35.0840	15.0360	50.1200	2.4765	5.8941		58.4906
—	Bawanthadi	21.3290	9.1410	30.4700	13.5990	0.2900	2.7600	47.1190
141.	Lower Dudhna				24.0000	26.7618		50.7618
—	Tilari				8.1600	1.0600	10.1900	19.4100

142. Wama	9.0000					9.0000	
143. Wan Phase II		2.0295				2.0295	
96 New Surface MI Schemes 2006-07		124.8300				124.8300	
144. Punad		15.9813				15.9813	
145. Pothra Nalla		5.6255				5.6255	
146. Utawalli		10.2546				10.2546	
147. Puma		22.1211				22.1211	
Shivna Takil		11.9677				11.9677	
148. Nandur Madhmeshwar		16.5340			22.0300	38.5640	
149. Kar		4.2100				4.2100	
150. Lower Wardha		29.9300				29.9300	
151. Lal Nalla		5.9000				5.9000	
152. Khadakpurna		5.8900			56.4800	62.3700	
153. Arunavati		0.5900			5.6900	6.2800	
154. Tajanpore LIS		2.5000				2.5000	
Sub-Total 1	348.1352	149.2008	497.3360	150.7817	465.5213	234.8000	1927.2531
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme							
155. Khadakwasla (II) (C)	1.9460	0.8340	2.7800				5.5600
156. Kadvi (C)	4.9000	2.1000	7.0000				14.0000
157. Kasarsaj (C)							3.3700
158. Jawal Gaon (C)	0.9555	0.4095	1.3650				2.7300
159. Kumbhi	6.5100	2.7900	9.3000				18.6000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
160.	Kasari (C)	0.5285	0.2265	0.7550				1.5100
161.	Patgoan	7.5250	3.2250	10.7500	3.2250			13.9750
162.	Madan Tank				1.5105			1.5105
163.	Dongaragaon				1.5090			1.5090
164.	Shivna Takli				4.4325			4.4325
165.	Amravati				1.1820			1.1820
166.	Gul Medium Irrigation Project				4.7415			4.7415
	Sub-Total 2	22.3650	9.5850	31.9500	16.6005	0.0000	0.0000	73.1205
	(Maharashtra)—Total	370.5002	158.7858	529.2860	167.3822	465.5213	234.8000	2000.3736
	MANIPUR							
167.	Khuga (VI)	0.8000	7.2000	8.0000	31.6260	32.5620		113.5980
168.	Thoubal (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)	0.3500	3.1500	3.5000	36.7650	86.2200		185.3250
169.	Dolaitnabi Barrage Project				9.9125	19.2900		22.7025
	108 MI Schemes in 1999-2000							1.5000
	108 MI Schemes in 2001-02							1.5000
	118 New MI Schemes in 2002-03							1.0000
	58 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2003-04							3.0000
	35 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.1500	1.3500	1.5000	1.5030			3.0030
	211 Ongoing MI Schemes				3.8970	18.2322		22.1292
	(Manipur)—Total	1.3000	11.7000	13.0000	75.7035	156.3042	0.0000	353.7577

MEGHALAYA

170. Rongai Valley (VIII)

39 MI Schemes in 1999-2000					4.0000
47 MI Schemes in 2000-01					2.6938
34 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2001-02					4.2320
17 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2003-04					3.2500
14 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2004-05					1.880
12 Ongoing MI Schemes					1.7438
6 Ongoing MI Schemes					1.5760
(Meghalaya)—Total					0.7500
MIZORAM					19.3328
10 MI Schemes in 1999-2000					1.4330
10 MI Schemes in 2000-01					1.4330
7 MI Schemes (3 ongoing and 4 new) in 2001-02					2.0000
5 Ongoing surface MI Schemes in 2003-04					0.7500
2 Ongoing surface MI Schemes					0.7500
18 Ongoing surface MI Schemes in 2003-04					3.9000
2 Ongoing surface MI Schemes in 2003-04					0.7500
20 Ongoing surface MI Schemes in 2003-04					3.9000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	43 New surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.5000	4.5000	5.0000	9.3150			14.3150
	26 Ongoing MI Schemes					2.2553		2.2553
	47 New MI Schemes					11.9801	5.2600	17.2401
	(Mizoram)—Total	0.5000	4.5000	5.0000	9.3150	14.2354	5.2600	48.7264
	NAGALAND							
	468 MI Schemes in 1999-2000							2.7300
	468 MI Schemes in 2000-2001							5.0000
	74 New MI Schemes in 2001-2002							5.0000
	60 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2002-03							2.5000
	Seiza Mill Project							0.1590
	44 Ongoing MI Schemes and 136 New MI Schemes 2003-04							8.0000
	1146 Ongoing MI Schemes	0.4000	3.6000	4.0000				4.0000
	57 Ongoing MI Schemes				5.7510			5.7510
	45 New MI Schemes				2.2477			2.2477
	2 Ongoing surface MI Schemes					0.2995		0.2995
	173 New surface MI Schemes					10.3000	4.0600	14.3600
	(Nagaland)—Total	0.4000	3.6000	4.0000	7.9987	10.5995	4.0600	50.0472
	ORISSA							
171.	Upper Indravati (RBC) (Andhra Pradesh 1978-80)	12.4320	5.3280	17.7600	31.6170	3.5500	34.0400	226.9870

172. Subemrekha Multipurpose (VII)	12.4272	8.9600	85.8400	209.4672
173. Rengali (IV)	7.4688	8.2056		191.4743
174. Anandpur Barrage (IV)				21.8500
Integrated Anandpur Barrage	1.4400	2.2455		3.6855
175. Upper Kolab (V) (C)	1.9242			56.5122
176. Titlagarh (VIII)	4.1040	3.3275		32.3765
177. Lower Indira (IX)	64.5395	58.6908		256.3603
178. Lower Suktel (IX)	13.6440	29.7008		81.6248
16 MI Schemes in 1999-2000				8.9000
23 MI Schemes in 2000-2001				25.8200
179. Potturu (IV) (C)				9.8700
180. Narej Barrage (IX)				4.6700
181. Telengiri Irr. Project (KBK)	4.0950	1.3400	12.8900	35.8950
182. Ret Irr. Project (KBK)	2.9205	12.6410	9.8900	39.0115
183. Kanupur (VIII)		2.4600	23.5900	31.5400
184. Chheligada Dam		1.9935		7.5935
18 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes				7.3250
13 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes (KBK)	3.3750			3.3750
7 Ongoing MI Schemes		0.7700	7.3300	8.1000
Sub-Total 1	13.9286	5.9694	19.8980	1262.3478
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme				
Subamarekha Project (VII)				17.4200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Gate Works of Narrage Barrage (IX)							31.1350
	Execution of Rengali Left Canal (IV)							14.0000
	Potteru (IV)							15.5600
185.	Improvement of Sasan Canal (C)			3.8190				26.0090
186.	Salandi Left Main Canal							6.1900
187.	Improvement of Salki Irr. Project (C)	3.0275	1.2975	4.3250				8.6500
	Sub-Total 2	3.0275	1.2975	4.3250	3.8190	0.0000	0.0000	118.9640
	(Orissa)—Total	16.9561	7.2669	24.2230	151.3742	133.8846	173.5800	1381.3118
	PUNJAB							
188.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (VI) (C)							249.7900
189.	Remodelling of UBDC (IX)							93.3300
190.	Irr. to Himachal Pradesh below Talwara (IX)				6.0966			38.0966
191.	Shahpur Kandi (IX)							29.8500
192.	Kandi Canal Extension St. II							10.5000
	Sub-Total 1				6.0966	0.0000	0.0000	421.5666
	CLA Released under Fast Track Programme							
	Remodelling of UBDC (IX)				6.0000			6.0000
	Extension of Kandi Canal St. II (RD 59.50 Km. to 130.00 Km.)				14.2200			14.2200
	Sub-Total 2				20.2200	0.0000	0.0000	20.2200
	(Punjab)—Total				26.3166	0.0000	0.0000	441.7866

RAJASTHAN

193. Jalsmand (Modernisation) (VI) (C)										3.1250
194. Chhapi (V) (C)										19.3500
195. Penchana (V) (C)										22.4070
196. IGNP Stage-II (V)	81.5290	34.9410	116.4700	23.8002						582.7202
197. Bisalpur (VII) (D)										41.5600
198. Narmada Canal (VI)	83.8936	35.9544	119.8480	46.7520	9.6700	92.6200				625.3350
199. Gambhiri (Modernisation) (VI) (C)										1.3150
200. Chauli (VIII)	6.1810	2.6490	8.8300	1.9590	1.1300					48.2810
201. Mahi Bajaj Sagar (IV)	26.5832	11.3928	37.9760	10.8960						113.6520
202. Mod. of Gang Canal (VI)					0.8000	7.6400				58.3030
Sub-Total 1	198.1868	84.9372	283.1240	90.2952	11.6000	100.2600				1516.0482

CLA Released under Fast Track Programme

Panchana (V) (C)										20.9700
Chhapi (V) (C)										18.8750
Mod. of Gang Canal (VI)	48.8460	20.9340	69.7800							139.5600
Sub-Total 2	48.8460	20.9340	69.7800	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000				179.4050
(Rajasthan)—Total	247.0328	105.8712	352.9040	90.2952	11.6000	100.2600				1695.4532
TRIPURA										
203. Gumti (V)	0.0750	0.6750	0.7600	1.3500	0.9400					14.8927
204. Manu (VI)	0.1125	1.0125	1.1250	6.7500						18.5274

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
205.	Khawai (VI)	0.1125	1.0125	1.1250	8.1000			17.3400
	628 MI Schemes in 1999-2000							28.3530
	335 MI Schemes in 2000-2001							9.0380
	335 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2001-2002							19.0000
	268 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2002-03							10.7700
	396 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2003-04							11.4375
	202 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.8000	7.250	8.000				8.0000
	89 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes				2.0835			2.0835
	179 New Surface MI Schemes				11.6280			11.6280
	43 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes				2.0835			2.0835
	94 Ongoing MI Schemes					15.5831		15.5831
	80 New Surface MI Schemes in 2006-07					5.9900		5.9900
	(Tripura)—Total	1.1000	9.9000	11.0000	31.9950	22.5113	0.0000	174.7267
	TAMIL NADU							
206.	WRCP (VIII) (D)							20.0000
	(Tamil Nadu)—Total						0.0000	20.0000
	UTTAR PRADESH							
207.	Upper Ganga and Madhya Ganga (V) (C)							149.6400

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	UTTARANCHAL							
	185 Nos. Surface MI Schemes							48.1500
	8 Surface MI Schemes							2.5650
	226 New Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	1.7625	15.8625	17.6250				17.6250
	3 New Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.1492	1.3425	1.4917	2.6730			4.1647
	226 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	1.9876	17.8875	19.8750	33.8175			53.6925
	15 New Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06				1.3770			1.3770
	502 New Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06				42.5712	64.7698	52.5700	159.9110
	17 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes					9.8600		9.8600
	16 New Surface MI Schemes in 2006-07					10.1000		10.1000
	(Uttaranchal)—Total	3.8992	35.0925	38.9917	80.4387	84.7298	52.5700	307.4452
	WEST BENGAL							
223.	Teesta Barrage (V)*	9.2288	3.9552	13.1840		6.0000		130.9940
224.	Kangsabati (II) (C)							26.7100
225.	Modernisation of Barrage and Irrig. System of DVC (VI)							1.0000
226.	Tatko (V)					0.3200		1.2120

227. Patloi (V)	0.0896	0.0384	0.1280	0.3200	1.9130
228. Hanumata (VII)	0.1043	0.0447	0.1490	0.0600	1.7827
229. Subemarekha Barrage (VII)+					13.2880
(West Bengal)-Total	9.4227	4.0383	13.4610	6.7000	176.8997
SIKKIM					
129 MI Schemes in 1999-2000					1.3600
76 Ongoing MI Schemes in 2001-02					2.4000
62 New MI Schemes 2002-03					1.5000
100 New MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.0750	0.6750	0.7500	0.6750	1.4250
79 New MI Schemes				0.2363	3.5599
(Sikkim)-Total	0.0750	0.6750	0.7500	3.3236	10.2449
Grand Total	2087.2115	780.1257	2867.3372	2301.9722	23231.8659

● CLA released during 1996-97 transferred to

— Inter State Project

New projects included in 2006-07 are 29 which also includes Wan Project Phase-II

Note: The CLA released during 2003-04 to Madhya Pradesh consists of excess release of Rs. 0.204 crore which has been deducted in respect of Banjar project
 * Out of 11.236 crore CLA released during 2002-03 to Subemarekha, Rs. 10.25 crore transferred to Teesta Barrage in 2003-04.

Statement-IV**List of the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects/
Project Components Completed under AIBP**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of projects completed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	4
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	10
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Karnataka	2
12.	Kerala	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5
14.	Maharashtra	14
15.	Orissa	6
16.	Punjab	2
17.	Rajasthan	7
18.	Uttar Pradesh	8
19.	West Bengal	2
20.	Tamil Nadu	1
Total		91

Production of Mango

194. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mango production recorded in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantity of mango exported during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to further boost the production and export of mango in the country and to ensure remunerative price for the producers;

(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) The production of Mango during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:—

Year	Production (in 000' MT)
2003-04	11490
2004-05	11605
2005-06 (Provisional)	12482

(b) Quantity of Mango exported during the last 3 years are as under:—

Year	Quantity Exported (MT)
2003-04	60551
2004-05	53480
2005-06	69606

(c) and (d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States (TMNE), Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in remaining States and Union Territories for the holistic development of Horticulture. With a view to increase the production of horticultural crops, including fruit crops like Mango, support for supply of quality planting material, area expansion and rejuvenation of senile plantations is being provided under both the schemes.

Besides, National Horticulture Board is also implementing a scheme of 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management', Mango, crop is covered under the scheme.

Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken the following steps for promoting export of mangoes:

1. Setting up of Pack house facilities in major growing areas.
2. Setting up of centre for perishable cargo at air ports.
3. Organizing Market Promotion Campaigns.
4. Facilitating Market Access in Countries like China, Japan, USA and Australia.

APEDA, is also implementing the concept of Agri Export Zone (AEZs) with the involvement of State Government and Central Government agencies for various agricultural products including mangoes for promoting exports.

Besides, APEDA is assisting in taking up the following activities for promoting exports of horticultural commodities including mangoes.

1. Participation in important trade fairs to promote exports.
2. Organization of Buyer Seller Meet.
3. Publicity and Information dissemination.

4. Providing assistance through its financial assistance schemes to the exporters.

(e) Question does not arise.

Investment by EPF

195. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to invest the funds received in Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) the break-up of various investments made out of these funds during each of the last three years;

(c) whether investment of these funds is not yielding returns;

(d) if so, the details of profit earned and losses suffered each of last three years;

(e) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation had appointed a consultant to suggest investment options;

(f) if so, the details of recommendations made by the consultant;

(g) whether the Government is considering the exposure of EPF in equities; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) All monies belonging to Employees' Provident Fund are invested in accordance with pattern of investment notified by the Government of India under para 52 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(b) The category-wise investment holding in EPF account during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The investment of the Fund is yielding returns. The yield is related to risk and return factor and market forces. As the investments of the Fund are not traded, there is no question of profit or loss.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The major recommendations of the consultant, namely M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting on investment options are given in the enclosed Statement II.

(g) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its 178th meeting has decided not to invest in equities.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

Statement-I

Break-up of investment of Employees' Provident Fund

(Face Value—Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Investment in	As on 31-03-2005	As on 31-03-2006	As on 31-03-2007
1.	Central Government Securities	9,188.77	13,567.16	18,146.22
2.	State Government	6,918.46	8,915.75	11,970.43
3.	Government Guaranteed Securities	385.77	1,345.06	1,497.32
4.	Special Deposit Scheme	52,096.15	52,167.06	52,232.23
5.	Public Sector Financial Institutions (including Private Sector Bonds/ Securities)	11,175.33	14,443.33	19,991.16
Total		79,764.48	90,438.36	103,837.36

Statement-II

The major recommendations of the consultant, namely M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting on investment options for Employees' Provident Fund are as under:—

1. The maximum permitted maturity of 10 years that applies for PSU/PSFI securities be removed.
2. Up to 10% of new cash flows be permitted to be invested in investment grade private sector bonds.
3. 15% mandatory minimum requirement for investment in state government securities be removed to increase the extent of flexibility.
4. The maximum maturity for deposits with private

sector banks be increased from one year to three years.

5. Active management through trading be permitted, but beyond the 10% figure of the exposure to central and state government securities.
6. In the event that active management via trading is permitted, EPFO should appoint two or more external managers for the management of such portfolios.
7. India has a well-developed domestic equity market that could be utilized by the EPFO and if restrictions on foreign investment were relaxed, then foreign investment could also be utilized by EPFO.

8. If the investment pattern is expanded and the categories of permissible investments are increased, EPFO is likely to achieve advantages in terms of both return enhancement and risk management through the appointment of external asset management companies.
9. Restructuring of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund with inclusion of professionals and change in composition of Finance and Investment Committee of the Board.

Implementation of ISOPOM

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

(a) whether the Government/ICAR organizes front-line demonstrations in order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers under Maize Development Programme of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil, Palm and Maize (ISOPOM);

(b) if so, the number of such demonstrations organized during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for organizing crash programmes for quality seed production of maize especially in maize producing States?

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) In order to disseminate the improved production technologies in maize amongst the farmers, Government of India is organizing Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in various maize growing states. The details of state-wise number of FLDs organized on maize under ISOPOM during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There is a provision under ISOPOM for organizing crash programmes for quality seed production of maize in all the major maize producing States. The Financial assistance @ Rs. 500/- per qtl is provided under the crash programme for quality seed production of Maize.

Statement

The details of state-wise number of Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) organized on maize under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06)

Sl. No.	State	No. of FLDs conducted		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215	468	989
2.	Assam	53	—	—
3.	Bihar	1309	1509	3110
4.	Haryana	—	561	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	477	423	485

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	135	679	30
7.	Himachal Pradesh	357	435	434
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	193	345	948
9.	Jharkhand	—	267	50
10.	Karnataka	350	509	355
11.	Madhya Pradesh	75	35	79
12.	Maharashtra	136	116	211
13.	Orissa	260	342	408
14.	Punjab	210	440	444
15.	Rajasthan	1054	191	731
16.	Tamil Nadu	475	512	395
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2477	2545	2498
18.	Uttarakhand	207	116	106
19.	West Bengal	—	32	1046
20.	Delhi	10	—	—

**Reduction in International
Bandwidth Price**

197. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) reduced the International Bandwidth Price by 20%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IT/ITES, BPOs etc., have been demanding for lower bandwidth prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had received a number of representations from various users that the price of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) is not competitively determined in India and thus such prices were high as compared to prevalent prices in many countries in the world. In view of this, TRAI has issued a consultation paper entitled "Fixation of Ceiling Tariff for International Private Leased Circuit (half circuit)" dated 30th April, 2004 and invited comments of various stakeholders. Open house discussions were also held in Delhi and Bangalore. Upon conclusion of the consultation process, TRAI fixed a cost based tariff for various capacities of IPLC in India. TRAI had notified a tariff order vide 39th Amendment to Telecom Tariff Order

(TTO) dated 08-09-05 effecting a reduction that ranges from about 30% to 64% across various capacities, from the existing market rates in respect of IPLC.

Ceiling tariff fixed for International Private Leased circuits as given below:—

Capacity/Speed	Ceiling tariff per Annum (Rupees in Lakhs)
E-1 (2 Mbps)	13
DS-3 (Digital Signal—3)	104
STM-1 (Synchronous Transport Module-1)	299

This ceiling tariff was implemented on 29-11-2005.

Competitively priced bandwidth prices has helped, inter-alia, penetration of broadband and internet service, Information Technology (IT) IT-Enabled Service Enterprises like Business Process Outsourcing, Corporate Enterprises etc. This, in turn, will have an overall positive impact on the economy of the country.

[Translation]

Increase in the Import of Agricultural Products

198. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in

the import of agricultural products in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details regarding the increase in the import of coconut oil, black pepper, edible oils, tea-coffee etc., during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to increase the agricultural production in the country; 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) The details regarding the imports of various agricultural commodities for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The initiatives, programmes and schemes of Government to increase agricultural production include Credit Policy to increase flow of institutional credit to agriculture, reduction of rate of interest on crop loans up to Rs. 3 lakhs to 7% per annum, National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro Irrigation, Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize, Technology Mission on Horticulture for North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms and Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.

Statement*Import of Agricultural Products from 2001-2002 to 2006-07 (P)*

Qty. '000 tonnes, Value: Rs. in Crores

Item	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		April 06-Feb., 07	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Wheat	0.46	0.25	0.22	0.11			1424.17	1417.61
Rice	0.54	0.27					0.16	0.41
Other Cereals	1.53	1.87	7.91	7.36	26.63	28.65	7.14	10.07
Cereal Preparation	32.51	86.85	40.76	104.28	41.58	125.79	36.24	124.31
Pulses	1723.33	2284.87	1296.46	1718.64	1608.24	2346.90	1970.11	3374.58
Milk and Cream	11.55	89.56	2.23	12.87	1.65	14.24	2.87	26.16
Cashew Nuts	442.59	1371.80	469.33	1757.18	543.92	2089.77	557.47	1733.16
Fruits and Nuts (excl. Cashewnuts)		802.27		1057.28		1377.44		1751.54
Spices	124.17	564.42	103.52	564.92	107.46	678.08	107.52	669.88
Sugar	74.4	62.70	889.04	954.24	558.77	651.80	1.01	3.27
Oil Seeds		13.89		25.59		47.24		82.43
Vegetable Oils fixed edible	5290.30	11683.24	4541.88	10755.65	4174.79	8716.32	3909.55	8732.09
Vegetable and Animal fats	1.76	12.68	1.36	12.20	1.46	14.22	1.04	10.66
Cotton raw and waste	252.9	1570.03	183.06	1099.60	98.24	688.30	71.16	566.81

Jute, raw	111.97	93.92	20.74	31.79	47.70	72.33	80.20	110.94
Tea	10.77	64.60	32.82	152.79	18.85	108.16	22.10	118.38
Wood and Wood Products		3269.46		3802.99		4066.30		4101.95
<hr/>								
Total Agricultural Imports		21972.68		22057.49		21025.54		22834.25
<hr/>								
% change in agri-imports		24.78		0.38		-4.68		8.60(P)
Country's total Imports		359107.66		481064.11		630526.77		736971.95
<hr/>								
% Share in total Import		6.12		4.59		3.33		3.10
<hr/>								

Source: DGCI and S

P: Provisional

[English]

Reduction in Allocation of Spectrum

199. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set a target of 500 million telecom subscribers by 2010;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the allocation of spectrum and reduction in duties;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make use of or allocating to private operators the 42.5 MPz of 3G spectra may be vacated by defence service by July, 2007; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Spectrum allocation has not been reduced. A committee has been constituted to study the present structure of levies and make suitable recommendations to the Government.

(d) and (e) Defence services have been requested to released spectrum for unimpeded growth of public mobile telecom services by shifting of certain Defence wireless links between fixed locations to alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).

Increase in Price of Milk and Milk Products

200. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of milk and milk products have been increased several times during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the common man with the increase;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to impose a ban on the export of milk powder to avert the scarcity of milk in the coming months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of milk and milk products 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last few months, prices of milk and milk products have increased in some of the States and Union Territories. A statement showing retail prices of milk in various cities is enclosed.

The Government has not received any specific information regarding problems being faced by the common man due to price rise. However, in anticipation of the problems during lean season, Government has banned export of milk powders to ensure availability of liquid milk at reasonable price to common man.

(c) and (d) Government regularly reviews the availability of milk and milk products in the country. A notification was issued on 9-2-2007 to ban export of milk powder till 30th September, 2007 to avert any possible scarcity of milk during lean season.

Statement**Daily Retail Prices Alongwith Variation of Milk**

Centre	Milk						
	Daily Retail Prices						Variation
	Common Date 08-08-2007	Last Week 1-8-2007	1 Month Back 8-7-2007	3 Month Back 8-5-2007	6 Month Back 8-2-2007	1 Year Back 8-8-2006	1 Month Back 8-7-2007
Delhi	19.00	19.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	16.00	1.00
Lucknow	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	0.00
Shimla	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	0.00
Ahmedabad	20.00	20.00	19.00	19.00	20.00	20.00	1.00
Bhopal	NR	NR	NR	18.00	18.00	16.00	NR
Jaipur	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.00
Mumbai	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	17.00	17.00	0.00
Agartala	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Aizwal	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00
Bhubaneshwar	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	18.00	14.00	0.00
Guwahati	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00
Kolkata	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	26.00	25.00	0.00
Patna	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	12.00	12.00	0.00
Shillong	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	30.00	28.00	0.00
Bangalore	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	0.00
Chennai	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	14.00	14.00	0.00
Hyderabad	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	16.00	16.00	0.00
Thiruvananthapuram	18.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	15.00	2.00

Loan Provided by KVIC

201. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan provided to economically weaker persons through Khadi Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have been found in this regard during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards do not provide loan to economically weaker persons as such under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Government implemented through KVIC, entrepreneurs can establish village industries in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc. for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

(b) As per the guidelines of the REGP, only new projects are to be considered by banks for providing loans by them in combination with margin money assistance through KVIC and the banks cannot assist any ongoing or already existing units. No irregularities have been reported from the field organizations to the KVIC about the violation of this norm by banks, during the last 3 years. However, one case of a unit sponsored by West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board, about misutilisation of financial assistance provided through Jalpaiguri District Central Cooperative Bank (WB), was reported during the current year on which detailed investigation is being conducted by KVIC.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Earning Through Fisheries

202. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the number of families earning their livelihood from fisheries in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to them to make them enable to each adequate livelihood through fisheries; 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India during the year 2005 carried out Marine Fisheries Census and the enclosed Statement presents State-wise details of number of fishermen families in the coastal states earning their livelihood from marine fisheries sector.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India through various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes provides financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territories for development of fisheries sector including livelihood support to the fishers. The schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture are broadly comprised of namely (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, (iii) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, Training and Extension, (iv) Strengthening of Database and Information Networking and (v) Assistance to the fisheries based Institutes of the Department. One of the schemes namely, National scheme of Welfare of fishermen, Training and Extension is especially designed to provide basic amenities like housing, drinking water, Community Hall alongwith Group Accident Insurance for Active Fisherman and financial assistance to fishermen in lean season.

During the 10th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 62041.66 lakh was released to various beneficiaries i.e. States/UTs/others.

Statement

State-wise details of number of fishermen families in the coastal States and UTs earning their livelihood from marine fisheries sector

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Fishermen Families
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,29,246
2.	Goa	1,963
3.	Gujarat	59,889
4.	Karnataka	30,176
5.	Kerala	1,20,486
6.	Maharashtra	65,313
7.	Orissa	86,352
8.	Pondicherry	11,541
9.	Tamil Nadu	1,92,152
10.	West Bengal	53,816
11.	Daman and Diu	5,278
12.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3,275
13.	Lakshadweep Islands	5,381

[English]

Assistance for Construction of Fishing Harbours

203. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to State Governments for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof 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. The Union Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) has been providing financial assistance to the coastal State Governments and Union Territories for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres. A Statement indicating state-wise details of the financial assistance provided during the last three financial years is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of financial assistance provided during the last three years to the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of States/ UTs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Gujarat	400.00	200.00	200.00
Goa	—	—	75.00
Karnataka	—	219.44	8.70

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	400.00	999.00
Kerala	209.485	375.00	728.515
Tamil Nadu	—	21.15	119.48
Orissa	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	123.175	106.13	91.335
West Bengal	516.34	725.00	500.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	100.00	—
Total	1249.000	2146.72	2722.03

Grant to Karnataka

204. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides separate grants to Karnataka for the single component of Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the time by which this anomaly is likely to be removed;

(c) whether the Government proposes to restore the grant limit at 50 per cent as was previously set in the Macro-management Scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Differential in grants/subsidy is largely on account of the fact that Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been started at different periods of time, for fulfilling specific objectives under crop and area specific programmes.

(c) and (d) The pattern of subsidy as applicable

since inception of Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme has been 25%. Hence, restoring subsidy at 50% may not be possible.

[Translation]

Closure of Border Roads in Himachal Pradesh

205. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road between Udaipur in Lahul-Spiti, a border and tribal district of Himachal Pradesh and Pangi-Kalad in Chamba district which is under Border Roads Organisation remains closed during snowfall resulting in several difficulties to the farmers of the tribal area who are not able to transport their cash crops and agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof and proposals, if any, to construct an alternative road upto Tindi to the left bank on this route; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) During winter season the road gets closed due to heavy snow accumulation on account of numerous glaciers on this stretch.

(b) and (c) No operational requirement has been indicated for construction of an alternative road. An alternative route however is also likely to face the same problem.

[English]

**Defence Lands for Gajraj and
Cargo Hub Projects**

206. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal to the Ministry to exchange 400 hectares of its land in exchange of 278 hectares of land of the Ministry of Defence for the Gajraj Project and Cargo Hub Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any reluctance on the part of the Air Force authorities to part with their land and as such no final decision has been taken so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra initiated a proposal for development of the existing Nagpur airport as Multi-modal International Hub Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) and prepared a Master Plan for MIHAN project. As per the Master Plan, land measuring about 278 hectares presently in the possession of Indian Air Force (IAF) is falling in the MIHAN project area.

The transfer of Defence land for public/private use is carried out in accordance with extant guidelines keeping in view the operational requirements of the Services.

[Translation]

Psychological Test in Recruitment

207. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether psychology test is contemplated to be made mandatory in the recruitment process of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Psychological tests are already in vogue for recruitment of officers in the three Services. The recruitment process includes Group Testing, Psychological Tests and Interview. The psychological tests comprise of Situation Reaction Tests, Thematic Appreciation Tests, Word Association Tests and Self Description Test.

Presently, psychological test is not mandatory for recruitment of Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) in the Army. Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) has also been asked to develop a system for psychological testing of recruits (PBORs). However, no time limit has been set for this. There is no psychological tests for recruitment of Sailors and Airmen in the Navy and Air Force, respectively.

Decline in Rice Production

208. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual rice production has declined in the country;

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

(c) the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of new High Yielding Variety of Paddy seeds made available to the farmers 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table shows the Zone-wise (major States) and All-India production of rice from 2004-05 to 2006-07:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Zone	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
South Zone	Andhra Pradesh	96.01	117.04	118.64
	Tamil Nadu	50.62	52.20	68.42
North Zone	Punjab	104.37	101.93	101.38
	Uttar Pradesh	95.56	111.34	110.90
East Zone	Orissa	64.66	68.59	67.94
	West Bengal	148.89	145.11	146.36
West Zone	Gujarat	12.38	12.98	13.90
	Maharashtra	21.64	26.95	25.29
Central Zone	Chhattisgarh	43.83	50.12	50.41
	Madhya Pradesh	11.69	16.56	13.68
All India		831.32	917.93	927.58

*4th advance estimates as on 19-07-2007.

The All-India production of rice shows an increasing trend. However, in some States/Zones, rice production shows a mixed trend during 2004-05 to 2006-07.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh, the production declined due to decrease in yield during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. There was decrease in area in Assam, Karnataka and Maharashtra during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06 which brought down production in these States. In order to increase the production of rice in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 is under implementation. The States covered under the scheme include Uttar Pradesh (Eastern part), Bihar, all NE States except Sikkim, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh (Eastern part), Andhra Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka,

Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala. The scheme is implemented on 90:10 percentage sharing basis between Government of India (GOI) and the States. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implements; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement; production of certified seeds, etc. Besides, demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers' fields on 100 per cent GOI assistance.

(d) The names of 33 varieties of paddy recommended by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for release/notification during 2004 to 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement***Varieties Recommended for Release/Notification (Central Release) during 2004-2006***

Sl. No.	Name of Variety	Season/ Duration	Recommended Zone
1	2	3	4
Paddy			
1.	CSRC(S)2-1-7 (IET-13428)		West Bengal, Orissa, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh
2.	CSR-23(CSR-891R-5) (IET 13769)	Medium	Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal
3.	HPR-1156 (IET-16007)	Early	Hilly area of Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal
4.	JR-503 (Richa) (IET-16783)	Medium	Irrigated/rainfed area of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
5.	Pusa Sugandh-5 (IET-1701)	Medium	Delhi, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir
6.	Suruchi 5401 (MPH 5401)	Medium	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
7.	Sugandhamati (IET 16775)	Medium	Irrigated conditions of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir
8.	PNR-546 (IET-11347)	Early	West Bengal
9.	Kalikhasa	Medium	Tripura
10.	IET-12888 (Swati)	Medium	Tripura
11.	GR-104	Late	Gujarat
12.	Palghar-2	Medium	Maharashtra
13.	SKL-8 (SKL-11-28-29-55)	Late	Maharashtra
14.	SYE-2001	Mid Late	Maharashtra
15.	Bhudev (CN-1035-61) IET-14496	Late	West Bengal
16.	Giri	Late	West Bengal
17.	UTPALA (IET-13422) CSRC (S11-5-0-2)	Early	West Bengal
18.	Jaldi Dhan-13 (PNR-591-18)	Early	West Bengal

1	2	3	4
19.	Palam Dhan-597	Medium	Himachal Pradesh
20.	HKR-126	Medium	Himachal Pradesh
21.	BR-2655	Late	Karnataka
22.	Shravathi (IR-57773)	Late	Karnataka
23.	GR-9	Early	Gujarat
24.	PKV Makarand	Mid Late	Maharashtra
25.	PVK-SKL-3-11-25-30-36	Mid Early	Maharashtra
26.	Indira dhan-1 (IET-15376) (R 636-405)	Medium	Chhattisgarh
27.	PBNR-93-1 (Parbhni Avishkar)	Medium	Maharashtra
28.	PR 118	Late	Punjab
29.	Narendra-8002 (IET-15848)		Irrigated/favourable low land transplanted conditions in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh
30.	Warangal Samba (SGL-14) (IET-18043)	Medium	Irrigated conditions in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala
31.	DRRH-2 (IET-18076) (DRRH-20)	Medium	Irrigated and transplanted condition in Uttaranchal, Haryana, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu
32.	Jarava (IET 15420)	Late	Irrigated/favourable low land transplanted conditions in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh
33.	CSR-36 (Naina) (IET-17340)	Medium	Irrigated conditions in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

Training to Farmers for Agro-based Industries

209. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide easy financial assistance to the farmers and train them

in the running of Agro and Rural Industries in villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modalities worked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the farmers desirous of setting up agro and rural industries, may seek financial assistance under the Rural Employment Generation

Programme (REGP) implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) implemented through the State/Union Territory Governments. Training in agro and rural industries is imparted through the departmentally managed training centres of KVIC as well as training centres of other agencies aided by KVIC/State/Union Territory KVIBs and farmers may also benefit from them. The details of the training activities of KVIC are available on its website, viz., <http://www.kvic.org.in/v4/contactdetails9 TRAINING.asp>.

Similarly, State/UT Governments can involve reputed Non-Governmental Organisations, Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnic Colleges, etc., in the training of PMRY beneficiaries for which costs are reimbursed to State Governments according to the determined pattern.

[English]

**Development Around Interim
Test Range Site In Orissa**

210. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the peripheral development undertaken in and around Interim Test Range site, Chandipur and Missile Launching Centre, Wheeler Island in Orissa in the recent years;

(b) whether the maintenance of roads in its proximity has been a huge problem due to recurring floods and cyclones in the area; and

(c) if so, the details of the funds sanctioned and utilised during the last three years in the areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A number of peripheral developments have been undertaken around Integrated Test Range—Chandipur and Missile Launch Complex, Wheeler Island—Dhamra. Some of these developments are related to construction/repair and maintenance of about 125 Km of roads; construction of Oriya Medium School at Chandipur; construction, maintenance and running of Range School at Chandipur; development of land,

plantation and canal construction for water management to give relief from floods as well as during high tides; and development of Independent Power Feeder at Soro near Dhamra. The power available from the Feeder is also being utilized by local population.

(b) There are some problems due to floods and cyclones in repair and maintenance of roads in the nearby area. Same is being repaired with existing resources.

(c) About Rs. 2.5 crore have been spent for the repair and maintenance of roads during the last three years.

[Translation]

Receding Ganga Glacier

211. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gangotri Glacier, the origin of river Ganga, is receding rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the availability of water annually in the Ganges in the context of receding of the glacier; and

(d) if so, the details of existing storage capacity for storing the water of river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As reported by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Gangotri glacier is about 30.20 km long converging an area of 143.58 sq. km and as per the latest study results Gangotri glacier has receded at the rate of 18.80 m per year during 1935-1996. The glacier has receded by 1.147 sq. km in 61 years and vacated an area of 0.57208 sq. km i.e. 0.0093 sq. km per year.

As per GSI, if the present scenario of receding glaciers is accelerated, there may be some reduction in the river discharge. However, it may be noted that the

major part of the river discharge is contributed by snow fall and precipitation which is likely to go up with global warming. The continuous retreat of glaciers may lead to marginal shortage of water in the Himalayan rivers. However, it may be mentioned that the major part of the glacier melt runoff is released during June-September period which is the time for monsoon activity. Thus, marginal decrease in glacier contribution may be compensated by increased monsoon activity.

Storage capacity of about 42.06 billion cubic metre (BCM) has so far been created through various projects in Ganga basin.

[English]

Unified Coastal Command

212. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a unified coastal command to prevent any attack on India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of incidents of fire on Indian coast reported during the last 3 years;

(d) the number of incidents of fire on Indian fishermen during 2006-2007; and

(e) the time by which the unified coastal command will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up unified coastal command.

(c) There has been no incident of firing along the Indian coast during the last three years.

(d) There had been seventeen incidents of firing on Indian fishermen during 2006-2007.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

Raksha Udhog Rathna Award to Private Manufacturers

213. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has honoured certain private manufacturers of Defence related equipments in our country with "Raksha Udhog Rathna" award;

(b) if so, the minimum bench mark a manufacturer should necessarily fulfill for qualifying for that award;

(c) the rationale behind conferring such awards at this juncture;

(d) whether the Government proposes to place orders for the purchase of armaments and Defence equipment from the Raksha Udhog Rathna awardees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not yet taken any decision on the recommendations of the Selction Committee for selection of "Raksha Udyog Ratnas" submitted on 6th June 2007.

(b) The criteria notified in the guidelines for selection of "Raksha Udyog Ratna" ("RURs") are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Criteria for Selection of "RURs"

(i) Public Limited Indian Company registered for minimum ten years with foreign holding not exceeding 26% excluding FII.

(ii) Companies with Capital assets in India not less than Rs. 100 crores and turnover not less than Rs. 1000 crores for each of the past three years. (For this purpose, the group of companies engaged in manufacture will be treated as one company).

(iii) A minimum credit rating equivalent to CRISIL/ICRA—"A".

- (iv) Company with consistent profitable financial record showing profits in at least three years of the last five years and with no accumulated losses.
- (v) Companies with established track record in engineering (including software) and manufacturing for real value addition—Not a trading company/agency.
- (vi) Companies with established R and D Base or willing to invest in R and D as decided by the Regulatory Authority.
- (vii) Companies with units/divisions with established Quality Control System meeting various quality certifications and standards as laid down from time to time. Current standards should include ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 and preferably ISO 18001 also. The system should enable self-certification by select Industry "Champions".
- (viii) Companies with security infrastructure meeting relevant requirements authorized by Government agencies.
- (ix) The company shall either possess a licence/ LOI for production of Defence items in accordance under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 or obtain the same within six months of application for seeking "RUR" status, wherever required.

Joint Naval Exercise in Bay of Bengal

214. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint Naval exercise has been planned by India, US, Japan, Australia and Singapore in the Bay of Bengal in September, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of countries with which joint military exercises have been conducted by the Government so far;

(d) the details of such proposed exercises in the coming years; and

(e) the aims and objectives behind conducting such joint military exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A joint naval exercise by the Indian Navy, with the navies of USA, Australia, Singapore and Japan, is planned to be held in Bay of Bengal during September, 2007.

(c) Indian forces conduct joint exercises with forces of other countries from time to time. Some of the countries with whom exercises have been conducted in past include USA, UK, Russia, France, Oman, Singapore, Japan, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc.

(d) Some of the countries with whom exercises are proposed to be held are USA, Russia, France and Singapore etc.

(e) The objective of conducting such joint exercises is to promote mutual cooperation, and gain from the experience of other forces especially in the field of advance technology available with them. It also facilitates inter-operability in times of need in situations like disaster management, etc.

Suicide Cases and Killing of Officers in Armed Forces

215. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of suicide and killings of senior officers by the Jawans in the defence forces are increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether the Defence Institute of Psychological Research has submitted any report in this regard as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated 04-07-2007; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There has been no significant

increase in the number of cases of suicides/killings in Defence forces. The number of cases of suicides in the Army, Navy and Air Force during last three years and thereafter are given below:—

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (upto 5-8-2007)
Army	100	92*	120	70
Air Force	13	23	24	11
Navy**	05	05	02	01

*Includes 15 attempted suicide cases.

**This figures include cases of Coast Guard also.

2. The number of cases of fratricide in the Army, Navy and Air Force during the last three years and thereafter are as given below:—

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (upto 5-8-2007)
Army	05	06	13	06
Air Force	01	01	0	0
Navy	0	0	0	0

3. The Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) has carried out a study on 'Suicide and Fratricide among troops deployed in Counter Insurgency Areas' and submitted the report in February, 2007. Based on the recommendations of the above study and other studies, the Government has initiated a series of measures to manage stress and thereby check such incidents. Some of these measures are—

- (i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level.
- (ii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.
- (iii) 206 Junior Commissioned Officers and 209 Non Commissioned Officers have been trained

and deployed as psychological counsellors.

- (iv) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.
- (v) Leave policy has been liberalized permitting splitting of annual leave and casual leave. The troops will now be able to go to their home towns on leave thrice a year instead of twice a year earlier.
- (vi) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.
- (vii) A helpline with toll free number has been established.

- (viii) Arrangements have been made for identification and counselling of persons who are at higher combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, Junior leaders and unit commanders.
- (ix) Grant of additional rail warrant to all ranks of armed forces serving in field/counter insurgency/counter terrorist operational areas.
- (x) Rationalization of scheme for LTC for both officers and Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) allowing availing of home travel concession even for visit to selected place of residence (SPR) of family and removal of restriction of ceiling of 1450 kms for availing all India LTC.
- (xi) Grant of High Altitude Uncongenial Climate (HAUC) allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous isolated areas with the existing HAUC areas.
- (xii) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.
- (xiii) It has been decided to strengthen Rajya Sainik Boards and Zilla Sainik Boards in all States to take necessary follow up action on the grievances of soldiers in their home towns/villages.

Facilities to Civilians Working in Defence Headquarters

216. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether civilians working in defence headquarters perform duties at par with men in uniform;
- (b) if so, the reasons for discriminating the civilians and denying them the facilities the men in uniform avail even after retirement; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring serving/retired civilians at par with serving/retired men in uniform?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the defence headquarters perform their duties as per the functions and responsibilities assigned to the posts held by them.

(b) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the defence headquarters are governed by different terms and conditions of service because of which there are some inherent differences. Hence, the question of discrimination does not arise.

(c) Not applicable in view of the reply at serial (b) above.

Flexible Labour Policy

217. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a revised proposal on Industrial Park Ordinance with flexible labour policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The State Government of Gujarat has not sent a revised proposal on Industrial Park Ordinance as suggested by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Relocation of Troops

218. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee set up to examine the possibility of relocation of troops has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Report of the Committee is likely to be submitted to the Government shortly.

[Translation]

Procurement of Fighter Aircraft

219. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force is facing shortage of fighter planes;

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

(c) whether US Government has proposed to provide fifth-generation fighter F-35 aircraft to India;

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

(e) whether the Government has invited quotations from US and some other countries to finalise the deal for acquiring 126 multi-purpose fighter aircraft; and

(f) if so, the details of such countries and companies from which quotations have been invited?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The security environment and the requirements of the Air Force are constantly reviewed by the Government and steps are taken from time to time to induct new aircraft as well as to upgrade existing aircraft to sustain force levels. This is an ongoing process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Losses in Postal Department

220. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department is running into losses for the last three years and out of its twenty postal services, sixteen are running in losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out many shortcomings in the working of Postal Department;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major reasons for the deficit are the pensionary liabilities and social obligations of the Department of Posts. The pensionary charges alone accounted for Rs. 1424.66 crores, which formed 1/5th of the gross expenditure of the Department of Posts of Rs. 6779.12 crores for the year 2006-07. Unlike most of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, the pensionary expenditure has to be borne by the Department of Posts itself resulting in huge deficit.

Besides the pensionary liabilities, most of the deficit arises due to the high level of subsidy borne on account of its large postal network, particularly in rural and tribal areas, in order to fulfil universal service obligations. The detail of postal services both in deficit and surplus for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir, not many. However we have received two paragraphs pertaining to Performance Audit contained in Report No. 1 and five paragraphs pertaining to transaction audit observations contained in Report No. 2 of 2007. These all are of routine nature.

(d) C and AG's Audit Report for the year ended March, 2006 has already been laid at the table of both the Houses on 14th May, 2007. The areas covered by C and AG of India in these reports relating to Department of Posts are listed below:

Performance Audit:—

(i) Mail Management

(ii) Management of cash in Post Offices

Transit Audit Observations:—

(i) Non-reduction of Income Tax at source

(ii) Short realization of postage charges

(iii) Irregular payment of interest on KVP

(iv) Irregular payment of interest on PPF

(v) Irregular payment of interest and commission on MIS.

(e) Remedial and preventive action suggested by the C and AG are implemented by the Department of Posts.

Statement

Details of Postal Services both in Deficit and Surplus of the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of Services	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
A. Traditional Services				
1.	Post Card	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
2.	Printed Post Card	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
3.	Comp. Post Card	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
4.	Letter Card	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
5.	Letter	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
Regd. News Paper				
6.	Single	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
7.	Bundle	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Book Post				
8.	Book P. and S. Pkts.	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
9.	Printed Books	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
10.	Other Periodicals	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
11.	Parcel	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
12.	Registration	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Value Payable Post	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
14.	Insurance	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
15.	Foreign Mail	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
16.	Acknowledgement	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
B Premiums Products				
17.	Business Post	Surplus	Surplus	*
18.	Meghdoot Post Card			Deficit
19.	Satellite Post	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
20.	Greeting Post	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
21.	Express Parcel	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
22.	Speed Post	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
C Financial Services				
23.	Money Order	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
24.	Setellite M.O.	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
25.	T.M.O.	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
26.	I.P.O.	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
		20+6	20+6	21+5

*Meghdoot clubbed with 'letter'

[English]

National Rainfed Area Authority

221. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Rainfed Area Development Programme has been implemented during the last three years;

(b) the specific work carried out in those States by the Union Government and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the National Rainfed Area Authority proposes to include more areas under the programme during 2007-08; 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) to (d) The number of states where the Rainfed Area Development Programme has been implemented during the last three years is 'nil' as the new Rainfed Area Development Programme was announced in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 2007-08. However following major watershed development schemes are currently under implementation which address the development of rainfed areas and degraded lands:—

(i) Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPA)
 2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR)
 3. Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA)
- (ii) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

The physical and financial achievements under the above programmes during the X Plan period alongwith the number of states covered is given the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Physical and financial achievements in the X Plan period (2002-03 to 2006-07) under the major watershed development programmes

Sl. No.	Ministry/Scheme	No. of States Covered	Progress during the X Plan	
			Phy. (in lakh ha.)	Fin. (Rs. in crores)
A. Ministry of Agriculture				
1.	NWDPRA	28 and 2 Uts	24.13	1155.58
2.	RVP and FPR	27	10.39	746.33
3.	WDPSCA	7	1.34	127.88
	Sub Total		35.76	2029.79
B. Ministry of Rural Development*				
1.	DPAP	16	68.20	1157.18
2.	DDP	7	45.17	1151.75
3.	IWDP	28	68.20	1821.64
	Sub Total		181.57	4130.57
Total (A+B)			217.33	6160.36

*Physical progress indicates the total sanctioned project area and the expenditure is the amount released for the schemes.

Abbreviations

NWDPA—National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas;

RVP and FPR—River Valley Project and Flood Prone River;

WDPSA—Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas;

DPAP—Drought Prone Area Programme;

DDP—Desert Development Programme;

IWDP—Integrated Wasteland Development Project.

Crop Safety

222. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects/proposals related to crop safety received during the last three years by Indian Council of Agricultural Research; and

(b) the present status of the above projects/proposals?

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) Three hundred and seventy nine project/proposals related to crop safety and protection were received during the last three years by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The projects covered insect pests, diseases, nematodes, mites and rodents that adversely affect crop production.

(b) Fifty nine approved projects are currently in progress.

Welfare Schemes for Temporary Employees

223. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary employees engaged in different sectors and Government Organizations in different States, State-wise;

(b) the security of job and benefits available to temporary employees;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any welfare scheme for such employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cultivation of Fruits

224. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Government is encouraging banana, pineapple and mango cultivators of the country to bring more land under cultivation of said fruits;

(b) whether any special scheme for training and marketing has been launched by the Government; 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) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States (TMNE), Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in remaining States and Union Territories for the holistic development of Horticulture. Bringing more area under cultivation of Horticulture crops including fruit crops like Mango, Banana and Pineapple through area expansion is one of the main components under both the schemes. In the case of perennial crops like Mango, assistance is being provided to the cultivators @ 75% of cost of cultivation subject to a maximum of Rs. 22,500 per ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary. Similarly, for non-perennial fruits like Banana and Pineapple, assistance is being provided @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15000 per ha., limited to 4 ha. per beneficiary.

Besides, National Horticulture Board is also providing assistance under the Scheme of 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management'. Under fruit crops Mango, Banana and Pineapple are also covered.

(b) and (c) Under both the NHM and TMNE

schemes, there is provision to impart training to farmers, gardeners, Departmental officers and entrepreneurs under the Human Resource Development component. Development of Marketing infrastructure by setting up of Wholesale markets, Rural markets/Apni Mandies is also covered under these schemes. Besides, there is provision for setting up of Terminal Markets under the NHM scheme.

Hybrid Cotton Seeds

225. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies selling BT Cotton Seeds in the country;

(b) whether private companies are selling BT-2 Hybrid Cotton Seeds at Rs. 1000 per packet of 450 gms despite the directions of the court to make available the seeds at Rs. 750 per packet in all the States;

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

(d) the remedial steps 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Bt. Cotton Seeds are produced and marketed in India by 25 private seed companies, listed in the enclosed Statement. Prior to interim order of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission dated 11th May, 2006 on a complaint filed by Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Pvt. Ltd. and its sub-licensee seed companies were selling Bt. Cotton seeds at prices ranging between Rs. 1600 to Rs. 1800 per packet of 450 grams, which included the trait value. MRTP Commission directed these companies not to charge trait value of Rs. 900 for a packet of 450 grams of Bt. Cotton Seeds and to fix the reasonable trait value. Subsequent to the said interim order and

discussions between State Governments and seed companies, Bt. Cotton Seeds [Bollgard and Bollgard II (commonly referred to as BG-II)] are being sold at prices ranging from Rs. 750 to Rs. 925 per 450 grams.

Statement

List of Companies Selling Bt. Cotton Seeds in India

Sl. No.	Names of Companies
1	2
1.	Ankur Seeds Ltd.
2.	J.K. Agri. Genetics Seeds Ltd.
3.	Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (MAHYCO)
4.	Nath Seeds Ltd.
5.	Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.
6.	Rasi Seeds Ltd.
7.	Prabhat Agri. Biotech Ltd.
8.	Nandi Seeds Pvt. Ltd.
9.	Krishidhan Seeds Ltd.
10.	Pro Agro Seed Company Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Ajeet Seeds Ltd.
12.	Namdhari Seeds (Pvt.) Ltd.
13.	Ganga Kaveri Seeds (Pvt.) Ltd.
14.	Bioseeds Research India Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Vibha Agritech Ltd.
16.	Tulasi Seeds Ltd.
17.	Parvardhan Seeds Ltd.
18.	Navkar Hybrids Pvt. Ltd.
19.	Bayer Bioscience Pvt. Ltd.
20.	Emergent Genetics

1	2
21.	Vikram Seeds Pvt. Ltd.
22.	Vikki Agrotech Pvt. Ltd.
23.	Kaveri Seeds Ltd.
24.	Amar Biotech
25.	Zuari Seeds Ltd.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

226. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families displaced due to construction of the Omkareshwar Dam in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number out of them have since been rehabilitated and those who still remain to be so rehabilitated; and

(c) the details of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan, 1993 and the phases of rehabilitation contemplated thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present, 4592 families are getting affected due to construction of Omkareshwar Project.

(b) Out of 4592 families, 3130 families are resettled and remaining 1462 are to be resettled.

(c) Resettlement and Rehabilitation of project affected families of the Omkareshwar Project is carried out as per Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy issued by the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 31st May, 2006.

Increase in Buffer Stock of Sugar

227. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the buffer stock of sugar in view of bumper production of sugar in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the sugar industry is facing difficulties in payment of sugarcane arrears to farmers due to fall in sugar prices; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to mitigate the difficulties faced by the industry?

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 (c) The Central Government has already created a buffer stock of 20 lac tons for a period of one year from 1-05-2007 to 30-04-2008 and an additional buffer stock of 30 lac tons for one year from 1-08-2007 to 31-07-2008. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to raise the buffer stock further.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has taken the following steps to mitigate the difficulties faced by the sugar factories:—

(i) A buffer stock of 50 lac tons of sugar has been created as stated in the para above. The buffer subsidy will be paid to sugar mills to cover the cost of interest, storage and insurance charges subject to prescribed limits. The cost of such subsidy is estimated at about Rs. 945 crore for one year. Further, banks would provide additional credit of about Rs. 1050 crore on creation of 50 lac tons of buffer for one year. The buffer subsidy and the additional credit are to be used exclusively for the payment of cane prices;

(ii) Export assistance to defray a part of the expenditure incurred for the purpose of internal transport and freight charges (which would include ocean freight and handling and marketing charges) on exports of its

domestically manufactured sugar, which includes raw sugar, exported by a sugar factory itself or through an exporter or any third party exporter at the rate of Rs. 1350 per ton for sugar factories located in coastal States and Rs. 1450 per ton for sugar factories located in non-coastal States. Exports made under Open General License (OGL) only (and not under 'Advance License') on or after 19th April, 2007 and within 18th April, 2008 or till further orders, whichever is earlier, would be eligible for this assistance.

- (iii) The sugar meant for export would be exempted from the levy obligation and the quantity of sugar released for export would be treated as advance non-levy (free sale) releases to be adjusted in the free sale stocks of sugar factories after a period of 12 months (from 03-01-2007 to 02-01-2008 for exports under Advance Authorization Scheme and from 23-01-2007 to 22-01-2008 under Open General License); and
- (iv) The ban on export of sugar has been lifted in January, 2007 and the requirement of obtaining export release order has been done away with from 31-07-2007 for export of sugar in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons, that is, upto 30th September, 2008 or till further orders, whichever is earlier, except for export to member countries of European Union and United States.

Saffron Cultivation

228. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to increase saffron cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided to saffron growers during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase areas under saffron during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps 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) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachel Pradesh and Uttaranchal" to address various issues related to development of horticulture which include increase in area under saffron cultivation. During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 84.50 lakhs has been released to Government of Jammu and Kashmir for cultivation of spices including saffron. The details of assistance provided for cultivation of spices including saffron during last three years is as under:—

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
2004-05	15.60
2005-06	26.00
2006-07	42.90

(c) to (e) Based on the demand and action plans prepared by the State Governments, the Ministry of Agriculture would support the proposals for increase in area under saffron cultivation during Eleventh Five Year plan.

Drip Irrigation Scheme

229. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared or proposes to prepare any action plan for Drip Irrigation

Scheme under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed alongwith the extent to which that have been achieved last year, state-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds to states keeping in view the utilization of allocated funds during the previous years for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and 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) yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation, which was launched during 2005-06 (January, 2006), the implementing agencies identified by the State Governments prepare Annual Action Plan for taking up Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation and 50% of the system cost is provided as subsidy out of which, 40% is borne by the Central Government and 10% by the State Government. The remaining 50% is borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or soft loan from financial institutions.

(c) The State-wise physical and financial target and achievement for the last year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has increased the allocation for the current year (2007-08) to Rs. 550 crore as compared to Rs. 280 crore during 2005-06 and Rs. 520 crore during 2006-07.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation Details of Targets and Achievements during 2006-07

Sl. No.	State	No. of Districts	Physical (ha)		Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	193621	71662	19519.68	8033.34
2.	Bihar	38	14223	0	2482.10	0
3.	Chattisgarh	16	28748	4600	3032.88	210.88
4.	Delhi	1	100	0	15.71	0
5.	Goa	1	128	8	12.13	0.80
6.	Gujarat	25	18247	16708	3355.90	3930.94
7.	Haryana	20	5385	2823	443.89	231.79
8.	Jharkhand	22	3106	0	229.92	0
9.	Karnataka	21	23737	14540	2456.75	936.04
10.	Kerala	14	5382	1102	636.30	40.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Madhya Pradesh	48	2117	0	401.16	0
12.	Maharashtra	33	65155	65155	8796.549	7907.71
13.	Orissa	30	3314	2414	454.26	256.00
14.	Rajasthan	32	39751	39700	2833.34	2687.46
15.	Tamil Nadu	12	5402	0	1200.64	0
16.	West Bengal	18	1849	0	195.67	0

Increase in Defence Allocations

(Rs. in crores)

230. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made to increase defence allocation for the modernisation of the Armed Forces to keep pace with the developments in other parts of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pattern of utilisation of defence allocation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The requirement of funds for defence services, including the requirement of funds for their modernization, is assessed and projected to the Ministry of Finance once a year as a part of the normal budgetary process provided for in the Constitution of India. While the progress of expenditure is monitored regularly, additional requirement, if any, is met either by seeking supplementary grants or projecting the requirement to the Ministry of Finance at the Revised Estimates stage. During the current financial year, no additional demand has been made for modernisation of the Armed Forces as the requirement of additional funds has not arisen so far.

(c) The pattern of utilisation of defence allocation during the last five years has been as follows:—

Year	Utilization
2002-2003	55661.83
2003-2004	60065.80
2004-2005	75855.92
2005-2006	80548.98
2006-2007	85494.64

[Translation]

**Permission for Selling Sugar to
Sugar Mills**

231. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the Government has allowed the sugar mills to sell 36 lakh tonnes of sugar in the open market during the three months, period from July to September, 2007; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has decided to release 36 lac tons non-levy sugar quota for sale in open market during the quarter July to September, 2007. A quantity of 10 lac tons and 13 lac tons of non-levy sugar has already been released to the sugar mills for sale in open market for the months of July, 2007 and August, 2007 respectively.

Save Grain Campaign

232. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Save Grain Campaign (Ann Bachao Abhiyan) has been launched;

(b) the criteria fixed for identifying the States under the said campaign;

(c) whether the Government proposes to expand the said campaign to the other States;

(d) if so, the details of the new States which are proposed to be included under this campaign;

(e) the details of target and achievement made under the said campaign during the last three years; and

(f) the details of farmers benefited thereunder during 2006-07, 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Save Grain Campaign (SGC) scheme has been launched in all the States in the country.

(e) The details of target fixed and achievements made under Save Grain Campaign scheme during last three years are given below:

Sl. No.	Item of work	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	No. of Training course	1429	1502	1257	1409	1104	1235
2.	No. of Villages covered	1009	1148	888	1039	888	937
3.	No. of film/slides shows	1429	1525	1200	1354	1104	1210
4.	No. of exhibition arranged/ participated	1009	1185	888	1072	888	899
5.	No. of storage structures constructed/improved	18600	19363	16300	17772	14400	15711

(f) The details of the farmers benefited under Save Grain Campaign scheme during 2006-07, State-wise are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Farmers benefited
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	700

1	2	3
2.	Assam	1872
3.	Bihar	1200
4.	Goa	100
5.	Haryana	325
6.	Himachal Pradesh	750

1	2	3
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	150
8.	Jharkhand	200
9.	Karnataka	1375
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1400
11.	Maharashtra	1275
12.	Meghalaya	175
13.	Orissa	2190
14.	Pondicherry	50
15.	Punjab	475
16.	Rajasthan	1375
17.	Tamil Nadu	650
18.	Uttarakhand	250
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2225
20.	West Bengal	1400
Total		18137

[English]

Setting Up of ICAR in Orissa

233. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the western districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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) No, Sir. There is no such proposal. Four institutes

viz. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar and National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar catering to the research needs are already established and located in the State of Orissa. There are 11 districts in western Orissa out of which 10 have already been covered with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) functioning under Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar.

Prolonged Counter, Insurgency Operations

234. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prolonged counter-insurgency operations, with little time for rest and recuperation, are causing heavy toll on the physical endurance and mental health of soldiers; and

(b) the steps taken for the welfare of the soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Deployment in counter insurgency operations entails some element of stress to the soldiers. Several measures have been taken by the Government and the Services for the welfare of soldiers. Some of them are:—

- (i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level.
- (ii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.
- (iii) Junior Commissioned Officers and Non Commissioned Officers have been trained and deployed as psychological counsellors.
- (iv) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.
- (v) Leave policy has been liberalized permitting splitting of annual leave and casual leave. The

troops will now be able to go to their home towns on leave thrice a year instead of twice a year earlier.

- (vi) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.
- (vii) A helpline with toll free number has been established.
- (viii) Arrangements have been made for identification and counselling of persons who are at higher combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, Junior leaders and unit commanders.
- (ix) Grant of additional rail warrant to all ranks of armed forces serving in field/counter insurgency/counter terrorist operational areas.
- (x) Rationalization of scheme for LTC for both officers and Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) allowing availing of home travel concession even for visit to selected place of residence (SPR) of family and removal of restriction of ceiling of 1450 kms for availing all India LTC.
- (xi) Grant of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) (HAUC) allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous isolated areas with the existing HAUC areas.

[Translation]

Aircraft Crashes

235. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the aircraft of Airforce crashed during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the number of people killed/injured in such crashes;
- (c) the financial loss suffered by the Government due to such incidents;
- (d) whether these air crashes have been investigated by the Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the air crashes as per the investigation report and steps taken to correct the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 39 aircrafts of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed in the accidents since the financial year 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 (till, 7th August, 2007). The details are as follows:

Financial Year	No. of aircraft crashed
2004-2005	17
2005-2006	11
2006-2007	09
2007-2008	02 (till 7-8-2007)
Total	39

(b) A total number of 25 service personnel and civilian were killed and 6 civilian were injured in these accidents.

(c) Besides the loss of aircraft, compensation amounting to Rs. 123,80,000 has also been paid on account of service personnel/civilian killed/injured and loss to the civil property in these accidents.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Every air crash in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry. As per the Court of Inquiries, the main reasons for aircraft accidents are Human Error and Technical Defect. A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the IAF to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Production of Wheat, Gram and Mustard

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

(a) the details of production of wheat, gram and mustard registered during Rabi crops in the year 2007 and the extent to which it is more or less in comparison to the production registered during 2006;

(b) the measures the Government proposes to take to increase the production in view of the continuous

decline in the production of Rabi crops; and

(c) the likely shortage of edible oil, pulses and wheat in the year 2007-08?

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) Following table shows the production of wheat, gram and mustard during 2006-07 vis-a-vis 2005-06:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2006-07*	2005-06	Difference (2)–(3)
1	2	3	4
Wheat	74.89	69.35	5.54
Gram	6.34	5.60	0.74
Rapeseed and Mustard	7.10	8.13	–1.03

*4th advance estimates as on 19-07-2007.

(b) There is no decline in production of wheat and gram in 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. In order to increase the production and productivity of given crops, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 01-04-2004 in 14 States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, integrated Pest Management etc. Besides, demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology efforts.

(c) The schedule of release of production estimates for 2007-08 in respect of Kharif crops is September 2007 and for Rabi crops January 2008. However, as per the reports to the Crop Weather Watch Group of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the area covered under these crops till 3rd August 2007 is as under:

(Lakh Hectares)

Crop	2007-08	2006-07
Oilseeds	149.38	141.84
Pulses	95.19	89.20

The sowing of these crops is going on. Their production would depend on crop growth and formation. Wheat would be sown during September-December of 2007 and harvested in February-May of 2008.

*[English]***Water Harvesting**

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving 100% subsidy for small farmers and 50% for others for water harvesting;

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

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2007-08 has announced a scheme for ground water recharge through dugwells which envisages 100 per cent subsidy to 'small and marginal farmers' and 50 per cent to 'other farmers'.

BSNL Subscribers

238. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL subscribers as on date;

(b) whether there has been no additions in the number of subscribers in the month of April, May and June, '07;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the company has already lost Rs. 110 crores in revenue in procuring equipments;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the equipment will be procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, number of customers of BSNL as on 30th June, 2007 is 6.50 crores.

(b) No, Sir. BSNL has added customers during the

months of April, May and June, 2007. Details are given below:—

Sl. No.	Month	Net Addition in No. of telephone customers
1.	April, 2007	70,181
2.	May, 2007	19,833
3.	June, 2007	2,39,930
Total net addition during three months		3,29,944

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) BSNL's loss is merely on account of opportunity lost and it cannot be construed as revenue loss.

(f) Availability of equipment is a continuous process. As regards GSM mobile equipment, tender evaluation process has been concluded and Advance Purchase Orders (APO) have been placed which is yet to be accepted by the successful bidders. The equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of APO.

*[Translation]***Provision of New Connections**

239. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tele-density 9.91 targeted by the Government in 2007 has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details of urban tele-density and rural tele-density during the last three years, as on date, State-wise;

(c) the details of new connections provided during the above period in Government/Private sector, company-wise, in urban and rural areas separately; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase tele-density in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The over all tele-density of India is 19.86% as on 30-06-2007. (latest available).

(b) The details of urban tele-density and rural tele-density during the last three years, as on date, State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details of number of telephones for the last three years in Government/Private sector, company-wise, in urban and rural areas separately are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The specific steps taken during the last three years for providing better telecom services in the rural areas of the country are as under:

- (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support. The public and private sector operators have been awarded tenders for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) through the support from USOF. Support for maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and setting up of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) is also provided through USOF. As far as the remaining net cost negative (Viable) SDCAs are concerned, market forces are expected to take care of the emerging demand in rural areas.
- (ii) Large-scale deployment of WLL (Wireless in local loop) network in rural areas has been planned by BSNL.
- (iii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has

relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km of Landline exchanges to facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from the existing exchanges.

- (iv) BSNL is deploying its Mobile Network in all the Highways, Important Towns, Pilgrim Centers and State Highways to give incidental coverage to large parts or rural areas.
- (v) Agreements were signed in March 2005 with M/s BSNL, M/s RIL, M/s TTL and M/s TTL (MH) for installation of individual rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in the country during 01-04-2005 and 31-03-2007. These RDELs were to be installed in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. The share of SDCAs amongst these companies was 1267, 203, 172 and 43 respectively. About 25,64,577 RDELs were provided [M/s BSNL (8,91,306), M/s RIL (7,37,207), M/s RIL (7,26,915) and M/s TTL (MH): 2,09,149] till March, 2007 under this scheme.
- (vi) A scheme has recently been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in 27 states. About 2 lakh villages are likely to be covered under this scheme. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless on Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile terminals in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The agreements, effective from 01-06-2007 have been signed with the successful bidders. Mobile services through these shared towers are targeted to be made operational in a phased manner by May, 2008.

Statement-I**Details of Rural Urban Teledensity**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/State	31-03-2005			31-03-2006			31-03-2007			31-06-2007		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.07	19.12	12.63	8.80	34.20	17.97	14.17	23.00	17.39	14.03	22.98	17.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.39	28.53	9.48	2.34	43.22	13.45	6.84	53.24	19.62	7.42	57.66	21.27
3.	Assam	0.63	16.75	2.79	0.73	37.03	5.67	2.36	55.87	9.92	2.39	60.67	10.65
4.	Bihar	0.57	17.63	2.36	0.66	45.15	5.34	2.05	54.18	7.52	2.00	63.47	8.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.54	6.50	1.80	0.51	7.84	2.09	0.99	11.28	3.24	1.02	11.51	3.32
6.	Gujarat	2.63	28.88	12.73	2.69	39.51	16.98	10.43	45.47	24.14	11.48	48.76	26.09
7.	Haryana	2.80	28.78	10.83	3.10	39.33	14.47	10.74	49.72	23.11	12.69	52.64	25.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.79	68.36	13.12	7.25	118.14	18.78	22.30	89.03	29.33	23.28	98.28	31.21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.76	17.58	5.09	0.85	44.49	12.18	5.08	47.34	16.08	5.82	49.85	17.30
10.	Jharkhand	0.50	8.42	2.30	0.58	11.18	2.99	1.08	11.33	3.43	1.07	11.03	3.35
11.	Karnataka	2.49	29.98	12.19	2.63	43.17	17.06	7.46	56.44	25.05	8.27	60.10	26.93
12.	Kerala	9.74	44.74	18.77	10.65	68.40	25.54	21.11	69.43	33.54	20.71	79.99	35.96
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.66	17.36	5.21	0.79	23.90	7.12	3.28	37.86	12.68	3.49	41.10	14.01

14. Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	2.56	25.65	10.01	2.80	34.45	13.10	7.16	42.29	18.78	8.72	43.81	20.36
15. North East-I	1.22	14.63	4.33	1.29	30.45	8.11	4.63	57.05	16.99	4.78	66.76	19.43
16. North East-II	1.20	12.83	3.66	1.26	19.80	5.21	2.89	22.58	7.41	3.07	23.85	7.85
17. Orissa	1.04	19.68	3.96	1.16	41.65	7.57	4.20	38.95	9.78	4.77	42.42	10.83
18. Punjab	5.33	49.21	21.94	5.29	63.57	27.61	16.16	69.77	37.05	17.53	73.80	39.54
19. Rajasthan	1.44	21.27	6.12	1.67	35.43	9.65	6.75	43.65	15.49	8.00	47.32	17.33
20. Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	2.79	23.07	11.37	2.99	29.99	14.70	9.65	38.94	22.55	10.88	43.00	25.11
21. Uttaranchal	1.63	17.08	5.74	1.84	22.72	7.46	4.36	23.19	9.50	4.38	23.08	9.49
22. Uttar Pradesh (E and W)	0.52	17.15	4.06	0.55	30.09	6.87	3.10	38.79	10.77	3.52	42.50	11.91
23. West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1.04	15.23	3.00	1.13	33.04	5.53	4.69	34.20	8.80	4.95	40.30	9.88
24. Kolkata	0.00	23.79	23.79	0.00	33.70	33.70	0.00	41.93	45.84	0.00	45.53	49.15
25. Chennai	0.00	46.76	46.76	0.00	60.08	61.08	0.00	73.90	75.46	0.00	80.09	81.63
26. Delhi	0.00	50.94	50.94	0.00	65.40	65.40	0.00	86.89	86.89	0.00	90.53	90.53
27. Mumbai	0.00	44.27	44.27	0.00	56.73	56.73	0.00	64.99	64.99	0.00	68.13	68.13
28. All India	1.73	26.88	8.95	1.86	39.45	12.74	5.88	48.52	18.31	6.45	52.27	19.86

Statement-II
Details of Company-wise Telephone

Sl. No.	Name of Company	31-03-2005			31-03-2006			31-03-2007		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	BSNL	13569084	33365866	46934950	14768250	40390925	55159175	22655691	42067834	64723525
2.	MTNL	0	5153483	5153483	0	5924428	5924428	0	6666972	6666972
3.	Bharti Airtel	NA	11791996	11791996	NA	22343013	22343013	6746208	32266389	39012597
4.	Reliance Telecom	NA	11756122	11756122	NA	20445993	20445993	4054910	25480941	29535851
5.	Hutchison Essar	NA	12128457	12128457	NA	9038271	9038271	3510242	15789476	17299718
6.	Tata Teleservices	NA	3668228	3668266	NA	8875464	8875464	1905055	14647932	16552987
7.	Idea	NA	5069693	5069693	NA	7365986	7365986	3005242	11005309	14010551
8.	Aircel	NA	0	0	NA	4764149	4764149	3031079	6024600	9055679
9.	Fascel	NA	0	0	NA	2257450	2257450	1432091	2723183	4155274
10.	Spice Comm.	NA	1438824	1438824	NA	1933408	1933408	331841	2397115	2728956
11.	BPL Mobile	NA	0	0	NA	3035285	3035285	0	1070853	1070853
12.	Dishnet Wireless	NA	0	0	NA	430312	430312	409778	1035856	1445634
13.	HFCI Infotel Ltd.	NA	246696	246696	NA	318635	318635	2608	316502	319110
14.	Shyam Telcelink Ltd.	NA	184736	184736	NA	200013	200013	14769	234634	249403
15.	Escorts Telecom	NA	NA	0	NA	447	447	0	0	0

*[English]***Assistance to Cooperative Societies**

240. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance granted to cooperative societies in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of guidelines, terms and conditions formulated 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The State-wise details of financial assistance granted to cooperative societies in the country provided by NCDC during last years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 including Andhra Pradesh is placed at enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of guidelines, terms and conditions formulated by NCDC in this regard are placed at enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**State-wise Releases from 2004-05 to 2006-07**

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	18472.84	26075.30	48010.69
Arunachal Pradesh	293.67	738.71	0.00
Assam	0.00	8.00	12.82
Bihar	1487.78	1338.43	998.85
Chhattisgarh	10660.88	25150.19	55124.33
Goa	45.26	0.00	22.37
Gujarat	1822.10	17858.83	33710.01
Haryana	1003.13	1020.22	1554.39
Himachal Pradesh	1188.83	636.04	1408.60
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	98.00	0.00
Jharkhand	0.00	36.53	882.32
Karnataka	2936.88	11649.16	6572.54
Kerala	10924.33	19099.60	31059.81
Madhya Pradesh	7410.94	11793.34	4843.65

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	16577.35	20801.94	19959.91
Manipur	9.36	9.36	0.00
Meghalaya	220.18	41.59	463.42
Mizoram	0.00	311.73	0.00
Nagaland	244.44	334.42	152.15
Orissa	11.31	4.45	20024.37
Punjab	9.74	20199.79	0.00
Rajasthan	1815.41	1926.08	4596.61
Tamil Nadu	14991.91	14659.30	31279.95
Tripura	0.00	0.00	43.29
Uttar Pradesh	1505.45	21117.49	31856.10
Uttarakhand	1783.10	160.93	3222.13
West Bengal	2329.95	4649.22	11595.94
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	3457.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	34.52
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.65	0.00	2.68
Delhi	2.55	21.25	0.00
National level Societies/others	10294.04	30277.96	90351.39
Total	106072.08	230017.83	401039.82

Statement-II*General terms and conditions for NCDC assistance*

Prevailing effective rate of interest

Scheme	Effective rate of interest*
1	2

A. Term Loans:

(a) Through state governments 10.75%

1

2

(b) Direct funding**(i) Weaker section programmes**

— upto project cost of Rs. 50 lakhs 11%

— above project cost of Rs. 50 lakhs 11.5%

(ii) Other Programmes 12%**B. Working Capital Loans:**

(a) Through state governments 10.25%

1	2
(b) Direct funding	
— upto one year	11%
— above one year	11.5%

*Subject to payment of instalments on or before due date.

Note:

- (a) In case payment of the installment is not received on or before due date, normal rate (effective + 1%) would be applicable.
- (b) Penal rate of interest in case of default is @ 2.5% above normal rate.
- (c) Interest will be charged as applicable at the time of release of funds.
- (d) Weaker section programmes:
 - (i) Fisheries
 - (ii) Tribal/SC and ST/Hill Area Cooperatives
 - (iii) Dairy
 - (iv) Poultry
 - (v) Handloom
 - (vi) Coir, Jute and Tobacco
 - (vii) Sericulture

2. The above rates of interest shall be floating linked with State Bank Advance Rate which is presently 12.75%. However, working capital loans upto one year already sanctioned prior to 22-3-2007 will continue to be provided at fixed rate of interest.

3. In case state government/cooperative society is keen to avail the loan at fixed rate of interest instead of floating rate, then rates of interest indicated in para 1 above will be enhanced by 0.25%.

4. Period of loan will be upto 8 years. Period for margin money assistance (loan) will continue to be upto

5 years and working capital loan will be provided upto 3 years.

5. Moratorium on term loans for the projects/ godowns will be upto 3 years, depending on gestation period of the project. For margin money, working capital and investment loan to State Governments for share capital participation, there will be no moratorium.

6. In case of direct funding, processing fee shall be charged @ 0.5% of the sanctioned amount, not exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs (0.5% of Rs. 6 crores) in each case. However, processing fee shall not be charged for working capital loans upto one year.

Internet Users

241. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world's highest growth in internet use; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the per cent of Indian people increased in internet users during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications maintains the subscriber base data of its Licensees only. Growth of Internet Subscribers in India has been to the extent of 30% from March, 2006 (7.05 Million) to March, 2007 (9.20 Million).

[Translation]

Defence Protocol Agreement

242. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which defence protocol agreement has been finalised during the last three years; and

(b) the items being supplied to India by these countries as per the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not finalised any defence protocol agreement per se with any country during the last three years. However, the Government has entered into defence cooperation agreements, Memoranda of Understanding etc. with various countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose the details thereof.

[English]

Complaints in Mobile Service

243. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from the trade, industry and others in Assam and other States in the North-East about excessive interference in mobile services frequencies;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the first two quarters of 2007; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Radio interference was reported by some Mobile Phone Service Providers on GSM 900 MHz band frequencies in parts of Assam telecom service area due to few wireless links of M/s. OIL India Ltd.

(b) As per available records, one complaint was received from one of the mobile service providers during first two quarters of 2007.

(c) Discussions were held with Oil India officials and concerned Mobile Phone Service Providers. The interference has been resolved.

Survey on Child Labourers

244. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the number of child labourers in the country;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted;

(d) the success achieved and progress made so far in the 'rehabilitation of child labour' programme implemented by the Government; and

(e) the time by which all the child labourers are likely to be rehabilitated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of number of child labour in the country. As per census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore. The State-wise magnitude of child labour population is given in the enclosed Statement. However, Government proposes to conduct a fresh survey to identify the number of child labourers in the country.

(d) Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP). Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into special schools, where they are provided with education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc. So far, under the scheme, 4.57 lakh children have already been mainstreamed into formal education system.

(e) Government is committed to the elimination of all forms of child labour. It is, however, following a gradual and sequential approach beginning with those engaged in most hazardous occupations and processes first.

Statement		
Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075
12.	Chandigarh	364572
13.	Manipur	28836
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
16.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756

1	2	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
Total		12866377

**Compensation Package for Soldiers
Killed/Wounded In Operations**

245. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of compensation being paid to families of soldiers killed or wounded in various counter-insurgency operations in the Army;

(b) whether there is long pending demand for 'Uniform Package for all Casualties' in the Army; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) As per the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

Statement**A. Terminal benefits in case of death:****(a) Liberalised Family Pension:**

Next of kin of soldiers killed during counter insurgency and operations are granted Liberalised Family Pension equal to the reckonable emoluments last drawn by the deceased.

(b) Ex-gratia:

- (i) Rs. 7.50 lakh for death during border skirmishes, action against terrorists/militants.
- (ii) Rs. 10 lakh for death during enemy action in international war, war like engagements which are specifically notified by Ministry of Defence.

(c) Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity:

Length of Service	Amount
(i) Less than 1 year	2 times pay
(ii) 1 to 5 years	6 times pay
(iii) 5 to 20 years	12 times pay
(iv) More than 20 years	One month's pay for every completed year subject to maximum of 33 years or Rs. 3.5 lakh whichever is less.

(d) Army Group Insurance Fund:

Rs. 15 lakh to Next of Kin of officers and Rs. 7.5 lakh for Next of Kin of Persons Below Officer Rank.

B. Entitlement on Disability/Invalidment:

(a) Permanently disabled soldiers getting injured during counter insurgency and operations are granted War Injury Pension. It is admissible when Injury has taken place during action against extremists, terrorists and antisocial elements, in war or war like operations. In

case of invalidment on account of war injury, he/she shall be entitled to War Injury Pension consisting of Service element and War Injury element as follows:—

(i) Service Element:

Equal to Retiring/Service Pension to which he/she would have been entitled on the basis of his/her pay on the date of invalidment but counting service up to the date on which he/she would have retired in that rank in normal course including weightage as admissible. There shall be no condition of minimum qualifying service for earning this element.

(ii) War Injury element:

Equal to reckonable emoluments last drawn for 100% disablement. However, in no case the aggregate of service element and war injury element should exceed last pay drawn. For lower percentage of disablement, War Injury element shall be proportionately reduced.

(iii) Lump sum compensation in lieu of War Injury Pension:

Armed Forces personnel who are retained in service despite disability due to war injury for life and retire subsequently, can opt for compensation in lump sum in lieu of War Injury Element or for drawal of War Injury element of war injury pension on final retirement. This provision is applicable to cases occurring on or after 1st January, 1996. The existing rates for calculation of lump sum compensation in lieu of war injury pension for 100% disability for life are as under:—

Commissioned Officer and Honorary Commissioned Officer	Rs. 5200 p.m.
Junior Commissioned Officer:	Rs. 3800 p.m.
Other Ranks/NCs(E):	Rs. 3100 p.m.

(b) Retirement Gratuity:

Retirement Gratuity is admissible on retirement or invalidment, but after having rendered a minimum service of 5 years. A weightage of 5 years is also added to the actual service rendered, subject to the total not exceeding 33 years. The rate is $\frac{1}{4}$ months' pay for every completed six months service. The maximum ceiling is Rs. 3.5 lakhs.

(c) Children Education Scholarship:

Complete re-imbursment of tuition fee, transportation charges, hostel charges less mess charges, cost of books @ Rs. 250, cost of uniform where compulsory upto Rs. 810 during first year and cost of clothing @ Rs. 250 for the first year and Rs. 150 for subsequent years. He above educational concessions will be upto and inclusive of the first degree course.

[Translation]

Developed Varieties of Wheat

246. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new varieties of wheat have been developed by Indian Agriculture Scientists;

(b) if so, whether the feasibility of the new varieties of wheat have been tested;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to make available these new developed varieties of wheat to 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) New wheat varieties are developed each year by ICAR institutes as well as State Agricultural Universities under the All India Coordinated Wheat and Barley Improvement Project, involving 30 funded and many voluntary centres. So far, more than 330 varieties suitable for different agro-climatic ecologies have been evolved. During the last three years, 11 new varieties namely DBW 16, HD 2888,

HI 1531, NIAW 917, PBW 533, AKDW 2997-16, DDK 1025, DBW 17, K 0307, GW 366 and RAJ 4083 have been released for different agro ecologies.

(b) and (c) New varieties are tested using frontline demonstrations under actual farm situations. Agronomical trials have established feasibility of improved varieties.

(d) The ICAR provides breeder seed of these new varieties as per indent received from different seed producing agencies including private seed sector through the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation. Several State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes also provide small quantities of seed of new wheat varieties to the farmers for popularization. These new varieties are also demonstrated at farmers fields under Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs). The seed produced from FLDs are also made available to the farmers.

[English]

MSP of Millet

247. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the support price of millet;

(b) whether the Government has directed FCI to procure millets from farmers at Minimum Support Price; 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) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif Crops of 2007-08 season, including Millet, were announced in May, 2007. There is no proposal to revise the MSP of Millet.

(b) and (c) As per the existing policy of Government of India, procurement of coarse grains, including millet from farmers under price support operation is presently being entirely undertaken by State Governments and their agencies.

**Requirement of Clothing and
Sleeping Bags for Troops**

248. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been in place with a Swiss firm to set up a unit for making special clothing and sleeping bags for troops deployed at high altitude locations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Directorate General of Quality Assurance had to reject nearly 60,000 sleeping bags meant for troops in high altitude areas including Siachen as they were found to be of "sub-standard quality";

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the supplier;

(e) the reasons for shortfall of special clothing and sleeping bags in the country; and

(f) the total requirement of the Army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As there is a substantial requirement for the armed forces for special clothing and sleeping bags in high altitude locations, OFB has been exploring the possibility of setting up a suitable manufacturing facility. They have contacted the major manufacturers in the field including a company from Switzerland. After evaluation of the capabilities of different manufacturers, OFB plans to take steps for technical collaboration for manufacturing the items, after inviting tenders as per the prescribed procedure.

(c) A quantity of 35,580 Nos. has been rejected by DGQA.

(d) Action has been initiated against the firm under Arbitration and Penalty Clauses of the Contract.

(e) and (f) Details of the annual requirement and reserves for special clothing, sleeping bags and related items are given in the enclosed Statement. There have been shortages in supplies due to the long procurement cycle.

Statement

Sl. No.	Items	Annual Requirement	Army HQ Res. (100%)
1	2	3	4
1.	Head Cap Woolen/Head Cap Special	27,351	27,351
2.	Socks Woolen	3,82,914	3,82,914
3.	Bag Water Proof	27,351	27,351
4.	Gaiters	27,351	27,351
5.	Drawers Cold Weather	54,702	54,702
6.	Under Shirt Cold Weather	54,702	54,702
7.	Sleeping Bags Spl	27,351	27,351
8.	Mask Face	27,351	27,351
9.	Boot Multipurpose	27,351	27,351

1	2	3	4
10.	Snow Goggle/Goggle Cortina	27,351	27,351
11.	Jacket Down	13,676	13,676
12.	Trouser Down	13,676	13,676
13.	Mattress	27,351	27,351
14.	Rucksack	27,351	27,351
15.	Gloves Inner	67,360	67,360
16.	Gloves Outer	54,702	54,702
17.	Over Garment Blouse	27,351	27,351
18.	Over Garment Trouser	27,351	27,351
19.	Poncho Glacier	27,351	27,351
20.	Goretex Suit		
	(a) Outer Shell Parka	13,676	13,676
	(b) Outer Shell Pant	13,676	13,676
	(c) Fibre Pile Jacket Brown	13,676	13,676
	(d) Fibre Pile Pant Brown	13,676	13,676
	(e) Under Shirt CW (Goretex)	13,676	13,676
	(f) Drawers CW (Goretex)	13,676	13,676

**Modernization of Nagarjuna
Sagar Dam**

249. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance for modernization of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said modernization programme is likely to be commenced; and

(d) the additional irrigation capacity likely to be

created on the completion of project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) On the recommendation of Ministry of Water Resources, a project proposal namely "Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project (APWSIP)" for assistance of Rs. 2250 crores has been posed to the World Bank by Department of Economic Affairs. Nagarjuna Sagar Project is one of the components of the APWSIP.

The project envisages irrigation of 4.03 lakh acres Gap Command Area.

**Utilisation of Universal Service
Obligation Fund**

250. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund utilised during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of unconnected villages in rural areas those have been provided with landline/WLL telephone connections during the last three years in the country using funds available from the USO, State-wise; and

(c) the number of villages in the country yet to be provided with telephone connections alongwith the breakups of figures, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The funds allocated to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) during the last three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07 have been fully utilized.

(b) and (c) USOF has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,882 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes Villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 30th June, 2007, out of 66,822 unconnected eligible villages, 48,704 villages have been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 18,118 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by November, 2007. A Statement indicating the state-wise number of unconnected villages, number of villages provided with telephone connections during the last three years and the number of villages which are yet to be provided with telephone connections is enclosed.

Statement

*Status of villages coverage under USO Fund Agreement
(As on 30th June, 2007)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total number of uncovered villages	Total number of villages covered	Total number of villages yet to be covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,074	605	469
2.	Assam	8,931	8,504	427
3.	Jharkhand	1,694	800	894
4.	Gujarat	4,144	3,588	556
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,002	828	174
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,755	1,142	613
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11,894	11,604	290

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Chhattisgarh	5,043	2,885	2,158
9.	Maharashtra	6,441	5,545	896
10.	Meghalaya	1,957	182	1,775
11.	Mizoram	96	10	86
12.	Tripura	75	69	6
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	646	170	476
14.	Manipur	876	446	430
15.	Nagaland	28	17	11
16.	Orissa	4,899	580	4,339
17.	Rajasthan	12,386	10,184	2,202
18.	Uttaranchal	3,881	1,565	2,316
Total		66,822	48,704	18,118

[Translation]

Small and Medium Farmers

251. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of small and medium farmers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve their condition;

(c) whether the Government has developed any technique of low cost farming for such farmers;

(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) The percentage of small and medium farmers in the country, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the conditions of farmers including small and medium farmers;

(i) A credit policy was announced to double flow of credit to the Agriculture sector in three years.

(ii) From Kharif 2006-07 farmers are being provided crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh at 7% rate of interest.

(iii) The banks have been advised to waive the margin/security requirement for agricultural loan upto Rs. 50,000.

(iv) A package for revival of cooperative structure was announced.

(v) National Horticulture Mission has been launched

since 2005 for backward and forward linkages covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing of products.

- (vi) A National Rainfed Area Authority has been set up to expand area under irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain harvesting.
- (vii) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is implemented to protect the farmers against the crop losses due to natural calamities.
- (viii) Subsidy @ 25% cost with permissible ceiling limit is available to the farmers for purchase of various agricultural equipment including hand tools, bullock drawn/power driven implements, sprinkler and drip irrigation equipment, planting, reaping, harvesting and threshing equipment, tractors, power tillers and other specialized agricultural machines under the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture.

(c) to (e) A number of new technology equipment have been developed by ICAR, inter-alia, low cost manual/bullock driven implements, Bullock driven Integral Tool Bar, Bullock driven Multi crop planter, bullock driven seed-cum-fertilizer drill, bullock driven groundnut-cum-potato digger, low land manual rice seeder, groundnut-cum-castor decorticator, sickles, tubular maize sheller, weeder, paddle thresher, low lift pedal pump, manual fertilizer broadcaster, etc. for reducing the cost of farming and increasing the farmers income. Government is also promoting Integrated Pest Management for popularization of biological control of pests and need based and judicious use of pesticides that reduces the cost of cultivation. The agricultural marketing reforms launched by the Government by promoting direct marketing and contract farming also enhances the farmers' income by reducing post harvest losses and eliminating the middleman.

Statement

Percentage of small and medium operational holders as per Agriculture Census 2000-01

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Small (1.0-2.0 ha)	Medium (4.0-10.0 ha)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.83%	4.34%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.69%	28.04%
3.	Assam	21.97%	3.96%
4.	Bihar	9.24%	1.42%
5.	Chhattisgarh	22.00%	7.53%
6.	Goa	10.94%	1.56%
7.	Gujarat	30.19%	13.88%
8.	Haryana	19.24%	13.22%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	19.04%	3.39%
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.40%	0.90%

1	2	3	4
11.	Karnataka	26.97%	8.04%
12.	Kerala	3.41%	0.24%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26.51%	12.46%
14.	Maharashtra	28.11%	6.43%
15.	Manipur	32.89%	2.01%
16.	Meghalaya	26.64%	3.27%
17.	Mizoram	36.84%	1.32%
18.	Nagaland	6.25%	47.22%
19.	Orissa	27.39%	3.57%
20.	Punjab	17.35%	30.19%
21.	Rajasthan	20.79%	18.90%
22.	Sikkim	23.53%	5.88%
23.	Tamil Nadu	15.60%	2.46%
24.	Tripura	11.48%	0.42%
25.	Uttaranchal	17.73%	2.69%
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14.25%	2.14%
27.	West Bengal	14.86%	0.52%
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27.27%	18.18%
29.	Chandigarh	19.84%	7.39%
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	28.57%	7.14%
31.	Daman and Diu	10.41%	0.92%
32.	Delhi	21.43%	7.14%
33.	Lakshadweep	3.16%	0.29%
34.	Pondicherry	10.53%	2.63%
35.	All India*	18.88%	5.44%

Note: *Census was not conducted in the State of Jharkhand.

*[English]***National Advisory Board**

252. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Advisory Board to design suitable welfare schemes for workers in the unorganized/private sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the number of workers in the unorganised sector likely to be benefited thereby; and

(d) the districts identified for implementation of the said social security scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill and formulation of social security scheme for unorganized workers are under active consideration and all efforts are being made to introduce the Bill during the current session of Parliament. The modalities of the scheme and coverage thereof are being examined.

Purified Drinking Water

253. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of habitations in different States are identified as having water sources contami-

nated by chemicals like iron, arsenic, fluoride, nitrates, sulphates and other salts;

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

(c) the measures being taken to provide safe drinking water to these habitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available information, ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. There are, however, areas which have poor quality of ground water mainly due to contamination from ground water bearing rocks, excessive use of fertilizers, industrial and domestic effluents, mining wastes, saline water ingress etc. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), during its surveys and studies of the contamination of ground water have revealed that arsenic and fluoride are the main geogenic contaminants. As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the names of the districts of some States where ground water has been found contaminated and reasons thereof are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to check ground water pollution. However, the Union Government has also taken following measures to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution:—

- (i) The CGWB drills arsenic free wells in the arsenic affected areas and provides technical guidance for clearing of source of drinking water in arsenic affected areas. It also conducts mass awareness programmes and water management training programmes in these areas and carries out research to understand the origin and distribution of arsenic in ground water for adopting long term remedial measures.
- (ii) The Union Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission provides financial and technical

assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms. In order to provide focussed attention to tackle water quality problems, Sub-Mission guidelines under ARWSP have been revised in February, 2006, wherein, 20% of ARWSP funds is retained at the Centre and released to States on need-basis.

- (iii) To ensure safe drinking water supply to all the urban population of the country, the Ministry of Urban Development have launched two new programmes, viz. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small

and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), to provide infrastructure facilities to 5161 urban towns of the country. The project envisages to provide safe drinking water to every citizen of India within a time frame of 7 years.

- (iv) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards, initiation of schemes to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants for implementation of a scheme for monitoring of water quality in the critically polluted areas.

Statement

State-wise Details of Contamination of Ground Water in Some Areas of the Districts Due to Various Contaminants

Sl. No.	State	Iron	Fluoride	Nitrate	Arsenic
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	Prakasam, Nellore Rangareddy, Adilabad	Vishakhapatnam, East Anantpur, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Kumool, Mehboobnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Khammam	— Godavari, Krishna,
2.	Assam	Northern Bank of Brahmaputra	—	—	Dhimaji, Karimganj,
3.	Bihar	Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Munger, Deoghar, Madhubani, Patna, Palamau, Nalanda, Nawada, Banka	Giridigh, Jamui, Dhanbad	Palamau, Gaya, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhagalpur, Sahebgunj, Banka	Bhojpur, Paschimi Champaran, Purba Champaran, Sitamarhi, Supaul, Aroria, Kishanganj, Purnia, Katihar, Patna, Bhojpur, Buxar, Saran (Chapra) Vaishali, Madhubani
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	Rajnadgaon, Durg
5.	Gujarat	—	Kachch, Surendra Nagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Kheda	—	—

6. Haryana	—	Rohtak, Jind, Hisar, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Faridabad	Ambala, Sonapat, Jind, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Hissar, Sirsa, Kamal, Kurukshehra, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh	—
7. Himachal Pradesh	—	—	Kulu, Solan, Una	—
8. Karnataka	—	Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur	—	—
9. Kerala	—	Palghat	—	—
10. Jharkhand	—	—	—	Sahibganj
11. Madhya Pradesh	—	Bind Morena, Guna, Jhabua, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Raipur, Vidisha	Sehore	—
12. Maharashtra	—	Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded, Aurangabad	Thane, Jalna, Beed, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Pune, Buldhana, Amravati, Akola, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli	—
13. Orissa	Parts of Coastal Orissa	Bolangir	—	—
14. Punjab	—	Ludhiana, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Amritsar	Patiala, Faridkot, Firozpur, Sangrur, Bhatinda	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Rajasthan	Bikaner, Alwar,	Bikaner, Bikaner,	Jaipur, Churu, Ganganagar	—	—
	Dungarpur	Ganganagar, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi	Bikaner, Jalore, Barmer, Bundi, Swai Madhopur		
16. Tamil Nadu	—	Dharmapuri, Salem	Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem	—	—
		North Arcot-Arnedkar, Villipuram-Padayatchi, Muthuramalingam, Tiruchirapalli, Pudukottai			
17. Tripura	Dharmnagar, Kauleshaer, Khowai, Ambasa, Amarpur and parts of Agartala valley	—	—	—	—
18. Uttar Pradesh	—	Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Agra, Unnao, Rae-Bareilly	Orai, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Deoria	Pilibhit, Lakhimpur, Baharaich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Ballia, Unnao, Lucknow	
19. West Bengal	Midnapore, Howrah, Hoogly, Bankura	Birbhum	Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Birbhum, Nadia, Midnapore, Howrah, Murshidabad, Purulia	Kolkata, Malda, South 24-Paraganas, North 24-Paraganas, Nadia, Hoogly, Murshidabad, Bradhaman, Howrah	
20. NCT of Delhi	—	—	Shahdara, and Mehrauli Blocks	—	—

Experiments in Agro Research Institutes

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that benefits of successful experiments carried out at Agro Research Institutes in the country reach the farmers at the grassroot level;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the average annual expenditure being incurred thereon in each State; and

(c) the spheres where latest research findings are utilized for agro-products alongwith the names of such crops, 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) The main extension system to reach the farmers at the

grass-root level is operated by the State Governments. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has created a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country aiming at assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/product to the farmers developed by the National Agricultural Research Systems.

(b) A total of 551 KVKs were sanctioned till the end of 2006-07. During X Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07), the average annual expenditure was Rs. 164.97 crore. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The research findings related to both crop production and protection including improved varieties, cultural practices, pest and disease management, tools and implements are utilized for increasing productivity of crops. The State-wise list of important crops are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Average Annual Funds Released for the KVKs during Last Five Years (2002-03 to 2006-07)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of KVKs	Average Annual funds released (in Lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	41.14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22	766.02
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	78.17
4.	Assam	20	433.04
5.	Bihar	37	832.71
6.	Chhattisgarh	11	270.35
7.	Delhi	1	17.52
8.	Goa	2	50.84
9.	Gujarat	23	553.80

1	2	3	4
10.	Haryana	18	618.46
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12	584.86
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	412.92
13.	Jharkhand	21	625.64
14.	Karnataka	26	733.20
15.	Kerala	14	441.81
16.	Lakshadweep	1	23.17
17.	Madhya Pradesh	46	1120.48
18.	Maharashtra	33	1172.64
19.	Manipur	8	209.02
20.	Meghalaya	5	96.87
21.	Mizoram	8	209.02
22.	Nagaland	8	136.37
23.	Orissa	29	784.09
24.	Pondicherry	2	75.17
25.	Punjab	17	523.01
26.	Rajasthan	32	1257.24
27.	Sikkim	4	47.31
28.	Tamil Nadu	29	934.02
29.	Tripura	4	68.76
30.	Uttar Pradesh	61	2237.76
31.	Uttarakhand	13	51071
32.	West Bengal	17	549.24
Total		551	16497.71

Statement-II
State-wise List of Important Crops

State	Food Crops	Non-Food Crops	Horticultural and Plantation Crops
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rice	—	Fruits and Plantation crops
Andhra Pradesh	Rice, Maize, Jowar, Millets Pulses and Sugarcane	Oilseeds and Fibre crops	Fruits, Spices, Vegetables and Flowers
Arunachal Pradesh	Rice, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Fruits and Vegetables
Assam	Rice, Wheat and Pulses	Oilseeds and Fibre crops	Fruits, Vegetables and Spices
Bihar	Rice, Wheat, Maize, Sugarcane and Pulses	Oilseeds, Fodder and Green manuring crops	Fruits, Vegetables and Spices and Tuber crops
Chhattisgarh	Rice, Maize, Wheat and Pulses	Oilseeds	Fruits and Vegetables
Delhi	Wheat and Pulses	Oilseeds	Vegetables and Spices
Goa		Oilseeds	Fruits
Gujarat	Rice, Jowar, Sugarcane	Cotton and Oilseeds	Fruits, Vegetables and Spices
Haryana	Wheat, Rice, Millets, Pulses and Sugarcane	Cotton and Oilseeds	Fruits, Vegetables and Potato
Himachal Pradesh	Wheat, Rice, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Fruits, Vegetables, Potato Spices and Medicinal plants
Jammu and Kashmir	Wheat, Barley, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Fruits, Vegetables and Potato

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	Rice, Wheat, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Fruits, Vegetables, Potato and Tuber crops
Karnataka	Lowar, Maize, Rice, Wheat, Millets, Pulses and Sugarcane	Cotton, Oilseeds and Fodder crops	Fruits, Vegetables, Spices and Flowers
Kerala	Rice	—	Fruits, Spices and Plantation crops
Lakshadweep	—	—	Coconut and Vegetable crops
Madhya Pradesh	Rice, Wheat, Maize, Bajra, Jowar, Sugarcane and Pulses	Oilseeds and Cotton	Fruits, Potato, Spices, Vegetables and Flowers
Maharashtra	Bajra, Rice, Maize, Wheat, Jowar, Millets and Pulses	Oilseeds, Cotton and Green manuring crops	Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Spices and Medicinal crops
Manipur	Rice, Wheat and Pulses	Oilseeds	Vegetables and Fruits
Meghalaya	Rice, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Vegetables, Spices and Fruits
Mizoram	Rice, Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Vegetables, Spices and Fruits
Nagaland	Rice, Winter Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Potato, Vegetables, Spices and Fruits
Orissa	Rice, Wheat, Maize, Jowar, Millets and Pulses	Oilseeds and Fibre crops	Fruits, Potato, Vegetables and Tuber crops
Pondicherry	Rice, Maize, Jowar, Millets and Pulses	Oilseeds and Cotton	Fruits, Spices, Vegetables and Flowers
Punjab	Wheat, Rice, Maize, Barley, Pulses and Sugarcane	Oilseeds and Cotton	Fruits and Vegetables
Rajasthan	Bajra, Maize, Wheat, Barely, Sorghum and Pulses	Cotton, Oilseeds and Fodder crops	Fruits, Spices, Vegetables and Medicinal plants
Sikkim	Maize and Pulses	Oilseeds	Potato, Spices, Vegetables and Fruits

Tamil Nadu	Rice, Bajra, Maize, Millets and Sugarcane	Cotton and Oilseeds	Fruits, Spices and Vegetables
Tripura	Rice and Pulses	Oilseeds	Vegetables
Uttar Pradesh	Rice, Wheat, Maize, Jowar and Pulses	Oilseeds and Sunhemp	Vegetables
Uttarakhand	Rice, Wheat, Maize and Millets	Oilseeds	Potato, Vegetable and Fruits
West Bengal	Rice, Maize, Wheat, Pulses and Sugarcane	Fibre crops, Oilseeds and Green manuring crops	Potato, Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers

Crop Insurance Scheme

255. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to exclude high risk crops from subsidy on premium for crop insurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the stagnating growth in the farm sector is proposed to be checked by such changes?

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) Do not arise.

Floods Due to Choking of Reservoirs

256. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest report of Central Water Commission has indicated that the recent floods were aggravated due to choking of reservoirs with excess water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such floods; and

(c) the efforts being made to mobilize the States concerned for timely release of water from reservoirs to avoid the choking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There is no report of choking of reservoirs with the excess water.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Problem in Mobile Network

257. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has expressed serious concern on June, 2007 on the deteriorating quality of service due to the call congestion on the interconnection point of Government/Private mobile service providers and the overload of calls and at the same time asked them to improve the condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the condition has improved after the warning of TRAI;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the action likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether there is provision for punitive action against such exploitation of subscribers;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the comparative details of the number of subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and private operators during the last three years; and

(i) the reasons for decrease in number of subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) while releasing the Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion report for the period January-March, 2007, on 18-06-2007, had expressed concern over Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion between service providers.

(b) The analysis of POI congestion report for the period January-March, 2007, inter-alia, shows that:—

— In respect of POIs from Private Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the number of POIs having congestion has increased from 300 in December, 2006 to 337 in March, 2007.

- During the same period POI congestion among Private CMSPs has also increased from 89 in December, 2006 to 162 in March, 2007.
- The service areas mainly affected due to POI congestion are Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, North East, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (East), Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kolkatta, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) TRAI has not issued any warning to service providers over POI congestion report in June, 2007.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Government is holding periodic meetings with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the private Mobile Service Providers to facilitate provision of interconnection

for improving the quality of mobile services.

(f) and (g) As per Section 29 (penalty for contravention of direction of TRAI) of TRAI act, 1997, if a person violates the direction of the TRAI, such person shall be punishable with fine as per provisions in TRAI, Act, 1997. TRAI has issued a direction on 7th June, 2005 to all service providers to provide Interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker. BSNL had gone to TDSAT against this direction. The matter is pending with TDSAT and sub-judice.

(h) and (i) Details of total number of subscribers of BSNL, MTNL and private operators during the last three years are given below, which shows that the subscribers base of BSNL, MTNL and private operators have increased during the last three years.

Year ending	As on 31-03-2005	As on 31-03-2006	As on 31-03-2007
BSNL	46934950	55159175	64723525
MTNL	5153483	5924428	6666972
Private Operators	46284752	81008426	135436613
Total	98373185	142092029	206827110

Entrepreneurial Training

258. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch any special programme for entrepreneurial training to youth particularly to young women, SCs/STs for running and making success of small ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any stipend to undergoing trainees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the entire expenditure on the said scheme would be borne by the Union Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the manner in which the expenditure is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched training programmes through its field institutions by reserving 22.5 per cent in Entrepreneurship Development

Programmes (EDPs) and Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs) for SC, ST, Women and Physically Handicapped persons, as also giving them a stipend of Rs. 500 per candidate per month. Besides, this Ministry has decided that all SC, ST, Women and Physically Handicapped candidates who are trained in EDPs and ESDPs, other than the reserved 22.5 per cent of programmes, shall also not have to pay any fees.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 99.30 lakh will be utilized by the field institutes of the Ministry of MSME for this purpose from the Annual Plan allocation for the Ministry for the financial year 2007-08 under scheduled caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan.

(g) Does not arise.

Establishment of Farmer's Club

259. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has taken steps to establish Farmer's Club/Self Help Groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce the said scheme in other States particularly North East including Assam; 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 farmer's Club Programme was launched by NABARD on 5th November, 1982 and is in operation in all States of the country. There are 22949 farmers' Clubs functioning in the entire country as on 31 March, 2007. The Self Help Groups (SHG)-Bank Linkage Programme was introduced by NABARD, as a pilot project in 1992-93. As on 31st March, 2007, 29.24 lakhs SHGs have been credit linked with banks.

(c) and (d) Both the Farmer's Club and SHG Bank Linkage Programme are being implemented in all the seven States including Assam in North Eastern region. There were 449 Farmer's Club and 91954 SHGs credit linked in North Eastern region, of which 287 Farmers' Club and 81,454 SHGs are in Assam.

Restriction on Import of Wheat

260. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the farmers of wheat growing States and other Public figures have requested the Government to withdraw its decision to import wheat during the current year in view of its adverse impact on the farmers and the food sovereignty of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to revamp the procurement policy to provide better price to the farmers and improve the food security situation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from some organizations representing farmers and few public figures requesting the Government to reconsider its decision to import wheat in 2007-08. The Government had taken steps during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) by increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to Rs. 750 per quintal which was Rs. 100 per quintal more than the MSP fixed for wheat in RMS 2006-07. Further, an incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per

quintal of wheat over and above MSP was also given for the benefit of farmers as well as for enhancing procurement of wheat for the Central Pool.

(c) and (d) The Government already has a well defined procurement policy for procurement of foodgrains under which all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specification offered for sale at specified centers are bought by the Government agencies at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government of India.

Upgradation of Central Rice Research Institute

261. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is upgrading the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI) to international level;

(b) if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the research facilities available in the Institute are of international quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the new varieties of high quality paddy developed during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to conduct research by CRRI outside its campus?

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) Indian Council of Agricultural Research keeps on strengthening its research Institutes. Need based strengthening of Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack is contemplated in XI Five Year Plan;

(c) and (d) Institute has modernized research laboratories and other infrastructure facilities for undertaking research in frontier areas such as molecular biology, biotechnology, aerobic rice research etc.

A total number of 67 rice varieties have been

developed by this Institute for different ecosystems. Nine new high yielding varieties namely; 'Virendra' and 'Abhishek' for upland ecology, 'Naveen' for irrigated ecology, 'Varshadhan' for medium deepwater ecology, 'Ajay' and 'Rajalaxmi' (hybrid), 'Geetanjali' and 'Ketekijoha' (aromatic rice) and 'Chandrama' for Boro situation has been developed during last three years.

(e) CRRI conducts the on farm research on salinity, upland research, iron toxicity, zinc deficiency and Front Line Demonstrations on different aspects outside its campus i.e. at Santhapur (Cuttack), Dhenkanal, Erasama (Jagatsinghpur), Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak etc.

In addition, the Institute has two sub-stations namely; Central Rainfed Upland Rice Research Station (CRURRS), at Hazaribag and Regional Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Station (RRLRRS), at Gerua. These are engaged in conducting upland research and flood-prone research, respectively.

Further, two Krishi Vigyan Kendras, i.e. KVK, Santhapur (Cuttack), Orissa and KVK (Koderma), Hazaribag, are involved in conducting Frontline Demonstrations, on farm trials and training programmes in respective districts.

Intensive Dairy Development Programme

262. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP);

(b) the basis for providing funds under IDDP;

(c) the number of projects approved under IDDP alongwith costs involved therein during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of dairy projects launched in the country under IDDP;

(e) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the funds released to District Milk Cooperative Unions 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) The main objectives of the scheme are as under:

- Development of Milch cattle
- Increase in Milk production by providing technical input services
- Creation of infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk
- Ensure remunerative prices to the milk producers
- Generate additional employment opportunities
- Improve social, nutritional and economic status of people in comparatively disadvantaged areas.

(b) The districts which received no assistance or an assistance of less than Rs. 50.00 lakh under 'Operation Flood' are eligible for assistance under this scheme, depending on the viability of the project.

(c) A total of 33 projects costing Rs. 182.55 Crore were approved under the IDDP in the last three years. State-wise approved projects alongwith their outlays is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Performance of the Scheme which was earlier named "Integrated Dairy Development Project" was

evaluated by the Programme Evaluation Organization cell of the Planning Commission and by the Institute of Human Development, Delhi.

(e) Based on the recommendations of these studies, the scheme has been restructured during March, 2005 and renamed as "Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)". In the revised scheme, the following steps have been taken to ensure that the projects are viable and sustainable utilization of funds is quicker:—

- (i) projects under the scheme are to be implemented by the State Milk Federation/District Milk Union in view of their resources and professional approach.
- (ii) Funds are to be released directly to the implementing agency i.e. State Dairy Federation/District Milk Union instead of State Government to avoid delay in fund flow.
- (iii) The scheme is to be implemented in those districts as well, which received less than Rs. 50.00 lakh under Operation Flood programme to cover a larger area. Previously, the scheme was implemented only in Non-Operation Flood districts.
- (iv) The maximum project cost will be Rs. 3.00 crore per district.
- (f) An amount of Rs. 1887.51 lakh has been released directly to the District Milk Unions from April 2005 to March 2007.

Statement

Projects Approved Under 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme' during Last Three Years (2004-05 to 2006-07)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State and Project	Cost involved during the last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07)			Total Cost approved
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra-III			554.98	554.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Andhra (Suicide Prone)			636.00	636.00
3.	Assam-II	588.35			588.35
4.	Jharkhand-II		294.29		294.29
5.	Haryana-II		1453.83		1453.83
6.	Haryana-III			823.22	823.22
7.	Haryana-IV			287.38	287.38
8.	Himachal Pradesh-II	899.12			899.12
9.	Kerala-I	288.15			288.15
10.	Kerala-II		287.07		287.07
11.	Kerala-II		1390.48		1390.48
12.	Kerala (Suicide Prone)			132.00	132.00
13.	Karnataka (Suicide Prone)			216.00	216.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh V			228.89	228.89
15.	Madhya Pradesh VI			420.58	420.58
16.	Madhya Pradesh VII			4122.09	1422.09
17.	Maharashtra-III			1000.30	1000.30
18.	Maharashtra (Suicide Prone)			216.00	216.00
19.	Manipur-II			1023.23	1023.23
20.	Mizoram-IV	254.98			254.98
21.	Mizoram-V			264.34	264.34
22.	Nagaland-III	597.30			597.30
23.	Orissa-V		556.16		556.16
24.	Orissa-VI		563.97		563.97
25.	Rajasthan-I	590.50			590.50
26.	Rajasthan-II		290.00		290.00
27.	Rajasthan-II		864.10		864.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
28. Tamil Nadu-II		312.15			312.15
29. Tamil Nadu-III				554.06	554.06
30. Tamil Nadu-IV				291.77	291.77
31. Tripura-III				295.14	295.14
32. Uttaranchal-II		5432.75			532.75
33. West Bengal-III		126.04			126.04
Total		4189.34	5699.90	8365.98	18255.22

[Translation]

Integrated Sheep and Wool Development

263. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and achievements of the integrated sheep and wool development project during last three years; and

(b) the funds released under this project 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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Expansion of National Child Labour Project

264. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) the norms prescribed for the selection of districts for implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP);

(b) the number of districts covered under NCLP in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the NCLP to all the districts where child labourers are still prevailing during Eleventh plan period;

(d) if so, the step taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of child labourers are likely to be benefited therefrom alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The districts are identified on the basis of endemicity of child labour as per the Census data and also on the recommendation of the concerned State Government.

(b) The National Child Labour Project Scheme is being implemented in 250 districts of the country for the rehabilitation of working children. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The Government has proposed expansion of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) Scheme to all child labour endemic districts during the XI Five Year Plan. The objective is to increase the coverage of child labour under this rehabilitation scheme. However, it is subject to the necessary approvals.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of States	No. of Districts	Name of the District
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	Ananatapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari, Mehbubnagar, Adilabad and Krishna
2.	Assam	3	Nagaon, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur
3.	Bihar	24	Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Gaya, East Champaran, West Champaran, Madhepura, Patna, Supaul, Samastipur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Begusarai, Banka, Saran, Purnia and Bhagalpur
4.	Chhattisgarh	8	Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Surguja, Raigarh, Dantewada, Raipur and Korba
5.	Gujarat	9	Surat, Panchmahals, Bhuj, Banas Kantha, Dahod, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Rajkot
6.	Haryana	3	Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panipat
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur
8.	Jharkhand	9	Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Gumla, Palamu, Ranchi and Hazaribagh
9.	Karnataka	17	Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Belgaum, Koppal, Tumkur, Devangere, Haveri, Mysore, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Bellary, Kolar and Mandya.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	17	Mandsaur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Barwani, Rewa, Dhar, East Nimar (Khandwa), Rajgarh, Chhindwara, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Guna, Betul, Shajapur, Ratlam, West Nimar (Khargon) and Jhabua
11.	Maharashtra	13	Solapur, Thane, Pune, Ahmadnagar, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nanded, Nasik, Yavatmal, Dhule and Beed.
12.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
13.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur

1	2	3	4
14. Orissa	18	Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Gajapati (Udayagiri), Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonapur, Cuttack and Balasore	
15. Punjab	3	Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar	
16. Rajasthan	23	Jaipur, Udaipur, Tonk, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar, Jalor, Churu, Nagaur, Chittaurgarh, Banswara, Dhaulpur, Sikar, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Jhalawar, Pali, Bhilwara, Ganganagar and Barmer.	
17. Tamil Nadu	13	Chindambaranar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Chennai, Erode, Dindigul and Theni.	
18. Uttar Pradesh	42	Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Bijnour, Gonda, Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Hardoi, Barabanki, Sitapur, Faizabad, Badaun, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Kannauj, Kaushambi, Rae Bareilly, Unnao, Sultanpur, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Pratapgarh, Basti, Sonbhadra, Mau, Shajahanpur, Banda, Ghaziabad, Jaunpur, Rampur, Bareilly, Lucknow, Meerut, Etawah, Agra, Ghazipur, Mathura and Etah.	
19. Uttaranchal	1	Dehradun	
20. West Bengal	19	Burdwan, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad Midnapore, Maldah, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Nadia, Hungli, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Bihar, East Midnapore and Darjeeling	
Total		250	

Note: There may be some changes in the districts which are awaiting survey reports from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Growth Rate of Small Enterprises

265. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) The details of growth rate of small enterprises in the country during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Small Scale Industries sector has registered any decline in growth rate during said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the plans formulated to achieve the desired growth rate of Small Scale Industries sector?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The

estimated growth rates of micro and small enterprises in the country during 2003-2004, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were 9.64 per cent, 10.88 per cent and 12.32 per cent respectively. As there is a time lag of six to nine months in the availability of data on micro and small enterprises, the estimated growth rate of small enterprises for the year 2006-07 till date is not available. State-wise details of growth rates are not maintained centrally.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

[English]

Food Coupons

266. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has introduced Food coupons in some States to check corruption in Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the States thereto;

(c) whether the Government would have to bear additional financial burden as a result of the launch of said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to extend the schemes to all the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended to remaining States;

(g) whether any study has been conducted to check corruption in Public Distribution System; and

(h) if so, the details and outcome thereof and 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) to (f) No, Sir. The Government of India has not introduced Food Coupons in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, Food Coupons have been introduced in the TPDS by some of the States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar. In this system, counterfoils/coupons are retained by the Fair Price Shop dealers while issuing TPDS commodities to the beneficiaries. The retained counterfoils/coupons are then deposited with Food and Civil Supplies Department Offices. The Department Staff then verify lifted quantities of ration commodities from Fair Price Shops. This increases accountability and transparency in functioning of Fair Price Shops. Depending upon the success of the scheme, other States/UTs may also like to introduce the system. Expenses incurred on this measure are borne by State Governments.

(g) and (h) Targeted Public Distribution System was evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission (PEO) and ORG Marg, New Delhi. Their reports received in March 2005 and September 2005 reported that there were diversion/leakages of foodgrains, inclusion and exclusion errors in identifying targeted beneficiaries and operation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) was not financially viable.

To overcome these shortcomings, a nine-point action plan was finalized during 2006, which is under implementation by States/UT Governments. A copy of the nine action point plan is given in the enclosed statement.

Additionally, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Statement

Action Plan for Strengthening of TPDS

- (i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

- (ii) *Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.*
- (iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations—PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.
- (iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.
- (v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.
- (vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.
- (vii) Ensuring timely availability of the issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.
- (viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.
- (ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities—allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

[Translation]

**Telephone Connections to
Members of TAC**

267. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided to all the Members nominated in Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) in various districts of States;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 3318 members out of 4275 TAC members have been provided telephone connections. 957 members have not been provided telephone connections so far.

(c) The main reasons for delay/non provision of telephones to the TAC members are:—

- (i) Consent for acceptance of the TAC members awaited.
- (ii) Technical non feasibility of the area where telephone is required by the TAC member.
- (iii) TAC member is not interested in telephone.
- (iv) Member is asking for a mobile connection, which is not permitted.
- (v) TAC has been constituted recently; installation of telephone is under process.
- (vi) Outstanding dues exist against some members.

[English]

**Budget for an Alternate Telecom
Network for Army**

268. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication has refused to increase the budget for laying an alternate network for the Army beyond the sanctioned amount;

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

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirement for Armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Government is not averse to meeting the genuine and justified requirements of the

Defence Services through budgetary support. The budgetary support is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the operational requirements of the Defence Services.

**Increase in Surrender of
Landline Connections**

269. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline telephone, mobile, broadband and internet connections surrendered by MTNL and BSNL subscribers during the last two years, till date;

(b) the details in regard to loss of revenue borne by BSNL and MTNL;

(c) the details of measures being adopted by the two corporations to safeguard their credibility in the market; and

(d) the financial status of the said companies in August, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of land line, mobile, broadband and internet connections surrendered by MTNL and BSNL subscribers during the last two years is given below:—

(In lakh)

Sl. No.	Item	BSNL		MTNL	
		Surrendered during 2005-06	Surrendered during 2006-07	Surrendered during 2005-06	Surrendered during 2006-07
1.	Land Line	38.15	42.63	2.53	2.44
2.	Mobile	*	28.40	1.36	2.11
3.	Broadband	*	*	0.02	0.34
4.	Internet	*	*	0.05	0.01

*Data not available.

(b) The major problem of surrender of telephones is of landline connections. The surrender of telephones is a phenomena being experienced by all Telecom Operators. While there is surrender of landline telephone, mobile, broadband and internet connections there is also addition of these connections which compensate the loss of revenue due to surrender. In view of above, it can not be said that there is a loss of revenue borne by BSNL and MTNL.

(c) The steps taken by BSNL and MTNL to improve the services for safeguarding their credibility in the market are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(d) BSNL being a non-listed company, therefore the financial results are not prepared on quarterly basis. The profit of BSNL for the financial year 2006-07 is Rs. 7,806 crores. MTNL has earned a profit of Rs. 110 crores in the first quarter ending 30th June, 2007.

Statement-I

Measures taken by BSNL to improve its services

A. Wireline Service:

- Creation of pole less net work
- Replacement of under ground paper core cables by jelly filled cable in a phased manner.

- Opening of more telephones exchanges/ Remote Switch Units (RSUs) to reduce length of Under Ground Cable.
- Induction of Digital Line Concentrators to reduce length of Under Ground Cable and made available new facilities.
- Conversion of C-DoT SBM into RSUs and CDOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges) by BSNL.
- Provision of centralized computerized fault booking with IVRS for whole of SDCA at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Center).
- Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

B. WLL Service:

- BSNL has already deployed a large WLL network in the country specially for those places where most of the demand for telephone connections are from scattered and far flung remote rural areas. The network of WLL service will be expanded further to remotest rural and far-flung areas.
- This large scale deployment of WLL network will facilitate provision of telephone connections on demand in most of the rural areas.

C. Mobile Services:

- BSNL has covered 608 out of 609 District Head Quarters in the country. The left out DHQ is Bhagmara in Meghalaya which is expected to be covered by September, 2007. It has also planned to cover all Tehsil Head Quarters and villages having a population of 5,000 and above progressively during 2007-08.
- The future plan envisage augmentation of capacities to cover villages having a population of more than 1000 in the next three financial years progressively.
- BSNL has already covered National Highways,

State Highways, Railways Routes and Pilgrim centers by which a large number of rural villages are benefitted with incidental cellular coverage of BSNL's Mobile Services.

D. Broadband Service:

- In order to make the Broadband facility available across the country. BSNL has embarked upon huge expansion plan. Around 5 million capacity is planned to be added during 2007-08 followed by 6 million in each of next 3 years.
- Special attention is being made to improve the quality of service to the customer.
- The details of the transaction (upload/download), session wise is made available to end customers on real time basis to ensure billing transparency.

E. Internet:

- On Line Registration (OLR) Card: one can register username and password through web-based forms.
- CLI based Account less Internet Service: "Pay as per use". The telephone number acts as the user name.
- Improved Service Accessibility/Grade of Service:
- Billing:
 - CLI based service is post paid the details of the usage is made available to end customers to ensure billing transparency.
 - Sancharnet, is a prepaid service, the current status regarding balance hours and validity is made available to the customer through the designated website.

F. Long Distance Communication Service:

- Introduction of FTTH/FTTC in a large scale.
- Migration to state-of-the art IP based NGN network.

- Augmentation of bandwidth capacity in long distance as well in regional network.
- Implementing nationwide Network Management System for improved service provisioning.

Statement-II

Measures taken by MTNL to improve its service

- MTNL has introduced Broadband Services w.e.f. 14-01-05 which has been a great success in the country. 5.00 lacs broadband connections are working as on 30-06-2007. In addition MTNL plans to providing 10 lac lines capacity of Broadband network in 2007-08.
- MTNL has launched IPTV Services in both Delhi and Mumbai. It will help stop the churn of landline subscribers.
- MTNL has planned to launch 3G Mobile Services VOIP and Wi-MAX Network in 2007-08.
- MTNL has planned to expand Cellular Mobile Network by one million each in Delhi and Mumbai in 2007-08. Purchase Order has already been placed for 750K lines each for Delhi and Mumbai. Installation of the network has also been started.
- Nearly 300 additional BTSs are being installed in Delhi/Mumbai each which will further improve coverage and capacity.
- MTNL plans to commission Convergent billing and CRM in IInd quarter of 2007-08. This system provides one bill for all services to a subscriber. The system will also address customer request of services tariff, complaint resolution etc.
- Improving the legacy PSTN Network by change of cables, drop wire etc.
- MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both PSTN and Mobile subscribers like news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, SMS, Voice SMS,

Internet, Broadband, IPTV etc. in line with the emerging trends.

- New tariff plans both in landline and cellular based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
- MTNL is also taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, QCSC, appointment of Dealers and Agents and special care of Corporate Customers.
- MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
- Bringing Delhi and Mumbai under 95 dialing facility (local call).

Outstanding Loan by BSNL/MTNL

270. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL/MTNL are having any outstanding loan with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for prompt repayment of the loans taken by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) At the time of formation of BSNL on 1-10-2000, a notional loan of Rs. 7500 crores was introduced in the capital structure of BSNL. Out of this amount, BSNL has paid a sum of Rs. 4500 crores. The remaining amount of notional loan is proposed to be paid in the current financial year, i.e., 2007-08. On the other hand, MTNL has no outstanding loan with the Government.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Restructuring of ICAR

271. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is holding consultations to restructure the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to make the organization stronger in the agricultural research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government want the ICAR to develop scientist-entrepreneur scheme on the lines of a similar scheme in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; 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) No, Sir. There is no proposal to restructure the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). However, with a view to giving an impetus to agricultural research and in order to take the process of reforms forward, various institutional mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the ICAR and its Research Institutes perform their mandated task effectively.

(c) and (d) Guidelines for the Scientists/Innovator Entrepreneurship Scheme have been developed and placed below on the ICAR website. This scheme has already been made operational with effect from 2-10-2006. The details of the Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Scientists/Innovators Entrepreneurship

Some ICAR Scientists/innovators who have generated an IP in ICAR on which IPR has been already secured, may be interested in a commercial venture with these IPR enabled technologies. Keeping in view that commercial product development, validation and/or quality control of bench-scale technologies may require expert input, the participation of scientist/innovator could

enhance the scope of transfer of that technology. Therefore ICAR may grant case-specific permission for the entrepreneurship. The individual cases will be processed in the following manner:—

1. The Scientists/innovator shall proceed for the entrepreneurship on Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) alongwith a non-exclusive license of the IPR enabled ICAR technology developed by him/her.
2. A maximum of 3 years EOL will be permitted on the analogy of CSIR scheme vis-a-vis the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expr.) Office Memorandum No. 11(1)-E.II(B)/69 dated 25th June, 1970. No earned leave or Half Pay Commuted Leave will be pre-fixed/suffixed. The period of EOL will not count towards annual increments or any mandatory period required for promotion.
3. ICAR will not provide any financial assistance for the setting up of the enterprise.
4. It is essential that the scientist has a financial stake in the enterprise and will not be a mere employee. However, he/she may draw the salary as an employee of the enterprise also.
5. During the period of EOL pension/employer's share of contribution as applicable, is to be paid to ICAR by the scientist/innovator as payable under the provisions of fundamental rules by Government Servant sent on deputation on foreign service.
6. The applicant will sign an affidavit accepting the following conditions:—
 - (i) The period of leave shall be used for commercialization of the technology under reference.
 - (ii) If appropriate, ICAR may license the same technology to other interested licensees as well.
 - (iii) The scientist/innovator may use ICAR's core shared facilities subject to availability

and by making payment of rentals as may be fixed by ICAR. The decision of ICAR to allow use of particular core shared facilities/equipment and rentals thereof will be final and binding on the scientists.

- (iv) The scientist/innovator shall furnish a half-yearly progress report during the leave period and a final report on the commercial status/progress of the technology at the end of the leave period to ICAR irrespective of whether he/she decides to quit or rejoin ICAR.
7. The scientist/entrepreneur will be entitled to avail the medical facilities provided he/she continues to make payment of the subscription as applicable.
8. Except for charging a nominal license fee for the non-exclusive license and rentals for using core shared facilities, if applicable, ICAR will not claim any ownership and licensing right in any new IP generated nor a share from commercial proceeds in the entrepreneurship.
9. The scientist entrepreneur will keep a liaison with the concerned ICAR institution/ATMC in the leave period and comply with the requirement of the affidavit furnished.
10. At the end of the leave period, the scientist/innovator may either resign from his/her job in ICAR so as to further pursue the enterprise or rejoin ICAR or his/her lien will be terminated. However, he/she must furnish final report on the status of the technology/commercialization.
11. At any time prior to the completion of EOL period, the scientist/entrepreneur may rejoin ICAR by giving a 3 months prior notice and submitting a detailed debriefing report within one month of his/her rejoining giving details of experiences, difficulties faced, if any, success and failures reasons for rejoining, etc.

Misuse of SIM Cards

272. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ULFA militants in Arunachal Pradesh are using SIM Cards issued in others' names for extortion purposes;

(b) if so, whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has initiated an inquiry into the whole affair;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Relaxation in Rules of AIBP

273. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been demand by some of the States to change the present pattern of fundings under AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project);

(b) if so, the details of changes, if any made thereof;

(c) the States which have taken advantages of the present scheme and brought more areas under irrigation;

(d) whether in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput area in the State of Orissa funds have been received under the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There have been demand for change of

funding pattern for the Projects included in Prime Minister's Package for agrarian distress districts from 25% to 90% of Project cost.

(b) No Sir, no changes have been made.

(c) 26 States have availed Central Assistance during 2006-07 to bring more area under irrigation.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Total Cental Loan Assistance (CLA)/Grant amounting to Rs. 738.548 crore has been released so far to projects benefiting Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput area in the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

**National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil
Development Board**

274. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives behind constitution of National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board;

(b) the works undertaken by the said Board during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the works undertaken by the Board;

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

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government on the basis of outcome?

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 (e) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board has been created in 1983 under an Act of Parliament for promotion oilseeds and vegetable oils industry in the country. However, from the Xth Plan

onwards, the Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" for the promotion of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs) including Jatropha and Karanja.

The NOVOD Board has established plantations of Jatropha, Karanja, neem and other TBOs over 2522 ha., 150 ha., 200 ha. and 110 ha. respectively during the last two years. The Board has also undertaken research activities under the National Network besides organizing 113 farmers training programmes during the last two years.

The activities of the Board are reviewed by the Managing Committee and its Board periodically and appropriate directions are issued from time to time.

[English]

Development of Multi-Mode Radar

275. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a delay in developing Multi-Mode Radar;

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

(c) whether there has been a time and cost overrun in the said project;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project for development of Multi Mode Radar (MMR) was started in June 1991 with Probable Date of Completion of 6½ years. The technology of airborne radars is very complex. The MMR development is being done for the first time in the country. No prior expertise exists in the country in this field with any organization.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A project to develop two MMR

systems for ground testing was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 62.27 crore. This activity was completed in 2004 at a cost of Rs. 105 crore.

(e) A co-development activity of MMR has been initiated for Limited Series Production and Series Production with M/s ELTA Systems Ltd., Israel, which has experience in developing similar types of radars. To expedite the project, close monitoring of activity at the highest level of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) management has been put in place.

**Methods for Increase in
Groundnut Production**

276. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the innovative methods and latest technologies adopted under Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize to increase the productivity of groundnut in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total production of groundnut recorded in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for huge fluctuation in the production of groundnut in the country; and

(d) the minimum Support Price given to groundnut growers?

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 improved production and protection technologies including polythene mulch technology are being popularized amongst farmers through block demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations and Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) to increase the productivity of groundnut in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The details of state-wise and total production of groundnut in the country during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The huge fluctuations in the production of groundnut in the country can be attributed to aberrant weather conditions as this crop is mostly cultivated under rainfed conditions and also diversion of groundnut area to Bt Cotton, sunflower and maize in major groundnut producing states like Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The Government of India has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for groundnut (in shell) at Rs. 1550 per qtl. for the year 2007-08.

Statement

*State-wise total production of groundnut in the country during the last three years
i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06*

(in '000 tonnes)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	986.0	1639.5	1366.0
Bihar	0.2	0.3	0.5
Chhattisgarh	40.2	32.3	31.6
Goa	5.7	5.4	7.9

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	4477.6	1886.6	3389.0
Haryana	1.1	1.2	2.2
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0
Karnataka	433.5	742.0	671.0
Kerala	2.0	1.7	2.4
Madhya Pradesh	252.3	242.7	234.4
Maharashtra	437.0	502.0	410.0
Nagaland	3.0	7.0	0.3
Orissa	93.2	106.0	106.3
Punjab	4.0	3.6	3.0
Rajasthan	331.9	446.8	491.0
Tamil Nadu	918.2	1005.3	1098.2
Tripura	0.7	0.9	0.8
Uttar Pradesh	59.4	69.4	90.5
Uttaranchal	2.0	3.0	2.0
West Bengal	75.8	75.5	83.1
Pondicherry	2.5	3.2	3.1
Total	8126.5	6774.4	7993.3

**Investment In Semi-Conductor
Fabrication Sector**

277. SHRI K.C. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard for setting up of semi-conductor fabrication facility in the country;

(b) the regulatory mechanism to ensure effective use of facilities and subsidies extended for development

and manufacturing of world class products;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite foreign and private sector investment in semi-conductor fabrication sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The Special Incentive Package Scheme to encourage

investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government vide Gazette Notification No. 78, Part I, Section I dated 21st March, 2007. A copy of the Notification is available on the website <http://www.mit.gov.in>.

As per para 7.1 of the above Notification, an Appraisal Committee has been set up by the Department of Information Technology.

Export of Raw Sugar

278. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry has sought permission for export of raw sugar;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide subsidy on export of raw sugar in view of record production this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and 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) to (c) The Central Government has decided to reimburse to sugar factories a part of the expenditure incurred for the purpose of internal transport and freight charges (which would include ocean freight and handling and marketing charges) on exports of its domestically manufactured sugar, which includes raw sugar, exported by a sugar factory itself or through an exporters or any third party exporter at the rate of Rs. 1350 per ton for sugar factories located in coastal States and Rs. 1450 per ton for sugar factories located in non-coastal States. Exports made under Open General License (OGL) only (and not under 'Advance License') on or after 19th April, 2007 and within 18th April, 2008 or till further orders, which ever is earlier, would be eligible for payment of above charges.

Excess Expenditure on Procurement

279. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of excess expenditure on procurement of foodgrains have been reported recently;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure compliance of proper norms in procurement operations of foodgrains?

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) Yes, Sir. Eleven cases of inefficiencies in procurement have been reported by Audit In Para 5.2 of Report No. 16 (Civil) of 2006 of C and AG. In this para the audit has highlighted inefficiencies in procurement by agencies of the State Governments involved in procurement operations due to following reasons:

- (i) Delay in milling of paddy in the period 2000-05 in Chhattisgarh.
- (ii) Loss due to improper storage of wheat in Haryana.
- (iii) Short delivery of rice vis-a-vis prescribed out-turn ratio for paddy in Punjab and West Bengal.
- (iv) Loss of interest in Punjab, Haryana and West Bengal.
- (v) Short accountal on account of diage loss and moisture gain in Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- (vi) Excess milling charges in West Bengal.

(c) All these cases of inefficiencies have been examined in consultation with the State Governments, concerned as well as the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and action taken note has been sent to audit.

The Central Government reimburses procurement costs incurred by State agencies based on standard

principles and procedures and does not reimburse costs incurred by State agencies for blatant inefficiencies or in cases where the State Governments relax the prescribed norms of the Central Government. Procurement incidentals are initially paid to State Governments on provisional basis till they submit their audited accounts. Final subsidy claims of State Governments are paid only after they submit their final accounts duly audited.

[Translation]

Agricultural Research and Development

280. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the basic infrastructure provided to States for Agricultural Research and Education;
- (b) whether the existing infrastructure is sufficient to cater to the need of agriculture in the country; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken to expand and upgrade the existing infrastructure?

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) This Department has established 95 Institutes including 4 Deemed to be Universities, 5 National Bureaus, 43 National Institutes, 1 National Academy for Agricultural Research Management, 12 Project Directorates and 30 National Research Centres, located in different States of the country. ICAR is also providing developmental grants to State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for strengthening education. In order to address the location-specific researchable issues All India Coordinated Research Projects/Network Projects are being implemented in the SAUs/ICAR Institutes. In the rural districts, 554 *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* are also funded by ICAR.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, constant endeavour is made to upgrade the facilities to cater to the emerging researchable needs.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Release of Sugar

281. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether irregularities are being committed by sugar mills in release of fixed quota of sugar in the market;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this matter; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to enforce control over sugar mills in view of deficiency of sugar in the market?

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 (c) The sugar factories are required to sell and despatch the specified quantity of sugar as allowed in the Monthly Release Orders of the Government. Some sugar mills have also obtained orders from the courts to sell sugar over and above the quantity allowed in the Release Orders. In order to ascertain the position, the Central Government conduct random check on sugar factories from time to time. No such report of deficiency of sugar in the market has been received by the Government from any part of the country.

Post and Telegraph Offices

282. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post-offices and telegraph offices running in owned and rented buildings, State-wise, location-wise and category-wise;
- (b) the number of post-offices, sub-post-offices and telegraph offices likely to be opened during 2007-08, State-wise and location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide postal services to every village in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of residential colonies for post and telegraph employees; State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The information is under collection from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) In the Annual Plan 2007-08, there is a target for opening of 250 Branch Post Offices and 500 Sub Post Offices throughout the country. Postal Circle-wise targets fixed under the Annual Plan 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Locations of the post offices to be opened have not been identified so far.

The information regarding number of telegraph

offices is under collection from the Department of Telecommunications and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Department of Posts provides facilities of daily delivery of mail at the doorstep of customers in each village, collects letters from letter boxes and sells stamps and stationery at the doorstep of customers in every village.

(e) The number of residential colonies for postal employees, State-wise and location-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The information about number of residential colonies for telegraph employees is under collection from the Department of Telecommunications and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Targets for Opening Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices during 2007-08

Sl. No.	Name of Postal Circle	Target	
		No. of Branch Post Offices	No. of Sub Post Offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	25
2.	Assam	14	10
3.	Bihar	11	25
4.	Chhattisgarh	12	20
5.	Delhi	0	20
6.	Gujarat	15	25
7.	Haryana	8	15
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	15
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	15
10.	Jharkhand	7	20

1	2	3	4
11.	Karnataka	12	25
12.	Kerala	5	15
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18	30
14.	Maharashtra	16	25
15.	North East	35	20
16.	Orissa	8	15
17.	Punjab	5	15
18.	Rajasthan	8	25
19.	Tamil Nadu	14	35
20.	Uttar Pradesh	12	30
21.	Uttarakhand	5	10
22.	West Bengal	17	25
	*Still to be allocated		40
Total		250	500

Statement-II**State-wise and Location-wise number of Postal Colonies**

Sl. No.	Location colonies	Number of postal colonies
1	2	3
1.	Assam	
	Guwahati	3
	Dibrugarh	1
	Tinsukia	1
	Jorhat	1

1	2	3
	Nagaon	1
	Dhubri	1
	Silchar	1
	Diphu	1
	Hafiong	1
	Tezpur	1
	Karimganj	1
	Total	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	
	Hyderabad	9

1	2	3
	Adilabad	1
	Medak	1
	Nalgonda	1
	Sangareddy	1
	Suryapeta	1
	Wanaparthi	1
	Hanamkonda	1
	Visakhapatnam	5
	Kakinada	1
	Parvathipuram	1
	Rajahmundry	2
	Vizianagaram	1
	Arakuvally	1
	Samalkot	1
	Chilpurapalli	1
	Vijayawada	1
	Guntur	1
	Machilipatnam	1
	Khammam	1
	Eluru	1
	Nellore	1
	Tenali	1
	Gudur	1
	Mangalagiri	1
	Kothagudem	1
	Paloncha	1
	Bhadrachalam	1

1	2	3
	Venkatapuram	1
	Jangareddygudem	1
	Kurnool	2
	Cuddapah	1
	Anantapur	1
	Hindupur	1
	Nandyala	1
	Tirupathi	1
	Guntakal	1
	Total	51
3.	Bihaar	
	Patna	5
	Motihari	4
	Chapra	3
	Bettiah	1
	Purnea	6
	Sitamarhi	2
	Samastipur	2
	Madhubani	1
	Darbhanga	1
	Saharsa	1
	Muzaffarpur	1
	Hajipur	1
	Bhagalpur	1
	Bihaarsharif	1
	Aurangabad	1
	Lakhisarai	1

1	2	3
	Gaya	2
	Arrah	2
	Total	36
4.	Chhattisgarh	
	Raipur	3
	Bilaspur	1
	Korba	1
	Durg	1
	Bhilai	2
	Raigarh	1
	Kanker	1
	Jagdalpur	1
	Total	11
5.	Delhi	
	Delhi GPO	1
	Delhi Cantt.	1
	Sewa Nagar	1
	R.K. Puram	1
	Vivek Vihar (TC)	1
	Vivek Vihar	1
	Kali Bari	1
	Dev Nagar	1
	Atul Grove Road	1
	Eastern Court	1
	Janak Puri	1
	Pankha Road	1
	Sarojini Nagar	1

1	2	3
	Khirsheed Square Civil Lines	1
	Moti Bagh	1
	New Mahavir Nagar	1
	Timarpur	1
	Lodhi Road	1
	Pandara Road	1
	Kaka Nagar	1
	Laxmi Bai Nagar	1
	DIMC Vasant Lok	1
	K.G. Marg	1
	Peshwa Road	1
	Pragati Vihar	1
	R.P. Road	1
	Alaknanda	1
	Total	27
6.	Gujarat	
	Ahmedabad	5
	Mehsana	1
	Himatnagar	1
	Modasa	1
	Gandhinagar	1
	Vadodara	1
	Anand	1
	V.V. Nagar	1
	Ahwa Dang	1
	Fort Songadh	1
	Waghai	1

1	2	3
	Jambusar	1
	Paiej	1
	Kapadwanj	1
	Godhra	1
	Kabilpore GIDC	1
	Khergam	1
	Maroli Bazar	1
	Kim	1
	Kosamba	1
	Sankheda	1
	Valsad	1
	Atul	1
	Nana Ponda	1
	Nani Vahiya	1
	Sanjan	1
	Udvada RS	1
	Umargam	1
	Vapi I.E.	1
	Kunkavav	1
	Botad	1
	Talaja	1
	Jetpur	1
	Jamnagar	1
	Dwarka	1
	Junagadh	1
	Veraval	1
	Una	1

1	2	3
	Keshod	1
	Mendarda	1
	Gandhidham	1
	Kandla	1
	K. Mandvi	1
	Adipur	1
	Wankaner	1
	Rajkot	1
	Surendranagar	1
	Total	51
7.	Daman and Diu (Union Territory)	
	Silvassa	1
	Total	1
8.	Haryana	
	Ambala	4
	Yamuna Nagar	1
	Kalka	1
	Faridabad	4
	Rewari	1
	Narnaul	1
	Hisar	3
	Sirsa	1
	Kurukshetra	1
	Kaithal	1
	Karnal	2
	Panipat	1
	Jind	1

1	2	3
	Rohtak	2
	Jhajjar	1
	Sonipat	2
	Total	27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	
	Shimla	9
	Bilaspur	1
	Hamirpur	1
	Kangra	1
	Dehra	1
	Rampur	1
	Rekongpeo	1
	Kaza	1
	Kullu	1
	Sarkaghat	1
	Chauntra	1
	Keylong	1
	Bhangrotu	1
	Sundernagar	1
	Bakloh	1
	Dalhousie	1
	Dharamsala	1
	Palampur	1
	Bajjnath	1
	Shahpur	1
	Una	1
	Chail	1

1	2	3
	Daghsai	1
	Subathu	1
	Kasauli	1
	Parwanoo	1
	Nahan	1
	Solan	1
	Paonta Sahib	1
	Sanawar	1
	Rohru	1
	Theog	1
	Total	40
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	
	Sanatnagar	1
	Barzulla	1
	Bakshinagar	1
	Roop Nagar	1
	Rajouri	1
	Trikuta Nagar	2
	Leh	1
	Udhampur	1
	Baramulla	1
	Total	10
11.	Jharkhand	
	Ranchi	1
	Dhanbad	1
	B.S. City	1
	Jamshedpur	3

1	2	3
	Giridih	1
	Daltonganj	1
	Hazaribagh	1
	Total	9
12.	Karnataka	
	Bangalore City	3
	Channapatna	1
	Chikmagalur	2
	Chitradurga	4
	Hassan	4
	Kodagu	3
	Kolar	2
	Mangalore	2
	Mysore	1
	Nanjangud	2
	Puttur	2
	Shimoga	3
	Tumkur	1
	Udupi	2
	Bagalkot	1
	Belgaum	1
	Bellary	1
	Bidar	2
	Bijapur	3
	Chikodi	3
	Dharwad	3
	Gadag	2

1	2	3
	Gokak	2
	Gulbarga	2
	Haveri	2
	Karwar	2
	Raichur	4
	Sirsi	4
	Mysore (Postal Training Center)	1
	Total	65
13.	Kerala	
	Kasargod	3
	Kannur	3
	Tellicherry	2
	Vadakara	2
	Kozhikode	5
	Ottapalam	1
	Shornur	1
	Agali	1
	Palakkad	1
	Alappuzha	1
	Aluva	1
	Kothamangalam	1
	Kanjirapappaly	1
	Idukki	11
	Pudukkad	1
	Kottayam	2
	Thrissur	1
	Ernakulam	1

1	2	3
	Kollam	2
	Pathanamthitta	2
	Trivandrum	5
	Total	48
14.	Maharashtra	
	Mumbai	6
	Navi Mumbai	4
	Aurangabad	1
	Jalna	1
	Ashti	1
	Bhusawal	1
	Shirpur	1
	Pachora	1
	Jalgaon	1
	Malegaon	1
	Nasik	1
	Udgir	1
	Hingoli	1
	Parbhani	1
	Nagpur	6
	Akola	5
	Amraoti	5
	Buldhana	1
	Chandrapur	2
	Nagpur Mufassal	1
	Nandura	1
	Shegaon	1

1	2	3
	Jamod	1
	Arvi	1
	Sapoli	1
	Saoner	1
	Wardha	1
	Yuvatmal-Wani	1
	Pune	1
	Ahmednagar	1
	Baramati	1
	Lonawala	1
	Junnar	1
	Satara	1
	Solapur	1
	Pandharpur	1
	Kamala	1
	Shrirampur	1
	Kolhapur	1
	Phulewadi	1
	Ichalkaranji	1
	Shivaji Nagar-Ratnagiri	1
	Total	64
15.	Goa	
	Dicarpale	1
	Alto Porvorim	1
	Sada	1
	Total	3

1	2	3
16.	Madhya Pradesh	
	Bhopal	7
	Sagar	1
	Damoh	1
	Hoshangabad	1
	Narsingpur	1
	Pachmari	1
	Khajuraho	1
	Panna	1
	Nowgaon	1
	Tikamgarh	1
	Guna	1
	Gwalior	1
	Indore	4
	Khandwa	1
	Mandsaur	1
	Morena	1
	Shivpuri	1
	Dewas	1
	Chhatarpur	1
	Mhow	1
	Khargone	1
	Burhanpur	1
	Ratlam	1
	Sehore	1
	Ujjain	1
	Rewa	1

1	2	3
	Satna	1
	Seoni	1
	Balaghat	1
	Betul	1
	Parasia	1
	Jabalpur	2
	Katni	1
	Sidhi	1
	Shahdol	1
	Singroly	1
	Dhanpuri	1
	Amarkantak	1
	Baidhan	1
	Total	49
17.	Meghalaya	
	Shillong	5
	Tura	2
	Total	7
18.	Tripura	
	Dharmanagar	1
	Kailashahar	1
	Sidhi Ashram, A.D. Nagar	1
	total	3
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	
	D-Sector, Itanagar	1
	Pasighat	1
	Tawang	1

1	2	3
	Tezu	1
	Along	1
	Bomdila	1
	Total	6
20.	Manipur	
	Palace Comd., Imphal	1
	Old GPO Compd., Imphal	1
	Churachanpur	1
	Total	3
21.	Mizoram	
	Champhai	1
	Total	1
22.	Nagaland	
	GPO Compd., Kohima	1
	Dimapur	1
	Total	2
23.	Orissa	
	Bhubaneswar	3
	Cuttack	4
	Puri	1
	Khurda	1
	Jatni	1
	Bhadrak	1
	Balasore	2
	Baripada	1
	Rairangpur	1
	Bolangir	1

1	2	3
	Keonjhar	1
	Sambalpur	1
	Jharsuguda	1
	Rourkela	1
	Sundergarh	1
	Berhampur	2
	Chhatrapur	1
	Bhawanipatna	1
	Jeypore	1
	Koraput	1
	Phulbani	1
	Total	28
24.	Punjab	
	Amritsar	2
	Batinda	1
	Ferozepur	1
	Gurdaspur	1
	Jalandhar	1
	Jagraon	1
	Khanna	1
	Ludhiana City	2
	Patiala	1
	Ropar	1
	Total	12
25.	Chandigarh	
	Chandigarh	3
	Total	3

1	2	3
26.	Rajasthan	
	Dausa	1
	Bandikui	1
	Phulera	1
	Chomu	1
	Jobner	1
	Lalsot	1
	Mahuwa	1
	Dudu	1
	Phagi	1
	Dholpur	1
	Bharatpur	2
	Jaipur City	4
	Alwar	4
	Sawaimadhopur	1
	Gangapur	1
	Hindaun	1
	Barmer	1
	Bikaner	1
	Churu	1
	Ratangarh	1
	Jhunjhunu	1
	Khetri	1
	Pilani	1
	Jodhpur	3
	Pokran	1
	Jaisalmer	1

1	2	3
	Nagaur	1
	Diswana	1
	Makrana	1
	Pali	1
	Sumerpur	1
	Sikar	1
	Srimadhopur	1
	Sirohi	1
	Jalore	1
	Sheoganj	1
	Aburoad	1
	Mt. Abu	1
	Hanumangarh	1
	Sriganganagar	1
	Chhohtan	1
	Pachpadra city	1
	Lunkaransar	1
	Sadulpur	1
	Phalodi	1
	Jayal	1
	Kuchera	1
	Marwar Jn.	1
	Patan	1
	Bhadra	1
	Sangaria	
	Srikaranpur	
	Ajmer	

1	2	3
	Beawar	1
	Nasirbad	1
	Kekri	1
	Bijay Nagar	1
	Pisangan	1
	Bhilwara	1
	Gulabpura	1
	Mandal	1
	Railagaon	1
	Mandalgarh	1
	Chittorgarh	1
	Dungarpur	1
	Jhalawar	1
	Kota	3
	Tonk	1
	Bundi	1
	Newai	1
	B.V. Path	1
	Uniara	1
	Todaraisingh	1
	Deoli	1
	Udaipur	2
	Kankroli	1
	Mavli	1
	Banswara	1
	Sagwara	1
	Kushalgarh	1

1	2	3
27.	Tamil Nadu	
	Kodalkanal	1
	Karaikudi	1
	Kovilpatti	1
	Tuticorin	1
	Virudhunagar	1
	Rameswaram	1
	Udankudi Christianagaram	1
	Arumuganeri	1
	Nagarcoil	1
	Podanur	1
	Gobichettipalayam	1
	Udagamandalam	1
	Coonoor	1
	Wellington	1
	Aravangadu	1
	Kothagiri	1
	Makkinalickenpatti	1
	Valparai	1
	Chinnatirupathi	1
	Metur Dam	1
	Mettupalayam	1
	Bhavani Sagar	1
	Talavadi	1
	Tirupattur	1
	Trichy	1

1	2	3
	Perambalur	1
	Boiler Project	1
	Mannapuram	1
	Neyvelli	1
	Chennai	6
	Vellore	2
	Total	38
28.	Uttaranchal	
	Almora	1
	Ranikhet	1
	Gopeshwar	2
	Dehradun	3
	Haridwar	1
	Roorkee	1
	Rishikesh	1
	Virbhadra	1
	Nainital	2
	Haldwani	1
	Ramnagar	1
	Rudrapur	1
	Pauri	2
	Patisain	1
	Satpuli	1
	Dogadda	1
	Pithoragarh	1
	Champawat	1
	Didihat	1

1	2	3
	New Tehri	1
	Namdranagar	1
	Uttarkashi	1
	Total	27
29.	Uttar Pradesh	
	Lucknow	5
	Faizabad	1
	Barabanki	1
	Sitapur	1
	Raebareli	1
	Agra	1
	Jhansi	2
	Mathura	1
	Aligarh	2
	Hathras	1
	Bulandsahar	1
	Etah	1
	Orai	1
	Manipuri	1
	Tundla	1
	Gorakpur	1
	Azamgarh	1
	Maunath Bhanjan	1
	Gonda	1
	Bahraich	1
	Deoria	1
	Phoolpur	1

1	2	3
	Allahabad	1
	Jaunpur	1
	Pratapgarh	1
	Ghaziapur	1
	Mirzapur	1
	Varanasi	1
	Bareilly	2
	Hardoi	1
	Pilibhit	1
	Shahjahanpur	1
	Rampur	1
	Moradabad	1
	Ghaziabad	2
	Lakhimpur Kheri	1
	Meerut	1
	Bijnore	1
	Saharanpur	1
	Dhampur	1
	Nagina	1
	Najibabad	1
	Kanpur	5
	Fatehpur	1
	Fatehgarh	1
	Total	57
30.	West Bengal	
	Kolkata	6
	Siliguri	1

1	2	3
	Panihati	1
	Malda	1
	Balurghat	1
	Mal	1
	Jalpaiguri	1
	Dinajpur	1
	Darjeeling	1
	Islampur	1
	Raiganj	1
	Dinhata	1
	Kashimbazar	1
	Jiaganj	1
	Kandi	1
	Khagra	1
	Lalgola	1
	Madhupur	1
	Raghanathganj	1
	Barulpur	1
	D/Harbour	1
	Bishnupur	1
	Budge Budge	1
	Kalyani	1
	R.N. Taore Rd.	1
	Krishnagar	1
	Anandapur	1
	Bhubandanga	1
	Sainthia	1

1	2	3
	Adra	2
	Japetapur	1
	Asansol	1
	Durgapur	2
	Chittaranjan	1
	Hindustan Cables	1
	Burdwan	1
	Midnapore	1
	Kharagpur	1
	Mogra	1
	Pandua	1
	D.B. Nagar	1
	Halida T/S	1
	Howrah	1
	STP	1
	Cooch Behar	1
	Total	52
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Union Territory)	
	Port Blair	2
	A. Bazar	1
	Juglighat	1
	Rangat	1
	Wimberly Ganj	1
	Total	6
32.	Sikkim	
	Sikkim	1
	Total	1

*[English]***Diversion of Goods by SSI**

283. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the clandestine diversion of goods by Small Scale Industries units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units found misusing the Small Scale Industries schemes during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(d) the loss of revenue suffered by the Government as a result thereof during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stalling of Tender Process

284. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some NRI businessmen with vested interest are trying to stall the tender process so as to facilitate undue growth of the private sector operators at the cost of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

**Creation of Postal Circles and
Postal Divisions**

285. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in which new postal circles and new postal divisions were set up during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new postal circles and postal divisions in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, no new Postal Circle was set up during the last three years. A new Postal Division, namely Rajouri Postal Division was created at Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir) with effect from 1st January, 2007.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Improved Variety of Paddy

286. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed new high yield varieties of paddy which are suitable to different climates of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any arrangement to make these varieties available to the farmers for commercial production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which above paddy seeds available to the farmers alongwith the quantum 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. Development of new high yielding varieties and hybrids of rice suitable for different agro-climatic situations in the country is one of the major thrust areas of research under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). During 1996 to 2006, a total of 147 rice varieties/hybrids have been released for cultivation for different climatic situations both under central/state releases. Also recently, ICAR has identified four new varieties and one hybrid in rice during 42nd Annual Rice Research Group Meeting during 9-11 April, 2007 held at Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad. The details of these newly developed varieties/hybrids are given in the enclosed Statement. Out of four varieties and one hybrid identified, one variety namely Improved Pusa Basmati-I (IET 18990) has already been approved by the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of varieties of Agricultural Crop (CSCSNRV). The remaining identified varieties and hybrids will be placed for consideration of CSCSNRV.

(c) to (e) The varietal release and notification is the pre-requisite for production of certified seeds. The ICAR is already production the breeder seed of the released and notified varieties as well as the parental lines of the hybrids as per the indent from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. A total quantity of 9934.46 quintals of breeder seed of different varieties and parental lines of the hybrids have been produced during 2001-02 to 2005-06 for further production of foundation and certified seeds. Breeder seed demand of the newly developed rice varieties will also be met after their release and notification for further production of foundation and certified seeds for use by the farmers.

Statement***New Rice Varieties/Hybrids Identified in Annual Rice Group Meeting held During 2007***

IET No.	Designation	Average Duration	Recommended States
18815	HRI 152-(Hybrid)	120 days	Irrigated areas of Punjab and Tamil Nadu
17544	UPR 2870-98-125	130 days	Pujab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Gujarat
18482	MTU 1075	135 days	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
19046	RP Bio-226 Developed through Marker Assisted Selection	140 days	bacterial Leaf Blight endemic regions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana
18990	Improved Pusa Basmati-1 Developed through marker assisted selection	140 days	Delhi, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand

[English]

**Agreement in Communication and
I.T. Sector**

287. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to which India have signed agreements to strengthen the cooperation in the Communication and Information Technology Sector during the last two years; and

(b) the extent to which these agreements have been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Memorandum of Under-standings (MoUs)/Agreements have been signed with the following countries to strengthen the cooperation in Information Technology during the years 2005 and 2006:

1. Fiji

2. Australia

3. Bulgaria

4. Egypt

5. Japan with

— Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

— Centre for Development of Telematics

— Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

6. India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Forum

There is no MoUs/Agreement signed in the area of Communication during the last two years.

(b) These MoUs/Agreements enable us to identify the potential of Trade and Technology between the countries in the ICT sector and provide opportunities to tap capabilities in the sector in a focused manner.

[Translation]

Ban on Pesticides

288. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pesticides have been banned in the country and some others have been kept in the 'review' list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain pesticides are being sold in the market despite said ban;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against such companies?

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. Twenty five insecticides and their formulations and four insecticide formulations are banned for import, manufacture and use in the country. In addition, two insecticides have been banned for use in the country except their manufacture for export. Restriction has been imposed on use of nine insecticides. The list of insecticides banned and restricted is given in the enclosed Statement.

The usage of thirty seven pesticides has been reviewed recently by an Expert Group, constituted by the Registration Committee, under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The recommendations of an Expert Group regarding twenty one pesticides have been accepted by the Government. Consequently, the use of Fenthion is banned in agriculture except for locust control in scheduled desert area and public health and the use of Diazinon has been banned in agriculture except for household purposes. The use of Metoxuron has also been withdrawn. The recommendations regarding remaining pesticides are under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Government does not have any report regarding sale of banned pesticides.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Pesticides/Pesticides Formulations Banned in India

A. Pesticides Banned for manufacture, import and use (25 Nos.)

1. Aldrin
2. Benzene Hexachloride
3. Calcium Cyanide
4. Chlordane
5. Copper Acetoarsenite
6. Clbromochloropropane
7. Endrin
8. Ethyl Mercury Chloride
9. Ethyl Parathion
10. Heptachlor
11. Menazone
12. Nitrofen
13. Paraquat Dimethyl Sulphate
14. Pentachloro Nitrobenzene
15. Pentachlorophenol
16. Phenyl Mercury Acetate
17. Sodium Methane Arsonate
18. Tetradifon
19. Toxafen
20. Aldicarb
21. Chlorobenzilate
22. Dieldrine
23. Maleic Hydrazide
24. Ethylene Dibromide

25. TCA (Trichloro acetic acid)

B. Pesticides formulations banned for import, manufacture and use (4 Nos.)

1. Methomyl 24% L
2. Methomyl 12.5% L
3. Phosphamidon 85% SL
4. Carbofuron 50% SP

C. Pesticide/Pesticide formulations banned for use but their manufacture is allowed for export (2 Nos.)

1. Nicotin Sulfate
2. Captafol 80% Powder

Name of Pesticides (Restricted Use)

1. Aluminium Phosphide
2. DDT
3. Lindane
4. Methyl Bromide
5. Methyl Parathion
6. Sodium Cyanide
7. Methoxy Ethyl Merciru Chloride (MEMC)
8. Monocrotophos (ban for use on vegetables)
9. Fenitrothion

[English]

Rural Knowledge Centres

289. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Rural Knowledge Centre/Village Knowledge Centre in every village as recommended by National Commission on Farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds for the same have been allocated, sanctioned and released so far; and

(d) 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 (d) Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India is implementing a scheme for providing support for establishing 100000 broadband, internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These centers aim to provide a mix of Government and private services in rural areas. The scheme is to be implemented in a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode.

The scheme has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 5742 crores, of which the Central Government is estimated to contribute Rs. 856 crores and the State Governments Rs. 793 crores. The balance is estimated to be brought in by the private sector.

The CSC proposals of 18 States have been approved so far by DIT, as per list given in the enclosed Statement.

Development of computer based application packages on agriculture for providing information/services to the farming community is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Government of India under its DACNET initiative and by the States under the AGRISNET initiative funded by the DAC.

Statement

List of States having CSC proposals approved by DIT

1. Assam
2. West Bengal
3. Bihar
4. Orissa
5. Jharkhand

6. Chhattisgarh
7. Madhya Pradesh
8. Haryana
9. Punjab
10. Tripura
11. Rajasthan
12. Uttaranchal
13. Gujarat
14. Uttar Pradesh
15. Andhra Pradesh
16. Himachal Pradesh
17. Tamil Nadu
18. Kerala

[Translation]

Poor Quality of Imported Wheat

290. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding the poor quality of imported wheat being distributed through Public Distribution System;

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

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to monitor the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it has been asked to submit its report;

(e) whether any report has been prepared regarding the quality of imported wheat particularly from America; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding poor quality of imported wheat being distributed through Public Distribution System. The complaints have been mostly due to the preference for white wheat, whereas imported wheat is mostly red wheat. The complaints received were sent to FCI for investigation/taking necessary action to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued for distribution under PDS.

(c) and (d) A Central Vigilance Committee has been set up by the Supreme Court under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa, retired Judge of Supreme Court to look into the following aspects:

- (i) The mode of appointment of the dealers.
- (ii) The ideal commission or the rates payable to the dealers, and
- (iii) Modalities as to how the Committees already in place, can function better.
- (iv) Modes as to how there can be transparency in allotment of the food stock to be sold at the shops.

This committee is likely to submit its report by the end of August, 2007.

Besides, a Committee to review different aspects of Public Distribution System has been set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Principal Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Tamil Nadu. This Committee is likely to submit its report shortly.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till fourteen of the clock.

11.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
fourteen of the clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister may make his Statement on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

14.01 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakyra and some
other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor
near the Table)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. It is a sad day as you are not allowing even the Prime Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, the country's Prime Minister is not able to speak in the House?

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

***STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER**

**Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with
the United States**

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):
Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to inform this august House that

the Government of India has reached Agreement with the Government of the United States of America on the text of the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy....(Interruptions)

This Government has kept Parliament fully in the picture at various stages of our negotiations with the United States. We have never shied away from a full discussion in Parliament on this important issue. I have myself made statements on several previous occasions—on July 29, 2005 soon after my return from Washington, on February 27, 2006 during which I took Parliament into confidence regarding our ongoing discussions with the United States on the Separation Plan, and on March 7, 2006 following the visit of President Bush to India. ...(Interruptions) I also made a detailed statement in the Rajya Sabha on August 17, 2006 conveying certain solemn commitments to which I shall return shortly. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Is this the way members of Parliament should behave?

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Our Government has adhered scrupulously to Parliamentary traditions and practices. We have in fact gone far beyond any previous Government. ...(Interruptions)

After the conclusion of the Agreement, we have also briefed many of the parties represented in Parliament on the details of the Agreement.

Sir, the Agreement is about civil nuclear energy cooperation. It is an Agreement between two States possessing advanced nuclear technologies, both parties having the same benefits and advantages. The significance of the Agreement lies in the fact that when brought into effect, it will open the way for full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States. We have negotiated this Agreement as an equal partner, precisely because of the achievements of our scientists and technologists in overcoming the barriers placed, around us in the past. This is an Agreement based on the principle of mutual benefit. ...(Interruptions)

There has been considerable public debate and

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT 6678/2007.

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

discussion on various aspects of the Agreement. On August 17, 2006, I had given a solemn commitment to Parliament and to the country regarding what we can agree and cannot agree with the United States to enable civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. I had stressed that it must be within specific parameters, which I had shared with Parliament. This was an unprecedented measure of transparency on our part even in the midst of complex negotiations....(Interruptions)

I had given Parliament my assurance that the Government will make every effort so that the vision of the Joint Statements of July, 2005 and March, 2006 becomes a living reality. I believe that we have redeemed that pledge. In concluding this Agreement, we have ensured that the Autonomy of our strategic programme is fully maintained, and that Dr. Homi Bhabha's long-term vision remains our guiding principle...(Interruptions) With your permission, I wish to draw the attention of this August House to the main features of the Agreement in some detail. It would become evident that the commitments I had made to Parliament, including those on August 17, 2006, have been fully adhered to ... (Interruptions)

Full Civil Nuclear Cooperation

The concept of full civil nuclear cooperation has been clearly enshrined in this Agreement. The Agreement stipulates that such cooperation will include nuclear reactors and aspects of the associated nuclear fuel cycle, including technology transfer on industrial or commercial scale. It would also include development of a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of our reactors.

A significant aspect of the Agreement is our right to reprocess US origin spent fuel. This has been secured upfront. We view our right to reprocess as a key element of a closed fuel cycle, which will enable us to make full use in our national facilities of the energy potential of the nuclear fuel used in our reactors. ... (Interruptions) This important yardstick has been met by the permanent consent for India to reprocess. ... (Interruptions)

India will establish a new national reprocessing

facility dedicated to reprocessing foreign nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. ... (Interruptions) India and the US will mutually agree on arrangements and procedures under which such reprocessing will take place in the new facility. ... (Interruptions) Consultations on arrangements and procedures will begin within six months of a request by either party and will be concluded within one year. There is no ambiguity with regard to the commitments of both countries.

Any special fissionable material that may be separated may be utilized in national facilities under IAEA safeguards. Thus, the interests of our three stage nuclear programme have been protected. ... (Interruptions)

The United States has a longstanding policy of not supplying to any country enrichment, reprocessing and heavy water production facilities. ... (Interruptions) This Agreement provides for such transfers to India only through an amendment. Forward-looking language has been included for dual use transfers of enrichment, reprocessing and heavy water production facilities. We hope transfers will become possible as cooperation develops and expands in the future. ... (Interruptions) It is important to note that no prohibition that is specifically directed against India has been included in the Agreement. ... (Interruptions)

The Principle of Reciprocity

The Principle of reciprocity, which was integral to the July 2005 Statement, has been fully safeguarded in this Agreement. There is no change in our position that we would accept only IAEA safeguards on our civilian nuclear facilities. This would also be in a phased manner and as identified for that purpose in the Separation Plan, and only when all international restriction on nuclear trade with India have been lifted. India will not take any irreversible steps with the IAEA prior to this. ... (Interruptions)

Certification

This Agreement emphasizes the desire of both countries to cooperate extensively in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as a means of achieving energy security on a stable, reliable and predictable basis.

This Agreement further confirms that US cooperation with India is a permanent one. There is no provision that states that US Cooperation with India will be subject to an annual certification process. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Members may recall that the 18th July, 2005 Joint Statement had acknowledged that India be regarded as a State with advanced nuclear technology enjoying the same advantages and benefits as other States with advanced nuclear technology, such as the US. ...*(Interruptions)* This Agreement makes specific references to India and the United States as States possessing advanced nuclear technology, both parties having the same benefits and advantages, both committed to preventing Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation. ...*(Interruptions)*

Safeguards

As agreed in the March Separation Plan, India has accepted only IAEA safeguards that will be reflected in an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. We have not consented to any provision that mandates scrutiny of our nuclear weapons programme or any unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. ...*(Interruptions)* There are explicit provisions in the Agreement that make it clear that this Agreement does not affect our unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and that it will not affect our right to use materials, equipment, information or technology acquired or developed independently. ...*(Interruptions)* India and the United States have agreed that the implementation of the Agreement will not hinder or otherwise interfere with India's nuclear activities including our military nuclear facilities. Nothing in the Agreement would impinge on our strategic programme, our three-stage nuclear power programme or our ability to conduct advanced Research and Development. ...*(Interruptions)*

Fuel Supply Assurances

I would like to reiterate that the March, 2006 Separation Plan provided for an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, with assurances of uninterrupted supply of fuel to reactors that would be placed under IAEA safeguards together with India's right

to take corrective measures in the event fuel supplies are interrupted. An important assurance given is the commitment of support for India's right to build up strategic reserves of nuclear fuel to meet the lifetime requirements of India's reactors. ...*(Interruptions)* This Agreement envisages, in consonance with the Separation Plan, US support for an Indian effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply for the lifetime of India's reactors. The Agreement reiterates *in toto* the corresponding portions of the Separation Plan. It has endorsed the right of India to take corrective measures to ensure uninterrupted operation of its civilian nuclear reactors in the event of disruption of foreign fuel supply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have no right to be here.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Hon. Members will agree that these provisions will ensure that there is no repeat of our unfortunate experience with Tarapur.

Integrity and reliability of our strategic programme, autonomy of decision making and future scientific research and development

In my statements of March 7 and August 17, 2006. I had assured Parliament that the Separation Plan would not adversely affect our strategic programme, the integrity of the three-stage nuclear programme and the autonomy of our Research and Development activity. ...*(Interruptions)*

This agreement does not in any way impact on India's ability to produce and utilize fissile material for its current and future strategic needs. Our right to use for our own purposes our independent and indigenously developed nuclear facilities has been fully preserved. The Agreement also provides for non-hindrance and non-interference in our activities involving use of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment, components, information or technology and military nuclear facilities produced, acquired or developed independently for our own purposes. ...*(Interruptions)*

Cessation of cooperation

An elaborate multi-layered consultation process has

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been included with regard to any future events that may be cited as a reason by either Party to seek cessation of cooperation or termination of the Agreement. Both Parties have agreed to take a number of factors into account in their consultations so that the scope for precipitate or unilateral action is reduced. Cessation of cooperation can be sought by the US only if it is prepared to take the extreme step of termination of the Agreement. India's right to take "corrective measures" will be maintained even after the termination of the Agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are all behaving in this manner. You are not listening even to the Prime Minister of the country. The whole nation is watching you.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: In the case of termination of this Agreement and cessation of cooperation by either Party, each has the right to seek return of nuclear material and equipment supplied by it to the other. However, before the right of return is exercised, the Agreement commits the Parties to consult and to take into account specific factors such as national security, ongoing contracts and projects, compensation at market value, physical protection and environmental issues. India and the United States have agreed to consider carefully the circumstances that may lead to termination, including a party's concerns about a change in the security environment or a response to similar actions by other States that could impact on national security. The Agreement stipulates that the two parties recognize that exercising the right of return would have profound implications and consequences for their relations. ...*(Interruptions)*

From India's point of view, our primary objective is to ensure the uninterrupted operation of our nuclear reactors, in the context of the detailed fuel supply assurances provided in the Separation Plan and these are now reflected in full in the Agreement. The Agreement specifically states in regard to fuel supply assurances and India's right to take 'corrective measures' that there will be no derogation of India's rights in this regard, including the right to take "corrective measures" to ensure the uninterrupted operation of its reactors. ...*(Interruptions)*

This reflects the balance of obligations consistent with the understandings of the July Statement and the March Separation Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? I do not understand it. Is this the way the Prime Minister of this country to be treated? Do you not feel ashamed of it?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Among the significant and innovative features of this Agreement are specific mention of the right to run foreign supplied reactors 'without interruption' and to take 'corrective measures' in the event of fuel supply disruption. ...*(Interruptions)* This has been made possible by crafting the provisions in a manner that provide for explicit linkages and interlocking of rights and commitments contained in the Agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Agreement does not in any way affect India's right to undertake future nuclear tests, if it is necessary in India's national interest. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me hence reiterate once again that a decision to undertake a future nuclear test would be our sovereign decision, one that rests solely with the Government. There is nothing in the Agreement that would tie the hands of a future Government or legally constrain its options to protect India's security and defence needs. ...*(Interruptions)*

If I might sum-up, this Agreement does not in any way inhibit, restrict or curtail our strategic autonomy or capabilities. Our rights to pursue our three-stage nuclear power programme remain undiluted. ...*(Interruptions)* In the unlikely event of cessation of cooperation, there is no derogation of our rights with regard to corrective measures. Our reprocessing rights are upfront and are permanent in nature. Advanced R and D programmes and IPR Protection are fully safeguarded. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, this is an Agreement for cooperation between India and the US on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its genesis is the shared perception between India and the US that both our countries need to address their energy challenges, and address them in a manner that is sensitive to concerns about the environment. ...*(Interruptions)* For

India, it is critically important to maintain our current GDP growth rate of 8 to 10 per cent per annum if our goal of eradicating poverty is to be achieved. The energy implications of this growth rate over the next couple of decades are enormous. ...*(Interruptions)* Even if we were to exploit all our known resources of coal, oil, gas and hydropower, we would still be confronted with a yawning demand and supply gap. ...*(Interruptions)*

India's three-stage nuclear power programme holds immense promise for the future. The unique thorium-based technology would become an economically viable alternative over a period of time following sequential implementation of the three stages. ...*(Interruptions)* We must, in the meantime, explore and exploit every possible source of energy. Nuclear energy is a logical choice for India. Indigenous supplies of uranium are highly inadequate and hence we need to source uranium supply from elsewhere. ...*(Interruptions)* In a globalised world, technology is always a premium item and we look forward to expanding our horizons in this regard as well. We intend to carry forward our cooperation with other countries in civil nuclear energy, in particular, with major nuclear suppliers such as Russia and France. ...*(Interruptions)*

We already have a comprehensive nuclear infrastructure. We have a corps of skilled and technically qualified manpower in this sector. ...*(Interruptions)* It makes sense for us to leverage this valuable asset. As hon. Members are aware, our target for the year 2020 is 20,000 MW of nuclear power generation. ...*(Interruptions)* It is quite modest. However, if international cooperation once again became available, we could hope to double this target. ...*(Interruptions)*

On the basis of the Indo-US bilateral Agreement and the finalisation of an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, which is being taken up shortly, the Nuclear Suppliers Group is expected to adapt its guidelines to enable international commerce with India in civil nuclear energy and all dual use technologies associated with it. This would be the beginning of the end of the technology-denial regimes against India that have been in existence for over three decades. ...*(Interruptions)*

Apart from its direct impact on our nuclear energy programme, this Agreement will have major spin-offs for the development of our industries, both public and private. High technology trade with the US and other technologically advanced countries will expand rapidly. ...*(Interruptions)*

I wish to draw attention to another major gain for India from this initiative. We will be creating opportunities for our scientists to participate in the international exchange of scientific ideas and technical know-how and to contribute to the global effort to deal with the worldwide challenges of energy security and climate change. This includes the International Thermonuclear Research Reactor or ITER project, in which India has already joined as a full and equal member along with a handful of technologically advanced countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

In discussions on this subject, questions have been raised about Government's commitment to an independent foreign policy. I have clearly spelt out the Government's position in this regard in my statements to Parliament in March and August, 2006. I had specially underlined that the pursuit of a foreign policy that is independent in its judgement is a legacy of our founding fathers and an abiding commitment of my Government. India is too large and too important a country to have the independence of its foreign policy taken away by any power. Today, India stands on the world stage as an influential and respected member of the international community. There is independence in our thought and independence in our action. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to reiterate that our engagement today with all global powers like US, Russia, China, EU, UK, France, Germany and Japan is unprecedented. Engagement with West, East, South East and Central Asia has been significantly stepped up with visible results. We are building new frontiers in our ties with Africa and Latin America. In South Asia we seek to develop a peaceful environment, one which is conducive to ambitious developmental targets. I urge those who question our commitment to an independent foreign policy to display the same degree of confidence in India, as others from outside do. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, thus, there is no question that we will ever

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compromise, in any manner, our independent foreign policy. We shall retain our strategic autonomy. At the same time, we must not forget India's long-standing commitment to the noble ideas of nuclear disarmament and our refusal to participate in any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. Our commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and total elimination of nuclear weapons remains undiminished. It was this vision of a world free of nuclear weapons which Shri Rajiv Gandhi put before the UN in 1988 and this still has universal resonance.

...(Interruptions)

Sir, we remain committed to a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We are also committed to negotiate a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty or FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament. India is willing to join only a non-discriminatory, multilaterally negotiated, and internationally verifiable FMCT, as and when it is concluded in the Conference on Disarmament, subject to it meeting our national security interests. ...(Interruptions)

Despite changes in Government and changes in political leadership we have always tempered the exercise of our strategic autonomy with a sense of global responsibility and with a commitment to the ideals of general and complete disarmament, including global nuclear disarmament. This Government believes that our commitment to these ideals and our efforts to realize them must continue, and continue with even greater vigour, now that we are a nuclear weapon state. The possession of nuclear weapons only increases our sense of responsibility and does not diminish it. ...(Interruptions)

Pending global nuclear disarmament India has maintained an impeccable non-proliferation record. As a responsible nuclear power, India will not be the source of proliferation of sensitive technologies. We stand for the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime as the infirmities in this regime have affected our security interests. We will work together with the international community to advance our common objective of non-proliferation. ...(Interruptions)

There are now other landmarks to cross before the goal of India joining the international mainstream as a

full and equal partner becomes a reality. We have to finalise an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. Thereafter, the Nuclear Suppliers Group has to agree, by consensus, to adapt its guidelines, we expect without conditions, to enable nuclear commerce with India and to dismantle the restrictions on the transfer of dual use technologies and items to our country. The US Administration is to secure requisite approval from the US Congress. The completion of these next steps will mark the practical realization of this initiative. ...(Interruptions)

Our negotiators deserve credit for delivering to the nation an Agreement, which can potentially transform the economic prospects of our country. It is an Agreement that will enable us to meet the twin challenges of energy security and environmental sustainability, and remove the technology denial regimes that have, for decades, been a major constraint on our development. At the same time, it will bring India the recognition it deserves thanks to the outstanding achievements of our scientists in nuclear and space sciences as well as other high technology areas.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Indo-US Deal is against the interest of the nation. This will adversely affect our independent policy. We are opposed to the harmful provisions of the Hyde Act. The Nuclear Deal should be renegotiated. That is why, we are walking out in protest of this.

14.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this historic initiative has received the steady support of President Bush and senior members of his Administration. The strengthening and enhancement of our bilateral relations is an objective that has received his unstinting personal support and commitment. This Agreement is a shining example of how far we have progressed. ...(Interruptions)

Finally, Sir, let me end by saying that we have achieved an Agreement that is good for India, and good

for the world. I am neither given to exaggeration nor am I known to be self-congratulatory. I will let history judge; I will let posterity judge the value of what we have done through this Agreement. In days to come it will be seen that it is not just the United States but nations across the world that wish to arrive at a new equilibrium in their relations with India. This agreement with the United States will open new doors in capitals across the world. It is another step in our journey to regain our due place in global councils. When future generations look back, they will come to acknowledge the significance of this historic deal. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.28 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid on the Table.
Shri Ajay Maken.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 102 of the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act 2002:—

- (1) The Delhi Metro Railway (Salary, Allowances, Other Terms and Conditions of Service of the Claims Commissioner) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 235(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March 2007.
- (2) The Delhi Metro Railway (Procedure for investigation of misbehaviour or incapacity of the Claims commissioner) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 236(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March 2007.
- (3) The Delhi Metro Railway (Procedure to be followed by the Claims Commissioner and amount of compensation payable in case of death and injuries due to accidents) Rules,

2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 235 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6663/2007]

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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution:—

- (1) The State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 5 of 2007) promulgated by the President on 21st June 2007.
- (2) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 6 of 2007) promulgated by the President on 4th July 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6664/2007]

[Translation]

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): Sir, on behalf of Shri Taslimuddin I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6665/2007]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on

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behalf of my colleague, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Information Technology Specialist Group (Selection, terms and conditions of service and payment of Allowance) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 304(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April 2007.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 305(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April 2007.
- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-III and Class-IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 306(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6666/2007]

- (2) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 11013/12/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 25th April 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6667/2007]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) The Service Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 349(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) G.S.R. 370(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable service provided by any person in relation to renting of immovable property from service tax equivalent to service tax payable on the amount of property tax, actually paid by the service provider to the local bodies, with effect from 01-06-07.
- (iii) G.S.R. 371(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt commercial or Industrial construction service and services provided in relation to the execution of works contract, provided to any person by any other person in relation to construction of a port or other port, from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon, with effect from 01-06-2007.
- (iv) G.S.R. 372(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. G.S.R. 358(E), dated the 7th June, 2005.
- (v) G.S.R. 373(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 849(E), dated the 31st December, 2004.
- (vi) The Service Tax (Forth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 374(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) The Service Tax (Determination of Value) (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 375(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (viii) The Export of Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 376(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Taxation of Services (Provided from Outside India and Received in India) (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 377(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Works Contract (Composition Scheme for Payment of Service Tax) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 378(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6668/2007]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 5 of the Export of Services Rules, 2005:—

- (i) G.S.R. 350(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment in the Notification No. G.S.R. 239(E) dated the 19th April, 2005.
- (ii) G.S.R. 351(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment in the Notification No. G.S.R. 240(E) dated the 19th April, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6669/2007]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 379(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in

Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2007 appointing the 1st day of June, 2007 as the date on which the provisions of the clauses (A) and (B) of section 135 of the Finance Act, 2007 shall come into force, issued under section 135 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6670/2007]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) The CENVAT Credit (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 309(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) G.S.R. 307(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide for excise duty exemption scheme for industrial units located in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim, to give effect to the new North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2007 for a period of ten years.

- (iii) G.S.R. 308(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four notifications mentioned therein.

- (iv) G.S.R. 321(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 3/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.

- (v) G.S.R. 322(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.

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- (vi) G.S.R. 323(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (vii) G.S.R. 327(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 18/2007-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (viii) The CENVAT Credit (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 348(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) G.S.R. 428(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/2005-CE dated the 17th August, 2005.
- (x) G.S.R. 478(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (xi) G.S.R. 418(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/2003-CE dated the 31st March, 2003.
- (xii) G.S.R. 474(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6671/2007]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 310(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2007

together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the procedure/conditions for claiming refund of unutilized CENVAT Credit to units located in North Eastern States issued under rule 5A of the Central Credit Rules, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6672/2007]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
 - (i) The Intellectual Property Rights (Imported Goods) Enforcement Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 331(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 332(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/64-Cus. Dated the 18th January, 1964.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prohibit import of goods infringing the intellectual property rights of the right holders under Intellectual Property laws namely the Copyright Act, 1957, the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Patents Act, 1970, the Designs Act, 2000 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 334(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum Prohibiting export of goods infringing certain provisions of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 and Trade Marks Act, 1999.
 - (v) G.S.R. 334(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

amendment in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 325(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce customs duty on export of 'iron ore fines of Fe content 62% and below' from Rs. 300 per tonne to Rs. 50 per tonne.
- (vii) G.S.R. 344(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 21/2007-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2007.
- (viii) G.S.R. 345(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 28/2007-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2007.
- (ix) G.S.R. 346(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 27/2007-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2007.
- (x) G.S.R. 355(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2007.
- (xi) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 60/2000-Cus. dated the 12th May, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 453(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 67/2006-Cus. dated the 30th June, 2006.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 454(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2007 together with

an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2006-Cus. dated the 30th June, 2006.

- (xiv) G.S.R. 463(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the additional duty of customs on imported spirit/liquor, wines and beer.
- (xv) G.S.R. 466(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 69/2004-Cus. dated the 9th July, 2004.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 476(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 417(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in three notifications mentioned therein.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 473(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in five notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6673/2007]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 316(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provisionally exempt imports of vitrified and porcelain tiles, other than industrial vitrified tiles, produced and exported by specified parties from anti-dumping duty imposed thereon.

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- (ii) G.S.R. 317(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 38/2007-Cus. dated the 9th March, 2007.
- (iii) G.S.R. 329(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of on imports of Zinc Oxide, originating in, or exported from, the Peoples Public of China.
- (iv) G.S.R. 336(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 37/2004-Cus. dated the 20th February, 2004.
- (v) G.S.R. 337(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on import of Potassium Carbonate of any specification, exported by M/s Taiwan Pulp and Paper Corporation, Taiwan (Chinese Taipei), into India, in view of the revocation of the price undertaking by the designated authority.
- (vi) G.S.R. 343(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 73/2003-Cus. dated the 1st May, 2003.
- (vii) G.S.R. 436(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Acetone, originating in, or exported from, European Union, Chinese

Taipei, Singapore, South Africa and the United States of America into India.

- (viii) G.S.R. 452(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Compact disc-Recordables originating in or exported, to India, from the People's Republic of China, Hong King, Singapore and Chinese Taipei.
- (ix) G.S.R. 477(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports partially oriented yarn, originating in or exported from, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei, at the rates recommended by the designated authority in the Sunset Review Findings.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6674/2007]

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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6675/2007]

- (3) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of Audited Account of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2005-2006 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6676/2007]

14.31 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following 5 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Second part of Tenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 27th April, 2007:—

1. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2007;
2. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2007;
3. The Finance Bill, 2007;
4. The Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
5. The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007.

I also beg to lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following 10 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:—

1. The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007;
2. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
3. The National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
4. The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007;

5. The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007;
6. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007;
7. The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
8. The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007;
9. The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
10. The State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks Laws) Amendment Bill, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6677/2007]

14.31½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2006-07) on the subject 'Plight of Indian Women Deserted by NRI Husbands'.

14.32 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 13th of August, 2007 will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007.
4. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08.
5. Consideration and passing of the Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2005, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

1. 100% Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan contribution to linguistic minorities schools throughout the country, particularly Urdu medium schools.
2. Adequate reservation for minorities especially for Muslims in Government jobs and in Educational institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat "Bachda".

Shri K. Francis George....*(Interruptions)*

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next weeks' List of Business:—

1. Despite the fact that Himachal Pradesh has achieved glorious success in various fields of development, 60 lakh Himachalis do not have their own official language. There is a need to include "Pahari Himachali" language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

2. As a result of damage caused by Natural

Calamities and various diseases caused by climatic change to the apple crop in Himachal Pradesh, there is a need to bring this crop under the ambit of National Insurance Cover to help the apple growers by coordinated efforts of the Ministers of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance in consultation with the State Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, Shri A.K. Antony.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats, you have put your points.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item 12—Calling Attention—Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

14.34 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

(I) Need to accord the status of a Central University to Rajasthan University, Jaipur

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rajasthan University established in 1947 has

completed 60 years of country's independence. This university situated in Jaipur city of the State consists of faculties related to various disciplines in the streams of Science and Art. This university with a sprawling campus has vast potential for its development. This university has produced scientists and economists of world fame for the country. The Government of India have decided to set up a Central University in each state.

I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Human Resource development to re-establish the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur as a Central university.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.K. Kharventhan.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

Shri V.K. Thummur.

(ii) Need to expedite the construction of a railway bridge on Bhavnagar-Dhasa railway line in Amreli Parliamentary constituency, Gujarat

SHRI V.K. THUMMUR (Amreli): A railway bridge is under construction near Dhasa on Bhavnagar-Dhasa rail line in my constituency of Amreli which has led to diversion of traffic. This diversion has been causing frequent accidents and traffic jams. Unnecessary delay is being made in construction of this bridge.

It is, therefore, requested through this House that construction work of the above bridge be expedited to facilitate smooth traffic movement of the road and for the time being the bye-pass road should be repaired.

...(Interruptions)

(iii) Need to release Central funds directly to the District Administration for rural development schemes in the country

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): The Government of India have chalked out many schemes for rural development. Crores of Rupees are being allocated by the Central Government and the State Governments are implementing these schemes. The

rural areas are not getting benefits commensurate with the amount of funds being spent under the schemes. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi also used to State that only 15% of the allocated funds reach the Common people. The rural development Schemes are also criticized on the count that accountability for rural development schemes has not been fixed on any officer. I would request the Government to release the funds under rural development schemes directly to the district administration and the district administration should be fully accountable for it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar.

Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? What you say will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, that is treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(iv) Need to continue and extend tax-holiday scheme to industries in Himachal Pradesh till 2020

[Translation]

*PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government that Himachal Pradesh is a frontier State located at high altitude mountain ranges due to which it has low level of economic and agricultural activities. The intake of army recruits from Himachal Pradesh has gone down ever since criteria for such recruitment has been made to be based on the population of the concerned State. That is why unemployment is increasing there. The N.D.A. Government had given a special industrial package in 2002 to the State of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal]

Himachal Pradesh wherein tax holiday in respect of Central excise and income tax was granted till 2013 to facilitate the setting up of industrial units there. Besides, the small scale industries and ancillary industries are also coming up as a result thereof. Consequently employment opportunities have increased there.

Sir, I have learnt through reliable sources that the Government of India propose to withdraw the tax holiday provided to the industries in Himachal Pradesh. If it happens, small scale and ancillary industries will be ruined here and ultimately unemployment will increase in the State. I would therefore, request the Government to immediately drop any such proposal if it is under their consideration and the incentives being provided to the industries be extended from 2013 to 2020 so that industrial development can take place in the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G. Karunakara Reddy.

Shri Subhash S. Deshmukh.

Shri Mahavir Bhagora.

Dr. K.S. Manoj.

...(Interruptions)

- (v) **Need to conduct a third counselling for All India Medical/Dental Admissions and include additional seats created under Rule 10A of M.C.I.**

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the second counselling for the admission to MBBS/Dental course through All India Quota has started on 27th July, 2007. Most of the State Governments have started the first round of counselling.

In Kerala, the counselling dates were up to July 23rd and joining date was August 2nd. The Supreme Court in the case: writ petition (civil) 306 of 2004; date 12-1-2005 had specifically stated that State counselling should be over at least one week before the second round of Central counselling. Resultant vacancies can

be intimated to the DGHS by the available one-week time. Since the State counselling were over only by August 3rd, the new vacancies cannot be included during the second Central counselling. It is denial of natural justice to those candidates in the Central List. Since all the vacancies are arising after August 5th, those who are participating in the second counselling will not be able to get the Colleges of their choice. Even though 2.5 lakh students have participated in the AIIPM Examination, only less than 700 will be getting admission through Central counselling.

During the year 2004, 2005 and 2006, more than 400 seats were not allotted to the Central candidates. So, it is only natural justice that a third counselling during middle of August (after the first round of State counselling is over) must be undertaken. Then only the vacancies arising out of vacating the seats by Central candidates for State quote can be allotted to the Central List candidates. I also request you to include the 15 per cent of the additional seats created under MCI 10-A rule in various Government Medical Colleges as stipulated by the same Supreme Court directive.

So, I request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to take necessary steps to conduct another round of counselling since the initial counselling have not been completed in some States like Kerala and the vacancy position will be available only after the end of the second counselling.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

Shri Rasheed Masood.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may lay it on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

(vi) Need to start classes for teaching Urdu language in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Bihar

*SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Teaching of Urdu language has not been started in Navodaya Vidyalayas in Bihar. Urdu is the second official language of Bihar and it is unfortunate that it is not taught in Navodaya Vidyalayas. Minorities constitute about 16-17 per cent of the total population of Bihar. It is a matter of surprise that Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi and Tamil languages are taught there for which students are not available. As far as I know Urdu is being taught in only 26 Navodaya Vidyalayas all over the country. The Sachar Committee has also recommended to give more focus on their education in its recommendations for upliftment of the minorities.

I, therefore, I would like to draw attention of the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development through the House to the need of starting classes for teaching Urdu language in all Navodaya Vidyalayas of Bihar at the earliest. Besides efforts should be made to chalk out plans for organizing classes for teaching Urdu language in all Navodaya Vidyalaya of the country.

...(Interruptions)

(vii) Need to formulate a national policy/scheme for the benefit of freedom fighters and their heirs

**SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): As the nation completes 60 years of its freedom, we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our Independence. It is natural that the number of our freedom fighters has come down. All these years, there had been different pension schemes for the freedom fighters both at the central and various State levels. Now, as their total number has gone down considerably, a uniform pension scheme at the national level must be evolved

*Treated as laid on the Table.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

and the Union Government must bear the entire expense to ensure parity. We must now collect the details about the living conditions of the families for freedom fighters and identify how many of them are in needy conditions awaiting some incentives and schemes for their betterment. As pointed out by our founder leader Annadurai, Independence Day is a stock taking day or a day of National Social Audit. We must introspect whether we adequately extend courtesy, honour and possible help to those who fought for our freedom. In Tamil Nadu, streamlined freedom pension distribution schemes and establishing of memorials for freedom heroes have been effectively carried out by our Chief Minister Karunanidhi, who happened to be the Chief Minister on all the three occasions during the Silver Jubilee, Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee of our Independence.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government at this juncture to go in for extending help to the really needy third-generation-heirs of the freedom fighters by way of priority in job recruitments, liberal credit facility for entrepreneurial ventures to set up industrial units and establishing certain business activities.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Range Patil.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Charan Sethi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

(viii) Need to formulate reservation of jobs in the private sector

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, reservation of jobs in the private sector has

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

been included in the Common Minimum Programme. More than two years have elapsed but reservation of jobs in the private sector has not been introduced. The Government is, therefore, required to strive continuously to take initiative for immediate implementation of this issue of public importance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 14—Discussion under Rule 193.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I earnestly appeal

to you to go back to your seats. It is a very important discussion on flood situation in the country.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 14th August, 2007 at 11 a.m.

14.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 14, 2007/Sravana 23, 1929 (Saka).

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